Isle of Wight Parks, Gardens & Other Designed Landscapes
Historic Environment Action Plan

Isle of Wight Gardens Trust: March 2015

DOWN TO THE COAST

LOTTERY FUNDED

Foreword

The Isle of Wight landscape is recognised as a source of inspiration for the picturesque movement in tourism, art, literature and taste from the late 18th century but the particular significance of designed landscapes (parks and gardens) in this cultural movement is perhaps less widely appreciated.

Evidence for 'picturesque gardens' still survives on the ground, particularly in the Undercliff. There is also evidence for many other types of designed landscapes including early gardens, landscape parks, 19th century town and suburban gardens and gardens of more recent date.

In the 19th century the variety of the Island's topography and the richness of its scenery, ranging from gentle cultivated landscapes to the picturesque and the sublime with views over both land and sea, resulted in the Isle of Wight being referred to as the 'Garden of England' or 'Garden Isle'.

Designed landscapes of all types have played a significant part in shaping the Island's overall landscape character to the present day even where surviving design elements are fragmentary. Equally, it can be seen that various natural components of the Island's landscape, in particular downland and coastal scenery, have been key influences on many of the designed landscapes which will be explored in this Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP).

It is therefore fitting that the HEAP is being prepared by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust as part of the East Wight Landscape Partnership's *Down to the Coast* Project, particularly since well over half of all the designed landscapes recorded on the Gardens Trust database fall within or adjacent to the project area.

The HEAP will provide a framework for identifying, recording and characterising significant designed landscapes, for conserving and enhancing these sites and for promoting public awareness, access and enjoyment. It will therefore contribute to the objectives of the Down to the Coast Project.

This report has been prepared by Dr Vicky Basford on behalf of the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust with development funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund through the East Wight Landscape Partnership - a body set up by the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to deliver the *Down to the Coast Project.*

Note to Readers

This HEAP report was completed in March 2015. References are made throughout to the work, publications and website of English Heritage.

On 1st April 2015 English Heritage separated into two parts. English Heritage is now a charity that looks after the National Heritage Collection of historic buildings and monuments. Historic England is the new name for the body that champions the nation's wider heritage, running the listing system, dealing with planning matters and giving grants.

Roles referred to in the HEAP as being performed by English Heritage have now become the responsibility of Historic England. References to resources available on the English Heritage website are now out of date. Readers should refer to the Historic England website to locate electronic versions of resources cited in the text.

Isle of Wight Parks, Gardens & Other Designed Landscapes Historic Environment Action Plan

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PART 1:
UNDERSTANDING, CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT & INTERPRETATION

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Structure of the Designed Landscapes HEAP

This Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP) has been prepared by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust as part of the *Down to the Coast* Project. The plan has been designed to fulfil three distinct purposes:

1. to increase access to and learning about designed landscapes as part of the *Down to the Coast* delivery project from 2015 – 2020

2. to inform and guide Isle of Wight Council Officers, AONB Unit Staff, other organisations and landowners in conserving and promoting parks, gardens and other designed landscapes

3. to provide the basis for future research, especially that carried out by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust.

In order to cater for the needs of various audiences the HEAP deals with designed landscapes across the whole of the Isle of Wight and has been set out in three parts.

Part 1 explains how designed landscapes are defined and designated, identifies the main characteristics of Isle of Wight designed landscapes, places these sites within the framework of national and local polices and discusses priorities for recording, conservation, management and interpretation.

This part of the HEAP is designed to provide essential information for all organisations and individuals dealing with designed landscapes.

Part 2 proposes actions which flow from the priorities identified in Part 1.

Part 3 supports Part 1 and Part 2 by providing a more detailed characterisation of Isle of Wight designed landscapes in their historical context and by discussing research needs.

1.2 Dissemination of the HEAP

This report will be published on the Isle of Wight Council and Isle of Wight Gardens Trust websites and will be available to download and print.

It is hoped that it will form the basis of a popular illustrated publication to be prepared in 2016 which will be circulated to relevant organisations.

1.3 Background to the Isle of Wight Historic Environment Action Plan

The HEAP for Parks, Gardens and Other Designed Landscapes is the latest in a series of documents forming part of the overall Isle of Wight Historic Environment Action Plan.

HEAPs have developed from the county-based programmes of *Historic Landscape Characterisation* sponsored by English Heritage. They have been promoted by English Heritage as a way of characterising the historic environment of local areas and of developing local management strategies, thus contributing to sustainable development (Clark *et al* 2004a, 53-54). HEAPs have been utilised in such diverse areas as West Berkshire and the West Midlands and within AONBs, including the Isle of Wight,

Cranborne Chase and East Devon. They figure under Measure 5 of the National Heritage Protection Plan (English Heritage 2013a, 84).

The Isle of Wight HEAP is comparable to the Isle of Wight Biodiversity Action Plan for the natural environment and uses a similar partnership approach, having a Steering Group which contributes to the development of new documents. A key aim of the Isle of Wight HEAP is to promote community understanding, conservation, and management of the historic environment.

Previous HEAP documents have been prepared by the Isle of Wight Council Archaeology and Historic Environment Service with support from the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership and the LEADER funding programme. They can be viewed on the Isle of Wight Council website at https://www.iwight.com/Residents/Libraries-Cultural-and-Heritage/Heritage-Service/Archaeology/Historic-Landscapes-on-the-Isle-of-Wight.

HEAP documents have fed into the Local Development Framework (The Island Plan) and are treated as background evidence in planning matters connected with the historic environment. In terms of general landscape management the HEAP can facilitate the assessment of agri-environment proposals, woodland plans and other land management schemes in terms of their potential effects on the historic environment

The Isle of Wight HEAP forms part of the Historic Environment Record (HER) http://www.iwight.com/Residents/Libraries-Cultural-and-Heritage/Heritage-Service/Archaeology/The-Historic-Environment-Record. This is the definitive database for archaeological sites, the built environment and the historic landscape which is maintained by the Isle of Wight Council as required by the National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012, 41).

The HEAP *Visions, Objectives, Aims and Actions* document (Isle of Wight Council 2008a) promoted specific actions relating to designed landscapes as follows:

- ‘Action A22: Complete HEAP for Parkland/Designed Landscapes’.
- ‘Action A51: Support the conservation of historic parks, gardens, cemeteries and public open spaces including appropriate restoration schemes which follow an agreed Conservation and Management Plan’.

The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust is a member of the HEAP Steering Group and is pleased to contribute towards the aims of the HEAP by preparing the present report on the Island’s designed landscapes.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

Since 1987 there has been a steady growth in local study, understanding, appreciation and protection of designed landscapes on the Isle of Wight but the HEAP provides an opportunity to take stock of these assets. It is twenty-five years since the publication of ‘Historic Parks and Gardens of the Isle of Wight’ (Basford 1989) and a new assessment is required, incorporating additional research, characterising sites and identifying the conservation and management needs of the future.

- The key aims of the HEAP are:
    - To identify and characterise designed landscapes;
    - To promote the conservation, management and enhancement of designed landscapes;
    - To promote public awareness and enjoyment of designed landscapes.

- More specific objectives are:

    - To provide a new assessment and characterisation of Isle of Wight designed landscapes within a framework that allows the identification of significant sites, taking account of work during the last twenty-five years;
    - To inform the planning and development of learning and access projects planned for the EWLP *Down to the Coast* Project 2016-2019;
    - To suggest additional sites for inclusion in the National Heritage List and/or the Local List;
    - To identify additional sites for inclusion in the HER and Parks & Gardens UK database www.parksandgardens.org
    - To identify conservation policies relevant to designed landscapes within the Isle of Wight;
    - To identify key management and conservation issues;
    - To assist the Isle of Wight Council in the management of change and to ensure that planned development conserves and enhances the historic environment;
    - To assist the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership in delivering the AONB Management Plan;
    - To provide information to countryside, environmental and property managers which will assist in the development of management plans;
    - To provide a resource for tourism promotion activities
    - To provide an accessible resource for town and parish councils preparing Neighbourhood Plans;
    - To provide a resource for local heritage and community groups preparing trails and leaflets;
    - To encourage and assist organisations, and individuals who want to achieve HEAP aims and objectives through their own initiatives;
    - To provide a resource that will inform garden owners, local residents and visitors;
    - To assist the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust in developing future programmes of work.

3.0 Definition, Study and Designation of Designed Landscapes

3.1 Defining Designed Landscapes

- 'Designed landscapes' have been defined as 'landscapes created to provide aesthetically pleasing settings for private houses, institutions and facilities' (English Heritage 2011a, 2). This term is used in the HEAP to include parks and gardens of all ages (whether public or private), town squares, public walks, cemeteries and institutional landscapes.

- Designed landscapes typically contain trees, plants, hard landscaping features, buildings and other structures. They frequently provide settings for important buildings or townscapes, afford views and vistas and are often significant wildlife habitats.

- Article 5 of the Florence Charter identifies the architectural composition of the historic garden as embracing its plan and topography, its vegetation, including its species, proportions, colour schemes, spacing and respective heights, its structural and decorative features and its water, running or still, reflecting the sky (ICOMOS 1982).

- Landscape design can be seen as the art of arranging six main elements: 'Landform, Vertical Structures, Horizontal Structures, Vegetation, Water, Climate'

(Gardenvisit 2015). Landscape architecture has been described as the 'design and integration of the natural and man-made elements of the earth, with the materials of which – earth, water, vegetation and built elements – the landscape architect is responsible for making places' (Jellicoe *et al* 1986, 322).

3.2 National Study and Designation of Designed Landscapes

- English Heritage recognised the value of designed landscapes in 1983 when it created a register of parks and gardens of special historic interest. Registered sites are graded I, II* and II.

- Since 2011 parks and gardens have been included in the National Heritage List for England http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/.
  This encompasses all nationally designated heritage assets including Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and World Heritage Sites.

- Parks and gardens recorded in the National Heritage List may contain Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and other national or local designations.

- Nationally important garden remains (usually of an early date) comprising earthworks or below-ground evidence may be designated as Scheduled Monuments rather than as registered parks and gardens.

- In 1987 English Heritage placed six Isle of Wight sites on the national register of historic parks and gardens. There are now (2014) nine Isle of Wight sites on the National Heritage List and these are shown on Map 1. Osborne is Grade II*; Appuldurcombe, Norris, Northcourt, Nunwell, Swainston, Ventnor Botanic Garden, Westover and Woodlands Vale are Grade II.

- There are at least 32 entries for Listed Buildings on the National Heritage List which refer specifically to associated gardens or garden features.

- Two national voluntary organisations are currently concerned with the study and conservation of historic parks and gardens, these being the Garden History Society http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org/ and the Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT) http://www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/ (to which all County Gardens Trusts are affiliated). In September 2014 these two organisations agreed, in principle, to discuss a merger to become a single organisation from 2016.

- Parks and Gardens UK (http://www.parksandgardens.org/) is the leading online-resource for historic landscapes initiated by the AGT. It contains details of Isle of Wight sites that are on the National Heritage List or Local List.

3.3 Local Study and Designation of Designed Landscapes

- Between 1987 and 1989 the Isle of Wight County Council made a preliminary survey of designed landscapes and published 'Historic Parks and Gardens of the Isle of Wight' (Basford 1989).

- In 1989 the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust was set up with the support of the County Council to promote the study and conservation of local designed landscapes www.iowgardenstrust.co.uk.

- Since its formation the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has been researching local designed landscapes and recording this information within an inventory.

- In the 1990s the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust put forward a list of historic parks and gardens of local importance for protection by means of policies in the Unitary Development Plan of the newly established Isle of Wight Council.
- Historic parks and gardens are currently covered by policies in the *Island Plan*, the Isle of Wight's Core Strategy and Development Plan (see Section 8.2).

- The Isle of Wight Council's Local List currently contains 30 designed landscapes (including five cemeteries) which have been nominated by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust (Map 1) and several nominated by other organisations. In addition, certain buildings and other structures designated on the Local List are associated with designed landscapes. The Local List can be viewed at https://www.iwight.com/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Planning/Conservation-and-Design/Local-List

- All nationally and locally designated designed landscapes are recorded in the Isle of Wight Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER also holds basic details of all sites recorded in the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust inventory and of some sites not in the IWGT inventory.

4.0 Characterisation and Assessment

4.1 The Isle of Wight Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

- HLC has been developed by English Heritage as a means of understanding the human influences over time that have shaped present-day landscapes (Clark *et al* 2004, 5-10; Basford 2008, 69-71). It maps these landscapes as a series of historic landscape character types. *The Isle of Wight Historic Landscape Characterisation* defines thirteen broad HLC types including 'Parkland/Designed Landscapes' (Basford 2008, Map 14).

- 67 parcels of land have been defined where 'Parkland/Designed Landscapes' is recorded as the dominant HLC type at the present day. These comprise 22 parcels identified as 'Ornamental Parkland/Large Designed Garden', 31 parcels identified as 'Smaller Designed Garden' and 14 parcels identified as 'Public Park'.

- The number of land parcels defined as 'Parkland/Designed Landscapes' in the HLC is surprisingly small compared with the 350 designed landscapes recorded in the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust inventory. However, it should be noted that the IWGT inventory includes records of many sites that are no longer extant but are known from documentary and map sources.

- The relatively small number of 'Parkland/Designed Landscapes' parcels mapped as 'Present HLC' in the Isle of Wight HLC is also linked to other factors.

    - HLC mapping is designed to reflect predominant land-use characteristics at the present day. A judgement therefore has to be made as to present-day character e.g. whether areas of parkland in agricultural use still retain a 'parkland' character.

- As HLC is a landscape-scale technique, land parcels smaller than one hectare were not generally mapped and therefore smaller gardens have generally not been identified.
- In order to give a clear picture of historic landscape character within urban areas designed landscapes have frequently been subsumed within the HLC broad type of 'Settlement'.

- It should also be noted that the HLC records past phases of historic landscape character as well as 'Present HLC' and some parcels of land are recorded as 'Parkland/Designed Landscape' within these past phases.

- Since HLC is mainly concerned with mapping the dominant present-day historic character of an area at landscape scale it is arguable that it underplays the overall influence of designed landscapes. Many designed landscapes are now farmed, partially built over or subject to other uses. However, in many cases these landscapes can still be 'read' in terms of their use of topography, plan, planting scheme, buildings, structural features, water and views into and out from the site.

4.2 Characterising Designed Landscapes in the HEAP

- Analysis of the Island's designed landscapes in the HEAP requires a finer-grained characterisation than that used in the HLC and needs to emphasise chronology, design-type and function above size.

- English Heritage has recently published guides on selection criteria for the inclusion of designed landscapes on the national register. These guides cover the broad categories of 'rural landscapes', 'urban landscapes, 'institutional landscapes' and 'landscapes of remembrance' .
  http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/registered-parks-and-gardens/
  Within these broad categories English Heritage describes a wide variety of designed landscapes, sub-dividing these according to design periods in the rural landscapes selection guide and by function in the other selection guides.

- In characterising Isle of Wight designed landscapes this HEAP document follows the English Heritage selection guides in adopting a chronological, design-based and functional framework within which various categories of designed landscapes are identified.

- These categories correspond generally with sub-headings used in the descriptive text of the English Heritage guides but have been modified to reflect the specific designed landscapes of the Isle of Wight. In addition, the HEAP distinguishes 'gardens associated with marine villas and cottages ornés' as a specific category to reflect the historical significance of these gardens on the Island.

- The following categories of designed landscapes have been defined

  - Roman Gardens.
  - Hunting Grounds and Deer Parks.
  - Gardens of the Middle Ages.
  - Country House Gardens 1550-1660
  - Country House Gardens 1660 to the Mid C18 and Early C18 Parkland
  - Landscape Parks and Country House Gardens from the Mid C18
  - Gardens associated with Marine Villas and Cottages Ornés
  - Town, Suburban, Village and Coastal Gardens.
  - Twentieth Century and Twenty-first Century Gardens

- Public Parks, Municipal Gardens and Open Spaces
- Seaside Gardens and Promenades.
- Landscapes of Remembrance.
- Institutional Landscapes.
- Other Types of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

- Part 3 of the HEAP characterises each of these categories of designed landscape in detail

4.3 Contribution of Designed Landscapes to the Isle of Wight's Historic Landscape Character

- The Isle of Wight HEAP identifies a number of HEAP Areas as originally defined in the *Isle of Wight Historic Landscape Characterisation*. The historic landscape character and management needs of HEAP Areas are described in individual reports for each area. Additional HEAP reports on *Rural Settlement, Urban Settlement, Historic Routeways* and *Military Sites* characterise these historic landscape types within the context of HEAP Areas. HEAP reports are available on the Isle of Wight Council website: http://www.iwight.com/Residents/Libraries-Cultural-and-Heritage/Heritage-Service/Archaeology/Historic-Landscapes-on-the-Isle-of-Wight.

- HEAP Areas reflect historic patterns of human settlement and land use which are related to, but not altogether governed by, the Island's geological strata, physiographic zones and soils. The Island's main settlements at the present day are shown on Map 2.

- Isle of Wight geology is remarkably varied and includes Cretaceous Greensand and Chalk Downland, Palaeogene clays, sands and limestones; and superficial deposits. A number of physiographic zones can be identified, based on the underlying geology (Map 3). One of the these physiographic zones is the remarkable Undercliff, a coastal landslip less than 1 km wide running along the south of the Island from Blackgang almost as far as Shanklin, which has been settled from the prehistoric period to the present day and was favoured for marine residences from the late C18.

- Designed landscapes are plotted in relation to HEAP Areas on maps 4 and 5. The contribution of designed landscapes to the Island's historic landscape character is discussed below in general terms with reference to these maps. Examples of designed landscapes within the various HEAP Areas are necessarily selective and have been chosen to illustrate the influence of such sites on the wider landscape.

- Map 4 shows all designed landscapes on sites predating 1800 which are recorded in the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust inventory (whether or not surviving on the ground). At some sites the main phase of the designed landscape is later than 1800 even though a property existed on the site before that date

- It can be seen from Map 4 that designed landscapes on sites predating 1800 are almost completely absent from the higher slopes and summits of the *West Wight Chalk Downland,* the *East Wight Chalk Ridge* and the *South Wight Downland* where settlement of all kinds is scarce. However, views of downland are important aspects in the design of many parks and gardens. Designed landscapes are also absent from the *Atherfield Coastal Plain* and from the seaward edge of the *South-West Wight Coastal Zone*, reflecting the lack of shelter from the prevailing winds on this part of the Island's coastline. An absence of designed landscapes from much of

the *Thorley/Wellow Plain* in West Wight mirrors the general lack of settlement in this area. The concentrations of designed landscapes at the interface between different HEAP Areas, for instance that of the *South Wight Sandstone & Gravel* and the *South Wight Coastal Zone*, reflects general settlement patterns.

- Designed landscapes shown on Map 4 are mainly country house gardens associated with the Island's distinctive manor houses or with larger landscape parks which are also frequently associated with manor houses.

- Country house gardens on sites predating 1800 occur within most of the HEAP Areas, reflecting the distribution of manor houses within small rural settlements throughout the Island but there are particular concentrations in the more favoured agricultural areas to the south of the central chalk ridge. Some country house gardens have a secluded character, one example being the core of the national register garden at Northcourt within the *West Wight Downland Edge & Sandstone Ridge* Area although there are views out to the wider landscape from inside the garden. Other manor house gardens such as that of Mottistone Manor (also within the *West Wight Downland Edge & Sandstone Ridge* Area) have views into the grounds from the surrounding landscape as well as views out to the landscape beyond.

- The Isle of Wight has five landscape parks on sites predating 1800 which are on the national register and which lie within or on the edge of the *Northern Lowlands*. This HEAP Area generally has a more well-wooded character than other parts of the Island.

    - Swainston sits prominently in the relatively flat landscape of the *Northern Lowlands* but the southern edge of the park exploits rising ground at the edge of the *West Wight Chalk Downland* where the remains of a late C18 'temple' survives.
    - The landscape parks at Osborne and Norris Castle to the south of East Cowes are of late C18 origin although Osborne was extensively enlarged and remodelled by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert from the 1840s. Both parks are quite secluded from the surrounding landscape but offer extensive internal vistas as well as views out to sea. There are also striking views *into* these two designed landscapes from the sea.
    - At Nunwell, to the west of Brading, there are views into the landscape park with its mature oak trees from the foot of Nunwell Down and from a right of way through the park. The garden beside the house provides extensive views out to the wider landscape of the *Northern Lowlands* and of *Brading Haven & Bembridge Isle.*
    - The nationally registered landscape park at Westover sits on the edge of the *Northern Lowlands* and the inner park is prominent in the landscape. Much of the wider designed landscape lies at the junction of the *Thorley/Wellow Plain* and the *West Wight Chalk Downland,* providing a generally open aspect punctuated by beech plantations.

- The most significant designed landscape predating 1800 within the *South Wight Downland Edge* Area is the large landscape park of Appuldurcombe which is included on the national register. Appuldurcombe was developed in the late C18 with input from Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and has an inner park dating from the early C19. The inner park and part of the outer park lie within the *South Wight Downland Edge* Area but Appuldurcombe is striking in its use of the high ground within the *South Wight Downland* Area. Views both to and from the *Southern Chalk*

Downs are exploited, for instance by the positioning of a memorial obelisk at the summit of Appuldurcombe Down. There are extensive views both into and out of the Appuldurcombe designed landscape.

- Map 4 shows a number of gardens on sites predating 1800 within the *Undercliff* Area. These gardens are associated with marine villas and cottages ornés which were just starting to be developed at the end of the 18th century, exploiting the dramatic vista of the area's towering inner cliff and tumbled sea coast. The Undercliff properties often developed on the sites of small farm cottages (see Section 12.7).

- A relatively small number of town, suburban, village and coastal gardens on sites predating 1800 are shown on Map 4. The Island's popularity amongst elite members of society had already started by 1800, with coastal locations being favoured for marine villas, but this popularity was to grow exponentially in the early decades of the C19.

- Map 5 shows all designed landscapes post-dating1800 which are recorded in the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust inventory (whether or not surviving on the ground). In contrast with designed landscapes on sites predating 1800 these later sites are concentrated within the *Undercliff* and the Island's coastal towns.

- The concentration of post-1800 designed landscape within the *Undercliff* and the coastal towns reflects an early C19 fascination with the Island's picturesque coastal landscapes by the wealthy, leading to the building of villas and development of associated gardens. It also reflects the Island's popularity as a mass tourist resort in the late C19 and early C20 when seaside gardens and promenades were laid out as tourist attractions.

- Designed landscapes within the *Undercliff* associated with marine villas and cottages ornés (of both pre and post 1800 date) are now generally in fragmentary condition with Puckaster (on the Local List) being a notable exception. However, these designed landscapes led to a fundamental change in the character of the *Undercliff* during the C19, altering it from a somewhat bare landscape to one that is now quite heavily wooded.

- The Island's post-medieval coastal towns and villages lie within various HEAP Areas but all except Cowes are located in the East Wight. These towns were either developing rapidly in the C19 or were first developed in that century. The impact of designed landscapes on these towns and villages is fully discussed in Part 3 of the HEAP (Section 12.8). Elite villas built by the wealthy in the early C19 have survived in the greatest numbers in East Cowes, Ryde, Bembridge and Bonchurch. The gardens associated with villas have often been subdivided or redeveloped but still make a substantial contribution to the overall landscape character of these settlements. Seaside gardens and promenades laid out as tourist attractions from the late C19 onwards make a particularly substantial contribution to landscape character at Cowes, Ryde, Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor

- Inland, villa properties with gardens were built around Carisbrooke to the south-west of Newport at the junction of various HEAP Areas. Attractive and contrasting views into the surrounding landscape were complemented by the romantic charm of Carisbrooke Castle situated within the *West Wight Chalk Downland* and occupying a dramatic hill-top site.

- *Freshwater Isle* also appealed to the romantic sensibilities of the C19 with its coastal vistas out into the Solent and the English Channel, its downland views and its glimpses of the Yar estuary. This area remained rural in the C19. However, country houses and villas with associated grounds were being built here from the early part of the century and became even more popular after Farringford was acquired by Alfred, Lord Tennyson in the 1850s, its garden and landscape park forming a notable feature in the landscape. A small seaside resort at Totland was developed in the late C19 although the modest gardens associated with the villas at this resort are not plotted on Map 5.

4.4 Contribution of Designed Landscapes to the Character of the East Wight Landscape

- Isle of Wight historic landscape character and HEAP Areas have been taken into account by Brownscombe (2015) in preparing a Landscape Character Assessment of the East Wight for the *Down to the Coast* Project. This assessment characterises the present-day landscape in accordance with guidance produced by the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002), resulting in the definition of a series of Landscape Character Types and Areas. The contribution of designed landscapes to overall landscape character is discussed in relation to all landscape character types but is given particular emphasis in the sections on *Coastal Designed Landscapes*, *The Undercliff* and *Settlement & Urban Areas*.

- Map 6 shows designed landscapes described in Part 3 of the HEAP in relation to the landscape character types defined in the East Wight Landscape Character Assessment. Nearly all of the designed landscapes shown on Map 6 still exist and contribute to present-day landscape character although the extent to which the original design has survived varies.

- It is apparent from Map 6 that the heaviest concentrations of designed landscapes within the East Wight lie within the *Coastal Designed Landscape*, *Undercliff* and *Urban & Settlement* character types as described by Brownscombe (2015). One designed landscape of particular note within the *Coastal Designed Landscape* character type is the garden and landscape park at Woodlands Vale, dating from the C19 and early C20, which is on the national register. Another notable site on the National Register is the C20 Ventnor Botanic Garden, which occupies the site of the C19 Royal National Hospital and lies within the *Undercliff* character type.

- Within the rural areas of East Wight surviving designed landscapes are thinly scattered but some occupy large areas of ground and nearly all contribute significantly to the character of the landscape types within which they are situated.
- The largest numbers of surviving designed landscapes occur within the *Pasture Land* character type which is distributed between various physiographic zones to the south and north of the *Central Chalk Downs* character type.

    - In the *Pasture Land* to the south of the *Central Chalk Downs* Appuldurcombe is the largest, best-known and most significant designed landscape. Appuldurcombe House lies close to the *Southern Chalk Downs* character type and a considerable part of the land enclosed by the outer park wall lies within this character type.
    - Other surviving landscape parks lying in the *Pasture Land* to the south of the *Central Chalk Downs* are the Hermitage, Wydcombe and Strathwell, all of C19 date. These sites are all close to the *Southern Chalk Downs.* The Hermitage

exploits the landscape of St Catherine's Down to the west of the house where an obelisk is positioned on the summit.

- The most significant designed landscape within the *Pasture Land* character type to the north of the *Central Chalk Downs* is the late C18 landscape park at Nunwell which lies on ground immediately below and to the north of the downs. The C19 beech woods of Kelly's Copse on the northern scarp of the *Central Chalk Downs* form part of Nunwell's designed landscape.

- The late C18 landscape park of Fernhill also falls within the *Pasture Land* character type to the north of the *Central Chalk Downs*, lying close to Wootton Creek and to the settlement of Wootton Bridge. The main house has been demolished and the former parkland no longer retains its original function, part of it now forming a woodland cemetery. However, the designed aspect of the landscape can still be appreciated when crossing Wootton Bridge and from a publically-accessible path through a former ornamental woodland walk.

- A single designed landscape is shown on Map 6 within the *Sandstone Hills* character type, adjacent to the southern edge of the *Central Chalk Downs.* This is a walled garden, possibly of early date, formerly attached to the manor house of Knighton Gorges which was demolished in the early C19 (see Section 12.4).
- The lack of designed landscapes within the *Arable Farmland* landscape character type is unsurprising since this character type represents the best agricultural land. Early settlement was generally, although not always, located on the edge of or just outside the core arable lands. Only one designed landscape is shown on Map 6 within the *Arable Farmland* landscape character type. This is the garden associated with Arreton Manor, mostly remodelled in modern times but including the remains of an early walled garden.

- A single designed landscape lies within the *Coastal Farmland* character type. This is the walled forecourt and garden associated with the early C17 house at Yaverland Manor.

- No designed landscapes described in Part 2 of the HEAP are shown within the *Changed Countryside* character type which embraces both arable land subject to substantial modern hedge removal and countryside adjacent to urban areas and other settlements.
- The significant designed landscapes of Osborne House and Norris Castle (both on the National register) and Barton Manor (on the Local List) both lie just to the west of the *Down to the Coast* project area boundary.

5.0 <u>Understanding Isle of Wight Designed Landscapes</u>

Effective conservation, management and interpretation of designed landscapes must be based on a detailed understanding of the resource.

- The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has studied and recorded Isle of Wight designed landscapes for over 25 years. The Trust maintains an inventory of more than 350 sites, mainly dating from the C18, C19 and C20 and this has been a key source for the detailed characterisation of designed landscapes in Part 3 of the HEAP. Some of the categories of designed landscapes set out in Section 4.2 are not yet covered by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust inventory or are only partially covered. Additional sources of information have therefore been used to identify and characterise sites in these categories.

- Among the 350+ sites in the inventory of the Gardens Trust are nine sites on the National Heritage List and 30 on the Local List (see Sections 3.2 and 3.3) but the inventory and other sources undoubtedly contain evidence for a considerably greater number of sites which are 'significant' in a local if not a national context.

6.0 The Significance of Isle of Wight Designed Landscapes

- One of the objectives of the HEAP is to identify all sites that have a degree of 'Significance'. In *Conservation Principles Policy and Guidance* (2008a, 27-32) English Heritage defined significance as a set of heritage values including 'evidential value', 'historical value', aesthetic value' and 'communal value'.

- The concept of 'Significance' is now a guiding principle in managing the historic environment. The National Planning Policy Framework defines Significance as 'The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012, 56).

- All categories of sites identified in Section 4.2 are of significance in helping us to understand the evolution of the Island's designed landscapes within the national and local context but some site categories are of greater significance than others, either in illustrating the Island's history on the ground or in contributing to national or local understanding of designed landscapes.

- The detailed description and analysis of the Island's various designed landscape categories contained in Part 3 of the HEAP has allowed an assessment to be made of the relative significance of individual categories as set out below.

- The categories of ***Roman Gardens, Hunting Grounds and Deer Parks, Gardens of the Middle Ages, Country House Gardens 1550-1660*** and ***Country House Gardens 1660 to the Mid C18*** provide limited physical evidence for Isle of Wight designed landscape categories although there is a larger body of documentary evidence. Individual sites within these categories contain significant features and further research may identify additional sites. Registered parks on the National Heritage List at Appuldurcombe, Nunwell, Northcourt and Swainston provide some evidence for the latter two categories.

- ***Landscape Parks and Country House gardens from the Mid C18*** have survived better than earlier designed landscapes and are thus a significant category on the Isle of Wight, being represented on the National Heritage List by sites at Appuldurcombe, Norris, Nunwell, Osborne, Northcourt, Swainston and Westover. Landscape parks are also well-represented in other parts of England but some of the Isle of Wight examples have particular significance. The nationally important landscape designer Lancelot 'Capability' Brown was involved in advising on the final plan for Appuldurcombe and the equally famous designer Humphfry Repton appears to have worked at Norris Castle and possibly at Swainston. Osborne is of special national significance, not just because it was the home of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and therefore played a part in influencing garden design elsewhere, but also because it represents an unusually complete example of a large Victorian country house garden with associated parkland.

- It is arguable that the special interest and significance of the Island's designed landscapes in a national context lies in the close connection of the Isle of Wight with the Picturesque Movement. From the late C18 there was a growing

appreciation of the Island as a place of picturesque beauty. This led to the creation of ***Gardens Associated with Marine Villas and Cottages Ornés*** which were concentrated in the Undercliff and other coastal areas. These gardens were created by elite members of society who were seasonally or permanently resident on the Island.

- Nationally significant examples of marine villas and cottages ornés survive. However, the physical survival of g*ardens associated with marine villas and cottages ornés* appears generally to be fragmentary and these gardens are not currently represented on the National Heritage List. Nevertheless, future research may suggest sites within this category which are suitable for national or local designation. Plentiful documentary and pictorial evidence survives for many gardens in this category.

- ***Town, Suburban, Village and Coastal Gardens*** are frequently associated with locations which became fashionable places of seasonal or permanent residence for wealthy and elite members of society in the early C19. The Island's popularity was enhanced by the residence of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert at Osborne from 1845. Architecturally, the C19 is of particular importance on the Isle of Wight although many of the associated gardens have been fragmented or lost. Surprisingly, this category of designed landscapes is represented on the National Heritage List only by Woodlands Vale but future research may identify suitable sites for national designation and is very likely to identify sites for local designation.

- The category of ***Twentieth Century and Twenty-first Century Gardens*** contains only one site on the National Heritage List - that of Ventnor Botanic Garden - and only a few sites of local significance have been identified at present.

- No sites within the category ***Public Parks Municipal Gardens and Open Spaces*** have so far been identified as being of national significance but locally significant sites are well-represented on the Local List

- Seaside tourism for the mass market developed in the second half of the C19. Architecture associated with seaside tourism forms a significant part of the Island's heritage. However, perhaps surprisingly, the Island's ***Seaside Gardens and Promenades*** appear to be relatively modest compared to those of comparable mainland resorts. Nonetheless several of these gardens, which await full evaluation, are at least locally significant and merit inclusion on the Local List (Princes Green is the only site in this category which is currently included). One or two sites are potentially of national significance.

- No sites within the category ***Landscapes of Remembrance*** have been identified as being of national significance but this category is well-represented by municipal cemeteries on the Local List.

- The category of ***Institutional Landscapes*** embraces Ventnor Botanic Garden (formerly the National Cottage Hospital) which is on the National Heritage List but no other nationally important sites have been identified. The nature of the Isle of Wight means that it does not contain large numbers of institutions. No sites have yet been placed on the Local List primarily for their significance as institutional landscapes although the grounds of the former asylum at Whitecroft are now a Conservation Area (see Section 12.13). The grounds of the C20 Quarr Abbey are locally significant and may merit inclusion on the Local List.

- Certain sites fall within the category defined as **Other Types of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.** This embraces several types of gardens considered in Section 12.14 including walled kitchen gardens, allotments, nurseries, plotlands and garden villages.

    - Ninety-eight walled kitchen gardens have now been recorded on the Island including 12 which are listed buildings or have listed features (Isle of Wight Gardens Trust 2014). Seven of the 98 sites lie within designed landscapes on the National Heritage List including distinctive examples at Osborne and Norris. The Local List includes at least 15 designed landscapes which have walled kitchen gardens or their remains. It may therefore be concluded that they are a significant local heritage asset type.
    - Other garden types considered in Section 12.14 have not yet been adequately researched and therefore it is not possible to assess their significance at present.

7.0 Priorities for Recording and Designation

Additional work is needed to enhance information on sites currently recorded in the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust Inventory and to add hitherto unrecorded sites to the inventory.

7.1 Identifying Recording Priorities

- Recording should be governed by the following hierarchy of priorities:

    - Individual sites that are 'At Risk'.
    - Categories of sites which are under-represented by designations, either at national or local level, especially those which have been identified in Section 6 as being of particular significance.

7.2 Recording 'At Risk' Designed Landscapes

The Heritage at Risk programme provides a dynamic picture of the health of archaeological sites, buildings and designed landscapes on the National Heritage List. Every year English Heritage publishes Heritage at Risk Registers for each of the English regions listing those sites most at risk of being lost through neglect, decay or inappropriate development: http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk/.

- There are nine Isle of Wight designed landscapes on the National Heritage List and one of these (Swainston) is on the 2014 Heritage at Risk Register (English Heritage 2014). At Norris Castle, also a designed landscape on the National Heritage List, the principal building is on the HAR Register. The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has identified potential risks to other designed landscapes on the National Heritage List which could make them priority sites for recording, even though they are not on the HAR register. Northwood House, a Grade II* listed building on the Heritage at Risk Register, is set within ornamental parkland (now used as a public park) on the Local List. Conservation Areas at Brading, Carisbrooke, Cowes, Godshill and Newport are on the Heritage at Risk Register but are not thought to contain notable examples of designed landscapes.

- The Isle of Wight Council Conservation and Design Team has started to identify 'Heritage Assets at Risk' (HAARs) which are either secular Grade II listed building or are monuments, buildings, structures and designed landscapes on the Local List. The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has helped the Council with by formulating criteria and an assessment methodology (based on English Heritage guidance and methodology).

- So far, HAAR assessments have been carried out only within the area of the Medina Valley Action Plan (Isle of Wight Council 2014) although the Council intends to move forward with similar approaches in the other Key Regeneration areas (Ryde and The Bay).
- As part of the HAAR programme within the Medina Valley the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has carried out fieldwork assessments followed by 'at risk' analysis and recommendations for designed landscapes.
- The Council's report on heritage assets in the Medina Valley has identified certain buildings and structures associated with designed landscapes as being 'at risk', including the Frank James Memorial Hospital (East Cowes), the west chapel within Northwood Cemetery, the stable range at Northwood House and a C17 garden wall in Newport. Designed landscapes deemed to be vulnerable but not currently at risk include Carisbrooke Cemetery, Northwood Cemetery, the east chapel within Northwood Cemetery) and the Springhill estate at East Cowes.

- Designed landscapes which are national or local heritage assets and have been identified as being 'At Risk' have all been recorded by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust. Nevertheless, it may be considered appropriate to carry out further site surveys focussed on understanding the existing landscape at some of the sites listed above.

- The national 'Heritage at Risk' Register is updated every year. Sites are removed once risk is resolved and new ones added if risks become apparent. Similarly, the Isle of Wight Council may also designate additional local 'Heritage Assets at Risk' and these sites may require further recording. It is recommended that the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust reviews national and local sites at risk every year to assess whether particular sites require conservation advice and additional recording.

- Where the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has knowledge of designed landscapes potentially at risk this information can be fed into the national and local registers. In some instances these sites may be afforded the highest priority for future recording since they may not have been researched in detail.

7.3 Identifying Categories of Designed Landscapes under-represented by Designations

- Part 3 of the HEAP includes a discussion of future research needs (Section 13). This identifies gaps in designation within individual categories of Isle of Wight designed landscapes, either at national or local level.

- Targeted research may identify a limited number of sites which have potential for designation within the National Heritage List and a somewhat greater number of sites which have potential for designation on the Local List.

8.0 <u>Conservation and Management</u>

The conservation of designed landscapes depends not only on their designation as heritage assets, where appropriate, but also on national and local policies, on actions by national and local bodies and on actions by owners. At a local level, work carried out by the Isle of Wight Council Conservation and Design Team, by the Isle of Wight ANOB Partnership and by voluntary organisations such as the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust is especially significant.

8.1The National Planning Policy Framework

The primary mechanism for the protection of designed landscapes in England is the planning system (Thomson 2014).

- In 2010 the now superseded Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) introduced the concept of 'significance' as the basis of protection for heritage assets. PPS5 gave registered parks and gardens parity (in policy terms) with scheduled monuments and listed buildings through their inclusion in a new list of 'designated heritage assets'.

- The value of 'non-designated heritage assets', including unregistered parks and gardens, was recognised for the first time in PPS 5 which indicated that these assets should be taken into account in determining planning applications.

- The policy set out in PPS5 has been broadly replicated in the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework or NPFF (Department for Communities and Government 2012). However, the NPPF has replaced the presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets with an overarching presumption in favour of sustainable development.

- The NPPF follows PPS5 in giving registered parks and gardens an equal status in the planning system with listed buildings and scheduled monuments and in emphasising the need to assess the significance of heritage assets (see especially paragraphs 128 and 132). However, although registration is a statutory designation, there are no specific statutory controls for registered parks and gardens unlike listed buildings or scheduled monuments.

- The NPPF includes a new category of 'Local Green Space' which may be identified for special protection in local and neighbourhood plans. This is defined as 'green areas of particular importance to local communities'. One of the justifications for the designation of a Local Green Space is 'historic significance'.

- Under the NPPF it is a requirement that planning applications submitted to local planning authorities should describe the significance of affected heritage assets. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should be consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary (see Section 8.3 below).

8.2 National and Local Planning Policies

The NPFF states that 'local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment' and that 'in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting'.

- *The Island Plan* is the Core Strategy and Development Plan for the Isle of Wight. The historic environment, including designed landscapes, is covered by policies SP5 and DM11 within this plan (Isle of Wight Council 2012b; 67,164-5). Policy DM11 places special emphasis on the need to 'positively conserve and enhance the special character of the Island's historic and built environment' and states that 'demolition or substantial harm to designated heritage assets and their settings will only be permitted in exceptional or wholly exceptional circumstances'. It also states that 'the demolition or substantial harm to non-designated heritage assets and their settings, which make a positive contribution to the special character and/or local identity of an area, will be resisted'.

- Policy DM11 refers specifically to the Local List as a mechanism for informing development management decisions. It also emphasises the role of Conservation Area Appraisals in identifying the special character of Conservation Areas and in informing any proposals for development within these areas.

- *The Island Plan* makes specific reference to the Historic Environment Action Plan as one of a range of local policies and plans which have shaped the Core Strategy (Isle of Wight Council 2012b, 15-16).

- Neighbourhood planning is the Government's initiative of empowering local communities to help make and take forward planning proposals at a local level. Neighbourhood development plans can only be made by one of two groups: parish or town councils or neighbourhood forums. The Isle of Wight Council supports groups who want to prepare a neighbourhood development plan. Subject to general conformity with the strategic policies of the *Island Plan*, public examination and a local referendum, these plans will be adopted into the *Island Plan* and will be used to determine local planning applications.

- Neighbourhood plans can identify heritage assets including designed landscapes and can take these into account in neighbourhood development plan policies. To date (February 2015) the Neighbourhood Plan for Bembridge has been adopted as part of the Isle of Wight Council's Development Plan and neighbourhood plans for Brading, Brighstone, Freshwater and Gurnard are in preparation.

- The *Isle of Wight PPG 17 Open Space Sport and Recreation Audit* (Isle of Wight Council, 2010) included an evaluation of all the Island's 'strategic parks' and 'neighbourhood parks'. However, Planning Policy Guidance has now been superseded as a planning tool following the adoption of the National Planning Policy Framework.

- Supplementary planning documents (SPDs) are documents which add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan.

    - The Isle of Wight Council's web page on Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) defines 'green infrastructure' as sites which have particular landscape, biodiversity and/or recreational functions as a network. It states that 'the GI network provides a high quality environment to be enjoyed for its landscape, biodiversity, historic, recreation and tourism value, accessibility, economic and health benefits'.
    - The web page refers to a Green Infrastructure Strategy SPD (yet to be prepared) which 'will identify, deliver, manage and monitor the GI network on the Island'. This SPD 'will also provide the detailed guidance and delivery mechanisms for GI, including identification of areas of opportunity for expansion or improvements to the network'.

8.3 Planning Controls and Management Tools

Tools available to local authorities for regulating development and encouraging appropriate management within designed landscapes include the planning consent process (based on policies within local plans), national planning policy guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012), supplementary planning guidance, the maintenance of a Local List, the designation of Conservation Areas, the preparation of Conservation Area Appraisals, and Tree Preservation Orders.

- Local planning authorities are required to consult English Heritage where planning and other applications for development affect a Grade I or II* registered park or garden, and the Garden History Society on applications affecting all registered sites, regardless of grade. On the Isle of Wight the Council also directly notifies and seeks comment from the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust on all applications affecting designed landscapes on the National Register or Local List.

- In line with the Island Core Strategy Policy DM11 and the National Planning Policy Framework Section 12, the Isle of Wight Council stipulates:

  > 'that a 'Heritage Statement' should be submitted with all planning applications, including demolition, which affect a heritage asset - either a designated heritage asset (Listed buildings, Historic Park or Garden of National Importance, Conservation Area, Scheduled Ancient Monument) - or a non-designated heritage asset (Locally Listed Park, Garden Building or Feature, Area of Archaeological Importance, known site on the Historic Environment Record) or their setting'.

8.4 Management Plans

Management plans can cover particular areas of landscapes or can deal with individual designed landscapes.

- Nearly half of the Isle of Wight lies within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is covered by a management plan (Isle of Wight AONB Partnership 2014). This plan sets out policies for the recording, understanding, conservation, enhancement and interpretation of the historic environment within the AONB.

- The AONB Management Plan makes specific reference to 'designed parkland landscapes and ornamental gardens'. It identifies eight registered historic parks and gardens on the National Heritage List for England which lie either partially or wholly within the AONB plus 11 parks and gardens on the Local List within the AONB. The identification of designated designed landscapes in the AONB Management Plan has helped to raise awareness of these heritage assets and should assist in their conservation.

Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) have proved to be valuable tools for developing informed management strategies for individual historic designed landscapes (Watkins and Wright 2007, 30-37). CMPs typically include research on a site's history, development and surviving state as well as policies for future management.

- A reference list of CMPs (and related plans) covering the whole of the United Kingdom is being collated over time by The Garden History Society and Parks & Gardens UK. (The first list was published in 2013). The current list (2014) has references for plans covering Isle of Wight designed landscapes at Appuldurcombe, Farringford, Fort Victoria Country Park, Northcourt, Northwood

Park, Old Park, Osborne House, Quarr Abbey Estate and Wydcombe Manor. Not all these plans have been implemented.

- The Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Parks for People' grant scheme which covers major conservation projects within designed public parks or cemeteries requires that conservation plans and management/ maintenance plans should be submitted during the development phase of projects.

8.5 The Conservation of Farmed Landscapes

Rural landscape parks are not always maintained as ornamental landscapes at the present day. Many are in agricultural use and some farming practises can be damaging to these parks.

- Potentially harmful agricultural practices have been identified by English Heritage (2005f). These practises include: over grazing, use of fertilisers and pesticides, arable cultivation of parkland pasture, compaction and soil movement, farm developments, degradation of boundary features, sub-division of parkland, loss of trees, unsuitable new tree planting, growth of secondary woodland, lack of maintenance to water features, abandonment of park buildings, unsympathetic new development and intrusive development beyond the park boundary.

- There are various organisations that can provide advice on caring for historic parkland and on potential sources of grant aid, including the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Forestry Commission and English Heritage.

- The Association of Gardens Trusts, through the Historic Landscape Project, has attempted to improve liaison and joint working between Natural England, County Historic Environment Record Officers and County Gardens Trusts in respect of historic parkland http://www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html.

- In recent years Environmental Stewardship (ES) has provided funding for farmers and other land managers in England to deliver effective environmental management on their land. Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) has been the primary mechanism for funding the conservation and restoration of historic parklands but will be replaced by Countryside Stewardship in 2016.

    - A report by Natural England on the effectiveness of Environmental Stewardship agreements for the conservation and enhancement of historic parklands concluded that where ES had been implemented it had been largely successful in conserving/restoring historic parkland features and was making a significant, albeit partial, contribution to the conservation/ restoration of parkland as a whole (Natural England 2013).
    - Notwithstanding the conclusions reached in the report by Natural England, the Association of Gardens Trusts (2013, 26-27) identified a number of issues which limited the usefulness of HLS in effectively conserving and managing historic parkland. Divided ownership was perceived as being a major problem, making it difficult to implement a single conservation management plan for the site as a whole. Rules governing eligibility for HLS payments also made it difficult for landowners to take full advantage of the scheme to manage historic parkland.
    - On the Isle of Wight, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust HIWWT) has been involved in preparing applications on behalf of landowners in respect of Higher Level Stewardship schemes and has consulted the Isle of Wight Council Historic Environment and Archaeology Service about these

applications. The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has had some informal input through the Historic Environment and Archaeology Service.

- Countryside Stewardship is the successor to the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. It will run from 2016-2020 with applications to the main scheme being accepted from July 2015 although some grants will be available from 2015 (Defra 2015). It may be harder for projects dealing with the restoration and conservation of historic designed landscapes to access Countryside Stewardship than the previous Higher Level Stewardship scheme.

9.0 <u>The Future of Isle of Wight Designed Landscapes</u>

9.1 National and Local Forces for Change

There are many forces for change affecting designed landscapes. These include development pressures, tourism, changes in land use and ownership, the dereliction of sites or built features and natural forces.

- Gardens associated with large properties within urban and suburban areas (often in divided ownership) have been subject to development pressures in the past. Although private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments are not currently defined as 'previously developed land' within the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012, 55), economic pressure for development in urban and suburban areas is likely to remain a factor.
- Rural landscape parks can also be subject to development pressures, usually from residential housing or holiday units. In the past, building development within parkland has been justified on the grounds that it could secure the future of the site as a whole. However, English Heritage (2008b) has emphasised that enabling development which would secure the future of a significant place, but contravene other planning policy objectives, should be unacceptable unless it will not materially harm the heritage values of the place or its setting and will meet various other conditions.

- Harmful agricultural practices within landscape parks leading to their degradation have been described above (see 8.5). Farm diversification can also have negative impacts on landscape parks. At the registered park of Swainston, for example, light industrial use and multiple access is affecting the condition of the park (English Heritage 2014a).

- The fabric of designed landscapes can be eroded by neglect or lack of management. Semi-natural features such as trees and grass can withstand neglect for many years but built features such as gateways, lodges and follies are far more susceptible to the ravages of time if they are not adequately maintained. For instance, the Freemantle Gateway, a Grade II* Listed Building and Scheduled Monument associated with the registered park of Appuldurcombe is suffering some deterioration although it is not on the Heritage at Risk Register.

- The use of parkland for golf courses can affect designed landscapes in both suburban and rural areas (English Heritage 2007b) although golf courses sometimes represent significant historic features within these landscapes.

    - Osborne Golf Course lies within a Grade II* registered landscape on the National Heritage List. A small area was set aside as a golf course for the royal

family in the C19. The present nine-hole course was laid out in 1904 (English Heritage 2005e)
  - Cowes Golf Club is on land that was formerly within Northwood Park (Local List site), Ryde Golf Course occupies the parkland associated with Ryde House and part of Farringford Park (Local List site) at Freshwater is used as a private golf course.
  - The introduction of new golf courses into historic parks and landscapes almost invariably alters their historic physical form and can erode their character. Although the creation of golf courses within historic parkland may, in the past, have prevented residential development of these parks, proposals for new golf courses within historic parks should be resisted if they do not conserve the fabric, character and significance of these sites.
  - Currently, there does not appear to be pressure for new golf courses within sensitive landscapes and habitats on the Isle of Wight although such schemes have been developed in the recent past.

- Development in urban and rural areas can affect the settings of designed landscapes.

- Tourism is an important Isle of Wight industry and has the potential to provide new or continuing uses for historic houses and and/or designed landscapes. For instance, Ventnor Botanic Garden, on the national register, is an important Isle of Wight tourist attraction and Shanklin Chine, on the Local List, has been open to the public since the early C19. However, tourist developments could potentially have adverse impacts on designed landscapes if not carefully planned.

- Wind farms within designed landscapes obviously affect the character of these sites. Even if sited some distance outside the boundaries of designed landscapes, wind farms can affect the setting of these landscapes and views out from them into the wider countryside (English Heritage 2005g, 8). The potential harm that could be caused to designed landscapes on the Isle of Wight has been acknowledged by various planning refusals.
  - The Isle of Wight AONB Partnership (2010, 13) has concluded that the intimate landscape of the Island is unable to accommodate the level of change that would be caused by the industrial scale and appearance of commercial wind turbines and that they are not appropriate within the AONB. Furthermore, locations outside the AONB may still impact on the designated area.
  - Under the *Island Plan* (2011, 14) 'It is expected that large-scale wind and photovoltaic schemes will be located outside of the AONB (and grade 1-3a agricultural land for photovoltaics) and other designated environmental assets, although schemes within the AONB will be considered when there are no alternative sites outside of the AONB and where a considerable community benefit is demonstrated and considered to outweigh the landscape impact'.

- Arrays of solar panels have the potential to affect the character of rural designed landscapes or views out from those landscapes. Within the AONB it is considered that 'stand alone solar farms created by covering whole fields in solar panels on ground installations, would have to be considered on their own individual merits, in consideration of the capacity of the landscape to accommodate the level of change' (Isle of Wight AONB Partnership 2010, 24).
- Fracking to obtain natural gas poses a potential threat to designed landscapes and their settings. However, nearly half of the Isle of Wight lies within the AONB. In January 2015 the Government announced an outright ban on fracking in National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

- Fragmentation affects both urban and rural designed landscapes. Multiple ownership detracts from the integrity of these landscapes, makes it more difficult to conserve and manage them effectively and renders them more likely to be subject to development pressure.

    - One form of fragmentation comprises the disposal of subsidiary buildings on the periphery of designed landscapes, for instance lodges to public parks and cemeteries as has occurred locally. This can damage the appearance and unity of designed landscapes, for example as a result of additional fencing, new facilities like garages and the re-orientation of gardens

- Natural forces can have great impacts on designed landscapes, as in the 'Great Storm' of 1987 which uprooted many mature trees. Dutch Elm Disease changed the character of several Isle of Wight designed landscapes in the 1970s and other diseases have become established in the UK (including the Island) more recently, including Acute Oak Decline, Horse Chestnut Canker, Sweet Chestnut Blight and Ash Dieback.

- However, coastal erosion is probably the greatest natural force which has affected or may affect Isle of Wight designed landscapes.

    - Four of the Island's registered designed landscapes (Norris Castle, Osborne, Woodlands Vale and Ventnor Botanic Garden) are adjacent to the coast and the sea wall on the northern edge of Norris Castle has been damaged by wave impacts.
    - Twelve designed landscapes on the Local List lie less than half a kilometre from the coast and two of these sites – The Priory and Luccombe Chine House – are actively affected by coastal erosion.
    - Many potentially significant designed landscapes that are not currently designated heritage assets are affected by erosion, most notably in the Undercliff where erosion is currently very active and where a section of the scenic Undercliff Drive has been closed since early 2014.
- Climate change is having substantial impacts on designed landscapes. Problems include periods of prolonged drought, new pests and diseases and the failure of certain plants to adapt to new climatic conditions. The effect of climate change on 'heritage gardens' has been discussed by Bisgrove and Hadley (2002; 11-13, 70-74).

9.2 Constraints and Challenges at National and Local Level

Constraints on the effective understanding, conservation and management of designed landscapes include financial and human resources. Planned changes on the management of national heritage assets may have impacts on designed landscapes.

- A Government decision to split the functions of English Heritage takes effect on 1st April 2015. From that date there will be a new self-financing English Heritage charity to look after the National Heritage Collection (including Appuldurcombe, Carisbrooke Castle and Osborne House). Planning and heritage protection responsibilities will be carried out by a separate body called Historic England.

    - One of Historic England's top five aims under the new Historic England Action Plan 2015-2018 is to 'Identify and protect England's most important heritage'

Local Authority spending cuts are likely to have substantial impacts on the management of the historic environment including designed landscapes.

- It is possible that the amount of officer time that the Isle of Wight Council will be able to devote to recording heritage assets, monitoring planning applications, preparing and updating character appraisals for Conservation Areas, updating the Local List and monitoring Heritage at Risk sites on the Local List will be restricted in the future.It may be that alternative delivery mechanisms are considered which potentially could be less effective in protecting heritage.

- The Isle of Wight AONB Partnership is an independent body jointly funded by Defra and the Isle of Wight Council but future funding may be affected by Council spending cuts.

The trend towards local authorities relinquishing responsibility for public parks and gardens represents a particular challenge for this category of designed landscape.

- Following a renaissance in the first few years of the new millennium, public parks and gardens are now suffering a new funding crisis as discussed in two recent publications (Heritage Lottery Fund 2014; Layton-Jones 2014).Cuts to national government and local government expenditure in recent years have had significant impacts.

- At a local level, the Isle of Wight Council has ceased to be responsible for the care and maintenance of Northwood Park and Ventnor Botanic Garden. There is still free public access to Northwood Park but it is now managed (as well as owned) by the Northwood House Charity. Ventnor Botanic Garden is now run by a Community Interest Company which has been granted a long lease on the property by the Isle of Wight Council. A charge for access to the Botanic Garden (necessary for economic sustainability) has been introduced following the change in ownership.

- The future of the Island's other public parks and gardens remains uncertain. The IW Council carried out a root and branch review of services from 2013-2014.

    - The review concluded that the council needed to reduce the scope of its maintenance of public open spaces. Consideration would need to be given to working with partners and to new models of commissioned services.
    - In its medium-term financial strategy set out in 2014 the council identified its intention to reduce the maintenance standards of council owned/managed parks and open spaces and to seek local third parties to take over the areas at nil cost to the council. By September 2014 very few such arrangements had been made but discussions are ongoing about how this can happen in the future. At present the IW Council remains directly responsible for the management of the large majority of its parks and countryside estate but this may well change in the future.

- Financial cutbacks and devolved management of public parks may threaten the present quality of the Island's public parks which have received recognition at a regional level despite budgetary constraints.

    - In 2014 Ventnor Park became 'Park of the Year' and won a gold medal at the South and South East England in Bloom award ceremony. Appley Park and Puckpool Park in Ryde and the Ventnor Cascade also won awards.

- If local bodies, possibly including town and parish councils and voluntary bodies, are asked to take on responsibility for public parks and gardens in the future, they will face financial and managerial challenges. At a national level, the Heritage Lottery Fund is committed to supporting public parks. It has made a number of recommendations:
    - that local authorities should appoint an elected member to be their parks champion, report annually how much they spend per resident in caring for their parks and adopt an up-to-date parks, green space or green infrastructure strategy;
    - that Government and local authorities should provide the support, resources and skills development needed by park friends and user groups who are considering entering into new partnerships to jointly manage parks;
    - that those using, managing and championing parks should support the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (a national forum for park friends and user groups) to help them provide a central hub of information and advice for park groups;
    - that Government, the Local Government Association, and academic organisations should encourage and facilitate the central collection of consistent and comparable data on parks across all local authorities (Heritage Lottery Fund 2014, 15).

- Clearly, creative and innovative new approaches are needed in financing and managing public parks.

    - The Association of Gardens Trusts may have a role to play at a national level in supporting local parks by signposting sources of information
    - On the Isle of Wight the Isle of Wight Council will obviously have an important role to play in assisting local bodies with new responsibilities.
    - The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust may also be able to assist with information exchange and by signposting organisations such as the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces http://www.natfedparks.org.uk/ and the National Federation of Cemetery Friends www.cemeteryfriends.org.uk/.

Future recording work on designed landscapes is dependent on voluntary effort

- Work carried out by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust includes documentary research, site surveys, maintaining and updating its inventory of designed landscapes, liaison with national and local organisations, provision of advice, commenting on planning applications, recommending designed landscapes for inclusion in the Local List, membership of the Local List Advisory Panel and collaboration with the Isle of Wight Council in monitoring Heritage at Risk sites.
- The Gardens Trust is a voluntary organisation with a small number of active members who are mostly of retirement age. This HEAP makes it clear that there is scope for much additional research concerning Isle of Wight designed landscapes. This could lead to the protection of additional designed landscapes through designation (either on the National Heritage List or the Local List). However, the Gardens Trust is the only local organisation carrying out systematic research into designed landscapes and, given its present resources, progress in this area may be slow. Indeed, in future years it may not even be possible to maintain the current level of work carried out by the Trust.

The attitudes and actions of private landowners can have beneficial or detrimental effects on the effective management and conservation of designed landscapes.

- The negative effects of neglect or harmful development on designed landscapes can be contrasted, locally, with examples where landowners have taken actions to conserve and manage these landscapes.

9.3 Opportunities

Partnerships can provide opportunities not available to single organisations and financial help may be available from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other organisations. Tourism plays an important role in the local economy and emphasises the Island's cultural and natural heritage. The tourism industry is now seeking to promote the Island's garden heritage and there may be opportunities to work with tourism bodies and operators to contribute to the conservation or interpretation of local parks and gardens. Awards can encourage local authority and community effort in maintaining and enhancing parks, gardens and green spaces.

- The Isle of Wight AONB Partnership includes representatives from many local, regional and national organisations and individuals with a direct interest in the AONB. The purpose of the Partnership is to ensure a coordinated approach to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB in light of the AONB Management Plan and its policies (Isle of Wight AONB Partnership 2014). It also supports initiatives which undertake project work.

- The AONB has been instrumental in establishing the East Wight Landscape Partnership (EWLP) and in supporting a successful bid for an earmarked grant of £1.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the *Down to the Coast* Project to be managed by EWLP.

    - The *Down to the Coast* Project focuses on the uniquely intricate and diverse landscapes formed by the rivers draining the eastern part of the Isle of Wight (the East Wight). The project has a broad remit, combining environmental and social objectives with a concern for the East Wight's historic and cultural heritage including designed landscapes. It will be delivered through a series of interlinked programmes with various strands.

- A plan for partnership working amongst the Island's Heritage Sector is set out in the 'Isle of Wight Heritage Strategic Framework' produced by the Isle of Wight Council (2013) The objectives of this plan include increased joint-working by heritage organisations, better heritage interpretation, promotion of heritage assets and co-operation in funding bids.

- The chief financial mechanism for supporting many heritage and partnership projects is the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

    - Funding programmes offered by the HLF include 'Landscape Partnerships' (which supports the *Down to the Coast Project*), 'Parks for People' (which offers substantial grants to historic public parks and cemeteries) and 'Sharing Heritage' (which offers small grants to local groups). Information on HLF grants is available at: http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/programmes.aspx#.VBqDeBawQVW.
    - A number of Isle of Wight designed landscapes have benefitted from HLF grants.

- In 2006 the Friends of Ryde Cemetery obtained funding from the HLF for a major restoration, conservation, management and interpretation project.
- The Friends of East Cowes Cemetery have received financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Local Heritage Initiative to improve and enhance the cemetery, set up a website and produce an information leaflet.
- Northwood Park received an HLF grant to prepare a restoration management plan in 2003. Although not implemented, this plan produced a detailed survey of the park. The Northwood House Charity is currently considering a further HLF bid.
- In July 2014 Northwood Cemetery received development funding from HLF for a major restoration project and will be seeking a delivery grant in 2015.

- The Green Flag Award Scheme recognises and rewards the best green spaces in the country (http://www.greenflagaward.org/). Recent winners have included Shanklin Youth Club (for work covering Shanklin War Memorial, Community Library and Railway Station), Play Lane Millennium Green near Ryde and Fort Victoria Country Park near Yarmouth.

10.0 Interpreting Designed Landscapes

Opportunities for understanding and enjoying designed landscapes are available through the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust but there is a need to engage a wider audience. Many designed landscapes are accessible, often by means of public rights of way but there is a need for information and interpretation to allow greater enjoyment of these landscapes.

- Membership of the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust (IWGT) offers opportunities for Island residents to understand and enjoy designed landscapes by means of study days and visits. Members can also become involved in recording designed landscapes. The Trust has attracted new members by means of its Walled Kitchen Garden Project, funded through the HLF in 2014.

- The Parks & Gardens UK website www.parksandgardens.org includes descriptions of Isle of Wight designed landscapes on the national register and the local list. The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust hopes to add additional sites on its inventory to the Parks & Gardens UK website and the HER but this is dependent on voluntary input so may take some time.

- Ideally, there should be public access to the IWGT database at least in outline form, including location and headline information. This can probably best be achieved by uploading data to the Parks & Gardens UK website www.parksandgardens.org and by adding new sites to the HER. There are issues to be addressed including the quality of some database entries and IWGT is dependent on voluntary input so achieving better public access to data may take some time.

- Various projects are planned within the *Down to the Coast* Project to assist wider audiences to enjoy and understand designed landscapes.

- In the past, the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has undertaken project work with schools and the AONB has promoted the study of landscapes within schools. Island primary schools now have a good understanding of the importance of gardens and gardening (although focussing on productive rather than ornamental gardens) and of local landscapes. There are also good national resources available

to schools, for instance those on the 'Learning through Landscapes' website http://www.ltl.org.uk/.

PART 2: HEAP ACTIONS FOR DESIGNED LANDSCAPES

11.0 Background to HEAP Actions

- General actions for the Isle of Wight Historic Environment Action Plan were set out when the first HEAP documents were produced (Isle of Wight Council 2008a).

- This section identifies HEAP actions relating specifically to designed landscapes.

- Two sets of proposed actions are set out below:

    - 11.1 lists Island-wide actions for the Isle of Wight Council, Isle of Wight AONB, East Wight Landscape Partnership and other organisations including the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust.
    - 11.2 lists actions specific to the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust.

- Further actions may be carried out within the framework of the East Wight Landscape Partnership's *Down to the Coast* Project

11.1 Designed Landscape Actions for the Isle of Wight Council, AONB, EWLP, Other Bodies and Isle of Wight Gardens Trust

No.	Description	Measurable Outputs	Lead Organisations	Timetable	Action Status March 2015
DL Action 1	Circulate the draft Designed Landscape HEAP to members of HEAP Steering Group, relevant Isle of Wight Council (IWC) Officers, AONB Unit staff and others for consultation.	Digital copies of HEAP (Final Version) circulated to HEAP Steering Group, EWLP Project Officer, Council Officers, AONB Unit staff and other relevant organisations for comment	IWC Archaeology & Historic Environment Service. (IWCAHES)	Draft by 31/12/14.	Completed
DL Action 2	Amend draft following consultation.	Final version of HEAP	Isle of Wight Gardens Trust (IWGT)	By 31/03/2015	Completed
DL Action 3	Circulate final version of HEAP	Digital copies of HEAP (Final Version) circulated to HEAP Steering Group, EWLP Project Officer, Council Officers, AONB Unit staff and other relevant organisations	IWCAHES IWGT	2015	To be completed
DL Action 4	Utilise the Designed Landscapes HEAP as a background document to the *Island Plan*, thereby supporting the provisions of the *Island Plan*, the Local List, Conservation Areas and TPOs for the conservation of designed landscapes	Use of Designed Landscapes HEAP by isle of Wight Council in planning policy, planning control and advice	IWC Planning Policy Team - supported by IWCAHES	From 2015	Future action
DL Action 5	Promote the understanding, protection and conservation of designed landscapes in the AONB through use of HEAP	Use of Designed Landscapes HEAP by AONB Unit and reference to HEAP in relevant AONB documents	AONB Unit staff	From 2015	Future action
DL Action 6	Promote the understanding, protection and conservation of designed landscapes through the EWLP 'Down to the Coast' Project	Use of Designed Landscapes HEAP to inform all EWLP 'Down to the Coast' projects and activities	EWLP	From 2015	Future action
DL Action 7	Consider setting up a forum to facilitate collaborative working between local organisations involved in managing public parks and gardens	IWGT to approach IWC Recreation, Leisure & Public Spaces Dept, IW Association of Local Councils and IW Society of Local Council Clerks with suggestion that such a forum be set up.	IWC Recreation, Leisure & Public Spaces Dept, IW Association of Local Councils, IW Society of Local Council Clerks IWGT	2015 or 2016	Proposal

11.2 Core Conservation Activities of Isle of Wight Gardens Trust and Proposed New IWGT Activities to be undertaken in Support of the HEAP

No.	Description	Measurable Output	Lead persons and/or Groups	Timetable	Action Status March 2015
IWGT Action 1	Maintain IWGT Inventory of Designed Landscapes and share information with Historic Environment Record (HER)	Inventory updated as new information becomes available and updated copy passed to HER	IWGT Conservation Committee	Ongoing	Core IWGT function
IWGT Action 2	Monitor planning applications, using 'Significance' as a tool in assessing and commenting on development proposals	Number of planning applications monitored each year	IWGT Planning Officer reporting to IWGT Conservation Committee	Ongoing but to be reviewed each year in IWGT Annual Report	Core IWGT function
IWGT Action 3	Provide conservation guidance and advice to owners and relevant organisations	Letters, emails and phone calls	Members of IWGT Conservation Committee	Ongoing	Core IWGT function
IWGT Action 4	Encourage and support appropriate projects for the practical conservation or restoration of specific designed landscapes on the Isle of Wight	Conservation and restoration projects relating to specific sites take place	IWGT Conservation Committee	Ongoing	Core IWGT function
IWGT Action 5	Participate as member of Local List Panel set up by IWC Conservation & Design Section	Number of meetings attended annually	IWGT Planning Officer	Ongoing	Core IWGT function
IWGT Action 6	Identify and address gaps in designations of designed landscapes, including local list designations	Number of new designations each year	IWGT Conservation Committee	Ongoing but to be reviewed each year	Ongoing IWGT activity
IWGT Action 7	Work with IWC Conservation and Design Team to carry out Heritage Assets at Risk assessments	IWGT input to assessments	IWGT Conservation Committee	As required	Ongoing IWGT activity
IWGT Action 8	Review sites or designed landscape features on the national Heritage at Risk Register and local Heritage Assets at Risk Register to assess whether sites require conservation advice or recording and, where necessary, to suggest sites for inclusion in the At Risk registers.	At Risk registers reviewed annually by Conservation Committee	IWGT Conservation Committee	Annually	Ongoing IWGT activity
IWGT Action 9	Adopt Designed Landscapes HEAP as blueprint to guide future work of IWGT	Formal adoption of HEAP by IWGT Committee of Management	IWGT Committee of Management	2015	Proposal
IWGT Action 10	Assess human and financial resources of IWGT, identify ways to maximise these resources and prioritise the work to be carried out towards Actions 10 & 11 below	List of priorities and suggested ways of maximising resources	IWGT Conservation Committee	Ongoing	Ongoing IWGT activity
IWGT Action 11	Identify, characterise, assess and record designed landscapes resulting in new and amended entries to the IWGT Inventory in line with priorities established in the HEAP (Sections 7 and 13) focussing on 'At Risk' sites and site categories under-represented by designations	Aim will be to generate some additional or amended records in at least one site category each year but this will be resource dependant.	IWGT Conservation Committee supported by IWGT voluntary research group	Ongoing	Ongoing IWGT activity
IWGT Action 12	Implement a programme to rationalise, consolidate, standardise and make more publicly accessible the IWGT Inventory of IW designed landscapes and to create a digital archive	Inventory is rationalised and made publicly accessible and the digital archive created	IWGT Conservation Committee	By end of 2018	Proposal

PART 3:
ISLE OF WIGHT DESIGNED LANDSCAPES IN THEIR HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND FUTURE RESEARCH

12.0 Introduction

Part 3 provides a new assessment and characterisation of Isle of Wight designed landscapes, taking account of work undertaken by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust (IWGT) during the last twenty-five years. It is based upon the site categories identified in Part 1 (Section 4.2) and draws upon the IWGT inventory of over 350 sites. However, sites within some of the categories set out in Section 4.2 are not yet covered by the IWGT inventory or are only partially covered and other sources of information have been used to identify sites in these categories.

The aim of Part 3 is to describe all sites (or clusters of sites in towns and villages) which have significant surviving landscape remains illustrative of the category in which they fall. (Inevitably there will be some omissions in an overview of this nature). Sites with no significant above-ground physical remains are also described where these help to illustrate the story of Isle of Wight designed landscapes. Part 3 concludes by discussing future research priorities.

The Isle of Wight HEAP Overview (Isle of Wight Council 2008c) set out a framework for the various HEAP Area and HEAP Type reports. All reports have contained sections on 'Principal Historical Processes' and 'Time-Depth'. Part 3 of this Designed Landscape HEAP covers both concepts. It looks at the larger historical processes that have helped to shape local designed landscapes and considers the historic depth (time-depth) of individual designed landscapes. This 'time-depth' can be considered as the different 'layers' or 'overlays' which may be present within designed landscapes where successive owners have altered and adapted these landscape (sometimes over several centuries) in line with prevailing fashions and their own tastes. The presence of different layers in some of the Island's designed landscapes means that these sites may be described below under several categories, cross-referenced to each other.

Designed landscapes described in the text below are shown on Map 7 in relation to modern civil parishes. The text refers to HEAP Areas (shown on Maps 4 and 5) when this is necessary to relate particular designed landscapes to their broad historic landscape context. Where HEAP Areas are indicated they have been italicised e.g. *Northern Lowlands.*

Within the text, registered parks and gardens included on the National Heritage List are indicated by the abbreviation NHL and those on the Isle of Wight Council's Local List by the abbreviation LL. Potentially significant designed landscapes that may merit designation on the National Heritage List or the Local List are indicated by an asterisk (*) and marked on Map 8. These sites require further evaluation. Future research into other sites described in the text may identify additional sites with potential for designation.

Listed Buildings (LB), Scheduled Monuments (SM) and Conservation Areas (CA) associated with designed landscapes are also identified in the text. N.B. Registered Parks and Gardens and Listed Buildings are graded I, II* and II in the National Heritage Register and these grades are shown in the text.

12.1 Roman Gardens

The earliest evidence for designed landscapes in England has come from the excavation of Roman villas (English Heritage 2012a 2-3). Eight Roman villas on the Isle of Wight have been subject to at least some investigation (Tomalin 1987, 10-13) – all but one of these being located fairly close to the central ridge of chalk downland - but the sites of many more Roman buildings are now known, mainly through finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (www.finds.org.uk).

- **Brading Roman villa** (SM) is the Island's richest and most elaborate villa and is the site most likely to have had a formal garden. The most recent excavator of Brading Roman villa has suggested that in the fourth century AD the villa courtyard was set out as a formal garden. Attempts to trace garden features in 1995 failed but excavation in 2008 identified a possible 'garden' soil and the 'nymphaeum' recessed into the courtyard wall is a structure appropriate to a formal garden (Cunliffe 2013, 270). A small garden area created close to the villa in the 1990s contains plants known to have been used in Roman gardens.
- **Newport Roman villa** (SM) is in the care of the Isle of Wight Council and includes a reproduction of a Roman garden, laid out in 1992 and containing plants likely to have been grown in the Roman period (Basford 1992).

12.2 Hunting Grounds and Deer Parks

Hunting was popular during the Roman period although no definite structural evidence of this activity has been found in England (English Heritage 2012b, 3). Historical sources indicate that hunting was also popular during what is conventionally termed the Anglo-Saxon period in England. However, neither archaeological nor historical evidence suggests the presence of designed landscapes around high status houses during this period.

The English medieval kings had access to vast forest hunting grounds, some wooded, where Forest Law gave protection both to the deer and to the trees. The infrastructure of forests and chases (forests granted by the Crown to others) included structures such as lodges and boundary banks. (English Heritage 2012a, 4).Deer parks were typically much smaller areas of wood and grassland (mostly of 30-80 ha), located away from settlements and from the lord's house on economically marginal land. It has been pointed out that deer parks were not synonymous with 'hunting preserves'. They could be the scene of hunts but their confined space offered limited space for this activity and their real purpose was the supply of venison, wood and timber (Rackham 1986, 125).

On the Isle of Wight there were hunting forests at Parkhurst and Borthwood.

- After the Norman Conquest in 1066 the Isle of Wight was an area of strategic military importance and was under the control of William Fitz Osbern, a close associate of William I. Following a brief period under direct royal control from 1075 to 1100 the lordship of the Island passed to the de Redvers family and remained with this family until the death of Isabella de Fortibus in 1293. After this period the captains and governors of the Island were appointed by the Crown.

- The pre-Norman fortified site at **Carisbrooke Castle** (SM, LB I) was located on a chalk hill top dominating the surrounding land. This fortification was enlarged and strengthened by the Fitz Osbern and de Redvers families to become a strongly defended military site and an even stronger symbolic statement about the power of the lords of the Island (Young 2000, 189-200).

- The southern edge of Parkhurst Forest lay only a mile to the north of Carisbrooke Castle on the clays and gravels of the *Northern Lowlands*. The forest is not recorded until c.1200 (Kökeritz 1940, 105; Mills 2001, 81) but its existence as early as AD 986 can be inferred from a charter describing the boundaries of an estate at Watchingwell. The eastern boundary of Watchingwell is coterminous with what later documents reveal to be the western boundary of Parkhurst Forest (Chatters 1991, 43).

    - **Parkhurst Forest** was used by the lords of the Island and later by the Crown for hunting purposes and the preservation of game but early documentary sources provide evidence for other uses. Several manors had rights of common within the forest, only about one third of which was wooded.
    - The character and extent of Parkhurst Forest has been greatly affected by C19 century enclosure and by later Forestry Commission management but there is some physical evidence of its former role as a hunting forest. The northern boundary appears to be medieval. Much of it is followed by a bank and ditch which may have been built to control the movements of deer although further study of this feature is needed. Inside the forest is an enclosure (*) which is first shown on a map of 1770. This enclosure formerly contained a Keeper's lodge and could be a medieval or early-post medieval feature.

- **Borthwood Forest** (lying on greensand soils to the south of the *East Wight Chalk Ridge*) was attached to the Lordship of the Island and it is possible that the place-name 'Queen's Bower' adjacent to Borthwood Copse may actually be a reference to a hunting lodge or viewing tower used by Isabella de Fortibus. She was the last member of the de Redvers family to rule the Island, was probably the most powerful woman in C13 England and was considered locally as the 'Queen of the Isle of Wight' (pers. comm. Johanna Jones). Borthwood Forest is now represented by the very small extent of Borthwood Copse, in National Trust ownership. It is not known to contain any physical evidence of medieval hunting activities.

- It is unclear whether Parkhurst Forest and Borthwood Forest were covered by forest law but both were possessions of the lords of the Island and then of the Crown. Parkhurst was not disafforested and enclosed until after an Act of Parliament in 1812 (Chatters 1991, 51-52).

31 deer parks and 71 'hays' (thought to be similar to deer parks) are recorded in Domesday Book (1086) throughout England. These and other sources of evidence show that by the time of the Norman Conquest special enclosures for deer were being constructed, as well as lodges for those charged with their management (English Heritage 2012b, 3).The number of deer parks grew steadily in the two centuries after the Norman Conquest with park ownership spreading from the ranks of the aristocracy to wealthier manorial lords. These parks were important status symbols indicating wealth and power. Typically, deer parks were securely enclosed within substantial boundaries or 'pales' which were normally banks topped by fences, hedges or walls with a ditch on the inside (English Heritage 2011b, 3).

John Speed's 1611 map of the Isle of Wight shows deer parks enclosed by park pales at Watchingwell and Wootton (both in the 'Northern Lowlands') and an unenclosed park at St Lawrence in the 'Undercliff' (Basford 1989, 13-16).

- **Watchingwell Park** (*) is named in Domesday Book as the 'King's park', making it is a very early example of an English deer park.

- By the C13 ‘New Park’ and ‘Little Park’ existed on the east side of the park (Chatters 1991, Map 3). These seem to have been distinct agricultural holdings in separate ownerships, rather than being divisions of the deer park as suggested by Basford (1989, 14). However, Little Park, at least, seems to have been taken out of Watchingwell Park.
- Charles I built a hunting lodge in Watchingwell Park on the site of what is now Great Park Farmhouse (Webster 1975-1995). In 1650 Watchingwell Park still contained ‘nine score deer’ (Page 1912, 227). By the end of the C18 the park had been divided into fields.
- Watchingwell Park formed a detached part of the medieval parish of St Nicholas and modern field boundaries preserve the outline of the park. Indeed, part of the deer park boundary was an administrative division between the boroughs of Medina and South Wight in the late C20. However, the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has not yet surveyed these boundaries.

- In 1298 there was a reference to a ‘free warren’ belonging to the lord of the manor at Wootton and it is possible that **Wootton Park**, shown on Speed’s map of 1611 may date from the C13 since medieval rabbit warrens were frequently located within deer parks (Basford 2013, 283). An early C19 map shows two keepers’ lodges at Wootton but it is not thought that any physical evidence of the park survives today.

- Speed’s map shows **St Laurence Park** as occupying much of the Undercliff. No park pale is shown but the inner cliff would have formed a natural barrier. The deer park at St Laurence may have had medieval origins but it is also possible that it was established by the Worsley family of Appuldurcombe in the C16. It may equate with ‘Old Park’, first recorded as a place-name within the Appuldurcombe estates in 1628. The core of St Laurence Park may have fallen roughly within the area of the C19 Old Park estate (LL), recorded by Lambert (2001, 6).

Various sources provide evidence of additional medieval deer parks which are not shown on Speed’s 1611 map of the Isle of Wight.

- The bishopric of Winchester was an important landowner on the Island, holding the manor of **Swainston** (near Calbourne) from before the Norman Conquest until the late C13. Surviving parts of the medieval manor house (LB II*) date from the C13. A medieval warren is thought to have existed on the bishop’s manor in this century. Rabbit warrens were the prerogative of the elite in medieval England and, like deer parks, were associated with high status residences (English Heritage 2011b, 2) .In the C14 Swainston was owned by the Earl of Salisbury and there is documentary evidence of a deer park within his manor (Basford 1989, 16). Future fieldwork could possibly locate the site of this deer park which may lie within the later designed landscape at Swainston (NHL).

- There are documentary references to medieval or early post-medieval deer parks at **Shalfleet**, **Kingston** and **Knighton** (Basford 1989, 15-16; Webster 1975-1995).

- Botanical evidence or landscape evidence suggests the presence of deer parks at **North Park** in Freshwater Parish (Basford 1989, 17) and near Lee Farm in Shalfleet Parish.

- A programme of fieldwork could possibly locate physical evidence for some of the deer parks described above.

12.3 Gardens of the Middle Ages

Castles and aristocratic houses often stood within extensive designed landscapes which featured moats and other forms of water management (English Heritage 2012a, 4). A particular type of medieval designed landscape was the 'little park', noted especially in the C14 and C15, which differed from the usual type of deer park. Most 'little parks' stood close to the house, or were overlooked by it, and appear to have been semi-natural pleasure grounds which provided a pleasing setting with animals and birds to watch and hear and probably somewhere to walk. Two dozen or more have been identified, most associated with grand castles and houses; many more are suspected (English Heritage 2012b, 4).

- **Carisbrooke Castle** (SM, LB I) is a motte-and bailey fortification of medieval date with a further eastern enclosure defined by prominent ditches and ramparts, both being surrounded by a Late-Elizabethan bastioned trace. Young (2000, 3-4) has suggested that the eastern enclosure, subsequently modified to form a bowling green for Charles I, originated as a C16 defensive circuit. However, it is possible that the eastern enclosure was formerly a medieval pleasure ground or 'little park' although the lack of documentary evidence and the absence of hereditary lords at Carisbrooke Castle after 1293 perhaps make this unlikely.

Some castles and great houses in England had small but elaborate pleasure gardens of a type known as the hortus conclusus, or herber. Documentary sources (mainly continental) indicate that in the C13 and C14 their features could include turf benches, trellis work screens, tunnels and arbours, fountains, pools and rills, specimen trees and a wide range of sweet-smelling flowers and herbs in beds (English Heritage 2012b, 3).

There are no surviving physical remains of elaborate pleasure gardens of this type on the Isle of Wight but documentary evidence exists for such gardens at Carisbrooke Castle.

- Contemporary documents record a 'herbary' (i.e. a herber) at **Carisbrooke Castle** in 1270 and also a new 'arbour garden' laid out at the castle by Isabella de Fortibus in 1287/8 (the term 'arbour' here being synonymous with 'herber'). Isabella also laid out a kitchen garden although this appears to have been outside the castle (Jones 1989).

- The herbary garden at Carisbrooke Castle appears to have been located close to the great hall. The new arbour garden created by Isabella de Fortibus was located close to the Chapel of St Nicholas in the general area of the 'Privy Garden' recently remodelled by English Heritage (see Section 12.9). However, the medieval arbour garden would have been much smaller than the existing garden.

After the death of Isabella de Fortibus in1293 the crown exercised direct control of the Island through the appointment of captains and governors. This royal influence inhibited the growth of powerful independent aristocratic families locally and therefore restricted the potential for ostentatious display including the creation of parks and gardens. However, despite the scarcity of evidence for medieval pleasure gardens on the Island other than those of Isabella de Fortibus at Carisbrooke Castle, it is likely that medieval manor houses would have had small enclosed spaces for growing vegetables and herbs.

- **Chale Manor House** (LB II*) - later known as Chale Abbey although it was never a monastic building - is one of the oldest domestic buildings on the Isle of Wight. The house is located beneath St Catherine's Down near the southern tip of the Island. It was built in the 1330s by John de Langford, the Constable of Carisbrooke Castle,

possibly incorporating part of an earlier house and has C15, C16 and C19 alterations and extensions. A deed dated 1337 records a garden in Chale belonging to de Langford and his wife Johanna but it is not known whether this garden was associated with the manor house. The present walled garden is first shown on an Ordnance Survey drawing of *c.* 1793 (Isle of Wight Gardens Trust 2014, 34).

- The medieval moat at **Wolverton Manor**, Shorwell (SM) may have been the site of a house preceding the present manor house but Taylor (1983, 34-37) has suggested that moated sites sometimes contained gardens rather than dwellings. Geophysical survey of the moat's interior in 1977 found evidence for only a small structure in the NE corner which tends to support an interpretation of the site as a garden (Basford 1989, 23). However, if it ever was a garden, this could have been of post-medieval rather than medieval date (see Section 12.4).

The contribution of monasteries to medieval horticulture was enormous. These institutions were in the forefront in the cultivation of vineyards, orchards, pleasure gardens, herb gardens and vegetable gardens (Landsberg 34-44). Religious houses held much land on the Island in the Middle Ages, most notably Quarr Abbey which was founded in 1132 close to the Solent shore in the east of the Island (Hockey 1970, 5-6). Quarr was the only medieval monastery on the Isle of Wight although several priories existed.

- The enclosure wall and fragmentary remains of buildings relating to the medieval **Quarr Abbey** (SM) survive to the east of the modern abbey. This site was excavated in the late C19 but no garden areas were identified (Page 1912, 152-154). An earthwork survey in the late C20 recorded medieval fishponds to the south of the abbey (Basford 2012, 284-289).
    - The only documentary evidence of a garden associated with Quarr Abbey is contained in a reference to an abbey servant named John Bullock, first employed in 1492. He and his widowed mother were to live in the 'Gaestn Hall' which had its own garden that reached from the abbey's north enclosure wall as far as a pond called the 'Hors pole' (Hockey 1970, 212). This would have been a productive rather than an ornamental garden.
- The Cartulary of **Carisbrooke Priory** refers to the monks' orchard and to 'tithes of garden produce' but there is also a reference concerning two acres of land held by the monks from Robert Oglander in return for an annual rent of one pound of cumin (Hockey 1981, 106).

Towns were founded on the Isle of Wight in the medieval period by William Fitz Stur at Brading, by the de Redvers family at Yarmouth and Newport and by the bishop elect of Winchester at Newtown (Isle of Wight Council 2008).These towns were laid out with 'burgage plots' which may have included space for growing herbs and vegetables.

- The medieval town of **Newport** (CA), founded in the C12, is first depicted on a plan inset into John Speed's 1611 map of 'Wight Island'. This shows schematic indications of gardens but does not accurately depict the burgage plots associated with individual properties. Orchards are indicated in certain areas within the town and to the south of it. John Lea's 1689 map of Newport shows more detailed representations of gardens but, once again, these do not correspond with the burgage plots and are probably schematic.

- **Newtown** (SM, CA) was laid out on the rural estate of Swainston in the C13 and ultimately failed to become established as a town. The plots of land assigned to inhabitants at Newtown were similar to the tofts (house and garden plots) found in medieval villages.
    - The tofts laid out at Newtown survive as small plots delineated by hedges and provide the only surviving physical evidence for medieval productive gardens on the Isle of Wight. However, these tofts are perhaps more similar to allotments than to modern gardens. Plants grown within the tofts may have included kale, leeks, parsley, parsnips, turnips, beans, peas, garlic, onions and a variety of herbs for use in pottage (thick soups or stews) or for medicinal use. 'Salad' plants may have included annual plants such as borage, marigold and poppy (Landsberg 1998; 27-28, 109-112).

12.4 Country House Gardens 1550-1660

Documentary and physical evidence of designed landscapes is more abundant from the mid C16. In the years after 1550 gardens began to change and Italian Renaissance ideas began to be introduced at the grandest castles and palaces. These aristocratic gardens might contain terraces, obelisks, fountains, grottos, statuary, gazebos, banqueting houses and water gardens (English Heritage 2012b, 5-6). Parterres – flat terraces laid out with flower beds and decorative patterns in regular formation – developed in the C17 from simpler Tudor knot gardens. Gardens were seen as a buffer between the house and the wilder landscape beyond, essential to provide an orderly setting to the house and often planned at the same time (Henderson 2005, 73)

One highly important development, from around the mid C16, was the imparkment of land around great houses to give privacy and a pleasing setting whereas medieval deer parks had generally been located in marginal landscapes away from the house (English Heritage 2012b, 7).

The gardens of more modest country houses in the C16 and earlier C17 probably differed little from those of the preceding century, being contained within one or more walled compartments around a house, and with elaboration confined to straight gravel paths, knots, topiary, and clipped hedges (English Heritage 2012a, 5). Garden buildings, such as small banqueting houses, might be placed against the sides of the enclosure (Taigel and Williamson 1993, 41). Forecourts partially enclosed by stone walls were employed in Tudor England to dignify the main approach to a mansion and may be considered as garden compartments. There were also garden courts enclosed by buildings (Jellicoe et al 1986, 195).

A garden treatise of 1629 by John Parkinson entitled 'Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris' is the first substantial book on English gardening, dealing both with garden layout and with planting. It refers not only to flower gardens but also to kitchen gardens and orchards and describes suitable plants for these three types of gardens.

The Reformation led to the suppression of religious houses in the 1530s and this caused an upheaval in patterns of landholding throughout England, not least on the Isle of Wight. Powerful new families such as the Worsleys, the Mills and the Flemings became landowners although some old-established Island families such as the Oglanders continued to be influential. However, there were still no residential aristocratic families on the Island.

The Island was a somewhat dangerous place to live in the C16, with foreign invasion continuing to be a real threat but the building of forts by Tudor monarchs and the defeat of the Spanish Armada gradually contributed to a feeling of greater confidence,

exemplified in physical form by the stone manor houses which form such a distinctive feature of the island's historic landscape at the present day. These began to be built in the C16 but most of the surviving examples are of C17 date.

The majority of the Island's Tudor and Jacobean manor houses were not great 'country houses' but were relatively modest in size although a few, such as Appuldurcombe, Northcourt and Knighton Gorges, were very substantial buildings. Most manor houses on the Island would not have had elaborate formal gardens influenced by Renaissance ideas in the C16 and early C17. However, more modest pleasure gardens probably existed at many manor houses although there is evidence at only a few sites.

- The largest house on the Island in the Tudor period was at **Appuldurcombe** near Wroxall in the south-east of the Island, close to the *South Wight Downland*. This house was built by the Worsley family on the site of a former Benedictine priory and was visited by Henry VIII in 1538 (Page 1912, 171)**.**
  - The C16 house at Appuldurcombe was replaced by a Baroque mansion (LB I) in the early C18 but an engraving of the Tudor house made in 1720 survives (Worsley 1781, facing page 180).This engraving depicts a courtyard enclosed by stone walls in front of (or behind) the house and probably represents a garden area. Another walled enclosure is shown on the left side of the house and contains a bowling green and a building set on a raised mound, possibly a dovecote.
  - The earliest evidence for a possible deer park at Appuldurcombe is a reference to a deer lodge in 1557 (Masters 2005, 28). A deer park is specifically mentioned in the will of Sir Thomas Worsley (1603) but Masters (2005, 27) has suggested that this was at Old Park, St Lawrence, in the Undercliff (i.e. the park shown on John Speed's 1611 map). However, the 1557 reference to a deer lodge does seem to indicate that the deer park mentioned in Sir Thomas Worsley's will was at Appuldurcombe although it is unclear whether the surviving late C18 park wall at Appuldurcombe (NHL II) incorporates any elements of a possible earlier deer park wall**.**

- **Northcourt** manor house in Shorwell (LB II) was built in c.1615 by Sir John Leigh and is 'the grandest surviving C16 - C17 house on the Island' (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 274). The grounds (NHL II) have garden terraces and a mount which may be contemporary with the house. Mounts were popular in the Tudor period but were still being built in the early C17 (Taigel and Williamson 1993, 41).

  - The terraces and mount at Northcourt probably constitute the most important surviving evidence of an Isle of Wight garden predating 1750.

- The influential Island family of the Oglanders lived at **Nunwell** (LB II*, NHL II) which is in the East Wight just to the north of the *East Wight Chalk Ridge* and close to the small town of Brading. Sir John Oglander (1585-1655) appears to have been particularly interested in gardening. His notebooks provide details of the grounds at Nunwell, including references to a warren, gardens, orchards, hop gardens and a bowling green. The gardens included a 'parlour garden' and an 'upper garden' (Basford 1989, 26).

  - Several of the features mentioned in Sir John's notebooks are shown on a map of Nunwell dating from 1748. This depicts a garden landscape in which ornamental and functional features are intermingled in a manner which had started to become unfashionable on the mainland by the mid C18 but which is typical of many country house gardens from 1550-1660.

- There is no sense of overall design in the garden layout shown on the 1748 map; service buildings are located close to the house on its north side and the main gardens are located to one side of the house rather than in front of it. On the other hand, by 1748 the east wing of the house had been rebuilt to face the garden. Moreover, the map shows a regular avenue of trees labelled 'the Prospect' aligned on the courtyard in front of the south wing of the house. This avenue may have been planted in the early C18 rather than being a C17 garden feature (see Section 12.5).
- The main gardens are shown on the 1748 map as two areas of regular plots lying to the east of the house, possibly corresponding to the 'parlour' and 'upper' gardens in Sir John's account. These gardens faced south (whereas the present main formal garden at Nunwell faces east), were at least partly enclosed and included ornamental features such a 'terrace' and 'parterres' as well as plots which may have grown produce for the table. The garden area which was further away from the house is shown as being flanked by orchards on its north and south sides. Two further enclosures planted with trees or shrubs in regular rows are shown to the north of the service buildings and it is tempting to equate these with the hop gardens mentioned by Sir John Oglander.
- The designed landscape shown to the south of the two formal garden areas on the 1748 map has a less enclosed character than that of the formal gardens. An area of scattered trees is shown beyond the garden area nearest to the house. The formal avenue of 'The Prospect' separates this area of scattered trees from a sub-triangular block of woodland with rounded corners which is identified on the map as 'The Warren'. Beyond the warren an open *allée* or walk is defined by a single line of trees at a 45% angle to 'The Prospect'. This may be an early C18 feature as has been suggested for 'The Prospect'. The *allée* leads to a large sub-rectangular fishpond with a regular plantation of trees beyond. (An entry in Sir John Oglander's diary indicates that he regarded a fishpond as being an essential garden feature.)
- No traces of the formal gardens or orchards shown on the 1748 map remain within the pleasure gardens around the house at Nunwell but the fishpond, the wooded area of the warren and a remnant of 'The Prospect' survive in separate ownership although within the registered park (NHL II).

- The present landscape park at Nunwell is located to the east of the house and has old trees with lichens suggesting a parkland environment of considerable age (Basford 1989, 17). However, the site of the present house was only occupied by the Oglander family from the 1530s. We know that in the C17 Sir John Oglander's 'warren' was located to the south-west of the house rather than to the east but we also have his statement that 'of a rude chase I have now made [Nunwell] a fit place for any gentleman'. This reference to a 'chase' implies that land around Nunwell may have been used as a hunting ground in the C16. Notwithstanding this rather vague reference, the 1748 map suggests that the area beyond the formal gardens and orchards to the east of Nunwell House was occupied by cultivated fields in the early C18 although it is shown as parkland on an estate map of 1773 (see Section 12.6).

- **Knighton Gorges** near Newchurch was once one of the Island's most imposing mansions. It originated in the medieval period and was added to in later centuries before being demolished in the 1820s (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 170).

  - Earthworks mark the site of the demolished manor house and to the west are stone and brick walls with associated internal perimeter banks enclosing two

walled gardens (Basford and Basford, 1990). The walls are listed Grade II and the garden itself is on the Local List.

- Although some parts of the surviving garden walls may be of C18 or C19 date, the internal banks could date from an earlier period and may be interpreted as raised walks giving views into and out of the garden.
- In the upper garden the perimeter banks enclose an area with a sunken north-south path. This upper garden is referred to by an early C20 writer as a bowling green but may have been a 'boulingrin' in the French sense as recorded by the writer Dezaillier D'Argenville (1709), meaning not a place where bowls were played but 'certain sinkings and slopings of turf'. A brick-vaulted alcove within the earthen bank beside the east wall may have been a shelter from which to view the garden.

- Stone forecourt walls survive in front of the late C16 manor house of **Wolverton**, at Shorwell (LB I) and at the early C17 **Yaverland Manor** (LB I).

- At **Wolverton** manor house the NE wall of the C17 forecourt gives access to a former garden area which has a brick wall of C18 date along its NW side (LB II). There is no surviving wall along the SE side of the former garden but an earth bank in this position may originally have been constructed behind an enclosing wall to give views into and out of the garden as at Knighton Gorges. The entrance into the partially-walled garden from the forecourt appears contemporary with the C17 wall, suggesting that the garden existed by this date. Furthermore, windows in the house overlook the garden, providing further evidence that it existed when the house was built.

  - Adjoining the northern part of the walled garden at Wolverton is a 0.13ha (0.31 acre) rectangular moated platform (SM). This may be the site of an earlier house, which the present manor replaced but it could possibly be the site of a medieval or post-medieval garden (see Section 12.3). On the 1864 Ordnance Survey map the area inside the moat is shown planted as an informal orchard and it is now informal woodland.

- Garden walls (LB II) at **Arreton Manor** are associated with the house built by Humphrey Bennett in 1637-9. They date from the early C17, or earlier, with a substantial early C17 dovecote (LBII) at the southeast corner. Dovecotes were often associated with high-status residences and their grounds from the Middle Ages onwards.

- A disused and roofless rectangular stone dovecote (LB II) at **Shalcombe Manor** is of possible C16 date.

- At **Billingham**, in Shorwell Parish, Andrew Goter (or Gother) bought a messuage (i.e. a property) with two gardens, two orchards and other land in 1647 and built a house which was extended in the C18 (LB II*).

  - The L shaped walled garden which now encloses the house on the west and north sides may possibly date from the C17 and is definitely indicated on the 1769 Andrews map. A raised terrace walk along the inside of the west wall, designed to overlook the rest of the walled garden, is shown on the 1862-4 25" OS map but may well be of earlier date. At the SE corner of the walled garden is a small gazebo (LB II with garden wall), rebuilt in the C20 but thought to be C18 and possibly once one of a pair.
  - The 1793 OS drawing shows woodland bisected by an approach drive to the west of the house, parkland to the north of the walled garden and orchards to

the east of it. The framework of all these compartments still survives within the grounds of Billingham Manor and represents a historically significant survival.

- **Shanklin Manor** was owned by Sir Edward Denys, Deputy Governor of the Isle of Wight, in the early C17. A stone-built summerhouse or gazebo in the grounds of the manor house, possibly of C17 origin with later alterations, has adjoining east and north walls (LB II). A walled garden is known to have existed by 1769 when it was depicted on John Andrews map.

12.5 Country House Gardens 1660 to the Mid C18 and Early C18 Parkland

The fashion for formal landscapes, much influenced by Italian Renaissance and French Baroque gardens, increased after the Restoration in 1660. Garden compartments about the house - defined by gravel paths, balustrades or clipped hedges - typically comprised parterres with lawns, bowling greens, bosquets or ornamental woods to either side and beyond. Gardens in the Dutch style became more fashionable after the Revolution which brought William and Mary to the throne in 1688. These gardens contained complex parterres, elaborate topiary and made greater use of lead urns and statuary.

By about the 1720s, gardens were starting to become less elaborate although the designed landscape beyond often became more complex and extensive. Prospects became of growing importance to garden designers from the later C17, with views being carried into the countryside beyond by axial and radial avenues of trees and rides through woodland. (English Heritage 2012b, 7-8).

Evidence for formal late C17 and early C18 designed landscapes associated with Isle of Wight manor houses and mansions is limited.

- From 1701 to c.1720 **Appuldurcombe** House near Wroxall (LB 1, SM) was rebuilt for Sir Robert Worsley who expanded the gardens and laid out a new park and lodge.

    - There is documentary, cartographic and possible cropmark evidence for Sir Robert Worsley's early C18 gardens at Appuldurcombe but the so-called 'Hampton Court Gate' (LB II) appears to be the only surviving physical structure associated with these gardens (Masters 2005, 28-30), other features within the registered park (NHL II) being later.
    - The new park and lodge laid out by Sir Robert Worsley at Appuldurcombe was recorded in 1708. It appears to have been enclosed by a wall which is shown on John Andrews' map of 1769.The park was expanded in the 1770s (see Section 12.6) and surviving sections of park wall are thought to date from this period. However, it is possible that the wall on the north side of the park may incorporate elements from the early C18 Appuldurcombe park wall, from a C17 park wall or even from a wall relating to the deer park which may have existed at Appuldurcombe in the C16 (Masters 2005, 26-30) as suggested in Section 12.4.

- At **Nunwell**, near Brading (LB II*, NHL II), a map of 1748 shows a formal avenue of trees named 'The Prospect' running southward from the house towards the foot of Nunwell Down and another line of trees at a 45% angle to 'The Prospect' (see Section 12.4). Both are typical features of late C17 or early C18 designed landscapes. A few old lime trees survive from 'The Prospect' and additional trees were planted in the later C20 to recreate the avenue.

- At **Swainston** near Calbourne, a formal designed landscape is depicted on the 1769 Andrews map, the 1781 Haywood map (in Worsley 1781) and the unpublished Ordnance Survey drawings of 1793-4 (English Heritage 2005b).This comprised various formal avenues cutting through a block of woodland to the north of the house and converging on a central point. There was also a straight ride with a formal circular pool in the northern part of the wood Much of the woodland has now gone but the northern portion, greatly altered, survives as Lady Wood and the circular pool within this part of the wood also survives.

    - It is surprising that such a formal design survived at Swainston into the late C18 when more informal landscape parks had become almost universal.
    - To the east of the C18 woodland at Swainston the Ordnance Survey drawings of 1793-4 depict a straight tree-lined avenue, flanked by a serpentine stream utilised as a garden feature and leading to an informal woodland pool. This may be part of a later layer in Swainston's designed landscape (NHL II) described in Section 12.6.

12.6 Landscape Parks and Country House Gardens from the Mid-Eighteenth Century

Informal garden design and the abandonment of geometrical and symmetrical lines within ornamental parkland was first pioneered by William Kent (d.1748) but Lancelot 'Capability' Brown was England's most influential and best-known designer of informal 'landscape parks' from about 1750 to 1783.

Landscapes around houses were transformed or laid out from scratch in an idealised 'natural' manner with pasture ground running uninterrupted from the house and animals being kept at a distance by an unseen ha-ha (a sunken wall and ditch). This parkland comprised gently undulating grounds studded with clumps of trees and the world beyond was screened by plantation belts around the park edge. The key feature of interest was usually a lake in the middle distance, ideally contrived to resemble a great river curving through the park. Whilst buildings and temples were included within the landscape to add variety and interest, they were employed more sparingly than they had been in slightly earlier designed landscapes such as Stowe.

Typically, in a Brownian landscape the house was approached by a sweeping, curvilinear drive – such parks were meant to be experienced in motion – which wound through the extensive parkland, allowing the carriage-borne visitor to catch varied glimpses of the lake and house between the parkland clumps and plantations. Landscape parks are reckoned among England's most important contributions to European civilization (English Heritage 2012b, 8).

Edward Burke had a major influence on the aesthetic theories of the later C18. In 'A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful' (1757), he stated that 'our gardens, if nothing else, declare ... that mathematical ideas are not the true measure of beauty'. He found the basic aesthetic categories to be the Beautiful and the Sublime. Capability Brown's serpentine lines and aesthetic objectives were essentially 'Beautiful' in Burke's sense. The Sublime was associated with terror, darkness, greatness of size and irregularity of line. Towards the end of the C18 more of these qualities were introduced into gardens after theorists such as Sir Uvedale Price had identified an intermediate aesthetic category, known as the Picturesque, between the Beautiful and the Sublime (Jellicoe et al 1986, 84).

The true pioneer of the Picturesque was William Gilpin (1724 -1804) whose publications linked the enjoyment of pictures and the appreciation of scenery by setting out a way of viewing landscapes and deciding on their capability of being

formed into pictures (Jellicoe et al 1986, 227). His essentially practical ideas were later developed by Uvedale Price (d.1829) and Richard Payne Knight (d.1824 who argued that sweeping lawns, serpentine lakes and parkland clumps were too contrived to appear natural. Instead, influenced by their home surroundings - Foxley and Downton Gorge in Herefordshire - they promoted landscapes which were wild, rugged and varied (Jellicoe et al 1986, 431; English Heritage 2012b, 8).

Another strand contributing to C18 landscape design was the concept of the ferme ornée, first described by Stephen Switzer in 1715, but which influenced gardens created in the mid C18 and later (Jellicoe et al 1986, 186). Important examples included the Leasowes in the West Midlands, Enville in Staffordshire and Woburn Farm in Surrey. Typical features were walks beyond the pleasure grounds, 'garden arms' extending into the countryside and ornamental buildings. (Staffordshire Gardens Trust 1999). In its small scale and use of ephemeral garden artefacts, the ferme ornée has some affinity with the concept of the early-mid C18 'Rococo Garden' as characterised by Symes (1991) and English Heritage (2012a, 8).
By the end of the C18, landscape parks were attracting criticism on the grounds that they lacked interest around the house. Humphry Repton (1752-1818), famous for his before-and-after 'Red Book' proposals, re-introduced raised terraces around the house to separate it from the grounds beyond. Sometimes these terraces were decorated with elaborate flower urns.

From the early C19, pleasure grounds comprising flower beds, lawns, shrubberies and walks, sometimes with edged pools, summer houses, statuary and other architectural features, again became commonplace between the house and park in a style which became known as the 'Gardenesque'. This term was coined in 1832 by the highly influential horticulturalist John Claudius Loudon (English Heritage 2012b, 8-9).

As a result of increased plant availability, planting schemes became more ambitious in the Mid-Victorian period, including elaborate formal bedding schemes, From around the 1840s historically-inspired revivalist gardens became ever-more popular, with W.A. Nesfield (d.1881) being the most influential designer. Complex French-style parterres with box and coloured gravels were laid out alongside the main garden fronts of houses, often combined with Italianate terraces, balustrading and stairways. Trentham (Staffordshire; registered Grade II) of the 1830s and Osborne (Isle of Wight; registered Grade II*) of the 1850s were among the most ambitious of many large-scale schemes (English Heritage 2012b, 9).*

On the Isle of Wight the fashion for informal landscape parks was adopted by local gentry in the later C18 in line with the rest of the country and the Island was also influenced by the other fashions in garden design described above.

- The largest and most significant landscape park to be created on the Island in the late C18 was at **Appuldurcombe** where the landscape was redesigned on a grand scale by Sir Richard Worsley from 1772. There is evidence that Capability Brown provided a plan which influenced the later stages of the design.

    - Appuldurcombe provided a large canvas on which Sir Richard Worsley could execute his landscape designs. The house lay on gently sloping land enfolded by the steep slopes and high ground of the *South Wight Downland* to the west. This block of downland provided magnificent views across the Island and beyond and was an obvious place for Sir Richard to site an obelisk in memory of his great-uncle. The designed landscape stretched eastward beyond the confines of the park to take in St Martin's Down where a folly known as Cook's Castle was erected.

- Appuldurcombe Park was approached from the north through the monumental structure of the Freemantle Gate, possibly by James Wyatt (LB II*). A serpentine drive approached the house indirectly before winding up onto Appuldurcombe Down behind the house. Unusually, this downland was incorporated within the park and encircled by a stone wall covering a large area.
- The landscape design at Appuldurcombe was modified in the early C19 in line with contemporary taste when a raised inner park enclosed with a ha-ha and railing (LB II) was created around the house.
- Much of the framework of Appuldurcombe's designed landscape (NHL II) survives today and can be viewed from public footpaths, including features such as the Freemantle Gate (SM, LB II*), lodges (some listed), the remains of the obelisk on Appuldurcombe Down (LB II), stretches of the deer park wall (LB II) and the walled kitchen garden sited some distance away from the house. Sadly, the folly of Cook's Castle does not survive (English Heritage 2004, Masters 2005). The house at Appuldurcombe (LB I, SM), in English Heritage Guardianship, is unoccupied and only partially roofed.

- At **Nunwell** (NHL II) a concern to create a unified designed landscape was apparent as early as 1735 when the east wing of the house (LB II*) was rebuilt to face the C17 garden (see Section 12.4).
  - By 1768 the present east facade, with its full-height canted bay, had been added to overlook the newly created park. An estate map of 1773 confirms that Sir John Oglander's C17 garden had been swept away and that the landscape park now came right up to the east side of the house.
  - The park was considerably extended to the north-east and north-west of the house by Sir William Oglander and reached its greatest extent in 1815. By 1823 a formal space beside the house had been delineated by a ha-ha although the present formal east garden, enclosed by a balustrade surmounting the ha-ha, appears to date from the late C19 (English Heritage 2005a).This garden provided views out over the parkland and beyond towards the Solent and Brading Haven.
  - Today, the pleasure gardens at Nunwell survive as does a walled kitchen garden of late C18 date (LB II) and parkland with scattered trees to the east of the house. The wider estate also retains a parkland appearance although in agricultural use

At two of the Island's country houses, Northcourt and Priory Bay, there were small landscape parks which formed only one element within late C18 landscape designs strongly influenced by the Picturesque movement.

- The grounds of **Northcourt** at Shorwell (NHL II) were originally laid out in the C17 (see Section 12.4). They were remodelled from 1795 by Elizabeth Bull. Her design contained elements typical of a ferme ornée such as an ornamental dairy and a circuit walk beyond the pleasure grounds (Lambert 1993, 20-21). Other elements such as the bath house, the stream fed by a chalk spring, the rustic alpine bridge, a summer house with knucklebone floor and the 'temple of the sun' reflected the picturesque garden style pioneered by Richard Payne Knight at Downton Gorge (Wall 1994). The garden at Northcourt is well-described in early C19 accounts (English Heritage 2003).

  - A walled garden at Northcourt (LB II) is indicated on the 1769 Andrews map and the 1793 OS shows three walled enclosures to the northwest of the house which roughly corresponds with the site of the kitchen gardens in the C19 and today.

- Today, the historical design layers of several different periods still survive within the garden at Northcourt although not all recorded elements survive to the present day.
- Northcourt is of particular significance in providing perhaps the only example on the Island of a large inland country house garden influenced by the Picturesque movement.

- **The Priory** (LB II), on the coast between Seaview and St Helens, was improved by Sir Nash Grose from 1776. There are many late C18 and early C19 descriptions and illustrations of the property which emphasise its winding cliff-edge woodland walks, sea views and 'ancient watch tower'. The framework of the design still exists including the area of the modestly-sized landscape park.
  - The value of the designed landscape (LL) is enhanced by published letters of the Grose family detailing improvement to the house and grounds from 1776 and by the many late18th century/early 19th century descriptions and illustrations of the property. The aesthetic quality of the garden design was explicitly assessed by late 18th century writers.

The nationally important landscape designer Humphry Repton (1752-1818) is known to have worked on the Isle of Wight even though no 'red books' have survived for any of his Island commissions. He was in partnership with the architect John Nash from 1795 to 1800 (Batey 1995, 7-8). This is of particular interest in connection with the Isle of Wight since Nash was involved in designing a variety of local buildings and built himself a country house at East Cowes Castle.

- At **St John's**, Ryde (*), Repton was involved in remodelling the grounds from about 1797 (Basford 1989, 53; Carter *et al 1982,* 155).

  - The land from which St John's Estate was created was originally called Troublefield. In 1769 Colonel Amherst had a house built on the land and changed the name to St John's. In 1796 the estate was sold to Edward Simeon.
  - Repton's work at St John's included the removal of hedge boundaries to create a parkland setting, the creation of paths and seating to take advantage of the sea vistas and the creation of a new approach through ornamental plantations to the house and then on to connect to Appley Road.
  - At the entrance to this new drive (which today is the junction between St John's Wood Road and St John's Hill) he built two clematis-covered stone thatched cottages with rustic wooden supports which are now lost. These cottages are described by Repton in his book on Theory and Practice published in 1803.
  - Not all commentators viewed Repton's self-consciously picturesque cottages with approval. A contemporary diarist, the Rev. William Norris, recorded 'there is too much ornament and Finery in these Cottages to render them pleasing or harmonious'.
  - Repton was responsible for the extension of the turnpike road to the 'Marina', this being a specially built structure for bathing and admiring the seascape (Carter *et al* 1982, 155). The building is shown in an engraving used as the frontispiece to Cooke's 1808 '*New Picture of the Isle of Wight*' where it is described as 'the pretty Gothic, or Moorish Castle called the Marina'. This building no longer survives.
  - A plan of 1803 held at the Isle of Wight County Record Office provides detailed information on the St John's Estate at this period. The Estate is divided into three sections, the first being St John's House, pleasure grounds and meadows (169 acres); and the second and third being Preston and Westridge (137 acres). The whole estate is recorded as being 307 acres. The plan shows a

deer park fence separating the ‘pleasure grounds’ around St John’s house from the ‘meadow’ to the north.
  - In the mid C19 the St John’s estate was split up and various new properties and developments with attached grounds were created. These included remodelled pleasure grounds around St John’s House itself, the private but communal St John’s Park serving local villas and the Apley Tower (later Appley Towers) estate (see Section 12.8).
  - Much of the St John’s estate as it existed in the late C18 has now been built over and most of Repton’s landscaping has disappeared. However the house (LB II), now a school, still survives as do the grounds around the house. Some original parkland tree planting from the St John’s estate may still exist within the former golf course of Appley Park.

- At **Norris Castle**, East Cowes, a castellated gothic-style mansion with views of the Solent (LB I) was built in 1799 for Lord Henry Seymour. Humphfry Repton is thought to have been involved in designing the grounds (Carter *et al* 1982, 155).

  - Norris Castle is located at the northernmost tip of the Isle of Wight. The south-western half of the site occupies level ground which falls north-eastwards, gently at first and then precipitously to the Solent. The woodland and meadowland of the estate merge with that of the neighbouring Osborne estate (English Heritage 2005c).
  - The framework of the parkland survives (NHL II) and provides a spacious setting for the dramatic, castellated main building designed by the architect James Wyatt. The enclosing walls of a remarkable ferme ornée and walled kitchen garden designed as a Norman castle by James Wyatt also survive (LB I).
  - Norris Castle is of particular significance on the Isle of Wight as being possibly the only local designed landscape where significant physical evidence for Repton’s work appears to survive although Swainston may also provide some evidence (see below).

- **East Cowes Castle** was built by the architect John Nash as his Island residence in 1798. Repton was Nash’s business partner at this time and is likely to have been involved in designing the grounds. At a later date William Aiton, the Royal Gardener, sent exotic plants from Kew for the garden which may have had ornamental shrubberies in the Regency style (Batey 1995; 64, 70-71). East Cowes Castle was demolished in the 1960s and its grounds were subsequently developed.

  - John Nash also had a country estate at **Hamstead** on the northern coast near Shalfleet. His house was demolished in World War II (although there is a late C19 property and garden at nearby Hamstead Grange) but the estate has not been fully investigated for surviving designed elements.

- Humphfry Repton was consulted about the landscape at **Swainston** (NHL II) in *c.*1811 and it has been suggested that the parkland to the south of the Swainston House (LB II*) - including a small lake and bridge (LB II) - may have been his work (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 281) although the area of parkland to the north of the house incorporates some earlier elements (see Section 12.5). An ornamental temple (LB II) is located to the south of Swainston House on a steep downland slope against a backdrop of woodland and would originally have been visible from the main house as well as providing views towards the Solent. This temple may be the work of Repton since he published an illustration of the building in the 1809 edition of *Peacock’s Polite Repository*. Today, Swainston retains its parkland,

woodland, lake and bridge as well as the temple facade although parts of the site are farmland.

New landowners came to the Island at the end of the C18 and created designed landscapes from scratch. Elsewhere, landscape parks were created, enlarged or modified to complement existing properties.

- At **Northwood Park**, in West Cowes, a new house was built for the financier George Ward in 1799 on the site of an earlier house called Belle Vue. Pleasure grounds and parkland encompassing 216 acres were developed from about 1800 - 1818 and this development can be traced in contemporary documents and maps. Ornamental lodges and a toll house were built in and around the park (of which Debourne Lodge, Church Lodge and the Round House still survive). These were designed by George Repton, son of Humphfry, who worked in the office of John Nash (Temple 1987) and by Nash himself. Nash also carried out other work at Northwood House and rebuilt the Church of St Mary beside the park where Nash's tower still survives.

    - Northwood House (LB II*) was rebuilt in the 1830s and 1840s and the remodelled pleasure grounds were planted with non-native trees including cedars, cork oaks, other semi-deciduous oaks and holm oaks, possibly influenced by the planting at Osborne (Basford and Basford 1992). The outer park was developed in the C20 but the pleasure grounds survive as a park (LL) owned by the Northwood House Charitable Trust and open to the public.

- There was a house on the site of **Fernhill**, near Wootton from at least 1769 but the landscape park seems to have been created by Thomas Orde Powlett, 1st Baron Bolton and Governor of the Isle of Wight from 1791. The grounds were alleged to be 'amongst the finest in the Island' with notable plantations (Cooke 1808) and contained a folly described as a 'Druid's temple' Fernhill House was destroyed by fire in the C20 and only fragmentary remains of the designed landscape (*) survive, including a wooded drive, icehouse and the remains of a circular walled garden (Basford 1989, 49).

- A hunting box built at **Westover**, near Calbourne, in the 1760s or 1770s was located on the northern edge of the *West Wight Chalk Downland.* The 1793-4 Ordnance Survey drawings show a small park.
    - In the early C19 the house at Westover (LB II*) was rebuilt by John Nash. At this time the pleasure grounds were remodelled and extended, as was the parkland beyond.
    - The designed landscape extended beyond the south edge of the park as far as Westover Plantation on the north slope of the downland ridge. Several thatched cottages ornés were erected as lodges around the edge of the park, one being located beside the main entrance (LB II) where an ornamental bridge (LB II) carried the drive past a small ornamental lake. A walled kitchen garden (LB II) was also built in the early C19 within the pleasure grounds (English Heritage 2005d).
    - The pleasure grounds, walled kitchen garden and the framework of the park survive at Westover (NHL) although some of the parkland is in agricultural use.

- At **Gatcombe Park**, to the south of Carisbrooke, the 1793-4 Ordnance Survey drawing indicates a much larger area of parkland than existed in 1843 when an estate map depicts a somewhat remodelled landscape with the public highway moved further to the east to give greater privacy within a consolidated area of parkland.

- Today, Gatcombe House (LB II*) with its associated parkland containing a small lake (LL) form a picturesque composition close to the parish church and backed by woodland.

- At **Brook House** (visited by Henry VII in 1499) the 1793-4 Ordnance Survey drawing shows gardens and a small landscape park surrounding the house, which lay close to Brook village (Map 2) between Brook Down and the south-west coast. The park was expanded after the Seely family purchased the estate in 1850. A heart-shaped earthwork surrounding the garden to the south of the house is shown on the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1863-74, and perhaps defined the original pleasure grounds of the manor house. Today, Brook House (LB II) is in divided ownership but some remains of the park and gardens (LL) survive in various ownerships, including an enclosing earthwork (surmounted in places by a stone wall) and a walled kitchen garden. A late C19 - early C20 water feature also survives (see Section 12. 9).

- **Afton Manor** in Freshwater Parish was another long-established West Wight estate. John Andrews' map of 1769 shows a walled kitchen garden but parkland to the south of the house was created in the C19, as were ornamental lakes to the NE of the house (*). In the late C20 parkland trees were lost to Dutch Elm Disease and other causes. Today, Afton Manor House survives (LB II*) but much of the parkland is in agricultural use although the enclosing shelter belt survives. The walled kitchen garden (LBII) and lakes are also extant.

In the mid C19 the Island's popularity was enhanced when Queen Victoria and Prince Albert purchased Osborne, just outside East Cowes. The estate overlooks Osborne Bay and there is a long vista from the house through parkland to the Solent.

- **Osborne** had been landscaped by Robert Pope Blachford in the 1770s but after Osborne was purchased by the royal family in 1845 the grounds were greatly extended and completely remodelled whilst the house (LB I) was rebuilt (English Heritage 2005e).
  - Prince Albert was closely involved in the design of Osborne House, the layout of the pleasure grounds and parkland and the running of the wider estate.
  - The gardens close to the house at Osborne exemplified Victorian formality in garden design with Italianate terraces, balustrading and stairways and formal bedding schemes (English Heritage 2012b, 9).
  - The use of exotic specimen trees was a typical element of Victorian design. Many memorial or commemorative trees, mainly exotic species and conifers, were planted at Osborne in the pleasure grounds by royal visitors or dignitaries. A full list of these memorial plantings exists and many survive to the present day (Phibbs *et al* 1983, Appendix A)
  - The landscape park at Osborne, greatly enlarged after 1845, was more traditional in style than the pleasure grounds, containing mainly native tree species.
  - The late C18 walled kitchen garden at Osborne was retained but with a heightened east wall and the portico from the C18 house (LB II) was re-positioned to provide a gateway into the garden. This garden was for 'display' and also provided cut flowers for the house. It never grew common vegetables, which were provided either by train from royal estates and other sources on the mainland or from the increasing, surrounding farm estate on the Isle of Wight.
  - Osborne is of high national significance as a designed landscape (NHL II*), both exemplifying contemporary trends in garden design but also reinforcing these trends due to the influence of the royal family.

- The designed landscape at Osborne is conserved and managed to a very high standard by English Heritage. At a national level, it represents an unusually complete example of a large Victorian country house garden with associated parkland.

- **Barton Manor**, adjacent to Osborne, was purchased by Victoria and Albert and its Jacobean manor house (LB II) was partially rebuilt. The 'pleasure grounds and wilderness' shown in a Winchester College survey of 1776 were remodelled to include a terraced garden, ornamental ponds and a cork oak plantation but the C18 walled kitchen garden was retained. Today the main elements of the Victorian designed landscape survive with some later overlays (LL).

- The royal family built up a large farming estate outside the landscaped grounds of Osborne. The houses on the estate, if not the gardens, show a strong royal influence in design.

The Island has several examples of landscape parks of relatively late date which were first created in the C19.

- Parkland was first laid out at **Farringford** in Freshwater Parish before it became the home of Alfred Lord Tennyson in 1853 (see Section 12.8)

- William Henry Dawes remodelled an existing house at **Wydcombe** in 1856 and created a landscape park (LL) from farmland (Basford and Smout 2000). Wydcombe lies in Niton & Whitwell Parish in the south of the Island and the estate is enfolded by the lower slopes of St Catherine's Down to the west and Head Down to the south. The parkland which lies to the north-east of the main house now has an open aspect since many of the scattered trees which are shown on the 1st edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1862-3 have vanished. A thatched lodge (LB II) survives at the entrance to the parkland as do the stone walls of the kitchen garden.

- **Weston Manor** (LB II*), now in in Totland Parish, was designed for W G Ward by the architects Goldie & Child and built from 1870-1872. Ward, the owner of Northwood Park in Cowes, was a convert to Roman Catholicism and his new house had a chapel attached. The house and grounds were laid out within former farmland on a previously bare hilltop site. There was a walled kitchen garden to the east of the house with pleasure grounds and parkland on the north side. The grounds were protected on three sides by shelter belts formed by the planting of many pines and other trees but the north side of the parkland was left open to allow views out from the north side of the house towards Hurst Castle across the Solent. Papers from Ward's estate office, now in the Isle of Wight Record Office, include a plan of the kitchen garden and orchard, lists of plants and progress reports on plantings. Today the framework of the parkland and inner grounds with the remains of the walled kitchen garden survives (LL).

- **Strathwell** (LB II) is a stone mansion of mid C19 date on the site of an earlier house near Whitwell, built for the Vicar of Whitwell on his retirement (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 301). The house is shown with a small area of pleasure grounds and a straight drive on the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1862-3 but the park is first marked on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1898 which also shows a lodge and a winding drive to the house.

12.7 Gardens associated with Marine Villas and Cottages Ornés

In addition to the relatively large scale landscape parks described above, many smaller gardens were created on the Island from the late C18. These gardens were associated particularly with cottages ornés and marine villas which started to be built close to the coast mostly from the 1790s and often as 'second homes' for seasonal occupation.

The distinction between the cottage orné and the marine villa was by no means clear-cut in Georgian England where 'the national genius for casting a romantic cloak over picturesque scenes confused the villa and the ornamented cottage' (Boynton 1996, 118). However,

cottages ornés were particularly associated with the picturesque style which favoured rustic cottages and striking scenery over the grand buildings and serene beauty of landscape parks.

The landscape theorist William Gilpin declared that 'picturesque beauty implied roughness in texture and ruggedness in delineation' (Jellicoe et al 1986, 431). With regard to the Isle of Wight landscape in general, Gilpin does not appear to have been overly impressed. He recorded that 'we ... found ourselves rather disappointed in the chief object of our pursuit, which was the picturesque beauty of its scenery' (Gilpin 1798). However, the picturesque quality of the Island's landscape was widely recognised by other travel writers, visitors and seasonal residents.

There are many references to the Isle of Wight as the 'Garden of England' or 'Garden Isle' in late C18 and C19 topographical books and guides e.g. Worsley (1781, 11),Tomkins (1796, 1) Cooke (1808,10), Horsey (1826), Sheridan (1833, 19), Adams (1856). This concept of the 'Garden Isle' relates to the variety of the Island's topography and the richness of its scenery as a whole rather than to specific ornamental gardens.

Political events as well as aesthetic theory contributed to the Island's popularity in the late C18. England was at war with France at this time and the Continent was no longer accessible for the fashionable 'Grand Tour'. The Island therefore became a favoured place for visits by the wealthy as well as for owners of second homes.

The popularity of the Island continued to grow during the early C19 and many more coastal villas with associated gardens were built at this time. Numerous travel guides and topographical accounts of the Island were published from the later C18 and many paintings and engravings were made of Island scenery. These sources provide good evidence for the gardens of cottages ornés and marine villas. Particularly useful evidence is provided by the engravings of George Brannon (who published successive editions of 'Vectis Scenery' from 1821) although Brannon often employed a considerable amount of artistic licence.

Artists working on the Island in the late C18 and the C19 have been listed by McInnes (1993, 112- 158). Works of art depicting the West Wight landscape have also been discussed by McInnes (2011) and the 'Down to the Coast Artscape' report has shown how development and social change in the East Wight landscape was depicted in artworks particularly from the 1770s to the 1920s (McInnes 2014, 23-55).

Today the Isle of Wight is considered to be 'a crucial area for the study of the Picturesque', particularly the Undercliff (Boynton 1996) and has been the subject of academic studies (Abbott 2006; Bek 2010). However, the physical survival of Picturesque gardens is fragmentary, being affected by coastal erosion in the Undercliff and also by later residential development, particularly around Ryde.

Elite villas and their associated gardens were being built in Ryde from the early years of the C19 but many were built slightly later in the C19 and were associated with the development of Ryde as a seaside resort. They have therefore been described in Section 12.8 (Town, Suburban, Village and Coastal Gardens) but there is a considerable overlap between the two categories. Many of the earliest Ryde villas and cottages ornés were owned by elite members of society, as were those in the Undercliff, although later villas were associated with middle class visitors taking seaside holidays

The craggy inner cliff and irregular coastline of the Isle of Wight Undercliff provided a perfect backdrop for the picturesque gardens associated with cottages ornés. Rocky outcrops within these gardens could be incorporated within the overall garden design and the south-facing grounds benefitted from sea views and a mild climate. Running water was often a feature of these gardens.

- One of the most significant gardens in the Undercliff was that of **Sea Cottage** or **Marine Villa** at St Lawrence. The house was built by Sir Richard Worsley in 1792-3 and adjoined an existing small house. (Several of the Undercliff cottages ornés incorporated existing vernacular cottages.) In no way did the new building resemble a cottage, being classical in style but it was enlarged in Neo-Tudor style during the early C19 (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 250). The new garden made by Sir Richard was classical in style rather than picturesque.

    - A C19 account claimed that the garden at Sea Cottage/Marine Villa included a 'pavilion based on the temple of Minerva at Athens', another temple 'called the seat of Virgil' and 'a Grecian greenhouse copied from the temple of Neptune at Corinth'. The vineyard laid out at Sea Cottage also reinforced the classical theme.
    - Other features within the grounds included a 'mimic fort' and a water feature later known as St Lawrence Well (Boynton 1996, 122-126).
    - Some physical evidence of the garden survives at Sea Cottage/ Marine Villa including vineyard terraces (*). The house built by Sir Richard Worsley in 1792-3 and the pre-existing cottage adjoining it (now known as 'The Cottage St Lawrence Well' and 'The Cottage') both survive and are jointly listed (LB II*).

- Immediately to the east of Sea Cottage was **Captain Pelham's Cottage**, built by The Hon. Dudley Pelham R.N. in 1839 and considered to be 'the best example of a romantic Early Victorian villa on the Island' (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 250-251). In the early C20 this property (LB II*) was the home of the poet Alfred Noyes who renamed the house **Lisle Combe** and wrote about the garden (Noyes 1939). The garden survives at Lisle Combe (*) but the layout and planting is probably mainly of C20 origin. The remains of a wooden and stone summerhouse in the form of a Tetrastyle Doric temple (LB II) now lie within the grounds of Lisle Combe but this structure formerly lay within the grounds of Sea Cottage/Marine Villa.

- At **Old Park**, situated to the west of Sea Cottage, a farm house was converted to a cottage orné by Thomas Haddon from c.1820.

    - Contemporary accounts of the grounds at Old Park refer to the establishment of a vineyard within walled gardens and to ornamental features which included a dairy, a lake and a waterfall (Lambert 2001).
    - In the later C19 the estate was greatly developed by William Spindler, who built a sea wall and esplanade, planted over a million trees, extended the kitchen garden and erected two large glasshouses, one being an orchid house.

- Garden elements from the time of Thomas Haddon and William Spindler survive at Old Park today, including the walled gardens and the lake (LL). However, the grounds are now split between three properties with the principal house operating as a hotel (LB II). A second property known as 'Haddon Lake House' contains one of the walled gardens and the lake, and a third property contains a house built on the foundations of the orchid house.

- Another early cottage orné in the Undercliff was at **Mirables** where a plan of 1791 provides evidence for the grounds. The present house (LB II) has C17 origins but was greatly extended in the C19 and is now mainly Victorian in character.

  - A contemporary topographical account (Cooke 1808) records a lawn, boat-house, shrubbery, serpentine walks including walks under the cliff, a 'crystal stream' and a 'neat dairy'.
  - Some surviving garden remains at Mirables (*) have been recorded by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust.

- **The Orchard** (LB II), a property adjacent to Mirables, was remodelled and developed from c.1813 for Sir James Willoughby Gordon.

  - Contemporary engravings record terraced gardens with urns and there is documentary evidence for a bath house on the shore. Many sketches of the garden were made by J M W Turner and Sir David Wilkie R.A.
  - It is not known whether significant garden remains survive at The Orchard (*).

- **Puckaster Cottage** (now Puckaster House) was designed before 1824 by the architect Robert Lugar, a specialist in picturesque cottages, and the planting of the garden was described by Lugar in his 1828 book, *Villa Architecture*.

  - The garden at Puckaster is situated at Niton Undercliff and the inner cliff forms a backdrop to the north. Huge fragments of natural rock occur in the garden. The original part of the house faces south towards the sea and beyond the house the garden spills down the hillside with steps leading through rustic stone arches towards the seaward cliff and Puckaster Cove.
  - Puckaster House (LB II) and garden (LL) survive to the present day although the garden has been subject to some later modification. Nevertheless, it is a significant example of an Isle of Wight picturesque seaside garden and one of the few examples of this garden type to survive in good condition.

- **Steephill Cottage**, near Ventnor, was one of the earliest examples of a cottage orné on the Island, built about 1770. It had highly picturesque grounds including springs and cascades and also a viewpoint within a rocky niche known as 'The Devil's Seat' which was illustrated by the painter Charles Tompkins in 1809 (McInnes 1993, 48-49). This rock still survives at the present day.

  - The cottage at Steephill was replaced in 1831-2 by **Steephill Castle**, an imposing building completely different in style from the cottages ornés found elsewhere in the Undercliff.
  - Gardens at Steephill Castle were laid out by the landscape gardener W B Page of Southampton who also worked at St John's House and Whippingham Rectory (see Section 12.8). The Steephill Castle gardens included pleasure grounds, lawns, shrubberies and a kitchen garden with greenhouses, vine houses and pine (i.e. pineapple) beds. These gardens were visited and praised by Joseph Paxton.

- Steephill Castle was demolished in the 1960s but the walls of its early C20 walled garden survive.

- **Luccombe Chine House**, between Bonchurch and Shanklin and set just above the Landslip, was originally a cottage orné set just above the Landslip that was built in the 1830s.

  - A Brannon print of Luccombe from 1839 shows a natural stream plunging to the beach below and a castellated stone tower in an elevated position. The tower (LB II) was restored or rebuilt in the C20 and the grounds (LL), now subject to coastal erosion, may also have been extensively modified at this time.
  - The cottage orné was rebuilt in the early C20 following a fire.

The late C18 coastal garden of John Wilkes at Sandown is hard to classify in terms of garden styles.

- **Sandham Cottage** stood in an isolated position on an open heath since the development of Sandown as a coastal resort did not start until the mid C19. This modest property was occupied by the sometime radical politician and journalist John Wilkes from 1788. The garden seems to have looked back to a mid C18 tradition in having elements of a ferme ornée on a very small scale. There was a menagerie, views over Sandown Bay and a grass walk with a sheltered seat. Wilkes supplied Sir Richard Worsley with plants for Sea Cottage (Boynton 1996, 122-123). Sadly, Sandham Cottage and its grounds have not survived**.**

Certain designed landscapes outside the Undercliff utilised the more rugged features of the Island's scenery to picturesque effect.

- **The Hermitage**, a property nestling under the eastern flank of St Catherine's Down, enjoyed a location as picturesque as the Undercliff villas. It was built at the end of the C18 by Michael Hoy, a merchant trading with Russia. Hoy built a monument on the highest point of the down behind the house which not only commemorated the Czar's visit to England in 1814 after the Allied defeat of Napoleon but also incorporated St Catherine's Down into the designed landscape of the Hermitage.
  - An engraving by George Brannon shows the grounds of the Hermitage embowered in trees – a peaceful setting that contrasts with his somewhat exaggerated depiction of the Hoy Monument set in rugged downland grandeur behind the house. The Hermitage was rebuilt in 1895 but the wooded grounds with a walled kitchen garden survive (LL).

The commercial potential of picturesque landscapes was recognised at an early date and led to the exploitation of Shanklin Chine and Blackgang Chine.

- **Shanklin Chine** (LL) is an important example of a natural feature exemplifying the ideas of the picturesque movement. In 1817 William Colenutt built the thatched 'Fisherman's Cottage' on the beach and then excavated a path through the chine and opened it to the public. George Brannon's engraving of 1821 shows visitors being conducted down the chine by Colenutt. Today, Shanklin Chine is still open to the public and features a waterfall, winding steps and rustic bridges.

- The wild and broken landscape to the south-east of Blackgang, near the southern tip of the Island, was known to early visitors who visited **Spring Cottage** to partake of the health-giving properties of the chalybeate spring.

- The picturesque quality of **Blackgang Chine** was exploited commercially from 1843 when the chine was first opened to the public by Alexander Dabell. Victorians travelled from far and wide to view the spectacular gorge that cut some 500 foot deep into the cliff face. Other attractions were added to the site at a later date.
- By the early C20 Blackgang had become a major tourist attraction and remains so until the present day although the original chine has now almost completely eroded away. Erosion has also destroyed C19 houses and their gardens that were built to the south-east of the chine beside the old Blackgang – Niton Road, including **Southland House** and **Southview House**.

A few cottages ornés were built in rural locations along the northern coast of the Island, for instance at Binstead.

- **Binstead Cottage** (LB II), later known as Binstead Parsonage and post-1835 as Binstead Lodge, was a thatched cottage-style villa to the south-west of Binstead Church, first mentioned as early as 1762. In the early C19 Binstead Cottage and its garden was widely admired for its rustic beauty and scenic position, and was reproduced in many engravings. In the 1860s this cottage became the lodge for Binstead House (and survives to the present day) but the grounds were absorbed into those of the larger property.

- Nearby **Binstead House** (LB II), now known as 'The Keys', lies to the north of the church and is on the site of an earlier cottage orné and 'marine residence' built shortly before 1808 by the Fleming family. The original property was damaged by fire in 1851 and was remodelled or rebuilt soon afterwards. C19 features of the grounds (*) included a terraced garden and informal tree-lined pleasure grounds overlooking the Solent, a sea lodge, a salt water bathing pond and a bathing house. Some of these features survive today.

12.8 Town, Suburban, Village and Coastal Gardens

The evidence for medieval town gardens has been discussed in Section 12.3. This section deals mainly with C19 gardens but commences by reviewing the evidence for urban gardens of the early post-medieval period.

Nationally, the number and ambition of urban gardens increased in the post-medieval period, particularly in the C18. Such gardens normally lay behind the house and were long, narrow and typically defined by tall walls (English Heritage 2013b, 2-3).

By the mid C17 there were towns on the Isle of Wight at Newport, Yarmouth, Newtown, Brading and Cowes. The first four towns were of medieval origin but Cowes grew up as a trading port in the C17 and developed a ship-building industry from the C18 (Isle of Wight Council 2008b).

Isle of Wight towns were of modest size compared to mainland towns. However, examples of town houses (mainly C18) occupied by merchants and wealthy residents survive and some have walled gardens.

- Examples of garden features at **Yarmouth** include a C17 garden wall in Bridge Road (LB II), a late C18 walled garden at 'The Deacons' in the High Street (LB II) and an early C19 gazebo in the garden of 'The Towers', also in the High Street (LB II).

- A garden wall in **Newport** at the rear of 78, 79 and 80 High Street is C17 in date and is associated with the gabled end of a garden outbuilding (LB II).

- **Ivy House in Cowes** (LB II*) is one of the town's best C18 houses and has a brick-walled garden abutting Sun Hill. Nearby **Claremont House** (LB II) in Market Hill is of similar date and also has a brick-walled garden.

- In addition to these examples of town gardens and garden features in Yarmouth, Newport and Cowes there are at least 30 listed building entries for properties in other Island towns and villages which refer to garden walls or garden features.

- The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has not yet systematically recorded gardens or garden features within the Island's older towns of Newport, Yarmouth, Brading and Cowes. Fieldwork might locate additional features to those recorded above.

New towns were established on the Isle of Wight in the late C18 and in the C19 as sea bathing and seaside holidays became popular. In some respects Ryde may be considered to be the earliest 'coastal resort' on the Island, starting from its development in the late C18, but sea bathing also took place at Cowes during this period.

The birth of Ryde as a town commenced when William Player, the lord of the manor, linked two small communities with a gridiron pattern of streets, starting in about 1790 (Brinton 2006, 74-78). In the early days of its development access to the town from the sea was inconvenient, since passengers from the mainland had to be landed by wherries onto the open beach and transferred to dry land by horse and cart (Brinton 2006, 76).
Following the building of the first pier in 1814 and the commencement of regular steam ferries from Portsmouth in 1825 access to Ryde was much easier (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 218-220).

In the late C18 and early C19 there was an emphasis on the health-giving properties of seaside holidays. Such holidays were initially the preserve of the well-to-do. However, the Island started to become more accessible quite early in the C19 as a result of regular ferry services although no railways were built on the Island until the 1860s.

Ventnor developed as a town from the 1830s after Sir James Clark (later a doctor to Queen Victoria) described the town as the perfect convalescent retreat (Brinton 2006, 103-106). Located within the Undercliff, it had an exceptionally mild climate which attracted visitors throughout the year and became more accessible as steam packets took some of the anxiety out of sea travel (Jones and Jones 1987, 111-112).

By the late C19, seaside holidays had become a possibility for a wider spectrum of British society than had previously been the case. Sandown and Shanklin had started to develop as urban coastal resorts by the early 1860s (although many of the cottages ornés in Shanklin 'Old Village' dated from the early C19) but both resorts expanded greatly in the late C19.

Coastal villages as well as seaside towns expanded on the Island in the C19, for instance at Bembridge and Niton, or were created where no settlements had previously existed, for instance at Seaview, Gurnard and Totland.

C19 gardens within the Island's seaside towns and villages as well as inland country house gardens benefitted from the introduction of new species in common with other parts of Britain.

- However, despite its generally mild climate, the Island can suffer from extreme and rapid weather changes. These climatic factors, together with long summer droughts, lack of shelter and a lack of arid soils (except for the Upper Greensand strip adjacent to the main Chalk ridge) may have proved a deterrent to the creation of Victorian plantsmen's gardens on the Island similar to those common in the West Country.

    - Furthermore, C19 gardens were situated to maximise sea views and so did not provide the shelter required to develop plantsmen's gardens in an area of such climatic extremes as the Island. Nevertheless, the generally mild winters did encourage the development of the smaller seaside villa gardens experimenting in formal Victorian sub-tropical bedding schemes featuring species such as *Coryline australis* and *Trachycarpus fortunei* (the Chusan palm), especially in the Ryde and Undercliff areas.
    - Historically and at the present day, strong north-westerly and south-westerly winds have prevented trees from reaching the same stature as in most parts of England.
    - Native trees have been the main feature inside most gardens except at Osborne, where many North American Victorian introductions were planted in the mid C19. However, C19 shelter belts around the edge of gardens included non-native species such as holm oak, laurels, cherry laurels and bays, still commonly seen on the Island, whilst Monterey Cypress became more popular in the early C20.

Substantial town-edge villas were characteristic of the late C18 and early C19 (English Heritage 2013b, 4). On the Island, these town-edge villas were often associated with coastal resorts.

Some of the earliest examples of suburban villa gardens on the Island were established at ***Ryde****. Many of the designed landscapes in the Ryde area were essentially park-like pleasure grounds with sea views and were associated with cottages ornés or marine villas.*

In the early days of its development, during the late C18 and early C19, Ryde differed from many inland mainland towns in that the owners of its suburban villas were generally not middle-class patrons but were often wealthy landowners seeking a second home by the sea and the health-giving properties of sea air and sea bathing. However, later in the C19 seaside holidays in Ryde became accessible to middle class families, particularly after travel from the mainland became easier. From the mid C19 smaller villas were built for seasonal rental or as speculative developments designed to be let out as rooms or apartments.

- A number of the finest villas in Ryde still stand, including the early C19 properties of **Westmont** (LB II), now part of Ryde School, **Buckingham Villa** (LB II) and **Earl Spencer's Marine Villa** (later Westfield House) as well as the slightly later **Marine Villa** of *c.*1840 (LB II), now the Seaford Hotel. The six inch Ordnance Survey map of 1862 shows that these villas had spacious pleasure grounds.
- Today, pleasure grounds with lawns and mature trees survive at Ryde to the north of Marine Villa (*) and of Buckingham Villa (*), although some housing development has taken place in the grounds of the latter property which is now in divided ownership. The grounds of Westmont are now school playing fields (see Section 12.13) and the grounds of Westfield and of Wellington Lodge have been developed for housing.

- **Pelhamfield** lay on the western outskirts of Ryde and was developed *c.*1820-1860 with detached houses which had much smaller gardens than the earlier and grander houses closer to the town centre. The gardens in the Pelham Fields area seem to have remained largely undeveloped to the present day but it is not known how far they retain elements of their C19 character.

Outlying properties along the coastline to the west and east of Ryde had larger areas of parkland

- **Ryde House** (LB II) to the west of the town was built for the Player family in 1810. The six inch Ordnance Survey map of 1862 shows that the house was set in parkland with a tree-lined avenue leading from a lodge beside Binstead Road to the house and another avenue (later known as Ladies Walk) defining the south-west edge of the park. Today much of the parkland area (*) survives within Ryde Golf Course.

- On the eastern side of Ryde was **Appley House**, lying close to the Solent shore, where a house and gardens are shown on John Andrews' map of 1769. By the 1790s a small park was located to the south of the house and its pleasure grounds. Appley House (LL) is now the home of St Cecelia's Abbey and open parkland still survives to the south of the house (LL).

- To the east of Appley House lay the early C19 properties of **St Clare** and **Puckpool**, also close to the Solent shore. An irregular castellated mansion was built at St Clare in 1823 and a substantial cottage orné at Puckpool in 1822-4. Parkland was laid out around both properties. Puckpool was acquired by the War Department in 1861 and Puckpool Battery was built on part of the site. Today most of the former parkland of St Clare and Puckpool lies within the curtilage of the disused Harcourt Sands Holiday Centre but Puckpool House (LB II) survives and the site of the former Puckpool Battery is now a public park (see Section 12.10).

In the early C19 the large and significant St John's estate (including parkland and pleasure grounds laid out Humphfry Repton) occupied land on the outskirts of Ryde to the south and east of Appley House (see Section 12.6). In the mid C19 this estate was split up. St John's Park and Apley Tower (later Appley Towers) were developed on land that had formerly been part of the estate. St John's House retained the pleasure grounds around the principal building.

- In 1871 John Peter Gassiot purchased **St John's House** and engaged W B Page, the Southampton landscape gardener, to remodel the pleasure grounds (Basford 1989; 54, 58). W B Page had previously worked at Steephill Castle in the 1830s and also carried out work at **Whippingham Rectory** (see Section 12.7).

    - Page's landscaping at St John's included a shrubbery walk which circumnavigated the grounds, a brick arched entrance way leading to the house via a stone lined hollow way, rock gardens, a water garden and a new eye catcher in the shape of a gothic folly in the woodland band to the north of the grounds visible from the terrace on the north side of the house.
    - St John's House (LB II) and its grounds (LL) are now occupied by Oakfield Primary School.
    - Elements of Page's landscaping survive in the school grounds including the shrubbery walk and gothic folly (*).

- **St John's Park** (LL), on land taken formerly within the St John's estate, was designed by local architect Thomas Hellyer. It was planned as an integral part of an up-market housing development, creating a communal park for the private use of the substantial villas surrounding it.

    - The Ordnance Survey map of 1863 shows St John's Park as a tear-drop shaped area surrounded by houses in their own private grounds. Within the park a series of serpentine paths are shown, with a more direct route leading to a central formal circular feature (a summer house or bandstand) having a circular path around it. Groups of trees are shown within the open parkland to the south of the central summerhouse.
    - The area of St John's Park survives to the present day although it is now dominated by secondary woodland. Former gardens (parterres), gravelled paths and lawned areas have been lost and only the brick base of the summer house/bandstand remains. Other surviving features are the remains of stone posts and gateposts (at the main entrance and smaller entrance on East Hill Road) and also the remains of iron railings around the perimeter of the park behind the villas (see Section 12.10).

- The property of **Apley Tower** (later Appley Towers) was developed on the eastern part of the former St John's estate.

    - Apley Tower possessed formal gardens and parkland around the house and open woodland beside the Solent shore to the north. A folly, confusingly known as 'Appley Tower' (LB II), was built on the northern edge of the parkland beside the shore in the 1870s.
    - The house at Apley Tower was demolished in the 1950s and much of the site was developed for housing but the public park of Appley (*) now occupies the northern part of the site (see Section 12.10).

*Parkland continued to be created on either side of **Ryde** in the Victorian period and villas with smaller pleasure grounds were built along the road leading from Binstead to Ryde (Brookfield Lodge, Brookfield and Stonepit).*

- **Quarr House**, lying to the west of Binstead, was built for Admiral Sir Thomas John Cochrane in 1858 and parkland was laid out around the house. The house is now part of the early C20 Quarr Abbey (LB I), described in Section 12.13. The framework of the C19 designed landscape survives (*) including farmed former parkland, approach drives and ornamental planting around the house and elsewhere.

- Between Quarr Abbey and the village of Binstead lies **Quarr Wood** which was part of the Fleming estate in the C19.

    - The laying out of a new carriage road and the building of houses within the wood had commenced by 1861 in what a contemporary writer described as 'the march of villa-building'.
    - Plots were marked out in the woodland within which 'Quarrwood Lodge', 'Wellwood', 'West View', 'Hazlemount', 'The Boulders' and 'Denmark House' were built and a tree-lined ornamental drive was constructed, running northward from the carriage drive to the Solent. 'Monksfield' (later known as Binstead Hall) and 'Macquarrie' were built at a slightly later date and are shown for the first time on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1897-8.

- Today the C19 properties in Quarr Wood still lie within well-wooded grounds although part of the wood was more intensively developed with houses in the late C20.

- The estate of **Woodlands Vale** is a C19 creation on the east side of Ryde, located a little way inland from the coast to the south of Puckpool.

  - The principal building (LB II*), originally known as Woodlands, was built in 1829 and rebuilt in the 1850s or 1860s. It was then enlarged in 1870-71 to the designs of the distinguished architect Samuel Saunders Teulon for Colonel (later Baron) Calthorpe. Teulon also designed rose arches and a summer house within the garden.
  - The development of the grounds at Woodlands Vale can be traced on a series of Ordnance Survey maps and estate plans from 1830 to 1939. During this time the area of the pleasure grounds, parkland and woodland shelter belts expanded considerably to their maximum extent of about 73 acres. Fashionable Japanese features were added to the garden in the early C20 (see Section 12.9).
  - The formal garden at Woodlands Vale lies to the north-east of the house and has a strongly architectural structure with a series of terraces leading the eye down to the formal cruciform-shaped pool at the bottom of the garden and beyond to views across the parkland to the Solent and Spitbank Fort (English Heritage 2012c).
  - Woodlands Vale is nationally significant as a well-preserved and representative example of a large formal Victorian/Edwardian garden (NHL II). It is of particular local importance since it is the only site on the Island within the category of *Town, Suburban, Village and Coastal Gardens* to be represented on the National Heritage List.

- **Springfield House** (now Springfield Court) was a Victorian property built in 1832. It abutted the parkland of Woodlands Vale on its north-east side but had much smaller grounds than Woodlands Vale, with a total area of only seven acres.

  - The 25 inch Ordnance Survey map produced in the 1860s shows that the house was set back from the main entrance in Springvale Road (a coastal road running alongside the beach) and faced north east with sea views towards Spithead. It had pleasure grounds planted with conifers and deciduous trees and can be characterised as a Victorian woodland garden with ornamental drive and pool containing notable trees.
  - Springfield House was damaged by fire in 1983 and replaced by a modern neo-Georgian apartment building in about 2002. This building now houses self-catering holiday apartments but the pleasure grounds (*) remain largely undeveloped with mature trees surviving, particularly around the perimeter of the site

Cowes *was popular for sea bathing in the late C18 and in the C19 became associated with yachting. In terms of designed landscapes, the town was dominated by the 216 acre Northwood Park from the early C19 (see Section 12.6). Its suburban villas did not generally possess the relatively extensive pleasure grounds that existed in Ryde although Egypt House and Grove House (close to the sea shore) and Westhill House (overlooking the harbour) were exceptions to this rule.*

The coastline from Cowes Castle to Egypt Point began to be developed from the early C19. This development intensified in the later C19 after Cowes Castle (LB II) became the home of the Royal Yacht Squadron in 1858 and its annual yachting regatta became patronised by royalty. Princes Green became a public open space on the seafront (see Section 12.11) and by the end of the C19 development extended to the west of Egypt Point. There was some additional building in the early C20 but properties built on the coastal slope at the eastern end of this area still enjoyed wooded grounds.*

- Egypt House (LB II) is of C18 origin and a sea-bathing establishment was run from this property in the 1760s. The distinctive red-brick Tudor-style crenellated house dates mainly from the C19 and is set in fairly open grounds on the seaward side with a walled garden to the south-east of the house (*).

- Other properties on Cowes seafront are agreeably varied, as are their grounds. These include the small gardens of elegant early C19 villas on Queen's Road, the wooded grounds of Stanhope Lodge, the simple coastal-edge lawn of tiny Rosetta Cottage and at least two gardens that still retain seaside shelters from which yacht races were viewed.

- Individual gardens along the seafront at West Cowes are not necessarily of significance in themselves but contribute to the overall landscape character of the area.

    - Redevelopment of some properties and their grounds along the seafront has diluted this character to some extent. Cowes Conservation Area includes the Queen's Road as a discrete character area (Isle of Wight Council 2004a) but a more detailed Conservation Area Assessment could assist in the conservation of this area.

*The designed landscapes at **East Cowes** associated with Norris Castle and East Cowes castle have been described in Section 12.6. East Cowes was also a fashionable location for the smaller estates of wealthy incomers to the Island. Villa development in East Cowes in the mid C19 was stimulated by the presence of nearby Osborne.*

- An estate at East Cowes purchased by William Goodrich in 1784 was named Springhill in 1812. The notebooks of George Repton (assistant to John Nash) include drawings of a dwelling for Mr Goodrich (Temple 1988) which may have been built although the present house dates from the 1860s. Parkland is shown at Springhill on Greenwood's 1826 map. The former parkland at Springhill (LL) survives as pasture and there are important views into this area from West Cowes on the other side of the River Medina.

- The grounds of Elm Cottage (a typical cottage orné), Millfield, St Thomas, Slatwoods and the Lodge, all on the outskirts of East Cowes, were illustrated, described or mapped in early editions of George Brannon's *Vectis Scenery* from 1820. These grounds were smaller than those of Springhill. A caravan park now occupies the grounds of St Thomas and only scant remains of garden walls survive at Slatwoods and the Lodge (where the houses no longer survive). Millfield House survives without its grounds and Elm Cottage and its grounds have been lost.

- York Avenue, Victoria Grove and Adelaide Grove originally formed part of a planned East Cowes Park Estate and were laid out along the sides of a projected botanic garden. The garden was never completed and has been built over. Only a

handful of the houses on the estate remain, including Kent House (LL) - once the home of Earl Mountbatten's parents -and Osborne Cottage (LB II), sometime residence of Princess Beatrice, the youngest daughter of Queen Victoria (Brinton 2006, 38-39). A listed greenhouse, covered way and summerhouse survive at Osborne Cottage.

- The property of Padmore (LB II), located at Whippingham about 1 km south of Osborne, was the home of the Revd. James Joliffe, Chaplain to Queen Victoria, from 1841 to 1914. The Revd Joliffe may have created the small area of parkland at Padmore (*), traces of which still remain. There are also C20 garden features at Padmore (see Section 12.9).

***Ventnor**, located within the Undercliff, began to be developed in the 1830s but reached its heyday of popularity in the later Victorian and Edwardian eras. The town itself was tightly packed with houses. However, nearby Bonchurch to the east of Ventnor - a community of three farms and a tiny church until the early C19 - offered a picturesque environment which attracted writers and artists. In fact Bonchurch rivalled the Ryde area in the development of C19 gardens.*

*The broken irregular nature of the Undercliff gave an air of seclusion and rurality to the grounds of the large villas at **Bonchurch** and these grounds fully exploited the rugged aspects of the landscape. Examples of this use of existing landforms include the rock tunnel through which Undermount was approached and the natural viewing platform at Pulpit Rock (*). Even Bonchurch Pond (*) became a design feature within the landscape.*

- **East Dene** was built on the site of Bonchurch Farm in about 1826 and is one of the early Undercliff Tudor-Gothic houses. It was the childhood home of Algernon Swinburne who later became a noted Victorian poet.

    - The house at East Dene was approached by a sunken winding carriage drive flanked by walls of rock and its garden was composed of terraces on different levels.
    - The grounds, although partially wooded, also afforded splendid glimpses of the English Channel to the south, as at many Bonchurch properties.
    - Today, the house (LB II*) and the framework of the designed landscape (*) survives, as does an apsidal-ended walled garden (*) in separate ownership.

- Charles Dickens rented the property of **Winterbourne** at Bonchurch from July to October 1849. Winterbourne has operated as a guest house in recent years and retains large gardens.

- **Cliff Dene** (a C19 Bonchurch property with wooded grounds formerly named Cliffend) was the home of the author H de Vere Stacpoole from the early 1930s until his death. He published a book of poems entitled *In a Bonchurch Garden* and presented Bonchurch Pond to the village in memory of his first wife.

- Many more notable C19 Bonchurch gardens were described and illustrated in contemporary accounts. The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has not yet carried out a systematic survey of Bonchurch gardens so it is unclear how far the design of these gardens has survived although some have remained undeveloped.

Shanklin 'Old Village' *was first developed from a cluster of pre-existing farmsteads and cottages in the early C19. Fashionable cottages ornés were built, generally with very small gardens although Eastcliff (LB II), Chine House (LB II) and Tower Cottage had somewhat larger pleasure grounds.*

The expansion of Shanklin into a larger tourist resort in the later C19 resulted in fairly high density development close to the town centre with only a few seaside properties of this date, such as Rylstone House (LB II) in the Old Village, being set in larger grounds.

The grounds of Rylstone House and Tower Cottage became public gardens in the C20 (see Section 12.10)

- **Shanklin Manor**, on a medieval site, lay to the south of Shanklin Chine adjacent to the parish church. By 1769 it had an enclosed garden (see Section 12.4). The house was rebuilt in the late C19 but the grounds were not substantially altered.
- **Landguard Manor** (LB II) on the northern edge of Shanklin was another old-established estate. A small park, ornamental woodlands and orchards are shown on the 1793-4 Ordnance Survey drawing but the grounds (*) were expanded and remodelled in the late C19 during the ownership of Colonel Atherley. The framework of the late C19 design still survives.

There was no residential development close to the seafront at Sandown until the mid C19 and the resort largely developed in the second half of the C19. Development was generally of fairly high density, as at Shanklin, and few ornamental grounds are shown along the seafront on the 1897-8 25 inch Ordnance Survey maps except for those of Fern Cliff (now a public garden).

- **Los Altos** was built on the outskirts of Sandown in the 1870s as a seaside residence for George Drabble.

    - A firm of landscape gardeners was employed to lay out the grounds at Los Altos (*) which included a small parkland paddock and a tree-lined drive leading towards Sandown Station.
    - A sunken rose garden to the north of the house is of early C20 date (see Section 12.9).
    - The principal building at Los Altos is now a hotel and its grounds include the rose garden. The parkland paddock has become a public park (see Section 12.10).

Smaller Island settlements which saw the development of high-class coastal residences during the C19 included Seaview, Bembridge and Niton.

- The seaside village and small resort of **Seaview**, located to the east of Ryde, grew up after 1800 on an unsettled piece of the coast where previously there had been only a saltern and a fort (Pevsner and Lloyd 2006, 256-257). In the C19 Seaview became a popular coastal resort for the upper and middle classes and yachting became a popular activity.

    - Properties at the centre of Seaview were small houses and cottages but there were more substantial houses with parklands and sea views to the west and south of the settlement.
    - The grounds of **Seafield House** (LB II) are shown on Clarke's map of 1812 and those of **Marine Villa, aka Seaview House** on Greenwood's map of 1826. **Fairy Hill** (LB II), slightly inland and to the southwest of Seaview, was of C18

origin and its parkland is shown on the 1793-4 Ordnance Survey drawing as is that of the nearby property of **Seagrove** with its coastal woodland.
  - Some areas of former parkland and ornamental woodland have survived around Seagrove and Fairy Hill on the outskirts of Seaview, contributing to its overall character (Isle of Wight Council 2007).

- The **Bembridge** area comprised a peninsula known as 'Bembridge Isle' located at the eastern extremity of the Isle of Wight and almost cut off from the rest of the Island by Brading Haven (drained *c.*1880) and the chalk downs.

  - By the early C19, Bembridge had started to become a seasonal retreat for the affluent classes in a similar fashion to East Cowes and Seaview. Links with sailing developed later in the century. C19 and early C20 development spread across the seaward end of the peninsula, expanding the existing irregular row settlement of Bembridge Street and infilling between pre-existing scattered farmsteads.
  - In the first half of the C19, residences with large pleasure grounds were built beyond Bembridge's historic core. These properties lay close to the coast and the harbour to allow sea views. They included **Bembridge Lodge** (LB II), **Hillgrove** (attributed to the architect John Nash), **East Cliff** and **Tyne Hall**. Today, the grounds of these properties remain at least partially undeveloped. Bembridge Lodge (*) and Tyne Hall (*) retain elements of the original design.
  - The area of Bembridge to the north of the church has a strong landscaped character provided by a broad straight drive (Ducie Avenue) and Victorian planting. Much of this design character relates to work carried out by a local landowner, Colonel Moreton. He introduced regular polygonal land divisions east of his onetime residence at Hillgrove to carve out spacious plots for two storey residences, purportedly for his daughters (Isle of Wight Council 2011a, 19). These residences include **Ducie Cottage**, **Magnolia House** and **Balure**.
  - **Steyne House** (LB II) was built in the early C19, slightly inland and away from the centre of Bembridge on the site of an existing farmstead. By 1866 it had a small pleasure ground around the house and a small area of parkland to the north (LL). The grounds continued to develop into the early C20 (see Section 12.9).

- The village of **Niton** is of medieval origin but Niton Undercliff, between the inner cliff and the coast, developed from the late C18 as the scenic beauty of the area became appreciated. Here, at the southernmost tip of the Island, is some of its wildest coastal scenery and Niton Undercliff contains a scatter of mainly C19 properties 'placed where practical in the tumbled landscape' (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 191).

  - Some of the earliest properties at Niton Undercliff, such as **Puckaster Cottage** (LB II) and the **Orchard** (LB II), were noted cottages ornés or marine villas (see Section 12.7) and the grounds of later properties also exploited the picturesque Undercliff location. Greenwood's 1826 map depicts gentlemen's residences with surrounding grounds at **Knowle**, **Mount Cleve** (LB II), **Westcliff** and **Beauchamp**. The six inch Ordnance Survey of 1862 shows a network of roads between St Catherine's Lighthouse and Undercliff Drive linking properties with surrounding grounds including **La Rosier**, **Windcliff**, **Thorncliff** and **Niton Lodge**. The **Royal Sandrock Hotel** and the **Victoria Hotel** are also marked on the 1862 map, emphasising that the area was popular with upper class visitors as well as with well-to-do residents. In the 1830s the future Queen Victoria had stayed with her mother at the Royal Sandrock Hotel (burnt down *c.* 1990), thus helping to establish the popularity of the area.

- **Rosiere Villa** (which had the later names of La Rosier, Verlands, Puckwell House and the Undercliff Hotel) was built by 1835. It became known as Verlands in 1865 and at that time it had a winter garden on the south front and a small park on the other side of a public road, to which it was connected by a tunnel. The house was destroyed in World War II and the grounds have been redeveloped (Niton Women's Institute 1971, 23).
- **Windcliff**, built c.1838 as a summer residence for the Kirkpatrick family, is now a hotel but still has 4 acres of wooded grounds.
- Holiday chalets are now set in the grounds of **Westcliff**.
- **Mount Cleve**, now Mount Cleves retains grounds of about 7 acres including mature woodland, with a series of terraces and paths leading to a cliff with caves, as well as to vantage points with views over the surrounding coastline (*). There is a folly in the form of a church turret (LB II).

***St Helens**, unlike other historic coastal settlements such as Bembridge and Niton, remained a largely agricultural settlement in the C19 with the only large villas being Castle House and St Helens House. Both had pleasure grounds although those of St Helen's House were relatively modest in size.*

- **Castle House** (now 'The Castle' LB II) was built in 1842 and a late C19 sales catalogue states that 'the grounds were laid out by a skilled landscape gardener in about the year 1866'.

  - The property was occupied by Sir Harry Baldwin, Dentist to Queen Victoria, from 1896. At this time the garden of 16 acres contained 'fine oak, elm and other forest trees, flower gardens, tennis and other lawns, ornamental trees and shrubs, orchards and kitchen garden and a peach house'.
  - Today, the grounds of Castle House survive (LL), now divided between various owners but retaining original features shown on plans of 1899 and 1902.
  - The remaining area of garden now owned by 'The Castle' is typical of the late Victorian period. It is also one of the few relatively well-preserved examples from this period on the Island which means that it is locally significant.

*Historically, **Freshwater** consisted of a number of scattered settlements rather than a single nucleated village. Perhaps because of its rural location, its relative isolation and its lack of a single settlement centre it did not become the focus for clusters of early C19 upper class residences in the same way as Bembridge, Seaview or Niton Undercliff. However, the properties of Norton Lodge and Westhill - on the Solent shore opposite Yarmouth – were set in parkland by the early decades of the C19 and Farringford Hill has been built by 1802.*

- **Farringford Hill** was later known as **Farringford**. It became the home of the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson and his wife Emily in 1853. By this time an area of parkland had been created, softening the originally very unsheltered setting of the house.

  - The principal building at Farringford was much altered and extended between1825 and 1833 but the Tennysons added an additional wing in 1871 (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 142-144).
  - Many improvements to the grounds at Farringford were also made by the Tennysons including the creation of a sunken path along a diverted right of way, the construction of a footbridge across the sunken path and the planting of additional trees within existing shelterbelts.
  - The journal of Emily Tennyson has many references to gardening (including work in the walled kitchen garden) and to garden features such as the 'sunk

fence' (ha-ha), the 'wilderness' and the summer house in Maiden's Croft (Hutchings and Hinton 1986).
  - After World War II Farringford (LB I) became a hotel with part of the former parkland in use as a golf course. Self-catering holidays are now provided within the grounds.
  - The designed landscape at Farringford (LL) retains its C19 framework and individual features such as the walled kitchen garden, sunken path and footbridge (now rebuilt). It is of historical importance as the scene of well-documented gardening activities by the Tennyson family. It also provides an appropriate setting for the house, providing views out of the park mainly looking eastward to Afton Down and the coastline beyond as far as Blackgang Chine.
  - A conservation management plan (Brownscombe 2010) has set out proposals for the designed landscape. The current restoration scheme includes work to be carried out within the walled kitchen garden.

- **Norton Lodge** is now a holiday centre although the outline of its former parkland is still identifiable. The grounds at **Westhill** were redeveloped in the later C20.

*Development in the **Freshwater** area during the later C19 was influenced by its associations with the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson as well as by commercial considerations.*

- Partly as a result of the Tennyson connection, various properties in the Freshwater area were built or extended in the second half of the C19 including **Dimbola** (LB II), home of the photographer Julia Margaret Cameron (Hinton 1992; 2-3, 10-29). However, the only houses with substantial grounds were **Freshwater Court** (LL), built for Tennyson's brother and **The Briary,** sometime home of the Victorian painter G.F.Watts . Wooded pleasure grounds survive at Freshwater Court. The Briary was was destroyed by fire and rebuilt but still retains its grounds.

- **Totland**, at the western extremity of the Island was an area of farmland within Freshwater Parish in the mid C19. It was developed as a small seaside resort from 1870 (Isle of Wight Council 2012a). The growth of a village centre along the Broadway and the planned development of the Totland Bay Estate Company to the south can be traced on Ordnance Survey maps of 1896 and 1907.

  - The village centre at **Totland** was characterised by modest semi-detached villas with small gardens whilst the planned estate of **Totland Bay** contained large villas set within their own grounds (often wooded) in prime locations overlooking the sea.
  - Large villas within **Totland Bay** that have retained their grounds include **Heatherwood** (predating the planned development of the area), **Hatherwood House**, an imposing Edwardian residence positioned in a mature landscape garden (LL) and **Bayfield** , a house set within mature gardens with a prime view over the bay.
  - **The Turf Walk**, specifically created as a promenade along the cliff, also survives.

***Gurnard**, close to West Cowes, was another coastal village that was developed on the site of former farmland in the mid C19.*

Land was put up for sale as building plots with the possible aim of creating a park estate to attract retired service personnel as is indicated by the width of Worsley Road and Solent View Road (Caws 1992, 11). These roads are shown on the six inch Ordnance Survey of 1863 but development had only just started at this date.

Most of the development within Gurnard consisted of fairly modest villas or cottages with small gardens. However, two larger properties with landscaped grounds were built close to Gurnard during the C19.

- **Woodvale Cottage** (later known as Woodvale House) predated the development of the village, having been built in the 1820s or 1830s as the 'marine residence' of a Captain William Farington R.N and substantially altered in the 1840s. The 1863 map shows a pleasure garden and a small park attached to Woodvale House. Today, the house survives but the grounds have largely been developed.

- **The Dell**, in Cockleton Lane, was built by Captain Thomas Hudson R.N. in about 1888. Landscaped grounds with much woodland planting had been developed by 1987. The Dell was demolished in the 1970s and the site is now Gurnard Pines Holiday Village.

12.9 Twentieth Century and Twenty-First Century Gardens

The 1890s saw a growing interest in garden design in general, and especially in more academically correct formal gardens. This taste for Revivalism in garden design persisted after the First World War.

Many garden designers travelled to Italy and elsewhere to study historic gardens which inspired their own designs. Examples of Italian revival gardens include Cliveden (Buckinghamshire; registered Grade I) Hever Castle (Kent; registered Grade I) and Iford Manor (Bath and North East Somerset / Wiltshire; registered Grade I).

Other styles, including Moorish, Dutch, and Oriental were also explored, as at Bitchet Wood (Kent; registered Grade II), where in 1919-21 the architect Raymond Berrow laid out a Japanese garden based on a plan published in Joseph Condor's book Landscape Gardening in Japan (1893).*

From about 1900, influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement, many garden designers became interested in English vernacular gardens using local materials and native plants and flowers. The partnership of Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens was especially influential.

The early C20 landscape architect Thomas Mawson drew on both Revivalism and the Arts and Crafts movement but also embraced the use of modern materials including concrete and asphalt for his hard landscaping, thus paving the way to modern design. At this time, sports facilities such as tennis courts and swimming pools were incorporated into garden design too, a trend that developed further in the 1930s.

The 1920s and 1930s saw strong modernist themes emerge in domestic architecture, but this rarely extended to include garden design.

Plant-centred gardening, influenced by Revivalism and the Arts and Crafts style, remained popular throughout the twentieth century. Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West's garden at Sissinghurst Castle (Kent; registered Grade I) developed from 1930. Also influential was the garden and arboretum created between the 1950s and 1970s by Sir Harold Hillier (a plantsman of world renown) at Jermyns House, near Romsey (Hampshire; registered Grade II).

During the C20 gardening for pleasure (that is, other than for vegetables) increasingly spread beyond the privileged few. From the 1930s, many more people lived in suburban houses with gardens, and plant-focused gardening became increasingly popular (English Heritage 2012b, 10-11)

The Isle of Wight has only a few complete examples of large C20 gardens on new sites exemplifying the styles described above but garden features of this period remain, often forming design 'layers' in gardens of older origin. C20 and gardens on the Island have generally favoured traditional styles including Arts and Crafts. No Art Deco or Modernist gardens have been recorded by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust. However, from the late C20, perhaps aided by climate change, some gardens have experimented with Mediterranean-style and sub-tropical planting, taking advantage of the Island's relatively mild climate.

- The garden at **Woodlands Vale** (NHL II) to the east of Ryde was developed from 1830 (see Section 12.8) but the flight of steps with Japanese lanterns and wooden Shinto arch dates from 1903.

- **The Priory**, between Seaview and St Helens has grounds dating from the late C18 (see Section 12.6). However, there are surviving plans by Lutyens for proposed modifications to the house and gardens (Brown 1982, 175) These plans were not implemented by Lutyens but work carried out from 1929 appears to owe much to his designs and elements of the existing garden (LL) show a strong Arts and Crafts influence.

    - The salt-water swimming pool installed at 'The Priory' by Mrs Evelyn St George in about 1929 echoes the national trend for sports facilities within gardens.

- **Padmore** (*) at East Cowes had a small C19 landscape park (see Section 12.8).The property was sold in 1914 to Samuel Saunders, whose company (known as Saunders-Roe from 1929) had factories in East Cowes and West Cowes producing motor boats and early aircraft.

    - Between 1929 and 1933 Sam Saunders planted a large orchard at Padmore and constructed a rose garden within a brick-pillared pergola which still survives as part of a wider designed landscape (*).
      See http://woottonbridgeiow.org.uk/padmore.php and Wheeler (1993, 48-49).

- At **Los Altos**, Sandown, developed in the late C19 (see Section 12.8) a sunken rose garden to the north of the house was constructed in the early C20 (*). This garden in the Arts and Crafts style with semicircular steps, summer houses and pergolas is now within the grounds of the Broadway Park Hotel. An indoor tennis court (now demolished) was also built at Los Altos in the early C20.

- **West Hill**, on the western outskirts of Shanklin, is first shown on the 1842 Shanklin tithe map but the grounds were remodelled in the early C20 with a formal axial layout having Arts and Craft influences, some evidence of which remains.

- No surviving gardens designed by Thomas Mawson are known on the Island but it is believed that a Mawson design exists for a garden associated with a house in Baring Road, Cowes (Isle of Wight Gardens Trust records).

Water gardens were often created in the C20 and frequently employed modern technology.

- At **Steyne House**, Bembridge, a water garden was designed by marine engineer Sir John Thornycroft in the1920s. Water was pumped through open stone channels, through tunnels and over a cascade. The design featured covered shelters, raised stonewalled planting beds, small winding stepped stone paths and a view point above a pond with views out to sea one way and to Bembridge Windmill in the other direction. This water garden forms part of a larger designed landscape of C19 origin (LL) which is described in Section 12.8 and survives to the present day.

- The water garden at **Brook House** (close to Brook Village) is first shown on the 1898 25 inch Ordnance Survey map which marks informal ponds and a footbridge. This water garden remained a feature in the early C20 designed landscape at Brook and is shown on a coloured postcard of the time. Brook House is now in divided ownership but the ponds, a rustic bridge and a miniature waterfall still remain in the grounds (LL) of a property that formerly lay within the curtilage of Brook House. For further information on Brook House see section 12.6.

The Seely family had owned Brook House since c. 1860 but were also responsible for creating two C20 gardens at Brook Hill House and Mottistone Manor, located on and adjacent to the 'West Wight Downland Edge & Sandstone Ridge'.

- **Brook Hill House** (LB II), designed by the architect Sir Aston Webb, was built from *c.*1901 for Sir Charles Seely but was not finished until 1916. The house is described by Lloyd and Pevsner (2006, 100) as 'an irregular eclectic composition in coursed rubble with fine stone dressings'. It is set on the brow of a hilltop above Brook Village with superb views towards the coast on the south and west. The site was formerly heathland and plantation woodland and many of the plantation trees were apparently retained within the new grounds, creating a woodland garden under-planted with rhododendrons which were suited to the acidic greensand soil. Both the house (now in divided ownership) and the grounds (*) form a prominent feature in the surrounding landscape.

- **Mottistone Manor** (LB II*), is an example of a historic property with a garden of relatively large scale (LL) that is entirely C20 in date.

    - The C16 manor house is set within a sheltered south-facing valley surrounded by the higher ground of the sandstone ridge. In the early C20 it was used as a farmhouse.
    - General Jack Seely (later Lord Mottistone) was persuaded by his friend Sir Edwin Lutyens to renovate the manor house and make it his home. Major restoration was carried out by John Seely (the architect son of Sir Jack) from 1927. A pleasure garden existed in the 1930s, including the sunken walled garden area to the south of the house.
    - Mottistone Manor came into National Trust ownership in 1963, being tenanted by Sir John and Lady Nicholson.
    - Lady Nicholson created the present garden at Mottistone Manor in the 1960s and 1970s. Her experience of Sicilian gardens inspired the hard landscaping and terracing but the double herbaceous border is typical of C20 designs inspired by English vernacular gardens.
    - Set within a sheltered, south-facing valley, the six acre garden is open to the public and has sea views from its upper slopes. Some redesign of the garden

took place in 2004 and 2005. The National Trust is now experimenting with Mediterranean-style planting in certain areas.

Various other Island gardens of C20 or early C21 date, or with C20 design layers, deserve mention.

- **Morton Manor** (LB II) is an example of a historic property with historic and modern garden features. The property, known as Morton Villa in the C19, had pleasure gardens which were recorded in 1828. However, the five acre gardens (LL) were developed as a visitor attraction in the late C20 when 50 varieties of Japanese maple were planted and a large pond was dug.

- **Pitt House**, close to the sea cliff at Bembridge, lies within the grounds of a C19 property but was rebuilt in the early C20. Garden features include pergolas, a Victorian greenhouse and a dell with ponds and water plants (*).

- Other gardens laid out or remodelled in the late C20, some within the grounds of historic listed properties, include those at **Ningwood Manor *** (LB II* with C18 summer house LB II)) in Shalfleet Parish, **Pidford Manor** near Rookley * (LB II), the **Watch House** at Bembridge (*), **Yaffles** at Bonchurch and the cottage-style garden at **Owl Cottage**, Mottistone (*).

- The historic garden at **Northcourt**, Shorwell (NHL II) has C17, C18 and C19 layers but also features modern planting.

- Examples of private gardens laid out since 2000 include **Haddon Lake House** (incorporating the lake and one of the walled garden compartments within the historic and locally listed landscape of Old Park – see Section 12.7) and **Kingston Rectory** (also within a walled garden).

- At **Robin Hill Adventure Park**, near Arreton, a woodland garden has been created featuring planted clearings, specimen trees, streams, ponds and sculptures. Over 100 years ago, this woodland appears to have been used as a private woodland garden by the Willis-Fleming family based at nearby Combley farm. Tree species dating from that era include Giant Redwood and Eucalyptus.

    - Since 2005 work has been taking place at Robin Hill to reclaim the glades, ponds and paths that once existed

Two gardens within English Heritage properties on the Isle of Wight have been remodelled since the millennium under the English Heritage 'Contemporary Heritage Gardens' initiative.

- The walled fruit and flower garden at **Osborne**, part of the nationally designated designed landscape around Osborne House, was restored to a design by Rupert Golby in 2000.

- The Princess Beatrice Garden at **Carisbrooke Castle** lies within the former 'privy garden' used by the Princess when she was in residence at Carisbrooke Castle from 1913.

    - The remodelled garden on this site was designed by Chris Beardshaw and opened in 2009. It represents a modern interpretation of an Edwardian garden with cross-axial paths, a structural backbone of clipped hedges, a central

fountain, plants in themed borders and an 'orchard' of standard fruit trees in large planters. Its design, like that of a C17 parterre, can best be appreciated from above, viewed from the castle battlements.

Many urban botanic gardens date from the C19 (English Heritage 2013b, 10) but the botanic garden at Ventnor (NHL II) is of late C20 date, having been created in 1972 by the Isle of Wight County Council on the site of the Royal National Hospital for Diseases of the Chest within the Undercliff.

- **Ventnor Botanic Garden**, opened by Earl Mountbatten, was supplied with tender plants by Sir Harold Hillier in its early years and became internationally recognised.

  - The garden benefits from the remarkable microclimate within the Undercliff, being protected from cold northerly winds by the chalk downs. This allows subtropical plants to be grown out of doors as well as plants from the Mediterranean and the temperate southern hemisphere.
  - Many of the plants at Ventnor Botanic Garden are arranged in collections representative of geographical regions (http://www.botanic.co.uk/pages/gardenhistory.htm).
  - Ventnor Botanic Garden is designated on the National Heritage List because of its significance as the grounds of an early chest hospital (see Section 12.13). However it is also of great (and growing) significance as a botanic garden.
  - Furthermore, the setting of the garden setting within the Undercliff provides great scenic value with highly attractive views from the southern boundary over the sea and northward to the dramatic inland cliff forming the northern boundary of the Undercliff.
  - Ventnor Botanic Garden is now managed by a Community Interest Company and is open to the public (see Section 9.2).

12.10 Public Parks, Municipal Gardens and Open Spaces

Public walks are amongst the earliest types of recreational open spaces. English Heritage (2013a, 6) has drawn attention to notable examples of these public walks, the fashion for which – to enable social walking, the promenade – took off in the mid C17. One very early example at Northernhay (part of the later Northernhay and Rougemont Gardens, registered at Grade II) extended round the north and north-east sides of Exeter Castle (Devon). This was levelled and laid out by the city authorities in 1612 as a public walk with an avenue of elms and seats for the use of the elderly.

- The walk along the outer defences of **Carisbrooke Castle** may be considered as an example of a public walk offering far-reaching views to the north and the south. George Brannon (1831, 22-3) recommended tourists to undertake a 'circumambulation on the terrace' and noted that the plantations around the terraces were made by Lord Bolton, a former Governor of the Isle of Wight, in 1805.

- **The Mall** at Carisbrooke Road, Newport is a C19 raised walk above the highway, backed by terraced 1860s Italianate houses on the NW side and planted with trees (Isle of Wight Council 2007, 11-13).

Urban public parks were created in England mainly from the 1840s following a Parliamentary Select Committee report in 1833 which recommended greater provision of open spaces for leisure pursuits.

J C Loudon, who had a commitment to social improvement, was among the leading advocates of public parks. These were among the first elements of much-needed urban reform and came to be one of the main ways in which civic pride was expressed.

Common elements of such parks included boundary walls, gate lodges, separate carriage ways and inter-weaving paths, one or more lakes, grass to play on, ornamental trees to give instruction and form, rippling water to enliven the scene, shrubberies for year-round foliage, rock gardens, bedding and flowers intended to give seasonal colour. Buildings included shelters, seats, and often bandstands, while tucked-away service yards accommodated glass houses.

Smaller parks were provided from the 1880s thanks to the Open Spaces Act of 1881 and the Disused Burial Ground Act of 1884. Queen Victoria's Golden and Diamond Jubilees also stimulated public park provision and a good number of towns saw fit to celebrate the occasions in this way; most towns had at least one park by 1900. Common features now included bandstands, pagodas, lodges, pavilions and refreshment rooms alongside shelters, lavatories and drinking fountains. These features enabled the use of parks in poor weather and demonstrated the authorities' concern for public health and morality. (English Heritage 2013b (7-9).

The Island does not have any public parks and gardens of national significance incorporating the elaborate design features described above. Various reasons may account for this lack of nationally significant sites; the Island's towns were small in size in the C19 and early C20 and did not possess the economic resources of larger mainland towns, the Island did not possess a large industrial working class (despite the ship-building industry in East and West Cowes) and there was much countryside and coast close to towns which was readily accessible for recreational purposes. However, the Island does have public parks and gardens of local significance and a number of these have been placed on the Local List.

On the Isle of Wight the distinction between the categories of 'Public Parks, Municipal Gardens & Open Spaces' and 'Seaside Gardens & Promenades' is blurred. Many public parks and gardens are in seaside towns and were designed for use by both the local population and visitors e.g. Ventnor Park, Appley Park, Puckpool Park, Sandham Grounds, Los Altos, Rylstone Gardens and Tower Cottage Gardens. Most of these parks and gardens are described below but Sandham Grounds form an essential part of Sandown's seaside character and are therefore described under 'Seaside Gardens and Promenades' in Section 12.11).

The public open spaces that were created on the Island in the C19 were mainly recreation grounds rather than ornamental parks. Recreation grounds were also created in the C20.

- Examples of early recreation grounds include **West Cowes Recreation Ground** (officially presented to the Local Board by William G Ward in1875 but shown on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1865) and **Jubilee Recreation Ground** in East Cowes (presented to the Local Board by Lord Gort to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887).

- **Victoria Recreation Ground** at Newport is on land donated by Tankerville Chamberlayne, a Hampshire landowner and Southampton MP, to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 (recorded on a metal plaque on the park gates). The recreation ground was opened and dedicated to the public by Princess Henry of Battenberg, the then Governor of the Isle of Wight, in 1902 (also recorded on a plaque). It has a cricket pavilion, lodge and park gates.

- **Seaclose Park** in Newport is a mid C20 example of a public facility where the focus was on providing space for sporting activities rather than the provision of a landscaped park.

The only example of a typical Victorian urban public park on the Isle of Wight is at Ventnor.

- **Ventnor Park** (LL) was formerly part of the Steephill Castle Estate (see Section 12.7) but was presented to the town in 1898. It is a traditionally landscaped park with a stream, herbaceous and shrub bedding and annual bedding. The Park contains a lodge (now privately owned) and a bandstand which originally belonged to Ventnor Pier and was relocated to the park in 1903. There are views out from the park over the English Channel.

    - As noted in Section 9.2, Ventnor Park became 'Park of the Year' and won a gold medal at the South and South East England in Bloom award ceremony in 2014 when it was described as 'the quintessential Victorian park and the jewel in the crown of the Island's parks'.

Some public parks and gardens are on historic sites where their C20 characteristics form overlays to earlier design layouts, although most have modern play or recreational facilities.

- **Northwood Park** (LL) was formerly the pleasure grounds associated with Northwood House (see Section 12.6). The house and grounds were presented to Cowes Urban District Council by the Ward family in 1929. The park, now owned and maintained by the Northwood House Charitable Trust, retains the framework of the C19 pleasure grounds, contains mature trees and contributes significantly to the character of Cowes.

- **Church Litten** (LL) in Newport became a public park in the C20 but was formerly St Thomas's Graveyard, a burial ground dating from 1582.

    - The surviving arched stone gateway of the Elizabethan cemetery (LB II), restored in 1962, forms the entrance to the park which has mature trees and provides a historically significant green space close to Newport's town centre.
    - Adjacent to Litten Park is a small formal rose garden. This may be the work of the Milner White landscape gardening partnership of London which is known to have carried out work in connection with Litten Park Gardens in about 1960 (Isle of Wight Gardens Trust Records).

- **Appley Park** was formerly part of the Apley Tower estate which was created in the mid C19 (see Section 12.8). The site was acquired by Ryde Borough Council in the C20 and a public park was created after World War II.

    - Today, Appley Park (*) contains a mixture of wooded parkland and open grassland. The northern edge of the park is defined by a promenade running along the sea wall where the folly of 'Appley Tower' (LB II) is sited.
    - Appley Park contributes to the seaside character of Ryde and provides a historically significant green space.

- **Puckpool Park** originally lay within the grounds of a C19 Swiss style cottage orné built in 1822 (see Section 12.8). The estate was purchased by the War Department in the mid C19 in order to build a Battery. Later, the site was later split between the house and grounds which became a holiday camp and the Battery which became a public park in the late 1920s.

- Today, Puckpool Park contains a lodge (now privately owned), entrance gates, a former barracks building and Puckpool Battery which is a Scheduled Monument.

- **Los Altos** (*), sandwiched between the residential areas of Sandown and Lake, originated as a small area of private parkland laid out in the late C19 (see Section 12.8). It is first shown as a public park on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey published in the 1970s.

- **Rylstone Gardens** (LL), opened by Shanklin Urban District Council after 1914, is located on the south side of Shanklin Chine. It occupies the former pleasure grounds of Rylstone House, a villa dating from the 1860s (now Rylstone House Hotel LB II) and contains a Swiss chalet (LB II) of c.1880 (see Section 12.8). The gardens possess mature trees, have views into Shanklin Chine and out to the English Channel, and contribute significantly to the character of the Shanklin Conservation Area.

- **Tower Cottage Gardens** are located on the north side of Shanklin Chine and occupy the grounds of an early C19 cottage orné illustrated in an engraving of Shanklin Chine by George Brannon. These gardens were purchased by Shanklin Urban District Council in the early C20. The historic path layout survives, including a perimeter walk around the top of the chine which provides glimpses down through mature trees into and across the chasm below.

Ryde *contains two significant local* ***green spaces*** *at St John's Park and Vernon Square. These two sites are very different in character but both originated as private landscaped grounds. Neither has public right of access although an unofficial path used by the public crosses St John's Park. Vernon Square is owned by a local amenity society and is generally open to the public but can be shut at will.*

- **St John's Park** (LL) originally formed part of the mid C19 St John's Park housing development, built on part of the St John's estate and providing a communal but private park for owners of the surrounding villas (see Section 12.8).
  - Today, St John's Park remains undeveloped but a lack of management has allowed secondary woodland to colonise the former lawned areas and large trees are now competing for light. However, the iron railings delineating the park still survive as do the gateways into the park with their stone gate piers.
  - Although much of its former designed aspect has been lost, St John's Park contributes significantly to the character of the surrounding area and is a unique local example of a 'communal but private' park. The special character of the park has been recognised by its inclusion in the St John's Park Conservation Area (Isle of Wight Council 2011b).

- **Vernon Square** (LL) started life as a private space forming the front garden of Vernon House, built c.1830, but is now maintained as a publically accessible garden by the Vernon Square Preservation Society. London has many public squares which provide local green space but Vernon Square is unique on the Isle of Wight in having this character.

In addition to public parks and gardens the Island contains other green spaces representing a variety of historic landscape types.

- Former **greens and commons** provide links with past land use and new **public open spaces** provide informal recreation sites and habits for wildlife. Examples include **Colwell Common**, **School Green** at Freshwater, **Yarmouth Common**,

Fishbourne Green, **Play Lane Millennium Green** near Ryde, **St Helens Green** (Isle of Wight Council 2007c, 2-5), **Lake Common** and **Big Meade** at Shanklin (Isle of Wight Council 2011c, 25-28).

- Other informal open spaces are remnants of former designed landscapes such as the **Springhill Woods** at East Cowes, originally part of the Springhill estate (see Section 12.8), the **'Zigzag'** at Mornington Road, West Cowes (possibly associated with Stanhope Lodge) and **Pelham Woods** at St Lawrence, formerly within the grounds of Sea Cottage/Marine Villa (see Section 12.7).

- **Bonchurch Landslip** was originally rough grazing land belonging to Bonchurch Farm but became a picturesque tourist attraction in the C19.

    - A path through The Landslip is shown on the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map (*c.*1876-1885) and additional paths are shown on later maps. A 'seat' formed of natural stone and known as the 'Wishing Seat' is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey and still survives. A natural rock formation called 'The Devil's Chimney' visited by early tourists also survives to the present day.
    - The Landslip was purchased by a consortium of local councils during World War I and has been managed as a public amenity since that date.
    - In 1925 new ground was acquired at the top of the Landslip, comprising an area of shrubs and fruit trees, and a small bungalow on which an extension was built for use as a tea room. This area, known as **Smugglers Haven** from 1946, was opened to the public and a putting green was provided.
    - A structure at the south end of Smugglers Haven was probably built as a viewing platform. A tower at the eastern edge of the site may have been a 'prospect tower' associated with the designed landscape at Eastdene. Smugglers Haven, which is still extant, is an unusual local example of a tea garden

***Public Squares** often contain only 'hard landscaping' features such as paving and street furniture but may also contain ornamental planting, trees and monuments.*

- **St Thomas Square** and **St James Square**, in Newport, originally formed part of the layout of the planned medieval town (see Section 12.3). St Thomas's Square, the site of medieval markets, contains the parish church and a war memorial and is now once again the home to weekly markets. St James was used as a market place in the early C20 and contains the Queen Victoria Memorial (Lloyd and Pevsner 178-181).

- **Yarmouth**, like Newport, was a planned medieval town and **'The Square'** formed part of the town's layout. It consists of a broad north-south street containing the small town hall of 1763 (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 308).

- **St Thomas's Square** in Ryde, adjacent to a C19 church on the site of an early C18 chapel, was once a green space adjacent to the settlement of Upper Ryde before the present town was developed from the late C18 (Isle of Wight Council 2011d, 16).

- **Moa Place**, Freshwater (LL), at the junction of School Green Road and Brookside Road, is a purpose built decorative terrace of shops with flats over in red brick with a central clock pediment and feature gables. It was constructed by a Mr Scierry in 1896 on his return from New Zealand and is associated with a small triangular

green. This green is shown on the six inch Ordnance Survey drawing of 1793-4 and may be a remnant of a much larger green.

12.11 Seaside Gardens and Promenades

From soon after the emergence of sea-bathing and seaside resorts in the C18, gardens were used to enhance the genteel settings desired by promoters and visitors alike. One early example is the Pleasure Gardens in Bournemouth (Dorset; registered Grade II), laid out down the sides of the Bourne Stream from the 1840s.*

In the later C19 gardens running alongside elevated sea-edge promenades became commonplace, typically enlivened with spectacular summer displays of formal floral bedding.

The English seaside remained a favoured destination in the first half of the C20, and resorts continued to invest in gardens and landscaping. The 1930s saw the introduction of modernist and Art Deco-style pavilions, lidos and designated bathing stations. Their setting consisted predominantly of hard landscaping with walks, sun terraces, balustraded promenades and lawns, with limited planting (English Heritage 2013b, 9-10).

The Isle of Wight has had a reputation as a bathing resort and holiday destination from the late C18 but does not have large seaside pleasure gardens comparable with Bournemouth. Nevertheless, the main resorts do have esplanades or promenades, often associated with small seaside gardens and piers. (Historic piers survive today at Yarmouth, Ryde, Sandown and Totland but those at Seaview, Shanklin and Ventnor no longer exist.) Moreover, many of the public parks and municipal gardens described in Section 12.10 are in coastal locations and are used by tourists as well as by local residents.

Children's playgrounds are provided both within the Island's public parks and within seaside pleasure gardens but boating lakes, miniature golf ranges, crazy golf facilities and commercial children's funfairs are associated particularly with its seaside gardens and esplanades.

The large-scale commercial attractions at Blackgang Chine (see Section 12.7) and the Needles Pleasure Park are associated with Isle of Wight seaside holidays and could be considered as landscapes designed for pleasure but are outside the remit of this study.

Some research into seaside gardens and promenades has been done by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust but more remains to be done. Conservation Area Appraisals by the Isle of Wight Council also describe some seaside gardens and promenades.

- **Princes Green** (LL) in Cowes is a grassed open space sloping down from Queens Road to the seafront promenade of Egypt Esplanade and providing Solent views. It was presented to the town of Cowes in 1863 by George Stephenson to mark the occasion of the wedding of the Prince of Wales (the future Edward VII) to Princess Alexandra of Denmark. By the late C19 Princes Green had a fountain (cast by the Saracen Foundry of Glasgow), a bandstand and a 'Statue of Liberty' (now in Northwood Park). Shelters located on the edge of the promenade were provided n the early C20. The fountain (LBII) and shelters survive.

- **Egypt Esplanade** at Cowes was laid out by the Local Board of Health in 1894 and Victoria Parade was constructed to mark the Diamond Jubilee in 1894. Princes Esplanade, linking Cowes and Gurnard, was built in the early C20.

- **East Cowes Esplanade** was extended in the early C20 when Sir George Shedden presented the Council with a stretch of sea frontage from his Springhill estate.

- **Esplanade Gardens** at Ryde (*), later known as Eastern Gardens, were laid out on land which was reclaimed from the sea in the 1850s or later. The gardens are first marked on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1897/8 which shows curving paths, a bandstand, fountain and shelters (Isle of Wight Council 2011d, 9-14). The fountain is thought to be the only example of artificial stonework by Pulham and Sons on the Isle of Wight.

    - A pavilion of Art Deco style by McFarlanes of Glasgow was built within the Esplanade Gardens in 1926-7. Much of the designed layout of the gardens was lost after World War II but the site remains in use as public gardens. The pavilion (LB II) survives (now attached to a late C20 bowling alley) as does the fountain, although not in its original location.

- **Ryde Boating Lake** (*) lies to the east of the Esplanade Gardens. It was constructed in 1880 when the esplanade was extended from Cornwall Street to Appley Slipway and survives to the present day.

- The **Western Esplanade** at Ryde lay to the west of the pier and was developed from 1900.

- **Sandham Grounds** (*), located at the northern end of Sandown's seafront on Culver Parade, is on the site of the former Sandham Fort which was built between 1626 and 1649 to protect Sandown Bay. This was demolished in the early 1860s but it was not until the early 1920s that Sandown Council created the recreational facilities which opened in 1924. Shortly afterwards, the attractions of Sandown Canoe Lake and Brown's Family Golf Course were developed nearby.

    - The significance of Sandham Grounds lies in the fact that it is a rare example of early C20 municipal design on the Isle of Wight. It has a strong axial layout and hierarchy of ornamental and recreational spaces which survive, albeit with new recreational uses and equipment. The axial layout of the recreation ground is in strong contrast to, and deliberately shielded from, the generally informal open character of the seafront, with the design punctuated by the novel, two-storey pavilion/bandstand designed to provide views out to sea, over the park and to the inland countryside beyond.
    - The close proximity of Sandham Grounds to Sandown Canoe Lake and Brown's Family Golf Course, both typical examples of early C20 seaside attractions, gives a 'group value' to all these sites.

- **Sandown Canoe Lake** (*), sited to the north-east of Sandham Grounds, was built in 1929. It became a substantial commercially-run visitor attraction and the location for an annual sports day/regatta.

    - During World War II equipment for the PLUTO pipeline was housed in the cafe/bakery buildings at the canoe lake.
    - After the war the canoe lake became part of Brown's Golf Course but was later run by South Wight Borough Council and then the Isle of Wight Council. It ceased operation in the late 1990s and is currently unused.

- **Brown's Family Golf Course** (*) lies behind Culver Parade at the northern end of Sandown Bay, beyond the public park of Sandham Grounds and Sandown Canoe Lake.

    - The site was originally developed as a commercial tourist attraction in the 1930s and this is reflected in the distinctive wood and glazed tile clubhouse, the course layout and the two fountains.
    - A turbine house and ice cream works were located in two large outbuildings but during World War II these buildings were used to house some of the machinery for the PLUTO wartime fuel line.
    - Brown's Golf Course was altered in the late 1990s with the extension of the clubhouse building and the addition of a large new Dinosaur Isle exhibition building. The Isle of Wight Council currently owns the golf course (which still operates) but in 2011 the running of the attraction was transferred to the nearby Isle of Wight Zoo.

- **Sandown Esplanade** lies on either side of Sandown Pier and is first shown on the 1898 25 inch Ordnance Survey. Historic sources illustrate the high quality of the Esplanade and the extent of natural stone paving (now replaced with tarmac). The original sea wall, steps, boundary railing and original width of the esplanade survive intact although the stone piers along the sea wall have been reduced in height (Isle of Wight Council 2011e, 14-21).

- **Sandown Bay** has a cliff-top walk with sea views. This walk runs from the south-west of Sandown Pier to Keats Green at Shanklin. Beside this cliff-top walk lie **Ferncliff Gardens** (a small public park which was formerly the private garden to a C19 house), Battery Gardens and Lake Cliff Gardens.

    - **Battery Gardens** (*) are on the site of a Palmerstonian battery (SM) built in the 1860s and associated with the adjacent Sandown Barracks. The battery was sold to the Sandown Town Council in 1930. The gardens feature terraced 'rockeries' and a circular plant bed created in the 1930s, using rubble from the Battery buildings. The seaward side of the Battery consists of the cliff path which is backed by the wall of the Battery. This wall has a number of seating areas recessed into it which afford panoramic views across Sandown Bay.
    - **Keats Green** (*) extends the route of the cliff-top walk almost as far as Shanklin Chine. It is named after John Keats, the romantic poet who made several visits to Shanklin in 1817 and 1819. This grassy cliff top space is backed by gabled Victorian buildings (including several hotels) and their private front gardens. The southern part of the green is shown on the 6 inch Ordnance Survey of 1862-3 but by 1898 it had been extended northward to Osborne Road.
    - **Keats Inn** (LB II), built in 1885, lies at the north end of Keats Green. This chalet-style building with iron-framed verandas and gables with fretted bargeboards was built as the Shanklin Club and is now residential (Isle of Wight Council 2011c, 20-24).

- **Shanklin Esplanade** runs southward from the bottom of Hope Road to the base of Shanklin Chine. The esplanade had been developed by 1898, partly on land reclaimed from the sea. Esplanade gardens and a putting green were developed in the early C20 between the esplanade and the cliff at the northern end of the site near Hope Road.

- **Ventnor Esplanade** existed by the 1870s and is shown on the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey.

- **Ventnor Cascade** (*) was designed in the 1890s by Edgar Harvey, Town Surveyor for Ventnor Urban District Council, and is now in the care of the Isle of Wight Council.

    - A stream (formerly associated with Ventnor Mill) plunges precipitously down towards the sea front beside the equally steep and winding road at Shore Hill, tumbling over ornamental rockwork amidst floral bedding.
    - This miniature recreation of a natural waterfall is unique on the Isle of Wight. It was included in the *Isle of Wight Unitary Development Plan* of 2001 (now superseded by *The Island Plan*) on a list of historic parks and gardens of local importance (Appendix D). However, it appears to have been omitted from the current Local List. The inclusion of Ventnor Cascade in the Local List is strongly recommended as it is a significant site within the category of *Seaside Gardens and Promenades.*
    - Immediately above Ventnor Cascade is the former **Winter Gardens Pavilion** (*) of 1935 by A D Clare, 'a smaller scale reverberation from the then new Bexhill Pavilion in Sussex' (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 287). This provides good viewpoints over the seafront.
    - Beneath the cascade is a 'Children's Boating Pool' shown on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1946-7, in the centre of which lies a model of the Isle of Wight.

- An informal coastal walk connects Ventnor Bay with Steephill Cove to the west and along the route of this walk lies an open space known as **Flowers Brook** (*) which formed part of the Steephill Castle Estate at the end of the C19 (see Section 12.7). On the eastern edge of the site was a small stream. This was planted up as an ornamental feature and the area was opened to the public.

    - Ventnor Urban District Council leased the site of Flowers Brook in 1910 and purchased it in 1919. Between the wars a pond and a bridge were constructed. Before and after World War II the area possessed a tea garden and a putting green.
    - The landscape at Flowers Brook was altered by coastal protection works in the 1990s but voluntary action in 2014 has led to the restoration of the stream, which flows down to the pond and the cliff edge over small waterfalls.

12.12 Landscapes of Remembrance

Funerary landscapes can be divided into eight distinct types: churchyards, denominational burial grounds, cemeteries, crematoria, war and military cemeteries, burial grounds attached to specific institutions, 'emergency' mass burial grounds and family mausolea in private grounds (English Heritage 2013c, 2).

Churchyards constitute some of our most sensitive historical open spaces and are often of early origin (English Heritage 2013c, 2-3).

- The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has not recorded any Isle of Wight churchyards and no examples of burial grounds attached to churches are included on the Council's Local List.

Epidemics and other mass death incidents which occurred in towns from the Middle Ages until the Second World War could lead to emergency burial grounds being established (English Heritage 2013c, 7).

- The public park of **Church Litten** (LL) in Newport (described in Section 12.10) originated as a burial ground dating from 1582 when Newport was hit by the plague.

Municipal cemeteries constitute a distinct category of designed landscapes which reflect the social order of the C19. 'As an important record of the social history of the area it serves, a cemetery may be said to contain the biography of a community' (English Heritage 2007a, 3).
Historic cemeteries also contribute to the overall landscape character of urban areas.

The origins of urban cemeteries date back to the 1820s and 1830s when the need for more burial space in towns and cities to supplement existing churchyards became pressing. Burial Acts in 1852 and 1853 empowered burial boards to establish these new cemeteries (English Heritage 2013c, 3-4).

Large early Victorian cemeteries on the mainland were usually laid out informally in the picturesque style with sweeping drives and serpentine lines of trees. John Claudius Loudon's book 'On the Laying Out, Planting and Managing of Cemeteries' (1843) *promoted a more utilitarian layout, often based on a standard grid pattern (English Heritage 2007, 8-9). Funerary monuments, chapels and lodges all contributed to the overall design and character of cemeteries.*

- The earliest municipal cemetery on the Island was laid out at Ryde in 1841 but most Island cemeteries were created after the Burial Act of 1853. Typically, these municipal cemeteries have specific areas devoted to Non-Conformist and Roman-Catholic burials

- Isle of Wight cemeteries are fairly modest in scale and their designed landscapes are less elaborate than some of the large urban cemeteries on the mainland but amongst the twelve municipal cemeteries which have been recorded by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust can be found typical Victorian layouts enhanced by planted trees and funerary monuments of many different types as well as lodges and gateways of historic interest.

- Five cemeteries are included on the Isle of Wight Council's Local List (**Carisbrooke**, **Northwood**, **Ryde**, **Shanklin** and **Ventnor**). Ryde Cemetery also forms a discrete Character Area within the Ryde Conservation Area).

- Friends' Associations now exist for the cemeteries at Ryde, **East Cowes** and Northwood (Cowes). All three cemeteries have received Heritage Lottery Fund grants for restoration projects (see Section 9.3).

In some parts of the country public parks, playing fields and avenues were laid out as 'living' war memorials after WWI and WW2 (English Heritage 2014b). However, the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has not so far identified or recorded any of these war memorial parks locally.

On the Isle of Wight war memorials are sited within public squares, churchyards and public parks (as at Northwood Park, Cowes).
In 1915 the Imperial (later Commonwealth) War Graves Commission was founded. One of its first tasks was to acquire land abroad and to construct cemeteries and memorials to the Fallen. The Commission created over 12,000 enclaves in the UK for soldiers who died at home of wounds, disease or accident, many attached to pre-existing civilian cemeteries. Of the UK sites, 416 are large enough (that is, with over 40

graves) to have the Cross of Sacrifice designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield (English Heritage 2013c, 6).

- **Parkhurst Military Cemetery** at Forest Road, Newport is War Department Property and is associated with the former Albany Barracks. It contains war graves of both world wars and after World War II a Cross of Sacrifice was erected (http://www.findagrave.com).

- Memorial stones to military personnel erected by the War Graves Commission can be found within the Island's municipal cemeteries.

Cremation was legalised in 1884 and an Act of 1902 empowered the construction of crematoria by local authorities but it was only in the 1930s that crematoria began to be built in larger numbers. The term 'gardens of rest' or 'gardens of remembrance' has been in use since the 1920s (English Heritage 2013c, 5-6).

- The Isle of Wight Joint Crematorium Committee was established in 1953. In 1959 Newport Borough agreed to the construction of the **Isle of Wight Crematorium** on a site near Whippingham Station. The first cremation took place in 1961.

    - The Garden of Remembrance at the Crematorium has developed over the years to provide two distinct and contrasting areas; the informally designed flower beds and shrubbery area containing roses, hydrangeas and specimen trees; and the natural woodside area with its bark pathway and meandering stream (Isle of Wight Council nd).

A new trend starting in the late C20 has been the development of woodland, or natural, burial grounds (English Heritage 2013b, 5).

- Two woodland burial grounds now exist on the Isle of Wight: **Springwood**, near Newchurch (on a site that was formerly farmland) and **Fernhill** which is on the site of a former landscape park at Wootton (see Section 12.6).
- There is also a 'natural burial ground' at **Headon Lea** in the West Wight (near the Needles)

12.13 Institutional Landscapes

The category of 'institutional landscapes' covers designed landscapes linked with various types of institutions including hospitals, asylums, religious houses, prisons, schools, local government buildings, utilities, industrial sites and military sites.

Nationally, the late C18 and C19 saw the development of a variety of purpose-built hospitals which were typically set in a rural environment for the benefit of the patients, often within landscaped grounds (English Heritage 2013d, 3).

On the Isle of Wight hospitals and asylums emerge as a significant group with designed landscape designations covering the former National Cottage Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest at Ventnor (NHL II) and Whitecroft County Asylum (Conservation Area). There are also designed landscapes of local interest associated with religious institutions.

- The **National Cottage Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest** (later the Royal National Hospital for Diseases of the Chest) at Ventnor was founded in 1868 at a time when open-air treatment for tuberculosis was beginning to be recognised as effective.

    - The basis for the layout at the hospital was ornamental measured walks: as patients improved, they could walk ever-longer distances.
    - Additional land was soon acquired, partly to retain open views to the sea, and partly for ornamental and productive purposes. The increased area of land also aided a new therapeutic 'graduated labour' treatment for patients who laid out much of the later structure (English Heritage 2002).
    - Milk, eggs, vegetables and fruit were produced, while specimen trees were planted, some by the royal family (English Heritage 2013d, 4).
    - Elements of the hospital garden layout survive within the Ventnor Botanic Garden, described in Section 12.9.
    - Ventnor Botanic Garden is designated on the National Heritage List because of its significance as the grounds of an early chest hospital.

- Hospitals for the local population built on the Island at various times since the mid C19 have included institutions at Ryde (Royal Isle of Wight Memorial Hospital), Newport (St Mary's), Havenstreet (Longford Hospital), East Cowes (Frank James Hospital LB II) and Shanklin (Arthur Webster Memorial Hospital). These hospitals have been described by Laidlaw (1994) and are listed on the Wootton Bridge Historical website (2014).

- Today, only St Mary's at Newport remains in use as a hospital. No general survey has been carried out of the grounds of former hospitals.

Asylums for patients with mental illnesses were established in Britain chiefly after the County Asylums Act of 1808 and the majority date from after 1845. Grounds were often heavily planted with specimen trees, sometimes had parkland accommodating sports facilities, and in some instances incorporated a cemetery. Not untypically there were productive gardens and even areas of farmland beyond the main grounds (English Heritage 2013d, 3).

- **The Isle of Wight County Asylum** at Whitecroft was built from 1894-1896 in a rural location within a landscaped setting to the south of Carisbrooke. It remained in use until 1992.

    - Following the closure of the asylum, a Whitecroft Conservation Area was defined and a Character Statement was prepared for the Conservation Area in 2004. This drew attention to the local associations and integrity of the site, the overall relationship of the buildings to the central clock tower (LB II) and the retention of most of the important structures on the site within much of the original landscape parkland setting, surrounded by mature planting including distinctive pine trees (Isle of Wight Council 2004b).
    - Some unsympathetic development took place at Whitecroft after the designation of the Conservation Area (Terence O'Rourke Ltd 2011, 10-11) but this has now been demolished and replaced with a more sympathetic scheme. The grounds are now being re-landscaped, the distinctive shelter belt of pines survives and the clock tower still dominates the surrounding countryside.
    - The grounds at Whitecroft are locally significant as an integral part of the Island's only mental asylum and because the integrity of the landscape remains substantially intact.

A Catholic revival in the mid C19 and the arrival of religious orders from France in the late C19 and early C20 led to the establishment of various religious houses on the Island. These often utilised existing buildings such as Appley House at Ryde which were set in extensive grounds.

- **St Dominic's Priory** (LB II) near Carisbrooke was built for Dominican nuns in 1865-6 by the Countess of Clare. It had an enclosed garden, part of this being a pleasure garden with specimen trees and part being a kitchen garden.

    - The priory at St Dominic's closed in 1989 and is now a Christian Healing centre. The garden remains in use (*) and the kitchen garden is one of only two Island walled gardens built for a religious order on the Island, the other being at Quarr (see below).

- **Quarr Abbey** (LB I), between Wootton and Binstead on the Island's north-east coast, is the home of Benedictine monks who came to England from France in 1901. In 1907 they bought Quarr House, a Victorian mansion with surrounding parkland (see Section 12.8).

    - New conventual buildings and an abbey church were soon constructed at Quarr. The existing designed landscape was modified (for instance by pollarded trees lining the drive leading to the abbey) and a walled kitchen garden was created.
    - The walled garden at Quarr (a curtilage listed building) is unusual for its large size, late date and association with an abbey rather than with a private house. It now contains ornamental planting and is in use as a tea garden.
    - The grounds at Quarr Abbey (*) constitute a locally significant site as an example of a C19 designed landscape modified to meet the needs of a religious community in the early C20 and remaining substantially intact.

National and local institutions other than hospitals that have existed on the Isle of Wight since the late C18 include the 'House of Industry'; prisons at Parkhurst, Albany (on the site of late C18 army barracks) and Camp Hill; and schools.

- The **House of Industry** or workhouse, on the site now occupied by St Mary's Hospital at Newport, was one of the earliest such institutions to be built in England and had extensive productive gardens but no trace of these remain. However, a late C18 or C19 wall which enclosed the 'boys playground' survives, as does a lawned area shown on the 1860s 25 inch Ordnance Survey map.

- The architectural interest of some of the prison buildings at **Parkhurst**, **Albany** and **Camp Hill** has been described (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 188-189) and some are Listed Buildings but no survey of the prison grounds has been carried out.

- No general survey of school grounds has been carried out but it is known that some schools are on the sites of former designed landscapes.

    - At **Medina High School** to the north-east of Newport, playing fields lie within the former grounds of **Fairlee House**, a C18 property which was demolished in the 1960s. The adjacent Medina Arboretum (*), created by Medina Borough Council in the late C20, also occupies land that was originally within the grounds of Fairlee House. This arboretum contains ponds, masonry foundations associated with Fairlee House and brick walls possibly associated with a walled garden. A track leading from Fairlee Road to the arboretum was originally the entrance drive to Fairlee House.

- **Cowes High School** was built in the 1940s within the former landscape park attached to Northwood House (see Section 12.6). The school has recently been rebuilt with new hard landscaping, planting and formal pools in front of the main entrance. A few mature trees from the landscape park survive within the playing fields.
- The independent **Ryde School** lies in the former grounds of Westmont, a C19 villa which still exists (see Section 12.8). Sports fields occupy the former pleasure ground to the north of the house.
- **Bembridge School**, another independent institution now functioning as part of Ryde School, was founded in 1919 on a coastal site with buildings dating from 1925 and later (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 81) - the chapel and New House being LB II. The landscape setting of the school requires investigation.

Local government and civic buildings, utilities and public infrastructure sites, military complexes, industrial and commercial buildings may all be associated with designed landscapes (English Heritage 2013d, 7-9).

- No surveys of these site types have been carried out by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust and the records of the Trust do not contain examples of designed landscapes within these categories.

- The Island has many fortifications of C19 date but these were mainly in exposed coastal locations and strictly functional in nature. However, **Fort Victoria Country Park**, maintained by the Isle of Wight Council, has a wooded cliff-top walk along a C19 military road occupying the former site of Norton Common.

12.14 Other Types of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Garden history deals not only with the grand or picturesque landscapes of the wealthy but also with the public parks and gardens, landscapes of remembrance and institutional landscapes described above. It also covers other types of land use which involve open space, gardens or gardening.

The desire of people to have access to a plot of land for food production or recreation led to diverse developments in the C20, including speculative developments, private suburban gardens and the provision of 'Council Houses' with gardens.

- In 1898 William Carter formed a company called Homesteads Ltd and bought 375 acres of land for development at **Cranmore**, near Shalfleet, most of it former brickyards or poor quality farmland. The land was divided into plots for 168 smallholdings and houses and several roads were laid out, linked at the Green. Little development took place until after World War I and even after 1918 development was piecemeal (Brinton 2006, 36).

  - Although it originated as a speculative venture, Cranmore has something of the nature of a 'plotlands' development (mainland examples being Canvey Island, Jaywick Sands and Peacehaven) where 'families made their own place in the sun, without benefit of councils, planners, architects, building societies, or even builders' (Hardy and Ward 2004). The roads and many of the plots at Cranmore, now containing houses, survive.

- The name of **Alverstone Garden Village**, near Newchurch, may have been chosen mainly for marketing purposes and there does not seem to have been any real connection with the 'Garden City' movement of the early C20.

    - In the 1920s a group of businessmen purchased Youngwoods Copse and offered building plots to those who wished to live in a new rural, well-wooded development.
    - There were plans for over 100 houses and bungalows, a village hall, tennis courts and pleasure grounds. However, only 17 houses had been built by 1933.
    - It was not until car ownership became popular that Alverstone Garden Village began to grow, finally taking off in the 1970s (Brinton 2006, 10).

- The landscape types represented on the Isle of Wight by Cranmore and Alverstone Garden Village should possibly be recognised by local designation although early C20 structures are intermingled with more recent properties.

***Allotments**, defined as plots to grow fruit and vegetables on, generally fall outside the Register definition of 'designed landscapes' (English Heritage 2013b, 5) but these plots are of significance in terms of social history, townscapes and village layouts and merit further research.*

- No survey of local allotments has been carried out by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust but such a survey might locate examples suitable for inclusion on the Local List.

***Nurseries** – enclosed ground for the successive cultivation of plants and trees – have, like allotments, been reckoned to fall outside the remit of the Register although it is possible that a national survey could identify examples which would merit inclusion (English Heritage 2013b). Similarly, commercial horticulture and orchards outside private gardens would appear to fall within the remit of agricultural history rather than garden history.*

- Historically, no large Isle of Wight nurseries concerned with the production of ornamental plants appear to have existed although local nurseries and horticultural businesses supplied plants to some of the Island's larger private gardens in the C19 and undertook work in these gardens. For instance, a nursery in Newport is known to have supplied plants for Weston Manor in Totland in 1870 when the grounds were being laid out for W G Ward (see Section 12.6). At Springfield (now Springfield Court) near Ryde the grounds at Springfield were landscaped from 1879 to 1880 by Dimmicks, a Ryde firm of Horticulturalists and Florists.

- Today, a nursery near Godshill is one of the UK's largest suppliers of fruit trees and bushes.

- It is highly unlikely that any Isle of Wight nurseries would merit national designation but nurseries, like allotments, form part of garden history and local history. No survey of historic local nurseries has been carried out by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust. It is possible that such a survey might locate one or two examples suitable for inclusion on the Local List although research is more likely to identify documentary evidence for the existence of these nurseries in the C19 and early C20.

- Commercial Horticulture in the Arreton Valley has been a significant aspect of Isle of Wight agriculture since the C20 with salad crops being grown under cover.

- In the 1790s Sir Richard Worsley tried to establish a vineyard at Sea Cottage in the Undercliff (see Section 12.7) although it is not thought to have been successful. Several commercial **vineyards** have operated on the Isle of Wight since the later part of the C20 and two still exist, one near Ryde and one near Brading.

- Historically, the Isle of Wight does not appear to have had extensive **orchards** growing fruit as a commercial crop although the 1st edition six inch Ordnance Survey of 1862-3 shows that many Isle of Wight farmsteads had small enclosed orchards, as did local manor houses, gentry residences and villas.

    - Today, few orchards are maintained on Isle of Wight farms and old fruit trees are not commonly seen within historic gardens. One location where old espalier apple trees can still be seen is within the historic garden at Northcourt Manor, near Shorwell (NHL).

Walled kitchen gardens *(also known as productive walled gardens) were important designed elements within domestic designed landscapes from the C17 to the early C20. Those that have survived either wholly or partly into the C21 provide physical evidence of varying design philosophies, landscape character and social organisation at different historic periods.*

- Walled kitchen gardens on the Isle of Wight mostly date from the late C18 and C19 (although there are earlier examples) and are generally associated with manor houses and villas. A Walled Kitchen Garden Project carried out by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust (2014) has now identified 98 examples, either surviving or known from map evidence. Newly identified walled kitchen gardens will be added to the IWGT database.

    - Thirty of the walled kitchen gardens identified by IWGT pre-dated 1800, 59 were constructed from 1800 to 1875, and nine were later. Most were small (less than 0.3 ha), their walls being built of a mixture of brick and cheaper local stone. Relatively few had ambitious ranges of glass houses. One or two sites, however, were on the grand scale, for instance royal **Osborne** and **Norris Castle**, where James Wyatt's combined home farm and walled garden is extraordinary, with crenellated walls and multiple turrets.
    - At least 12 of the Island's surviving walled kitchen garden are listed buildings or have listed features associated with them.

12.15 Structures within Designed Landscapes

It is important to understand the component parts of designed landscapes and the typical features within these landscapes including built structures.

The many types of structures that can be found within designed landscapes have been described by English Heritage (2011a, 7-11). These fall into overlapping categories relating to pleasure, utility and recreation.

Built structures relating to pleasure and decoration include: columns, obelisks, romantic ruins, temples, hermitages, grottoes, statuary, urns, sundials, pools, rills, fountains, cascades, ha-has, hunting lodges, banqueting houses, gazebos and summer houses.

Built structures of utility and decoration include: entrance lodges, gates and gateways bridges, ornamental paths and surfaces, garden walls, glasshouses, orangeries, vinehouses, game larders, ice houses, ornamental dairies, well houses, conduit heads, menagerie buildings, aviaries, kennels, dovecots and animal graves within pet cemeteries.

Built structures relating to recreation include boat houses, cold baths and plunge pools.

- Examples of most of these structures can either be found as surviving features within designed landscapes on the Island or are known to have existed previously. The inventory of designed landscapes maintained by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust includes details of structures occurring within individual sites but no overall gazetteer of these structures has been compiled.

13.0 Future Research by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust and Other Bodies

Some of the site categories described in Section 12 require further research or are under-represented by designations on the National Heritage List and the Local List. This section discusses how future research by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust and other organisations could help to identify examples of designed landscapes in under-represented categories for designation at national or local level. It should be noted that there is some overlap between categories and some designed landscapes fall into more than one category.

- No definite archaeological evidence has been identified for ***Roman Gardens*** although the sites of several Roman villas (including those at Brading and Newport) are included on the National Heritage List as Scheduled Monuments. No *Roman Gardens* are included on the Local List. Any new evidence for this site category is likely to be discovered by archaeologists rather than by garden historians.

- ***Hunting Grounds and Deer Parks*** are represented in the National Heritage List by the C18 deer park at Appuldurcombe (possibly on the site of an earlier deer park) but no sites in this category are included on the Local List or have been recorded in the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust Inventory. Some information on sites in this category has been published (e.g. Basford 1989, 13-17, Chatters 1991) but fieldwork is required to ascertain what physical evidence survives and whether any sites might be put forward for designation. The key deer park site for field investigation is that of *Great Park* (known as Watchingwell Park in the Middle Ages) but other medieval deer parks where documentary or botanical evidence is known would also benefit from field investigation. Parkhurst Forest also requires further research and field survey.

- ***Gardens of the Middle Ages*** represent a site category where any new physical evidence is likely to be archaeological in nature. Currently, the only Isle of Wight 'garden remains' in this category to be nationally designated are the tofts within the failed medieval borough of Newtown. (Much of the area of the planned medieval town at Newtown is a Scheduled Monument).No *Gardens of the Middle Ages* are included on the Local List. Documentary evidence is available concerning the gardens of Isabella de Fortibus and future research may possibly identify additional evidence for medieval gardens on the Isle of Wight either in the written record, as below-the-ground remains or as earthworks.

- ***Country House Gardens* 1550-1660 and *Country House Gardens 1660 to 1750*** have not been comprehensively recorded by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust. On the Island, these categories of designed landscapes are represented by manor

house gardens - grand country houses did not exist with the exception of Appuldurcombe. The designed landscapes of Appuldurcombe, Nunwell, Northcourt and Swainston originated prior to 1750 and all are on the National Heritage List. However, surviving early garden features in these gardens make a significant contribution to present-day character only at Northcourt and to some extent at Nunwell. Sections 12.4 and 12.5 have identified other manor house gardens with components of early date but a thematic survey is required in order to establish whether additional sites merit designation.

- Eight of the nine designed landscapes on the National Heritage List fall wholly or partly into the category **of *Landscape Parks and Country House Gardens from the mid C18*** (Appuldurcombe, Norris, Nunwell, Northcourt, Osborne, Swainston, Westover and Woodlands Vale). This category is also well represented on the Local List. Moreover, *Landscape Parks and Country House Gardens from the Mid C18* have been well-researched by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust, at least in terms of their historic development. However, the effective conservation of parkland in agricultural use may require additional work including site surveys of existing parkland areas and relict parkland features, preparation of maps and photographs showing historic cores and preparation of statements of significance. These measures might make it easier for parkland to benefit from agri-environmental payments (see Part 1: Section 8.5).

- ***Gardens associated with Marine Villas and Cottages Ornés*** are not represented on the National Heritage List. Certain gardens within this category are potentially of national significance (e.g. Puckaster House and Shanklin Chine) although the integrity or physical condition of most surviving sites may preclude national designation. The sites at Puckaster House, Shanklin Chine and Luccombe Chine House are included on the Local List. This site category clearly merits further research in view of the Isle of Wight's importance as an area for the study of the Picturesque movement and the high percentage of the these gardens that are threatened by coastal erosion, particularly in the Undercliff.

- The only site within the category of ***Town, Suburban, Village and Coastal Gardens*** which is represented on the National Heritage List is Woodlands Vale. This category of designed landscapes is also sparsely represented on the Local List. Further research is required to ascertain whether there are additional sites in this category requiring designation. It is suggested that research may best be carried out as themed surveys of particular towns and villages.

- Ventnor Botanic Garden is the only site in the category of ***Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Gardens*** which is on the National Heritage List. Mottistone Manor Garden is the only site in this category on the Local List. However, other gardens on the Local List were remodelled in the C20 or have features of this date (e.g. Morton Manor, Steyne House). This category is perhaps a fairly low priority in terms of further research but future work might identify additional sites for inclusion on the Local List.

- The category of ***Public Parks, Municipal Gardens and Open spaces*** is fairly well represented by sites on the Local List and may not be a priority for further research. However, there may be additional sites in this category which merit local designation.

- ***Seaside Gardens and Promenades*** represent a category of sites which is particularly relevant to the Isle of Wight's history. At present this category is not

represented on the National Heritage List and is represented on the Local List only by Princes Green and Ventnor Cascade. Ventnor Cascade is a potential candidate for national designation. There also seems to be potential for more seaside gardens and promenades to be included on the Local List. A considerable amount of research into sites within this category has been carried out by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust but more work may be necessary to identify additional sites which merit local designation.

- ***Landscapes of Remembrance*** are not represented on the National Heritage List but are well represented on the Local List and have been subject to detailed survey by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust. It is possible that one or two additional sites in this category may merit inclusion on the Local List.

- ***Institutional Landscapes*** are represented on the National Heritage List by the single site of Ventnor Botanic Garden. This occupies the former grounds of the Royal National Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, which is the reason for its national designation. The Local List includes designed landscapes at Springhill (East Cowes) and St Cecilia's Abbey (Ryde). These became religious institutions (convents) in the C20 but have been designated on the basis of their origins as landscape parks. The early C20 grounds of Quarr Abbey are not included on the Local List at present but would merit designation. Whitecroft County Asylum has been designated as a Conservation Area. *Institutional Landscapes* have not been systematically researched by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust and future work may identify additional sites which would merit inclusion on the Local List.

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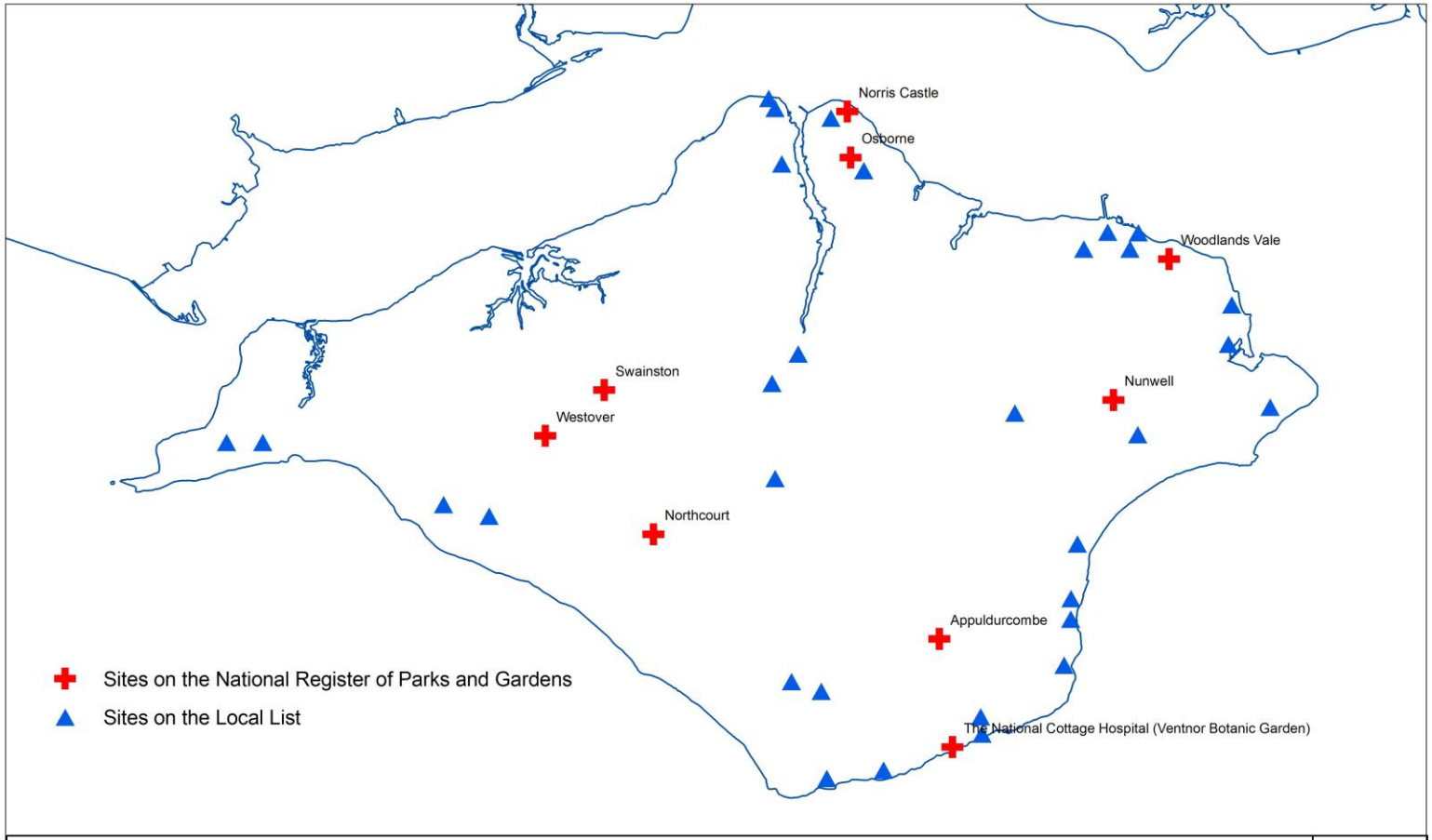

Map 1: National Register and Local List Designed Landscapes

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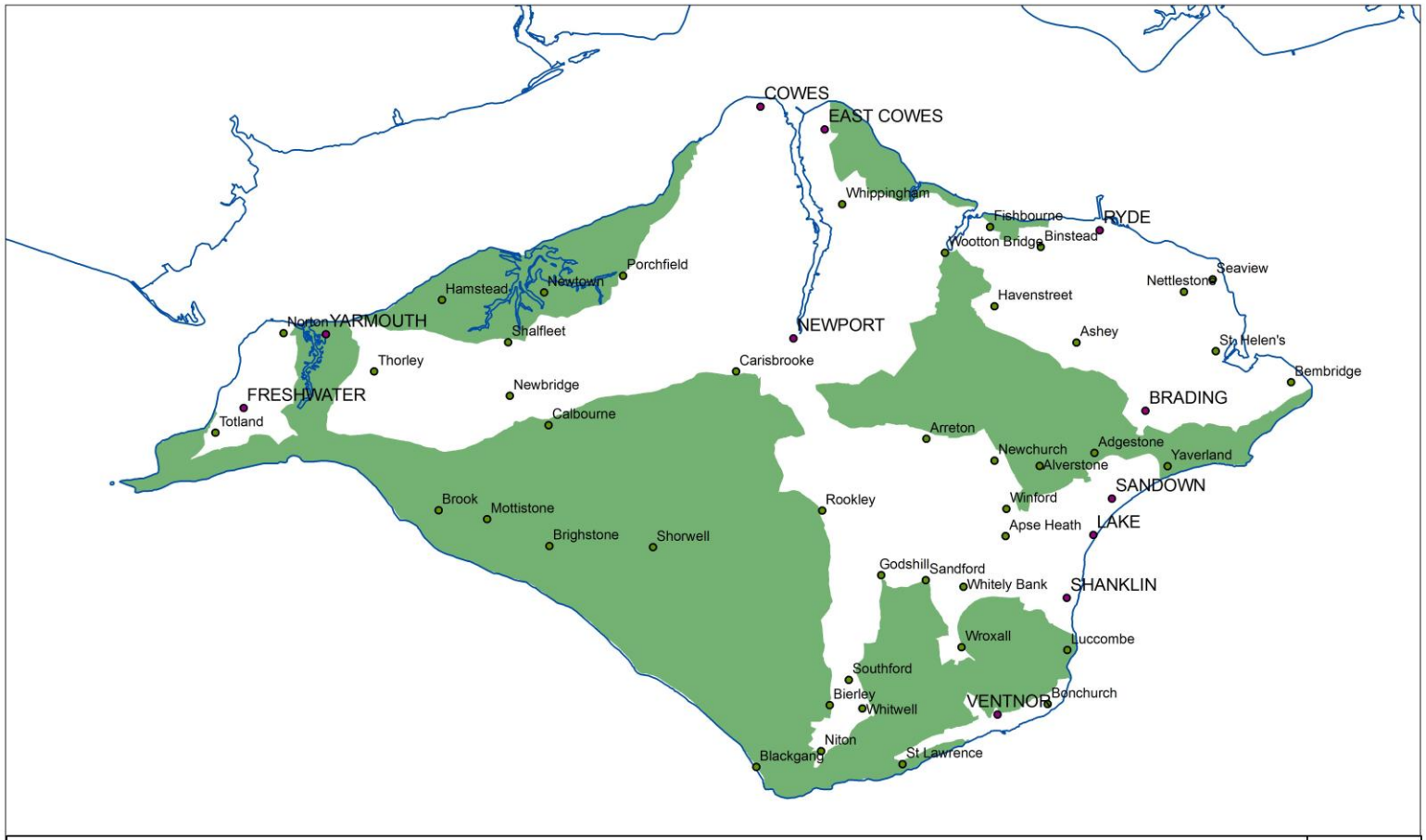

Map 2: Isle of Wight main settlements and Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

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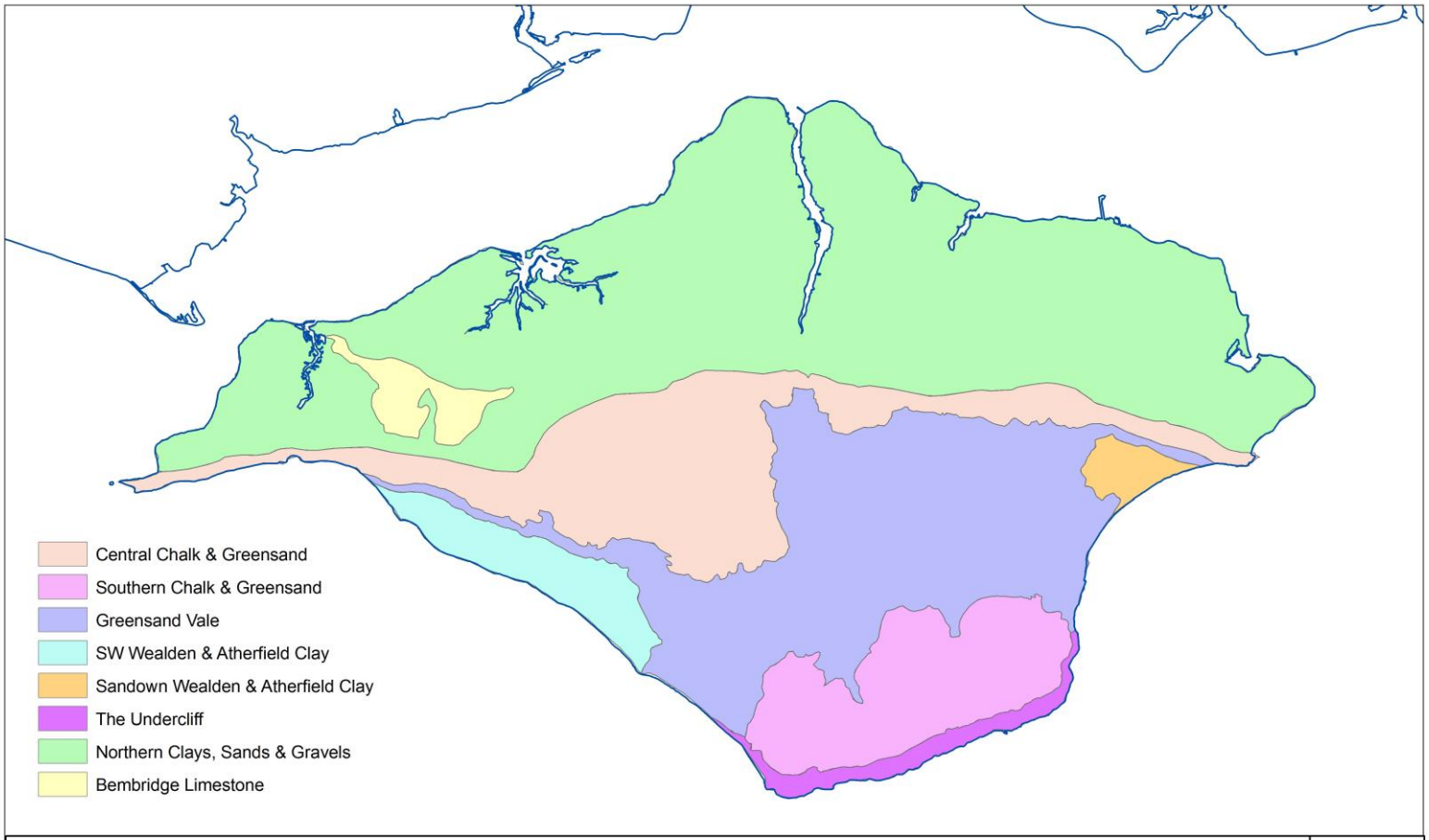

Map 3: Isle of Wight Physiographic Regions

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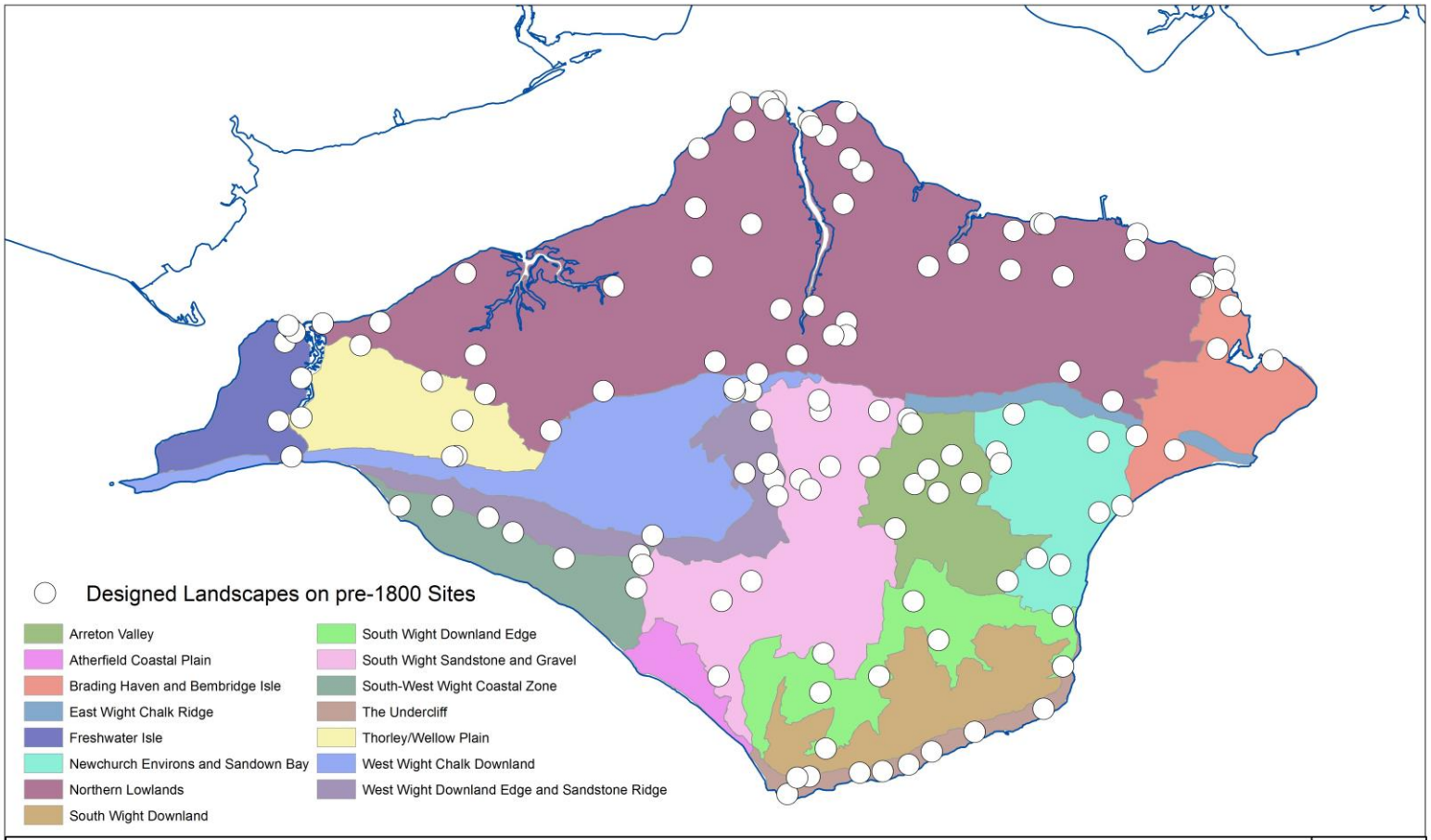

Map 4: HEAP Areas and designed Landscapes on Sites predating 1800

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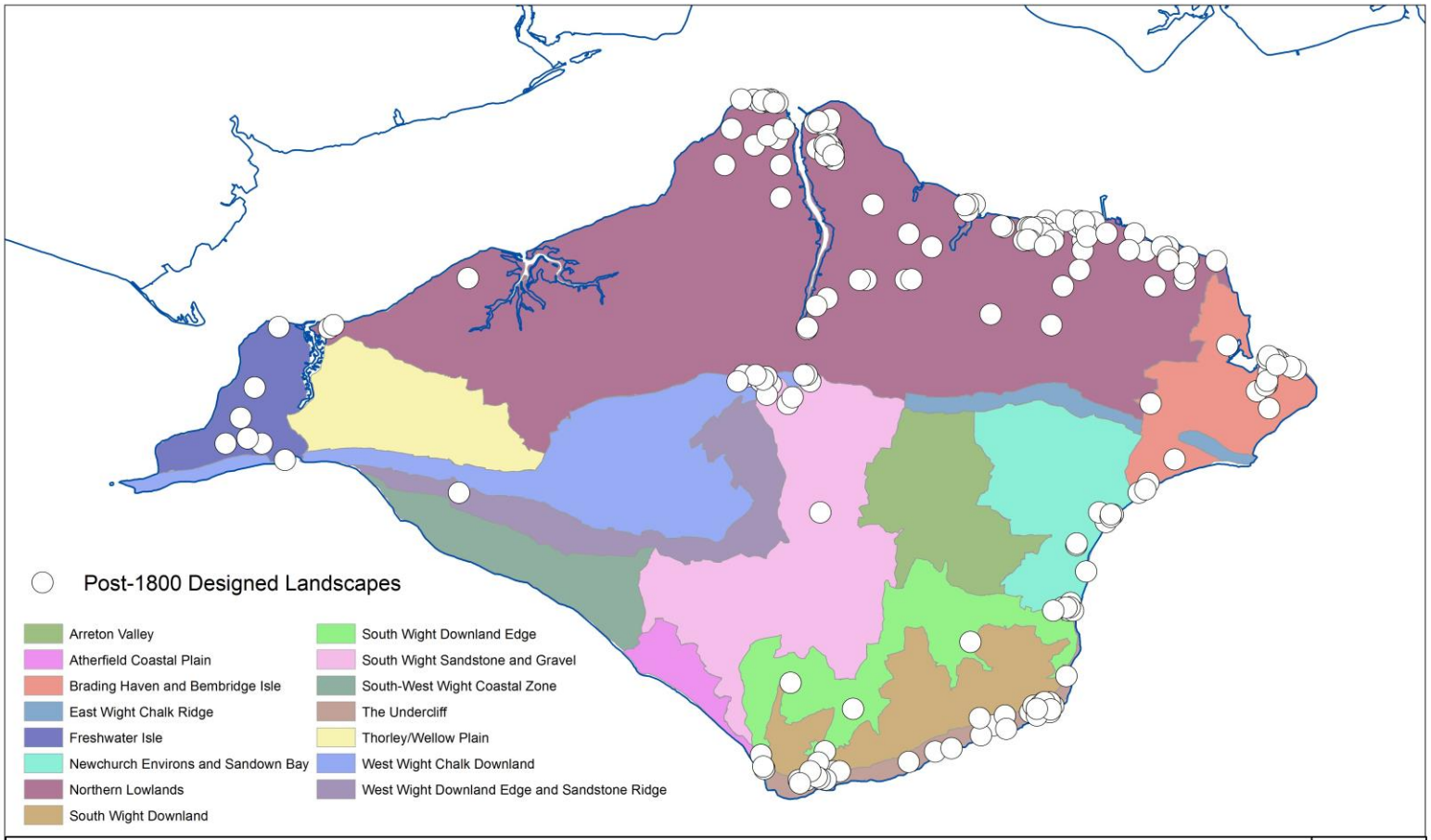

Map 5: HEAP Areas and Post-1800 Designed Landscapes.

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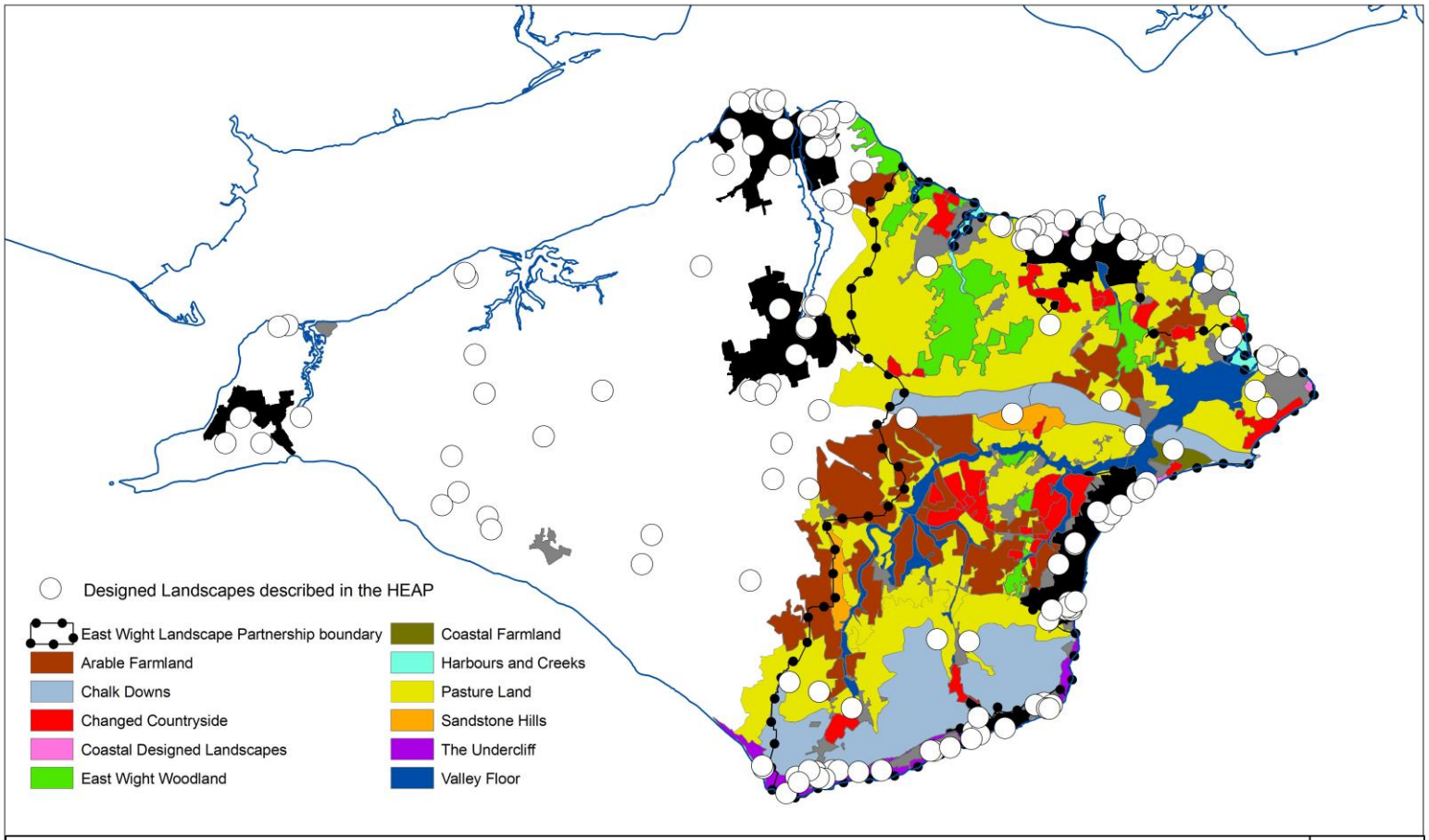

Map 6: EWLCA and Designed Landscapes described in the HEAP.

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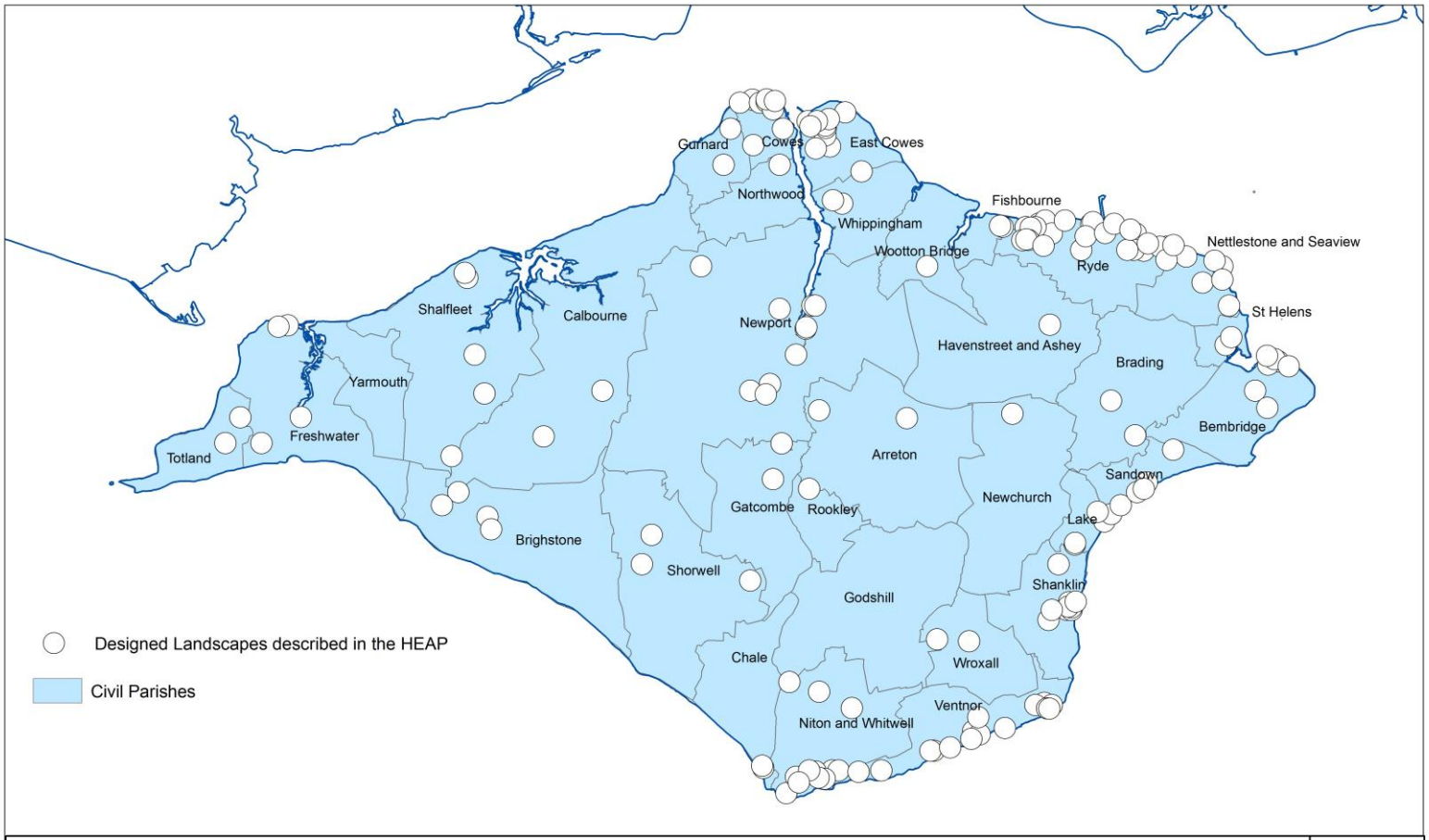

Map 7: Civil Parishes and Designed Landscapes described in the HEAP.

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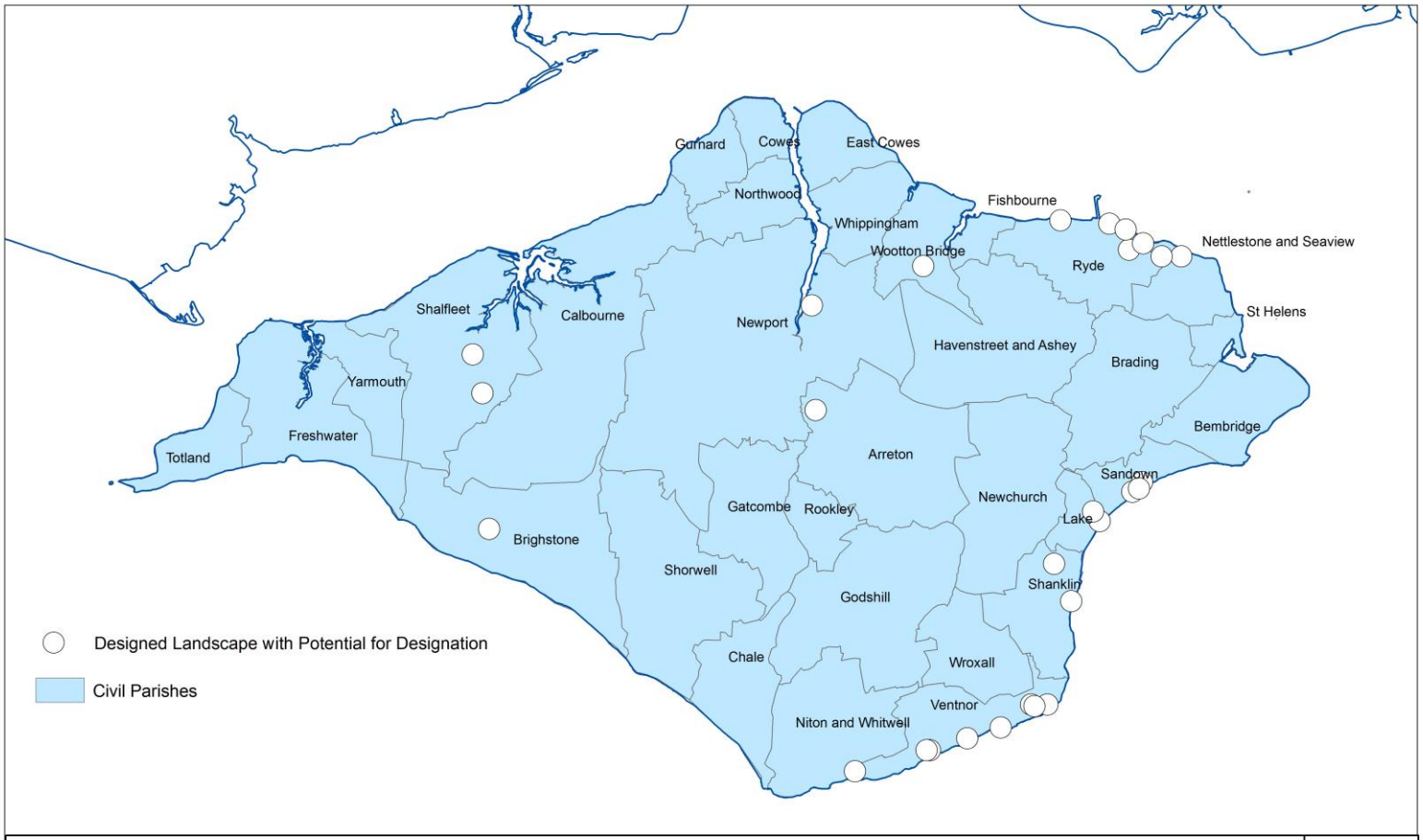

Map 8: Civil Parishes and Designed Landscapes with Potential for Designation.

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