

Myddelton House and Gardens

Conservation Management Plan

Phase 1



Prepared for

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

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CONTENTS

Executive Summary

User's Guide

Amendment Sheet

1.0	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Brief Description and Use of the Site	
1.2	Proposed Extension to the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Headquarters	
1.3	The Brief	
1.4	Statutory and Non-Statutory Designations	
1.5	Purpose and Scope	
1.6	Preparation	
1.7	Consultations	
1.8	Limitations	
2.0	UNDERSTANDING THE SITE.....	6
2.1	Description of the site	
2.2	Chronology of the site	
3.0	EVOLUTION OF THE SITE.....	25
3.1	Period 1: pre-1818	
3.2	Period 2: 1818 - c1890	
3.3	Period 3: c1890 - 1954	
3.4	Period 4: 1954 - 2003	

Contents

4.0	SIGNIFICANCE	73
4.1	General Statement	
4.2	Natural features: Geology, Topography and Nature Conservation	
4.3	Designed features: Archaeology, Buildings, Structures, Landscape and Setting	
4.4	Historical Importance: The Four Main Themes	
5.0	ISSUES AND POLICIES	86
5.1	Understanding the Significance of the Site	
5.2	Natural features: Geology, Topography and Nature Conservation	
5.3	Designed features: Archaeology, Buildings, Structures, Landscape and Setting	
5.4	Historical Theme 1: Before the building of Myddelton House	
5.5	Historical Theme 2: The New River	
5.6	Historical Theme 3: Social, Community and Educational Use	
5.7	Historical Theme 4: E.A. Bowles' Plant Collection	
6.0	GAZETTEER	96
6.1	Introduction	
6.2	Structure	
6.3	Using the Gazetteer	
6.4	Outline Discussion of the Findings	
6.5	Gazetteer	
Appendix A: Bibliography		
Appendix B: Attached Figures		
Appendix C: Statutory Designations		

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

In March 2003, the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) commissioned Cazenove Architects in association with Sarah Couch; Architect and Historic Landscape Consultant, to prepare the first phase of a Conservation Management Plan for Myddelton House and Gardens in Enfield, North London.

Myddelton House and Gardens consist of an early nineteenth century private house and a later garden landscape associated with the important horticulturist E.A. Bowles. The site contains various Grade II Listed Buildings and Structures - including the house, while the gardens are designated as a Grade II Registered Landscape. The site is located within the London Green Belt and the Enfield Chase Area of Special Character as well as partly residing in the Forty Hill Conservation Area.

The House and ancillary buildings form the headquarters for the Park Authority with the gardens being selectively open to the public. A former private meadow behind the house is leased by the Authority for use as private sports fields.

Phase 1 of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP1) is part of the Authority's on-going stewardship and development of the site in accordance with their desire to centralise their headquarters at Myddelton House. It will be used to ensure that any future development of the site will not prejudice any part of the site's heritage value by directing the development to less sensitive areas.

Phase 2 of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP2) is to follow CMP1, with the intention to identify future management proposals and scope for the development of the site.

The CMP1 has followed the recommended methodology for Conservation Management Plans as prescribed in Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage guidance; first developing an understanding of the site and its assets, assessing the significance of the site, assessing the vulnerability of important areas or features, before then writing conservation policies to govern the future development of the site.

The research undertaken for the CMP1 has established four historic areas of interest or themes for the site:

1. The development of the site prior to the building of Myddelton House (pre-1818).
2. The construction and history of the New River (1609-1968).
3. The Bowles family and their opening up of the site for local community use (1818-2003).
4. E.A. Bowles' internationally important plant collection (1890-2003).

Executive Summary

The CMP1 examines the various management issues that arise from the present use of the House and Gardens and establishes a series of conservation policies which seek to ensure that the significance of the site can be preserved as an heritage, ecological and public asset.

The Plan is intended to be a flexible management tool, guiding day-to-day decision making and strategic planning through the application of its policies. To this end, the CMP1 should be reviewed every financial year to ensure its continued relevance.

User's Guide

Phase 1 of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP1) is designed to be a tool to aid decision-making on the site by identifying and recording all features of heritage value, together with features that are detrimental to the site, in order to manage the site in a manner that is sympathetic to the integrity or significance of its historical legacy: to conserve what is there.

Sections 1 to 3 describe the understanding of the site and its development; Section 4 outlines the significance of the site; while Sections 5 to 6 supply practical and theoretical guidance on how to manage and conserve the significance of the site.

Sections 1 to 5 of the CMP1 can be read as a whole, or specific sections can be consulted as required. Section 6: The Gazetteer is a detailed database of the site's heritage assets and should be referred to on an asset by asset basis.

When assets are mentioned in Sections 1 to 5, the Gazetteer reference number is noted as a three-figure number in square brackets next to the asset name, e.g. the Stables [013]. This indicates that more detailed information about the asset is included in the Gazetteer and guides the reader to its location.

An outline of the structure is provided to guide the reader to the relevant sections:

1.0 Introduction

A brief description of the site, its present and future uses, current designations and an outline of CMP1.

2.0 Understanding the site

A more detailed description of the natural features of the site and an overview of its history through a full site (and surrounding area) chronology.

3.0 Evolution of the site

A concise illustrated history of the site from its prehistoric origins to the present day use.

4.0 Significance

Defines the significance or importance of the site and its heritage assets.

5.0 Issues and Policies

The issues affecting the significance of the site and the policies required to address this significance.

6.0 Gazetteer

A comprehensive and detailed inventory of the site's assets – designed to be updated annually.

Appendix A Bibliography

Appendix B Attached Figures

Appendix C Statutory Designations

Amendment Sheet 1 (for example)

Date:

Description:

Example:

2.0 Understanding the Site

2.1.3 Geology

Add text amendments

1.0 Introduction

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Description and Use of the Site

1.1.1 General Description

The subject of this Conservation Management Plan is Myddelton House and Gardens, which comprises the remains of an early twentieth century garden landscape associated with the important horticulturist E.A. Bowles, and the surviving house, built in 1818 for the Bowles family.



Fig 1.1 Myddelton House viewed within the gardens, 2003

1.1.2 Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Headquarters

Located in Enfield, north London, the house and gardens form the headquarters of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) – responsible for providing leisure, sports and recreational facilities as well as conserving the environment, heritage and wildlife of the Lee Valley Regional Park.

The Park follows the flow of the River Lea for 25 miles from Ware in Hertfordshire in the north, to the River Thames in East London to the south. In 1944 Sir Patrick Abercrombie's Greater London Plan suggested the neglected valley of the River Lea "gives the opportunity for a great piece of regenerative planning.....every piece of open land welded into a great regional reservation." It took until 1966 for the vision to be realised by an Act of Parliament defining the Park boundary and the establishment of the Park Authority to manage it, financed through a levy on the Councils of Essex, Hertfordshire and London (now every London Borough).

1.0 Introduction

1.1.3 Public Access to the House and Gardens

Although outside the boundary of the Lee Valley Regional Park, the Authority has opened up parts of the house and gardens to the public, continuing the local community use of the site from when it was owned by the Bowles family.

1.1.4 Sports Use

The west of the site consists of sports fields, presently leased to a professional football club, which also includes a 1960's sports pavilion sub-let to a local children's nursery.

1.2 Proposed extension to office headquarters of the LVRPA

The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) intend to centralise their headquarters at Myddelton House. Since 1970, the Regional Park has been administered from two office locations; Myddelton House and Abbey Mills in Waltham Abbey. However, the two geographically distinct sites have inhibited the effectiveness of the Park's management.

The Park Authority's primary administrative centre has been at Myddelton House since 1968 and during that time, parts of the house and historic gardens have been restored and are now managed for public benefit. As a consequence of this historic commitment to Myddelton House and the need for a single headquarters location, members of the Park Authority have expressed a desire for the corporate headquarters to be achieved at Myddelton House alone.

Through consultation with Enfield Council, the Park Authority have decided, as part of the next stage in the on-going stewardship of the Myddelton House site, to undertake a Conservation Management Plan (CMP). The plan is to be split up into two separate phases with the initial phase being prepared to identify and record all features of heritage value at the site together with features that are detrimental to the site. As a result, Part 1 of the CMP (CMP1) will be used to ensure that any future development of the site will not prejudice any part of the site's heritage value by directing development to less sensitive areas.

Following completion of CMP1, a brief for Phase 2 will be prepared in order to identify future management proposals and scope for the development of the site in order to improve the heritage value, especially for visitors.

1.0 Introduction

1.3 The Brief

The brief for Phase 1 of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP1) was prepared by the LVRPA with advice from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). In particular it draws on the guidance contained in English Heritage's Conservation Management Plans for Restoring Historic Parks, HLF's Conservation Plans for Historic Places and Conservation Plans in Action (ed K Clark, 1999).

1.4 Statutory and Non-Statutory Designations

The site contains a number of Grade II Listed Buildings, including Myddelton House, and Listed Structures scattered around the gardens. Although the Listing descriptions refer to specific buildings and structures, it can be assumed that all other structures within their curtilage are subject to the same legislation. The term 'curtilage' can be taken to imply that all buildings and structures within the site boundary are protected and alterations or demolition may require Listed Building Consent.

The gardens are designated as a Grade II Registered Landscape. The Register of Historic Parks and Gardens is an advisory document produced to draw attention to important sites, and the inclusion of a site on the Register can be a material consideration in the determination of a planning application.

Part of the site falls within the Forty Hill Conservation Area, designated in 1968 and extended in 1987. As such, any alterations or demolition to any buildings and structures would require Conservation Area Consent. All trees within a Conservation Area are protected and would require local authority consent before removal.



Fig 1.2: 1832 Grade II Listed Wisteria Bridge, 2003.

1.0 Introduction

The site is also located within the London Metropolitan Green Belt and in a local Area of Special Character. In addition to these statutory designations there are a large number of other policies which are relevant to Myddelton House and Gardens with which proposals will have to comply. These are contained either within national legislation such as the Planning Policy Guidelines issued by the Government as PPG2: Green Belts, PPG 15: Planning and the Historic Environment and PPG 16: Archaeology and Planning; or Local Planning Policies contained within the Unitary Development Plan issued by the London Borough of Enfield in 1994 as the local planning authority.

1.5 Purpose and Scope of CMP1

Phase 1 of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP1) is primarily intended to identify and record all features of heritage value, together with features that are detrimental to the site, in order to manage the site in a manner that is sympathetic to the integrity or significance of its historical legacy: to conserve what is there.

As discussed previously, the preparation of the Plan was prompted by the need to assess the site owner's applications to the local planning authority for planning consent. As such, it reviews the history and ecology of the site and establishes why some of the remains are important, or significant and worthy of preservation.

The Plan will establish:

- What is understood about the site.
- What is significant about the site and why.
- How that significance is vulnerable or sensitive to alteration during the repair or development of the site.
- What policies need to be adopted to ensure that the significance is retained in any future work on the site.

The Plan is not concerned with economic factors though it recognises the need to establish sustainable uses and in some areas a need for urgent action to avoid the loss of the historic fabric.

1.6 Preparation

CMP1 has been undertaken by Cazenove Architects with Sarah Couch: Architect and Historic Landscape Consultant, on behalf of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA). The Plan has been developed between March and July 2003.

1.0 Introduction

1.7 Consultations

A number of statutory bodies, non-statutory bodies and individuals have been consulted with during the preparation of the CMP1; these are shown in more detail in the appendices. Regular sets of meetings have been convened within the LVRPA during the preparation of the CMP1 as well as presentations to the Bowles Society and the Myddelton Gardens Advisory Committee. There has been no public consultation beyond these local interest groups.

1.8 Limitations

The site has been the subject of research in the past, particularly with reference to the Bowles family history and the development of the gardens. Therefore, at the request of the LVRPA, no primary research has been done in connection with the Plan.

Due to this reliance on secondary sources - many of the images have been copied directly from other books, publications and, in particular, the Myddelton House Archive. All these sources are referenced within the Plan, however, copyright restrictions require that original contributors be contacted prior to any publication of the CMP1 beyond the confines of the Park Authority.

Several archive sources have been identified during the preparation of the CMP1 where research was desirable but not at present possible, either because they were inaccessible (e.g. E.A. Bowles' scrapbooks, now owned by the Royal Horticultural Society) or because the work was outside the scope of the present commission.

2.0 Understanding the Site

2.0 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

There is a wealth of historical information about Myddelton House and Gardens from the time of its association with the important horticulturalist E.A Bowles in the late 1800s, when he first began developing the gardens on the site, through to his death in 1954. Bowles was an interesting, extrovert character and wrote at length about gardening at Myddelton House in his published garden books: *My Garden in Spring*, *My Garden in Summer* and *My Garden in Autumn and Winter*. More recently, there have been several books and articles about the man himself and his unique, gardening lifestyle within the grounds of Myddelton House.

However, what is less well known and often ignored is that there is evidence for occupation in the vicinity of the site from prehistoric and Roman times. Therefore, it is important to understand the natural topography of the area and its wider context to help reveal why this particular site was chosen and how it has been developed.

At the other end of the scale, the development of the site over the last fifty years is less well documented. This apparent lack of knowledge of the recent history is a common problem when dealing with built and landscape sites of this nature. The writers of the Plan has been fortunate to have the services of some of the more long-serving employees of the LVRPA to address this imbalance.

This section of the Conservation Management Plan first describes the site via its location and the natural formation of the site through its geology and topography. This is followed by a full chronology of the site - and its surrounding context - to help build an historic overview of the site from its prehistoric beginnings up to the present day (2003).

Section 3.0 describes the evolution of the site in more detail, condensing the chronology into specific, recognisable development phases of the site.



Fig 2.1 E.A. Bowles standing on the banks of the New River c1950 (Hewitt 1997)

2.0 Understanding the Site

2.1 Description of the Site

2.1.1 Location

Myddelton House is located one mile north of Enfield town centre in north London. It sits in an area of rural landscape right on the outer reaches of the suburban development of Greater London, which spreads to the south. This rural area forms part of the London Green Belt and connects through to the Lee Valley Regional Park that extends down the River Lea towards the River Thames in the south. London's orbital motorway, the M25, cuts through the Green Belt about half a mile further north, and the A10 connecting central London to the north of England, runs nearby to the east.

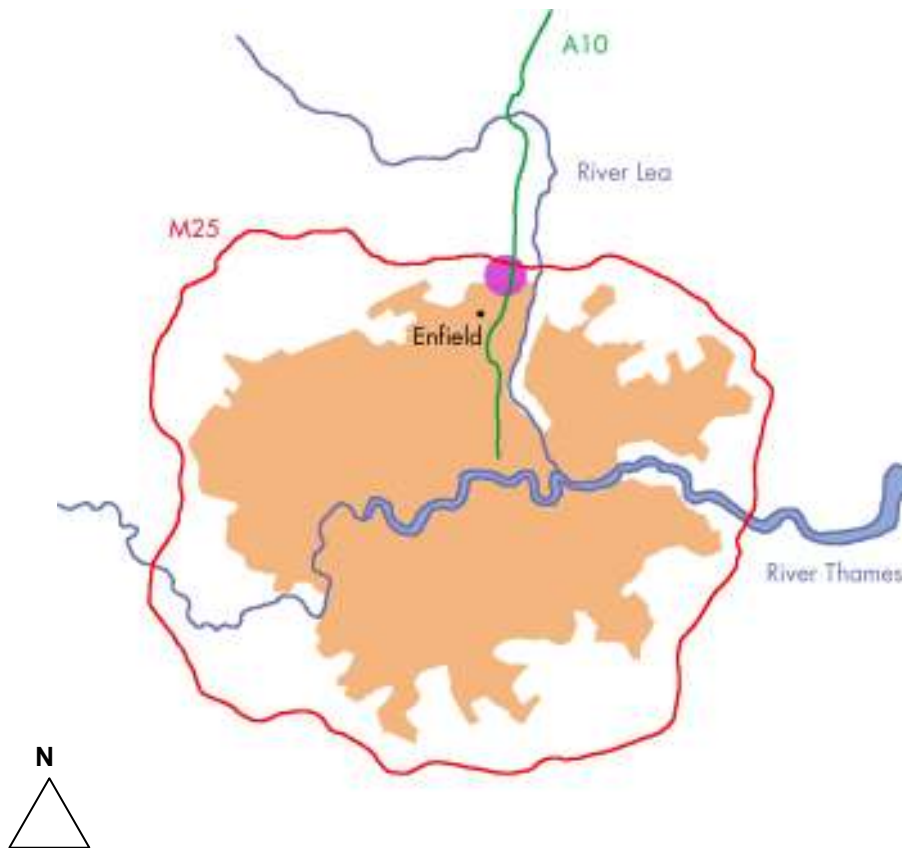


Fig 2.2 London-wide Location Plan

2.0 Understanding the Site

The immediate boundaries of the site are as follows:

- The north boundary is shared with Myddelton Farm to the north-east and several sports fields to the north-west.
- The south and west boundary is shared with the Forty Hall Estate, publicly owned by Enfield Borough Council.
- The east boundary is formed by the Bulls Cross road connecting Forty Hill to the south and Bulls Cross to the north.



Fig 2.3: 2003 OS Map showing the site location within the immediate vicinity

2.0 Understanding the Site

2.1.2 Topography [003]

The site is located on the north side of the valley belonging to Turkey Brook, a minor tributary running west to east towards the River Lea. The River Lea itself runs approximately north to south, from Hertfordshire into the River Thames in East London. The north side of the Turkey Brook rises between approximately 25 to 35m above sea-level from south to north, the slope becoming gentler as the height increases. The opposite, south side of the Brook, rises towards Forty Hill, at a height of about 50m.

2.1.3 Geology [003]

The geology of the site is formed by an outcrop of river terrace gravels located along the west banks of the River Lea valley, with London clay underneath. There are also alluvial deposits associated with the Turkey Brook to the south.

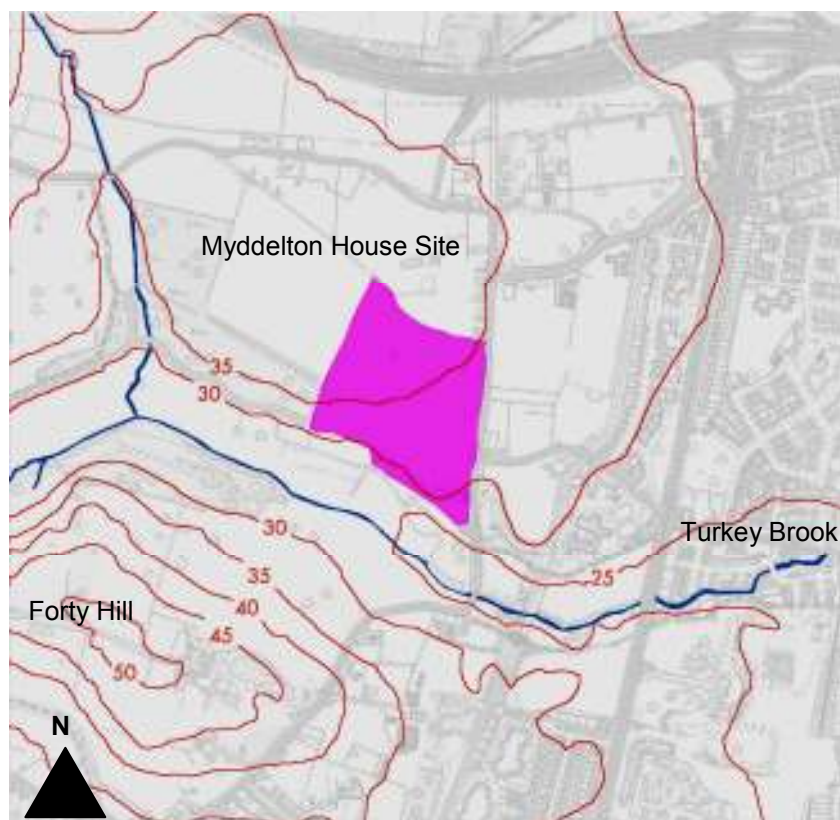


Fig 2.4: Local site topography

2.0 Understanding the Site

2.2 Chronology of the Site

The chronology of the site has been assembled from information obtained from various sources including maps, plans, publications, articles in periodicals, websites and local consultation - recorded in more detail in the Bibliography contained within the Appendices at the end of the Plan. Most of the text is based on previous written documentation that has been unearthed through the secondary research undertaken for the CMP1.

This historical information about the site would not be complete without reference to the surrounding area, in particular the Forty Hall Estate located immediately to the south of the site. Specific historic information has been drawn from the *Conservation Management Plan for the Forty Hall Estate* prepared for Capel Manor Horticultural & Environmental Centre and The London Borough of Enfield, by Broadway Malyan Cultural Heritage in 1999.

Prehistoric: The topography of the site and the discovery of archaeological finds, including Palaeolithic and Mesolithic implements presumably associated with occupation on the gravel terraces of Forty Hill, suggest that there may be some archaeological significance. Excavations at the Elsyng Palace site (see later) between 1963-1971 have uncovered several finds, including a circular wooden structure of Bronze Age date.

An examination of aerial photographs has revealed traces of what seems to be the remains of several enclosures of land to the north of Turkey Brook – possibly remains of pre-Roman or Romano-British farmsteads.

43-410 AD: Roman Ermine Street – the Roman Road that originally ran north from London to York passes immediately to the east of the Myddelton House and Gardens site – now known as Bulls Cross road. Circa C4 Roman coins have been found close to the line of the road at Forty Hill and an extensive Roman settlement has been found at Bush Hill Park about 2.5km south of the site. Further Roman remains have been discovered at Cheshunt Park to the north.

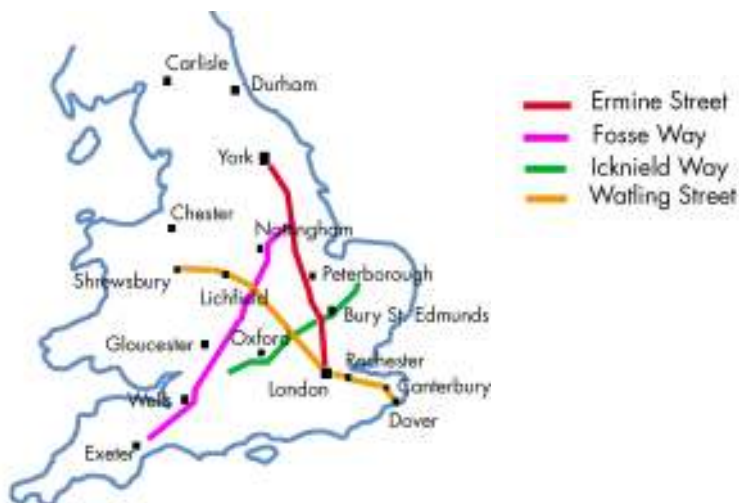


Fig 2.5: Roman roads of Britain c400 AD

2.0 Understanding the Site

800 AD: No significant Saxon or Viking finds near the site, although the River Lea formed the frontier separating Saxon England, led by King Alfred The Great, to the west and the invading Vikings, led by Guthrum, to the east. The Vikings are said to have sailed up the River Lea from the Thames in 895 AD, establishing a base at Ware in present day Hertfordshire.

1065: Enfield Manor and Enfield Hunting Estate (Enfield Chase) recorded in the Domesday Book compiled in 1086. Enfield was owned by Ansgar, Master of the Horse to King Edward the Confessor and to his short-lived successor Harold.

1066: Geoffrey de Mandeville was given the Manor and Estate under Norman re-organisation. He was one of the new King William's most trusted soldiers and it is believed that his ownership of the vast forests of the Enfield Chase was primarily a security arrangement to protect the King from any possible Saxon uprising from the north and east.

1347: The medieval Enfield Manor House was fortified – research and excavations have revealed its former site opposite St. Andrew's Church in Enfield Town.

1381: Elsyng Manor House first recorded when it was part of the holdings of Thomas Elsyng, Citizen and Mercer of London. The House was located to the south of Turkey Brook, within the present grounds of the Forty Hall Estate.

1492: Elsyng Manor re-built for the residence of Sir Thomas Lovell: Speaker of the House of Commons, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Constable of the Tower and Steward of the Royal Household.

1524: Elsyng Manor and Estate bequeathed to Thomas Manners, later Earl of Rutland. The Manor was then enclosed by 375 acres of deer park, taken out from Enfield Chase, known as **Elsyng New Park**.

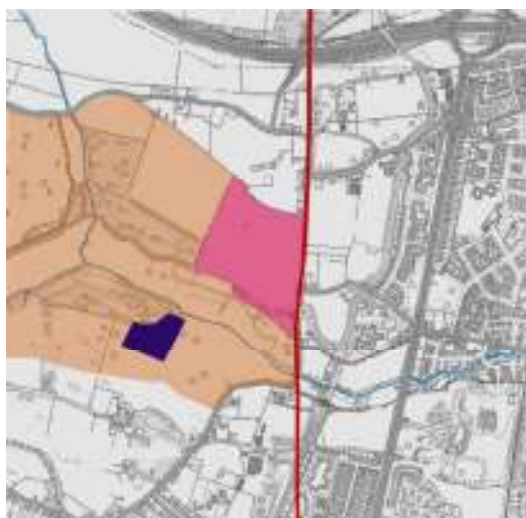


Fig 2.6: Location Plan showing the position of the current site & Elsyng Manor within the Elsyng New Park, from 1524.

2.0 Understanding the Site

1539: The Royal Palace of Elsyng - as part of the Manor of Worcesters, Elsyng Hall was exchanged with **King Henry VIII** for lands including thirteen manors and the monasteries of Croxton and Rievaulx, further north.

Over the following two years extensive renovations and additions were undertaken to the house and the grounds. The former Manor House was virtually rebuilt and extended to accommodate its new role as a Royal Palace. Large scale works were also undertaken to improve the grounds and the Deer Park.

The Palace was used mainly by the children of Henry VIII.

1558-1596: During this period **Queen Elizabeth I** gained extensive use of the Palace but by 1597 the buildings were reported to be in danger of collapse.

1608: Royal warrant from King James I instructed the dismantling of the Palace due to disrepair.

1609: Elsyng Palace repaired – in parts



Fig 2.7: Aerial photograph (2000) showing the location of Elsyng Palace remains to the south-west of the site (LVRPA)

2.0 Understanding the Site

1609-1613: Construction of the New River masterminded and mostly financed by Sir Hugh Myddelton (c1560-1631), taking water from Chadwell Spring near Ware, in Hertfordshire to the Round Pond of Clerkenwell in London – to provide a “fresh stream of water from the River Lee....to the North parts of the City of London” (Weinreb & Hibbert).



Fig 2.8: The New River Head waterworks and reservoirs at Islington with the London skyline behind c1730 (Weinreb & Hibbert, 1983)

The route follows the 100ft (now 30m) contour line along the west side of the Lea Valley and part of the Whitewebbs Loop was cut through Elsyng New Park - now through the southern part of the Myddelton House site.

It is said that the then owner of Bowling Green House had the loop diverted a few yards, creating a curve, to prevent the destruction of a Tudor yew hedge planted in about 1500. (Hewitt, 1997).



Fig 2.9: The New River within the Myddelton House Gardens c1920 (Myddelton House Archive)

2.0 Understanding the Site

1610-1611: Three bridges were built over the Maiden (now Turkey) Brook.

1616: Nicholas Rainton, a rich London merchant purchased the Manor of Worcesters from Hugh Fortey, immediately south of the Elsyng Palace Estate.

1629-1632: Forty Hall built and estate re-landscaped for the now Sir Nicholas Rainton, Lord Mayor of London.



Fig 2.10: Forty Hall 2001 (London Borough of Enfield)

1641: King Charles I sold Elsyng Palace to the Earl of Pembroke.

1656: Sir Nicholas Rainton purchased the ruins of the former Royal Palace of Elsyng, to be added as a landscape feature within his new park and gardens, attached to Forty Hall to the south.

1656: Bowling Green House first recorded, described as an Elizabethan property that was present on the site prior to the construction of the New River: a bowling alley near Turkey Street seems to have given the house its name (MRO Acc 16/8).



Fig 2.11: Painting of Bowling Green House (Parker Bowles collection)

2.0 Understanding the Site

1672: Blome Map of “Middlesex” shows enclosed forest to east of Morchatch - possibly Elsyng New Park.



Elsyng New Park

Fig 2.12: Blome Map of “County of Middlesex” 1672 (Enfield History Unit)

1678: Bowling Green House conveyed to Daniel Parker (London pewterer) (MRO Acc 39/1023-4).

1684: Garnault family fled France as Huguenot refugees, with fortune they had made as craftsmen jewellers. They purchased a large block of shares in the New River Company, enough to gain a controlling interest.

1720: Bowling Green House inventory of furniture and goods, recording the sale of the House. Bought by Michael Garnault (London jeweller) from John Johnson (London merchant) – copy from Enfield Archaeological Society.

The Garnaults went on to own properties and land to the north (now Whitewebbs Farm) and to the east of the present Bulls Cross road and along Turkey Street.

1739: River Lee Act that established a governing body for the administration, improvement and maintenance of the River Lea. This was partly due to the success of the New River Company and other water suppliers causing the springs at Chadwell and Amwell to dry up, significantly reducing the flow and volume of the Lea, thereby damaging the operation of the Lea bargemen and millers.

2.0 Understanding the Site

1754: Map of London by John Rocque generally shows properties in present location, north of the New River.



Bowling Green House

Fig 2.13: Detail from Rocque Map of London showing the Whitewebbs Loop of the New River, Forty Hall Lime Avenue and properties within the location of Bowling Green House, 1754 (Enfield History Unit)

1773-1785: Sale Plans for Eliab Breton's Forty Hall and Bulls Cross estates show the Lime Tree Avenue extended across the Maidens Brook and the approximate location of Bowling Green House (outside the Forty Hall Estate).



Bowling Green House

Fig 2.14: Forty Hall Sale Plans for Eliab Breton, 1785 (Enfield History Unit)

2.0 Understanding the Site

1809: Henry Carington Bowles (1763-1830) inherits Bowling Green House through his marriage to Anne Garnault (1771-1812).

1818: Myddelton House built by the architects George Ferry & John Wallen for Henry Carington Bowles. Bowling Green House was then demolished.

Myddelton House was named after Sir Hugh Myddelton, the man who was largely responsible for the construction of the New River that ran through the gardens. Henry Carington Bowles was a Governor of the New River Company and obtained a regular income from the water supply.



Fig 2.15: Myddelton House etching 1823 (Robinson)

1818-1867: Other ancillary buildings were built to service Myddelton House and the gardens. These included a stable block with a farmyard behind; a pavilion (later containing a billiard room and a museum) on one corner of the farmyard looking out over the meadow; an entrance lodge and gates; and a number of large glasshouses (with associated potting shed) within the kitchen garden.

1820: Building commences of a cast iron aqueduct to carry the New River across Maidens Brook.

1835: Jesus Church built for Christian Paul Meyer of Forty Hall on Forty Hill, just down the hill from Forty Hall.

1852: Henry Carington Treacher inherits Myddelton House through the female line on the condition that he assumes the surname of Bowles.

1859: The Dowcra aqueduct across Maidens Brook opened, straightening the route of the New River and bypassing the Whitewebbs Loop running through Myddelton House Gardens, making it redundant. However, water was drained 'backwards' through a sluice gate at the New River end of the loop and into the Maidens Brook.

2.0 Understanding the Site

1865: Edward Augustus Bowles born (14 May).

1867: OS map clearly shows Myddelton House & conservatory, stable block & yard, farm block & yard, lodge and kitchen garden potting shed & glasshouses. Landscaping layouts are also clearly indicated.

Forty Hall (including the Lime Avenue), Maidens Brook, the New River, Dowcra Aqueduct and Jesus Church are all visible. Across the Bulls Cross road are Myddelton Cottage (on the corner of Turkey Street) and The Garnaults (where the New River flows under the road).



Fig 2.16: 1867 OS Map (Enfield History Unit)

1870: Plan of Myddelton House Estate for Henry Carington Bowles – based on 1867 OS map.

1880: Myddelton Cricket Club formed, first recorded use of the site by/for the local community.

1888: Turkey Street Night School recorded at no. 88 Turkey Street.

1890: E.A. Bowles starts to develop the Myddelton House Gardens.

1893: E.A. Bowles began to develop the Rock Garden (Spring 1914).

1894: Forty Hall bought by Henry Carington Bowles for his other son (Colonel Sir) Henry Ferryman Bowles (1858-1943) who took up residence in 1895 (Allan 1973); re-uniting the estates north and south of the Turkey Brook as during the time of Elsyng New Park.

2.0 Understanding the Site

1896: OS map shows built additions to the north of Myddelton House and the north-east side of the Stable Block. The Stable Block Yard shows new access from the east. Myddelton Cottage across the Bulls Cross road is now called Winterton Lodge.



Fig 2.17: 1896 OS Map (Enfield History Unit)

1897: Numerous bridges (re-)built across Turkey Brook connecting the two properties within the Bowles' family: Myddelton House and Forty Hall, in particular where the Lime Avenue crossed the brook.

1898: Crews Hill Pumping Station opened to supply the New River with additional water via a pipeline that runs close to the loop. The pipeline was later used to supplement the water supply to the Old Course of the New River through the Myddelton House garden.

1900: Diamond shaped pier from Gough House (owned by HCB Bowles) moved to Myddelton House: wall built adjoining pier, known as 'Irishman's shirt'. (Allan 1973)

1904: Old Enfield Market Cross (from 1826) moved to Myddelton House as centrepiece for Rose Garden (Allan 1973).

1907: Rock Garden extended (Hewitt 1997)

1910: Gertrude Jekyll visited Myddelton House twice. E.A. Bowles began to contribute to the new Rock Garden at Wisley (Allan 1973).

2.0 Understanding the Site

1913: OS map shows built additions to the farmyard and the west of the Lodge and the position of the former Enfield Cross in the gardens.



Fig 2.18: 1913 OS Map (Enfield History Unit)

1914: Major areas of the Garden complete (Spring 1914).

1918: Henry Carington Bowles, E.A. Bowles' father dies. He was the last governor of the New River Company (Allan 1973).

Meadow below Rock Garden made into Alpine Meadow.

1933: E.A. Bowles elected chair of Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Scientific Committee - he had been acting as such for many years (Allan 1973).

2.0 Understanding the Site

1935: OS map shows new building at No. 87 Bulls Cross in the south-east corner of the Kitchen Gardens.



Fig 2.19: 1935 OS Map (Enfield History Unit)

1939-1945: Second World War involved minor bomb damage in and around the house and gardens including New Year's Eve; V2 bomb blows out windows to Myddelton House. Anti-aircraft guns positioned at entrance gates due to location within German Luftwaffe "Bomb Alley" to London.

1943: Colonel Sir Henry Ferryman Bowles dies; Forty Hall inherited by his grandson Derek Henry Parker Bowles.

1945: Gas installed to Kitchen cooker only at Myddelton House.

1950: Closure of Crews Hill Pumping Station due to lack of water from its well.

1951: **Forty Hall sold to Enfield Urban District Council** (now the London Borough of Enfield) by Derek Henry Parker Bowles due to ill health.

2.0 Understanding the Site

1954: E.A. Bowles dies and the House and Gardens are transferred jointly to the **Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine** and the **University of London's School of Pharmacy** to be used as a **University campus**.

The House was converted to educational use with lecture rooms, a student union, student accommodation on the top floor and toilets and changing rooms in the basement. The Entrance Gates were altered to allow for coach access to the sports fields.

Myddelton House Auction Catalogue by Bowyer & Bowyer describes the rooms and valuable contents for auction following E.A. Bowles' death. (Enfield Local History Unit)

Myddelton House Gardens Advisory Committee (MHGAC) is established to oversee the maintenance of the Gardens – chaired by the gardener and writer Frances Perry.

1965: MHGAC report that the Myddelton Loop of the New River clogging up with silt and weeds – becoming difficult to maintain without help from the Water Board.

1966: Act of Parliament defines the boundary of the Lee Valley Regional Park and the establishment of a Park Authority to manage it. The Authority initially shared their offices with the Greater London Council (GLC) in County Hall, central London.

1968: The Myddelton Loop of the New River filled in with debris from the Victoria Line Tube and the demolished Southgate Police Station – now New River Lawn.

1968: Myddelton House and Gardens sold to the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) for their headquarters on the understanding that the Gardens would be maintained in their present condition.

The LVRPA initially shares Myddelton House with the University. By 1969, all three floors: ground, first and second, contain office accommodation and meeting rooms; with the basement used for storage, print facilities and plant. A new fire-escape stair is constructed within the House to allow for office use on the upper floors.

The LVRPA also own the Museum, Lodge and the formal Gardens including the Alpine Meadow.

The School of Pharmacy retained the Kitchen Gardens and buildings, and the School of Medicine retained the Sports Fields, the Stables and the Farmyard. A cattery was built in the Stable Yard.

1968: Sports Pavilion built to the west of Myddelton House for the School of Medicine by the LVRPA as part of the conditions for purchasing the House.

1970: LVRPA extend the Lodge for residential use by the caretaker.

2.0 Understanding the Site

1972: OS map shows the tennis courts and car parking locations and removal of the Farm Yard, replaced by the Bungalow for residential use by the groundsman. The Sports Pavilion building (to the west) and the smaller Timber Pavilion (to the north) are shown. All owned by the School of Medicine.



Fig 2.20: 1972 OS Map (Enfield History Unit)

1979: LVRPA buy the Stables and Farmyard, including the Bungalow.

1984: **LVRPA Garden Team begin the restoration of the Myddelton House Gardens** in the style of E.A. Bowles c1920 under the leadership of Head Gardener Geoff Stebbings.

1985: Conservatory from Glasgow Garden Festival re-built west of pond.

1985: More extensions to the Lodge.

1988: LVRPA buy the land around the Stables containing the car parking.

1992: A cess tank is constructed near the main entrance for use by the Lodge.

1994: The reception area within Myddelton House is altered/improved for the office headquarters. Also, an external escape stair is replaced to the rear of the House.

2.0 Understanding the Site

1995: The Stables are renovated, including the repairing of the clock within the tower, demolition of the cattery within the yard, and the timber shed to the rear.

2000: The groundsman's Bungalow is converted to office use for the LVRPA.

2001: A temporary summerhouse is erected, west of the pond – for use by the visitors to the Gardens.

2002: Construction of buttress supports to the listed brick eastern boundary wall following vehicle damage from Bulls Cross road.

2002: LVRPA buy the Kitchen Gardens and the Sports Fields to re-create the immediate site boundaries as they were in the E.A. Bowles period.

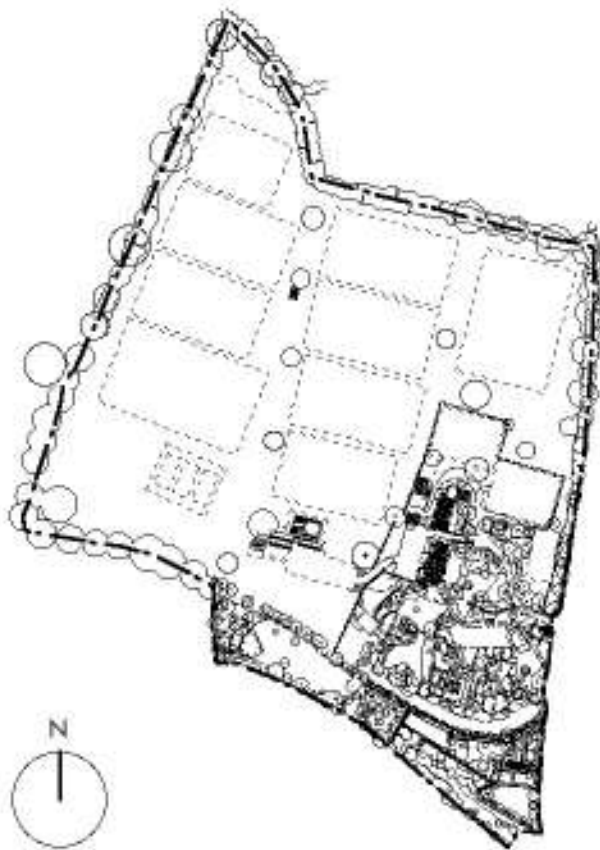


Fig 2.21: 2003 Site Plan

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.0 EVOLUTION OF THE SITE

The preceding section gave a description of the natural features of the site that now contains Myddelton House and Gardens, with an historical overview indicating when influential events or issues occurred on or around the site, from its beginnings right up to the present day.

In this section the evolution of the site is looked at in more detail. This is achieved by separating the site development into the following four main periods or phases:-

Period 1: Pre-1818

The history of the site before the building of Myddelton House.

Period 2: 1818-c1890

The building of Myddelton House and the main development of the site under the ownership of the Bowles family.

Period 3: c1890-1954

The development of the site and particularly the Gardens under the stewardship of E.A. Bowles.

Period 4: 1954-2003

Following the death of E.A. Bowles, the change of use of the House and Gardens from a private residential property to an educational campus for the London University, and finally the headquarters of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.

Each period in history is analysed in terms of the designed or man-made physical features of the site and their present day identification, condition and use. These are highlighted by the typology sub-headings of Archaeology, Buildings and Structures, Landscape, and Setting.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.1 Period 1: Pre-1818

The history of the site before the building of Myddelton House is generally represented by designed features that are, at best only partially extant and mostly covered over. However, **some of the more radical, important man-made additions to the site occurred in this period.**

The main elements in this historic period are (in chronological order):

- 1 Prehistoric occupation of the site.
- 2 Roman Ermine Street: 43-410 AD.
- 3 Enfield Manor and Enfield Chase: 1065.
- 4 Elsyng Manor House: 1381
- 5 Elsyng New Park: 1524.
- 6 The Royal Palace of Elsyng: 1539.
- 7 Bowling Green House: circa late 1500's.
- 8 The New River: 1609-1613.
- 9 Forty Hall: 1629.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.1.1 Prehistoric [004]

The natural topography of the site and the discovery of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeological finds near to the present Myddelton House and Gardens site, suggest that there may be **some prehistoric archaeological significance**.

Excavations at the Elsyng Palace National Monument site, located within the Forty Hall Estate to the south of the site that were carried out between 1963-1971, have un-covered several finds including a circular wooden structure of Bronze Age date.

An examination of aerial photographs of the local area (Dean & Rowley-Williams, 1998) has revealed traces of what seems to be the remains of several enclosures of land on the south facing slopes to the north of Turkey Brook. No evidence is available to date these features but they may possibly be the remains of pre-Roman or Romano-British farmsteads.

There have been no recorded archaeological finds within the boundaries of the present Myddelton House and Gardens site.

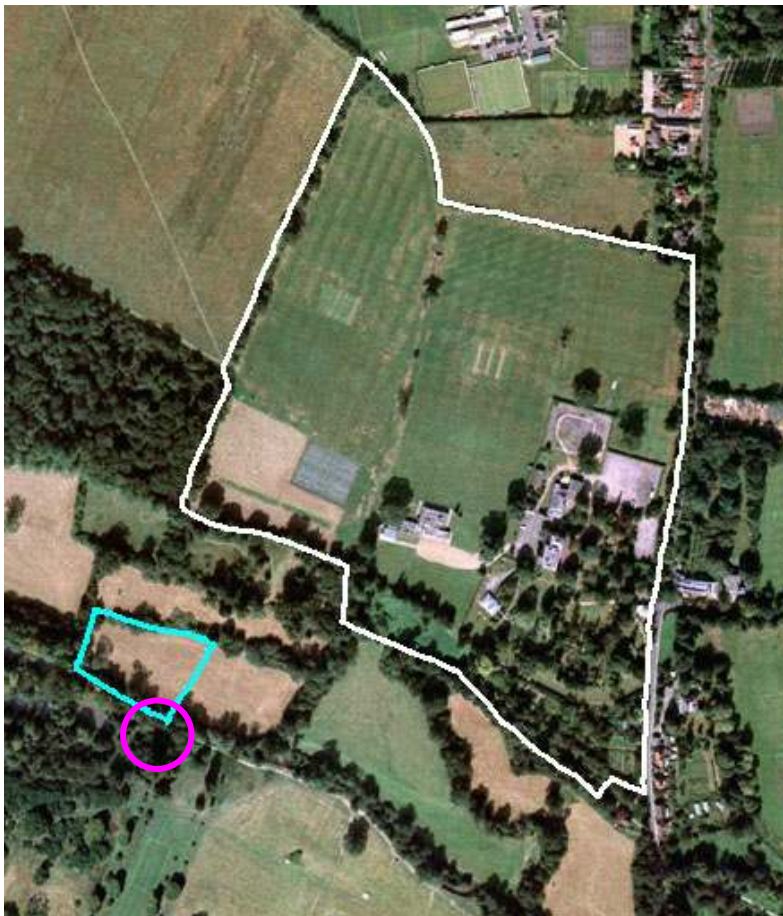


Fig 3.1: Aerial photograph, 2000 showing possible prehistoric enclosures and finds near to the site

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.1.2 Roman Ermine Street: 43-410 AD [005]

Following their abortive attempts in 55 and 54BC the Romans eventually launched a successful invasion of Britain in 43AD and continued to oversee most of the island for nearly 400 years. One of the reasons for the success of the Roman Empire was their ability to establish new towns and regional capitals linked together by a vast network of roads. In total there were over 53,000 miles of roads constructed in Britain and the European continent during the period of the Roman Empire.

Ermine Street was one of the four most important Roman Roads built in Britain during the Roman Empire; the others being Watling Street, Icknield Way and Fosse Way. Ermine Street eventually connected the two capital cities of Britannia Superior (London) in the south, and Britannia Inferior (York) to the north and was the major communications and supply route connecting the outer reaches of the Roman Empire in Britain.

Many of the Roman roads are still in use today, albeit reconstructed for modern-day vehicular use. Ermine Street is no exception with long, straight runs being recognisable along most of its entire length from south to north. The road starts in the City of London and connects with Hertford, Huntingdon, Peterborough, Ancaster, Lincoln, Scunthorpe, and then on to York via a crossing on the River Humber – a total distance of over 190 miles.

The Myddelton House and Gardens site is located along the west side of Ermine Street, which would have formed the eastern boundary of the site as its replacement Bulls Cross road does today.



Fig 3.2: Location Plan showing the original line of Roman Ermine Street

Circa C4 Roman coins have been found close to the line of the road at Forty Hill and an extensive Roman settlement has been found at Bush Hill Park about 2.5km south of the site. Further Roman remains have been discovered during a televised archaeological dig within Cheshunt Park, to the north.

It is possible, therefore, that there are **significant archaeological remains** on the site, particularly along the eastern boundary next to the road.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.1.3 Enfield Manor and Enfield Chase: 1065 [009]

The Enfield Manor and its associated hunting forest Enfield Chase, are recorded in the Domesday Book compiled in 1086. Enfield was owned by Ansgar, Master of the Horse to King Edward the Confessor and to his short-lived successor Harold (Enfield Preservation Society).

Research and excavations have confirmed the present day location of Enfield Manor as being within Enfield Town centre opposite the existing St. Andrew's Church.

The Forest would have extended across most of what are now known as the London Boroughs of Barnet and Enfield, and some of Hertfordshire. Therefore, the Myddelton House and Gardens site would have been part of the **original landscape of the royal hunting forest** at this time.

3.1.4 Elsyng Manor House 1381 [006]

Elsyng Manor was first recorded in 1381 as the home of Thomas Elsyng, Citizen and Mercer of London. The House was located within the approximate position of the later Royal Palace of Elsyng, south of Turkey Brook at the bottom of Forty Hill within the Forty Hall Estate (see later).

The House was re-built in 1492 for Sir Thomas Lovell – who during his time held the important posts of Speaker of the House of Commons, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Constable of the Tower and Steward of the Royal Household.

The close proximity of the Manor House, located within this part of the Enfield Chase would suggest that there could be **some archaeological remains** within the Myddelton House site from this period.

3.1.5 Elsyng New Park: 1524 [009]

Elsyng New Park was a 375-acre part of the Enfield Chase that was enclosed in 1524 to create a deer park for the use of Thomas Manners, the then owner of Elsyng Manor House, who later became the Earl of Rutland.

Forty Hall CMP describes research by Enfield Archaeological Society in the 1960's which indicates that the present location of Myddelton House would have been just outside the boundary of the Elsyng New Park. However, the assumed Park boundaries were based on a later 1785 sale plan of the Forty Hall Estate.

The line of Ermine Street Roman Road that was still in use at the time (known locally as Stonystrate or Garsonsway) would have, more likely, formed the eastern boundary of the Park. Therefore, it is assumed that the Myddelton House and Gardens site would have fallen within the boundary of Elsyng New Park and therefore the site is part of the **original landscape of the Park**.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.1.6 The Royal Palace of Elsyng: 1539 [006]

As part of the Manor of Worcesters, Elsyng Hall was exchanged with King Henry VIII in 1539 for lands including thirteen manors and the monasteries of Croxton and Rievaulx, in the Midlands and the North of England.

Over the following two years extensive renovations and additions were undertaken to the house and the grounds. The former Manor House was virtually rebuilt and extended to accommodate its new role as a Royal Palace. Large scale works were also undertaken to improve the grounds around the Palace and the Deer Park.

King Henry VIII rarely visited the Palace although it was widely used by his children, Edward (later Edward VI) and Elizabeth (later Elizabeth I).

From 1558-1596 Queen Elizabeth I made extensive use of the Palace but by 1597 the buildings were reported to be in danger of collapse.

In 1608, King James I instructed the dismantling of the Palace but further repairs were carried out and in 1610 three bridges were built across the Maidens (now Turkey) Brook, further connecting the Palace to the south side of the valley and the present Myddelton House site. The building was eventually sold to the Earl of Pembroke in 1641.

In 1656, the ruins were bought by Sir Nicholas Rainton to be added as a landscape feature to his Forty Hall Estate to the south (see later).

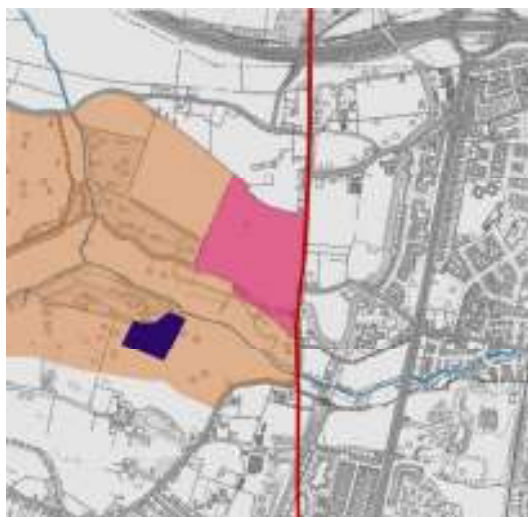


Fig 3.3: Location Plan showing position of Elsyng Palace and the extent of Elsyng New Park up to Roman Ermine Street

The archaeological remains of the Palace and the Manor House below were excavated by Enfield Archaeological Society between 1963-66 and the site is now registered as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The close proximity of a former Royal Palace and the use of the Myddelton House site as part of the Royal hunting ground would suggest that there could be **some important archaeological remains** within the site from this period.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.1.7 Bowling Green House: circa late-1500's [007]

The earliest written documentation recording Bowling Green House is dated 1656. However, the building has been described as an Elizabethan or Tudor red-brick property that was present on the site prior to the construction of the New River between 1609-1613 (see later).

The name of the building is described within the Myddelton House Listing documentation as being associated with the bowling alley belonging to Elsyng Palace. However, MRO Acc 16/8 obtained via Enfield Archaeological Society suggests that a bowling alley near Turkey Street in 1656 was more likely to be the origin of the name. It is also believed that E.A. Bowles would have known of a connection between Bowling Green House and the Royal Palace of Elsyng and, had it been true, would have publicised the Royal association in his books.

The next documented record of Bowling Green House was in 1678, when the House was conveyed to a London pewterer called Daniel Parker.



Fig 3.4: Painting of Bowling Green House (Parker Bowles collection)

In 1720, Bowling Green House was bought by a London jeweller; Michael Garnault, from John Johnson; a London merchant, for £215.00. The sale inventory describes a 12-room house with garden outhouses and fields containing 15 green trees (Enfield Archaeological Society).

The new owner of the House, Michael Garnault came from a French Huguenot family who had made their fortune as craftsman jewellers before fleeing France to escape religious persecution in 1684. They then purchased a large block of shares in the New River Company, enough to gain a controlling interest. The Garnaults went on to own properties and land to the north (now Whitewebbs Farm) and to the east of the present Bulls Cross road (Hewitt, 1997).

In 1809, Henry Carington Bowles inherited the now aged Bowling Green House through his marriage to Anne Garnault. By 1818, the House was demolished to make way for the building of the new Myddelton House and Gardens.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

There is some confusion regarding the original location of the now demolished Bowling Green House within the Myddelton House and Gardens site. It had been believed that the remains of the House were located under the aptly named **Bowling Green Lawn** [024], positioned towards the south east of the present Myddelton House location.

Enfield Archaeological Society carried out a resistivity survey in October 2001 that seemed to indicate the presence of a large, linear structure – possibly a wall or a foundation – under the lawn. This was followed with a small excavation in May 2003; the results of which have yet to be published. However, it is understood that there were some finds of brickwork, but not relating to any significant structure such as the remains of Bowling Green House.

The research undertaken for this CMP1 has identified an alternative location for the House. This is based on analysis of the historical Ordnance Survey plans in conjunction with the 1785 Sale Plans for Eliab Breton's Forty Hall Estate. This shows the approximate location of Bowling Green House, just outside the boundary of the surveyed Forty Hall Estate.



Fig 3.5: 2002 OS Map overlaid onto 1785 Breton Map showing possible location of Bowling Green House

Also, a painting of Bowling Green House owned by Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles (Fig 3.4) illustrates the House's location within the garden landscape that is recognisable today. This would seem to confirm the location of the house towards the north of the pond, just south of the present Myddelton House - in a similar location to that illustrated by the Forty Hall Sale Plan.

It is therefore highly likely that there are **significant archaeological remains of the original Bowling Green House** located within the gardens of the present site but not necessarily in the previously assumed location of the Bowling Green Lawn.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.1.8 The New River: 1609-1613 [008]

The 'New River' is a man-made surface watercourse which has supplied London with fresh water from Hertfordshire since it was constructed between 1609-1613. At the time of construction the population of London was rising rapidly and the lack of fresh drinking water was becoming a serious health problem. The plan for the New River was first introduced by the engineer Edmund Colhurst and then managed and partly financed by Sir Hugh Myddelton, a wealthy entrepreneur and goldsmith.

It was an incredible feat of engineering for its day – a continuous wood lined channel 10ft wide by 4ft deep, dug out by hand, following the 100ft (now 30m) contour line for 39 miles as it snaked along the west side of the River Lea Valley. The channel took water from Chadwell Spring near Ware in Hertfordshire to the Round Pond of Clerkenwell in London. The channel had to maintain a consistent shallow fall along its entire length to enable the water to flow continuously, yet not flow fast enough to spill over the sides of the construction.



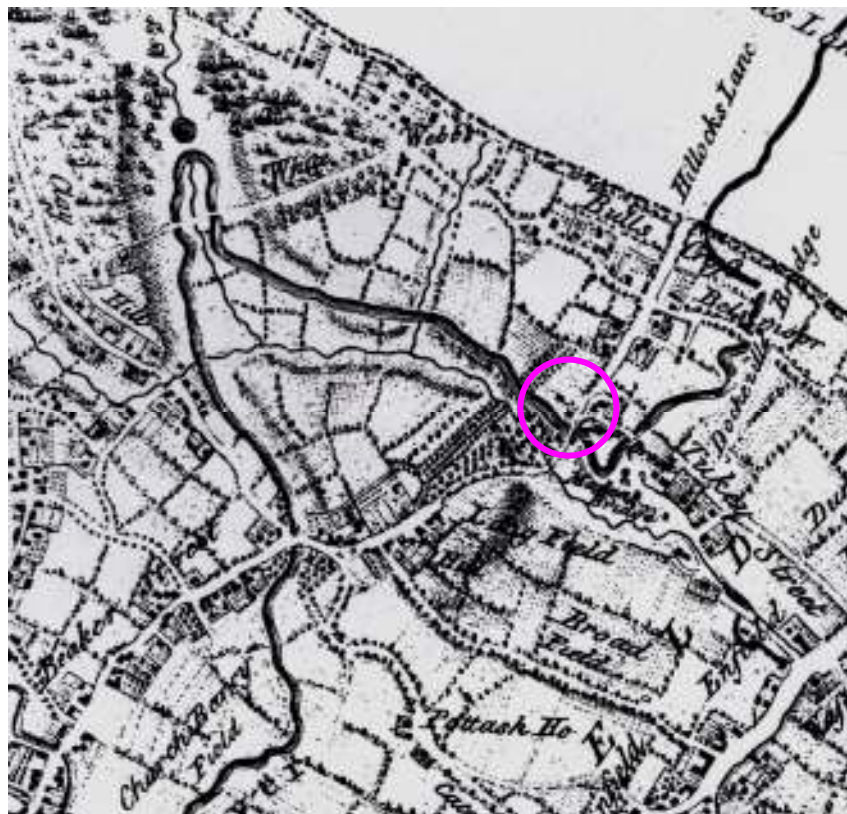
The Old Course of the Whitewebbs Loop, now superseded.

Fig 3.6: Map of the New River from the original by Telford (*History of Enfield* 1873)

3.0 Evolution of the Site

The New River was originally a private water supply that had to be cut through other privately owned land in order to reach its London destination. The cost of paying the landowners along the proposed route became too great and construction was only completed following the intervention of King James I. Sir Hugh Myddelton was the King's jeweller and this connection helped convince the King to financially support the project as well as allowing the River to pass through his Royal estates, such as Elsyng New Park. The King agreed to pay half the cost of the whole undertaking in return for half the profits.

The Whitewebbs Loop of the New River that ran around the Maidens (now Turkey) Brook valley also cut through the grounds of Bowling Green House – now within the Gardens of Myddelton House. It is said that the then owner of Bowling Green House had the Loop diverted a few yards, creating a curve to prevent the destruction of a Tudor yew hedge planted in about 1500 (Hewitt 1997).



Bowling Green House

Fig 3.7: 1754 Map of London by John Roque; showing the Whitewebbs loop of the New River and Forty Hall Lime Avenue. (Enfield History Unit).

3.0 Evolution of the Site

The New River was so successful that it immediately required more capacity and from 1618 supplies were augmented by water from the River Lea, and later on by local wells located along the route.

In 1739 the River Lee Act established a governing body for the administration, improvement and maintenance of the River Lea. This was partly due to the success of the New River Company and other water suppliers causing the springs at Chadwell and Amwell to dry up, significantly reducing the flow and volume of the Lea, thereby damaging the operation of the Lea bargemen and millers.

Technological advances in the early nineteenth century meant that the long tortuous twists and turns that took the New River around hills and valleys could be straightened and shortened by bridges and tunnels, allowing the capacity of the river to increase.

In 1820 building commenced of a cast iron aqueduct to carry the New River across Maidens Brook. By 1859, The Dowcra Aqueduct was opened, straightening the route of the New River and bypassing the Whitewebbs Loop running through Myddelton House Gardens, making it redundant. However, Henry Carington Bowles was a Governor of the New River Company, a position inherited from the Garnault family, the previous owners of Bowling Green House. The Bowles' family connection enabled them to keep water supplied to the Old Course of the New River, which remained in their garden as a landscape water feature. Water was drained 'backwards' through a sluice gate at the New River end of the loop and drained into the Maidens Brook below. The Aqueduct is still in use today and can be seen crossing the Turkey Brook to the east of the present Forty Hill road.



Fig 3.8: Dowcra Aqueduct taking the New River across the Turkey Brook, 2003.



Fig 3.9: The shortened course of the New River looking towards the Dowcra Aqueduct, 2003.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

Crews Hill Pumping Station opened in 1898, to supply the New River with additional water via a pipeline that runs close to the old Whitewebbs Loop. A deed from the New River Company in the same year allowed water from the pipeline to be used to supplement the water supply to the Old Course of the New River through the Myddelton House Gardens. Enfield Archaeological Society have researched the operation of a sluice gate, which is still visible in the south west corner of the Myddelton House site today. The sluice, coupled with the other gate at the junction with the working New River, was used to divert some of the water flow from Crews Hill to supply and also flush out the section of the Old Course of the New River that was maintained within the garden.



Fig 3.10: Sluice gates used to control the water supply to the Old Course of the New River, 2003.

Apart from being the main landscape water feature within the Myddelton House Gardens, E.A. Bowles would use the water from the Old Course of the New River to irrigate his growing collection of plants and re-fill the Pond located to the north. The River - which now was effectively a long, linear lake - was also used for canoeing, fishing and ice skating in the winter by groups of local boys who E.A. Bowles encouraged to use and help maintain the gardens.



Fig 3.11: The curve of the New River within Myddelton House Gardens in the early 1900s, looking towards the tulip terrace (Myddelton House Archive)

3.0 Evolution of the Site

In 1904 the private operations of the New River Company were transferred to the publicly owned Metropolitan Water Board whose new headquarters were opened on the site of the New River Head – containing the original Round Pond reservoir in 1920.

In 1946 the last of the filterbeds at New River Head was abandoned and the New River ceased to flow there. It now ends at the reservoirs and filter beds at Green Lanes, Stoke Newington and is 24 miles long. The current capacity of the River is 40 million gallons of water per day. A tunnel just south of the Maidens Bridge over Turkey Brook diverts water from the New River to supply the London Ring Main.

The supply of water to the Old Course of the New River that cut through the Gardens at Myddelton House was stopped in 1950, when the Crews Hill Pumping Station closed due to the lack of water from its well. By 1965, the Myddelton House Gardens Advisory Committee, set up to oversee the maintenance of the Gardens following the death of E.A. Bowles, reported that - starved of its water supply - the Myddelton Loop of the New River was clogging up with silt and weeds.

In 1968 the decision was taken by the Garden Committee to close the Myddelton Loop of the Old Course of the New River. The channel was filled in with debris from the Victoria Line Tube construction and the demolished Southgate Police Station, thus ending the Gardens' 350-year association with the New River.



Fig 3.12: The dried-up New River c1965 (Myddelton House Archive)



Fig 3.13: New River Lawn in 2003

The **significant archaeological remains** of the Old Course of the New River still define one of the **major landscape features** within the Myddelton House Gardens. The New River Lawn follows the original curve of the New River within the formal gardens in the south east area of the site. The remains of a bridge ends the west stretch of the New River Lawn, while the Grade II Listed cast-iron 'Wisteria' Bridge forms the east edge of the Lawn. The south embankment forming the outside wall of the New River channel contains the original Tulip Terrace, with the Kitchen Gardens and the Alpine Meadow cascading down the south facing slopes below.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.1.9 Forty Hall: 1629 [010]

In 1616 Nicholas Rainton, a rich London merchant, purchased the Manor of Worcesters from Hugh Fortey, located immediately south of the Elsyng Palace Estate on Forty Hill.

The present Grade I Listed Forty Hall was built between 1629 and 1632 on the top of Forty Hill on the opposite south side of the Turkey Brook valley from the Myddelton House and Gardens site. The whole of the estate was re-landscaped during this period for the use of the now Sir Nicholas Rainton, Lord Mayor of London.



Fig 3.14: Forty Hall, 2001 (London Borough of Enfield))

The Forty Hall Conservation Management Plan already referenced describes in detail the historical development of the building and the estate. What is important to the understanding of the Myddelton House and Gardens site is the historical and physical connections between the two estates.

In 1641 the Royal association of the area with Elsyng Palace ended when King Charles I sold the partially repaired Elsyng Palace to the Earl of Pembroke. By 1656 the Palace was in a dilapidated state when Sir Nicholas Rainton purchased the ruins - to be added as a landscape feature within the new park and gardens, attached to Forty Hall to the south.

The newly extended Forty Hall Estate was radically re-landscaped, the major new feature being a double lime-tree avenue running from the Hall, down the full length of the Forty Hill, across the Maidens Brook towards a bridge crossing the New River. At its southern end the lime avenue terminated in two curving arcs of trees in the form of a semi-circle in front of the Hall. It is thought that the trees were enclosing a formal, circular pond immediately in front of the Hall, which was later adapted to the more informal shape that exists today. A formal rectilinear shaped pond was created where the lime avenue crossed the Maidens Brook.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

It is thought that the Lime Avenue was planted in the late C17, but the present mature trees date from 1830, whilst others are recent replacements for those affected by storm damage in 1987 and 1990.

The Sales Plans for Eliab Breton's Forty Hall and Bulls Cross estates dated 1773 and 1785 show the Lime Tree Avenue extended across the Maidens Brook, in close proximity to Bowling Green House located just outside the Forty Hall Estate. At this time the Forty Hall Estate was connected to the Bulls Cross Estate located to the north of the present Myddelton House and Gardens site.

There were also numerous raised walks constructed during this time running around the estate and there is still evidence of these embankments particularly along the northern area of the estate including Turkey Brook and the New River.



Fig 3.15: Eliab Breton's Sale Plan for Forty Hall of 1773, showing the extent of the Forty Hall Estate, the Whitewebbs Loop of the New River and the Lime Tree Avenue. (Enfield Local History Unit)

The location of Bowling Green House is circled

3.0 Evolution of the Site

In 1894 the Myddelton House and Forty Hall estates were re-united (as they were during the period of Elsyng New Park) across the Turkey Brook when Henry Carington Bowles bought Forty Hall for his elder son (Colonel Sir) Henry Ferryman Bowles. By 1897 a number of bridges were rebuilt across the Brook physically connecting the two properties, including a bridge located along the main vista of the Lime Avenue. Unfortunately, these bridges have been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair.



Fig 3.16: 1896 OS Map showing the locations of Myddelton House and Forty Hall, both owned by the Bowles family.

Colonel Sir Henry Ferryman Bowles died in 1943, Forty Hall being inherited by his grandson Derek Henry Parker Bowles. However, only eight years later, in 1951 the Forty Hall Estate was sold to the Enfield Urban District Council (now the London Borough of Enfield) due to the ill health of Derek Bowles.

The London Borough of Enfield have since opened up the Forty Hall Estate to the public with the Hall incorporating a museum and an exhibition gallery. The Forty Hall Farm has been tenanted by Capel Manor Horticultural and Environmental Centre since 1997.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

The Lime Avenue that visually connects the Estate to the Myddelton House and Gardens site is still a **major landscape feature**, although the recent sporting use of the western part of the site has resulted in the tarmac tennis courts being constructed in a prominent location right on the end of the important vista.

Intermittent views of Forty Hall from the Myddelton House Gardens can be discerned through the trees and undergrowth along the shared southern boundary. These views, the surviving raised walk embankments and the ruined bridges within this area of the site, represent the **minor landscape and archaeological features** associated with the historic connections between the two estates.



Fig 3.17: View south to Forty Hall along the Lime Avenue, 2003

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.2 Period 2: 1818-1890

The period from 1818 to 1890 encompasses the main physical development of the site that can still be appreciated today; the building of Myddelton House and its ancillary buildings and structures, as well as the original setting out of the present gardens and the general landscape layout.

3.2.1 Myddelton House [011]

In 1809 Henry Carrington Bowles inherited Bowling Green House through his marriage to Anne Garnault. By this time the Elizabethan house was over 200 years old and after Anne died in 1812, it was decided to build a new house within the grounds and then demolish the old building.

The new house, a two and a half storey yellow Cambridgeshire stock brick villa was built in 1818 by the architects George Ferry and John Wallen. The House was named after Sir Hugh Myddelton, the man who was largely responsible for the construction of the New River that still ran through the gardens. Henry Carrington Bowles was Governor of the New River Company and obtained a regular income from the water supply.

The original villa comprised a symmetrical front façade with five bays incorporating a central projecting stone portico in the Ionic style to the entrance. A simple stone cornice ran at second floor level engaging the central attic window. The south façade comprised a shallow, curved bay with a large sash window fronting the outer parlour on the south-east corner, overlooking the pond. The rest of the façade was covered by a generous conservatory projecting at an angle to the main house into the surrounding garden.



Fig 3.18: Myddelton House etching (Robinson 1823)

3.0 Evolution of the Site

Inside, the house was organised symmetrically around the main curved staircase with the Bowles family using the ground and first floors only. The top floor attic storey contained bedrooms for the domestic staff with the basement containing the kitchen and the other service areas of the house.

In 1852 Henry Carington Bowles died; Henry Carington Treacher inherited Myddelton House and Gardens through the female line on the condition that he assumed the Bowles surname. The new owner had a three storey, right wing addition built before 1890 containing a large dining room on the ground floor with a bay window overlooking the gardens to the east.

The majority of the original house remains today and is therefore Grade II Listed although the interior has been significantly altered over time.



Fig 3.19: Myddelton House front elevation, 2003



Fig 3.20: Myddelton House south elevation and angled conservatory, 2003

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.2.2 The Gardens

The new gardens were created to the south and east of Myddelton House, incorporating the existing curve of the New River and retaining some of the original trees from Bowling Green House gardens.

The gardens were a mixture of irregularly shaped lawns and planted beds with new and retained trees. There were two ponds; one to the west - just south of the House, and one to the east which has since been filled in and is now known as the Hollow Lawn. Some detail is known; for instance a swamp cypress stood next to the smaller pond, planted by Ann Garnault in the early C19 and subsequently more cypresses were planted. There was a larch on Bowling Green lawn and plantations of Scots pine (*Spring* 1914). Spaces became filled with self seeded horse chestnuts and sycamores. E.A. Bowles described the evergreen shrubberies and some areas of bedding plants.



Fig 3.21: 1867 OS Map showing the New River running through the original garden layout.

The lands to the west and north of the House were kept as a grazed meadow, the land to the south of the New River was used as a more functional Kitchen Garden, with several glasshouses, a potting shed and path layout. This may have predated the new Myddelton House.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

In 1859 the Dowcra aqueduct across the Maidens Brook was opened, straightening the route of the New River by bypassing the Whitewebbs Loop running through the Myddelton House Gardens, making it redundant. However, the water supply to this part of the Old Course of the New River was maintained (see previous) and the layout and use of the gardens were unaltered.

The gardens are designated as a Grade II Registered Landscape.



Fig 3.22: The original New River Yews, 2003

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.2.3 Ancillary Buildings and Structures

From 1818 to 1867 further ancillary buildings were built to service the Myddelton House and Gardens as shown on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey Map dated 1867:

A groundsman's **Lodge** [015] was built at the retained position of the entrance to the site – opposite the Turkey Street junction with Bulls Cross road. A single storey, stock brick building with a hipped slate roof and large overhanging eaves. The Lodge would have originally been cruciform in plan, organised around a large fireplace underneath the dominant chimney.

Elaborate iron-worked **Entrance Gates** [018] were added to the entrance incorporating the initials of the owner H.C.B.B. although these have been altered since.



Fig 3.23: Lodge and entrance gates c1920 (Myddelton House Archive)

A two storey, stock brick **Stable Block** [012] was built to the north of the House including a distinctive clock tower rising above the hipped, slate roof. The front of the building comprises a coach house and horse stalls on both sides of the entrance off the enclosed Stable yard. The back of the Stables contained more animal stores which would have formed the east side of the farmyard.

By 1890, additional buildings were attached to the north-east corner of the Stables and a new, gated entrance was added to the east – formally lining up with the centred entrance of the main building. The Stables are relatively un-altered on both the outside and the inside and are now Grade II Listed.



Fig 3.24: Stable yard entrance and front elevation, 2003

3.0 Evolution of the Site

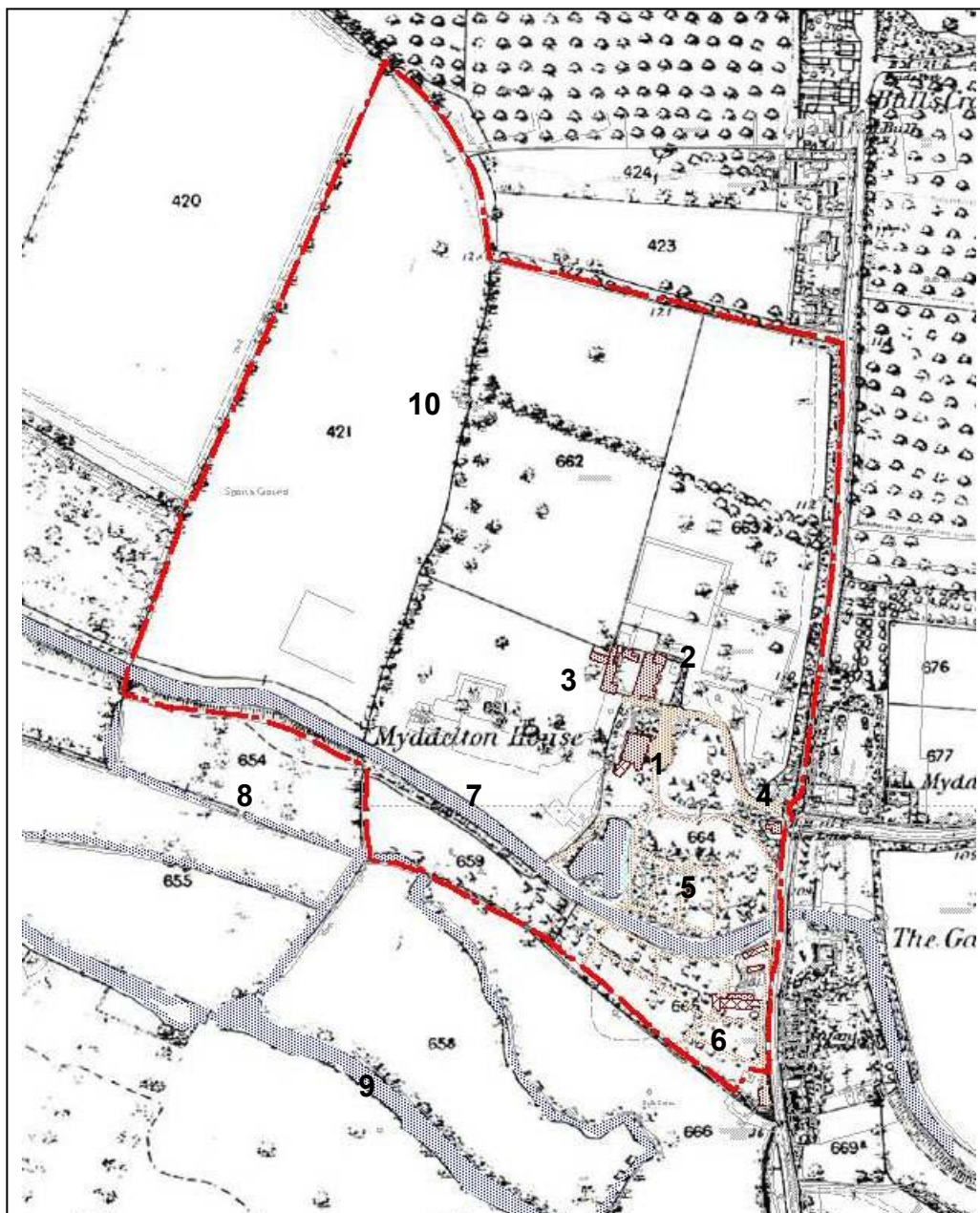


Fig 3.25: 1867 Ordnance Survey 25 inch, overlaid on current Ordnance Survey, features highlighted..

This is the first record of the site layout. For more detail see also A3 version..

- 1 Myddelton House and Conservatory
- 2 Stables
- 3 Farmacyard
- 4 Entrance and lodge
- 5 Original garden layout
- 6 Glasshouses shown in kitchen garden
- 7 New River with bridges over
- 8 Northern part of Forty Hall lime avenue
- 9 Maidens Brook
- 10 Original field boundaries

3.0 Evolution of the Site

A **Farmyard** [013] was incorporated behind the Stables with a square pavilion building (later used as a **Museum** [014]) forming the south west corner of the Yard, looking out over the meadow. The Farmyard was enclosed by a collection of small-scale buildings along the west and north sides including barns, pig sties and cow stalls – none of which exist today.



Fig 3.26: Farmyard scene c1920 (Myddelton House Archive)



Fig 3.27: E.A. Bowles on the steps of the Museum c1920 (Myddelton House Archive)

A number of large **Glasshouses** [022] (with an associated boiler house, later used as the **Potting shed** [022]) were built in the Kitchen Garden, located along the south boundary of the site, below the New River embankment. The Glasshouses were altered by 1896 and a few of them remain today.

Two iron bridges were built over the New River that divided the southern part of the site from the main gardens. The bridge to the west still exists although most of the structure is underground. The **Wisteria bridge** [017] to the east was built in 1832 by the New River Company and is now a Grade II Listed Structure.



Fig 3.28: Wisteria bridge over the New River, c1920 (Myddelton House Archive)

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.2.4 Public use of the site [002]

The first recorded use of the Myddelton House and Gardens by the public is in 1880, when the Myddelton Cricket Club was formed. The grazed meadow to the west of the House was cut to create a cricket pitch with the pavilion (later Museum) used by the club – containing a billiards room on the raised ground floor with changing facilities located on the lower ground floor behind the old brick terrace of the verandah (now removed).



Fig 3.29: Museum used as sports pavilion, c1900 (Myddelton House Archive)

E.A. Bowles was born in 1865. He studied theology at Cambridge University although prematurely ended his studies and returned to Myddelton House in 1887, following the death of his brother and sister from tuberculosis. On his return he continued his theological interest by becoming increasingly involved at Jesus Church located on Forty Hill about half a mile to the south of the House.

From his involvement with the Church he taught local Enfield boys at the Turkey Street Night School and he encouraged them to use the Myddelton House site for sport, as well as to learn about nature through their help in the seasonal maintenance of the Gardens.



Fig 3.30: E.A. Bowles and boys, c1890 (Hewitt 1997)

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.3 Period 3: c1890-1954

This is the most significant period of the development of the designed landscape, in terms of the planting design on the site and in terms of E.A. Bowles' influence in the world of horticulture.

E.A. Bowles had returned from university to Myddelton House in 1887. From c1890 Bowles remodelled his parents' gardens, adding plants and architectural details to the existing structure. By 1915, when Bowles published the last of his *My Garden* trilogy, most areas of the garden had been defined with specialist planting themes.



Fig 3.31: E.A. Bowles (Hewitt 1997)

On the death of his father in 1918, Bowles inherited a lifetime interest in Myddelton House and an income from the New River, allowing him to continue his gardening interests and to extend the garden.

Although the layout did not change substantially, the planting detail was in continual development. Bowles continued to experiment with new plants until his death in 1954. By 1950 the 'wonderful wildness' of the Rock Garden was noted (Allan p233), suggesting the difficulty of maintaining some areas towards the end of his life.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.3.1 Origins of Bowles' interest in plants and plant collecting

Bowles' interest in plants began with a general interest in natural history and grew with the encouragement of influential amateur gardeners. In 1889 he had accompanied his second brother Henry on his honeymoon in Europe. The trip included visiting the Mediterranean garden of La Mortola and collecting bulbs in Italy, which he was to plant at Myddelton that Spring. He began hunting and acquiring increasing numbers of plants. By the early 1890s great numbers of plants were bought, many for the rockery, which became the first focus of Bowles attention. In *My Garden in Spring* Bowles stated 1889 as the start of his gardening experiments but his transformation of the garden was largely inspired by visits to Dr Lowe's garden in Wimbledon and Canon Ellacombe's garden at Bitton in 1893 (Allan 1973).

3.3.2 The development of the gardens

Comparison of Ordnance Survey maps shows that Bowles largely worked with the existing garden structure of paths and beds. His parents' garden consisted of mature trees including Cedars and Scots pine, lawns, shrubberies and beds of annuals, an irregular pond and an extensive kitchen garden.

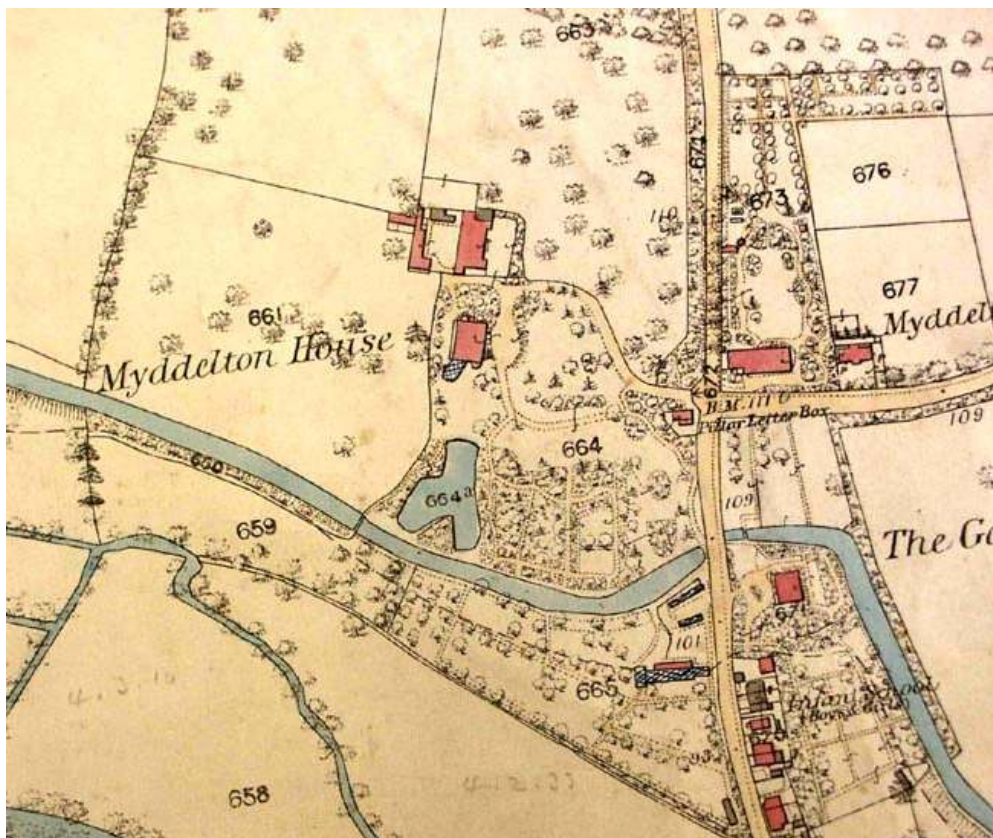


Fig 3.32: 1867 Ordnance Survey, first edition 25 inch

3.0 Evolution of the Site

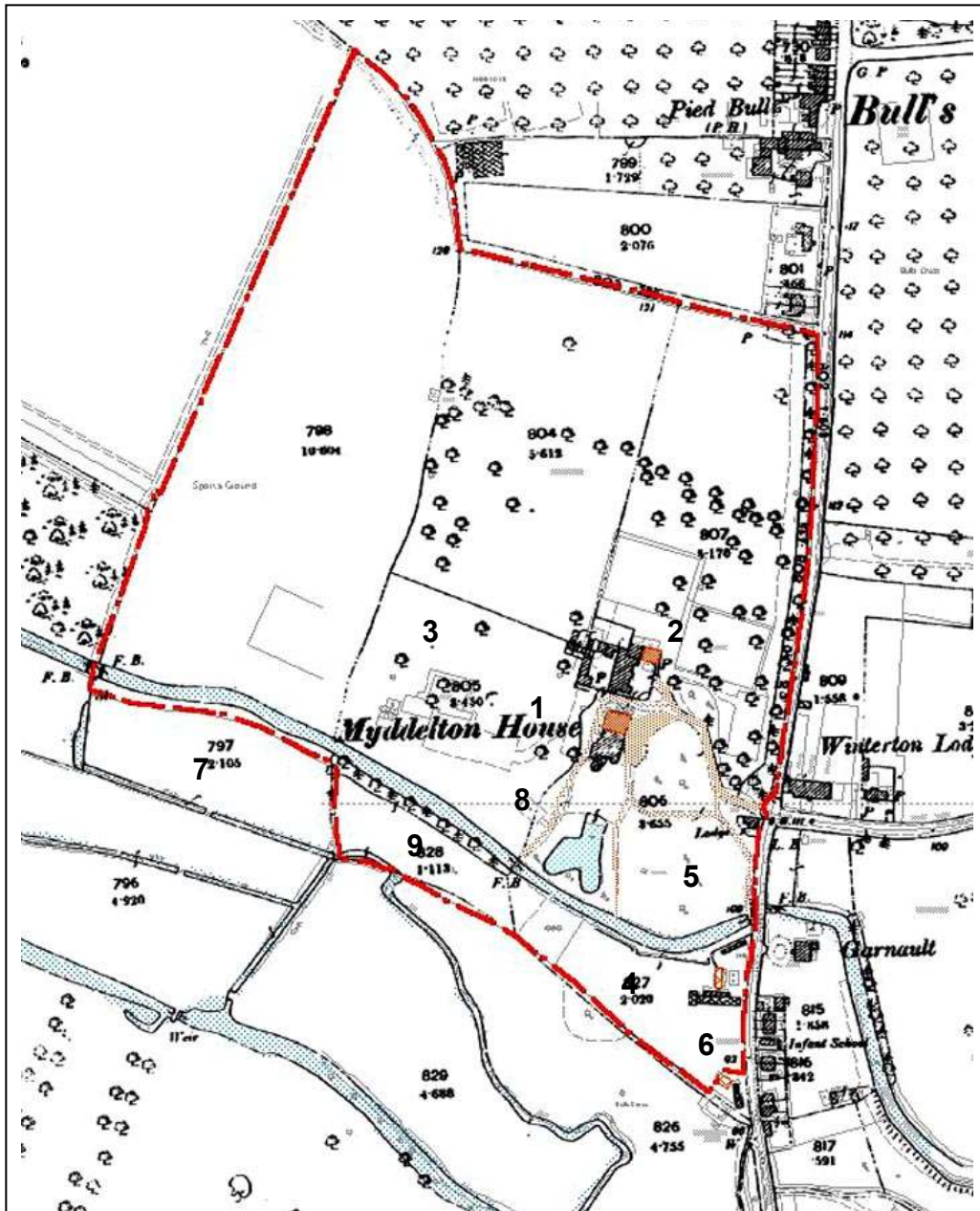


Fig 3.33: 1896 Ordnance Survey 25 inch, overlaid on current Ordnance Survey, new features highlighted..

This is a record of the garden as Bowles began his work. For more detail see also A3 version..

- 1 Myddelton House extended to the north
- 2 Stable yard extended and new entrance on eastern side
- 3 Previous field and park boundaries; fewer trees shown on park boundary
- 4 New River: terrace shown to south
- 5 Garden layout maintained,
- 6 Two new glasshouses in kitchen garden
- 7 Northern part of Forty Hall avenue no longer shown
- 8 Park railing- extended westwards
- 9 Planting shown on New River embankment (beginning of the Rock Garden)

3.0 Evolution of the Site



Fig 3.34: A painting pre 1916 showing the 'Waterloo Cedar' and Scots pine from Bowling Green lawn from E.A. Bowles' scrapbooks (Myddelton House Archive)

Bowles cleared many of the evergreens and self-seeded horsechestnuts to make way for collections of plants and artefacts. While the overall extent of the gardens changed little, he extended the Rock Garden in 1914 and created the Alpine Meadow in 1918; other meadows adjoining the gardens were planted with bulbs.

Bowles began work in planting and extending the **Rock Garden** [027] in the early 1890s, using the south facing embankment of the New River, which the 1896 OS showed as a narrow mixed woodland belt. He devoted a great deal of time and attention to this area, which was possibly his favourite area of the garden. He used Kentish ragstone and experimented with different 'moraine' beds and methods of keeping moisture in the beds.

A leak in the New River allowed him to make a series of small ponds and damp beds, a rare commodity in the gravelly gardens. There was a large and evolving range of plants, not only alpines but also herbaceous plants, flowering shrubs, cacti and dwarf trees and shrubs. The 1913 Ordnance Survey shows that the western extension of the Rock Garden had begun and the field below became the Alpine Meadow in 1918. The 1950 aerial photograph shows the Rock Garden and meadow as a relatively open area with few mature trees.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

Bowles' trilogy of books described the main areas of the garden, which had been established by 1914/5, including the Rose Garden and Pergola Garden [029], Tom Tiddlers Ground and Eremurus bed [024], Iris beds and New River Terrace [026]. All these areas were designed to showcase particular groups of plants: one of the most celebrated and individual was the **Lunatic Asylum**[030], which existed by the time of an article in *The Garden* of June 1909. Bowles made space by clearing a shrubbery, leaving 2 Weymouth pine and a dead ivy covered yew. Here he made a home for unusual or 'demented' plants such as twisted willow. Kentish ragstone was mounded around the trees and a salvaged stone balustrade was also added. As well as the 'lunatics', there were cherries, magnolias and standard wisterias - the original intention had been to make a Japanese garden.

3.3.3 Design in response to planting conditions

The Trilogy describes the gardens by their plants, and the garden design derives largely from Bowles' selection or adaptation of the conditions to suit each plant. Although the garden was exceedingly dry, Bowles chose locations for each collection where the conditions would allow the plants to thrive; this was in contrast to the prevailing practice of formal bedding out of tender and annual plants for seasonal effects. He recounted his successes and failures in delightful detail.

- Thus the south facing slope of the Rock Garden was used as the site of his experiments in growing non-hardy species such as Cacti in open ground; frames were used to protect the most tender, but this experiment was later abandoned.



Fig 3.35: The Rock Garden from Bowles scrapbooks (as photographed for Myddelton House archive) and published in *Garden Life* 25 June 1910, showing frames for growing tender Opuntias on the south facing embankment of the New River

3.0 Evolution of the Site



Fig 3.36: The newly erected pergola in 1907 (from Myddelton House Archive) also published in *Garden Life* 25 June 1910

- The pergola was constructed to support climbing roses and wisteria, while pre-existing yews, alive or dead, were also used as plant supports.
- ‘Tom Tiddler’s ground’ was selected to display plants of different foliage colours.
- The Iris beds were made in the south facing bed north of the New River, inspired by the Iris walk at Bitton and placed to make full use of the setting by the river.



Fig 3.37: Iris florentina by the New River (*My Garden in Spring*, 1914)

3.0 Evolution of the Site

- The Eremurus bed was made in the hot dry south-facing border backed by a hedge.
- The Sponge bed incorporated sponges in an attempt to create moist conditions.
- Bowles lamented the fact that the hard clay and grass banks of the New River and pond were unsuitable for marginals, but he made promontories in the pond to plant e.g. Japanese iris. Bowles planted the lake with lilies and cleared it with his boys every year.
- Following a visit to Piora in the Alps with Reginald Farrer and others he was inspired to make his own alpine meadow exploiting the south facing slope below the Rock Garden in 1918. It was full of naturalised bulbs including daffodils, crocus, fritillaries, camassias and wild geraniums and was described as his masterpiece.
- The sheltered area south of the peach house in the **Kitchen Garden** [021] was used as a nursery for tender plants. This was also the site of much of his propagation and development of plant collections. The aerial photograph of 1950 shows that the entire area was still actively cultivated as a garden.
- The plants for which the conditions were less than ideal were limited, e.g. the small area of roses in the rose garden. The south facing wall was built here (see 3.3.4) to create sheltered conditions.



Fig 3.38: Crocus beds in front of the peach house in the kitchen garden; photograph dated 14.2.1923 (Myddelton House Archive)

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.3.4 Artefacts

The character of Bowles garden derived almost as much from his collection of artefacts as from his collection of plants. Bowles took the opportunity to house many salvaged items which became focal design features of his garden.

These included various elements from nearby Gough House, owned and then demolished by his father H.C.B. Bowles. A diamond shaped C18 red brick pier from Gough House was moved to Myddelton House in 1900: a south-facing wall was built adjoining the pier, and a small summerhouse made in the centre. Stone balls and a lead boar, also from Gough Park, were placed on the piers. The structure was known as the '**Irishman's shirt**' [028], as a wall and summerhouse were attached to the pier, much as the shirt was sewn to the button in the eponymous story (Allan 1973). By doing this, Bowles created a sheltered south-facing garden for tender plants, recorded in the 1913 Ordnance Survey. The two lead ostriches which stood by the Wisteria Bridge were also salvaged from Gough Park.



Fig 3.40: The Irishman's Shirt from Allan 1973

The Enfield Market Cross of 1826 (Grade II Listed) was placed as the centrepiece for the Rose garden after 1904 [029]. It became a support for climbing roses.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

The pond steps [025] (Grade II Listed) were built by E.A. Bowles by 1914, from an old house pulled down on 'an outlying part of the estate'- doorsteps, cills and copings were re-used and the steps were used to display pots of Agaves and Aloes in the Summer.

Balustrades, believed to be salvaged from the old London Bridge, were placed on **the New River Terrace**[026]. There were a great many urns, pots of succulents and other artefacts displayed here.



Fig 3.41: Artefacts on the New River Terrace (Myddelton House Archive)

3.0 Evolution of the Site

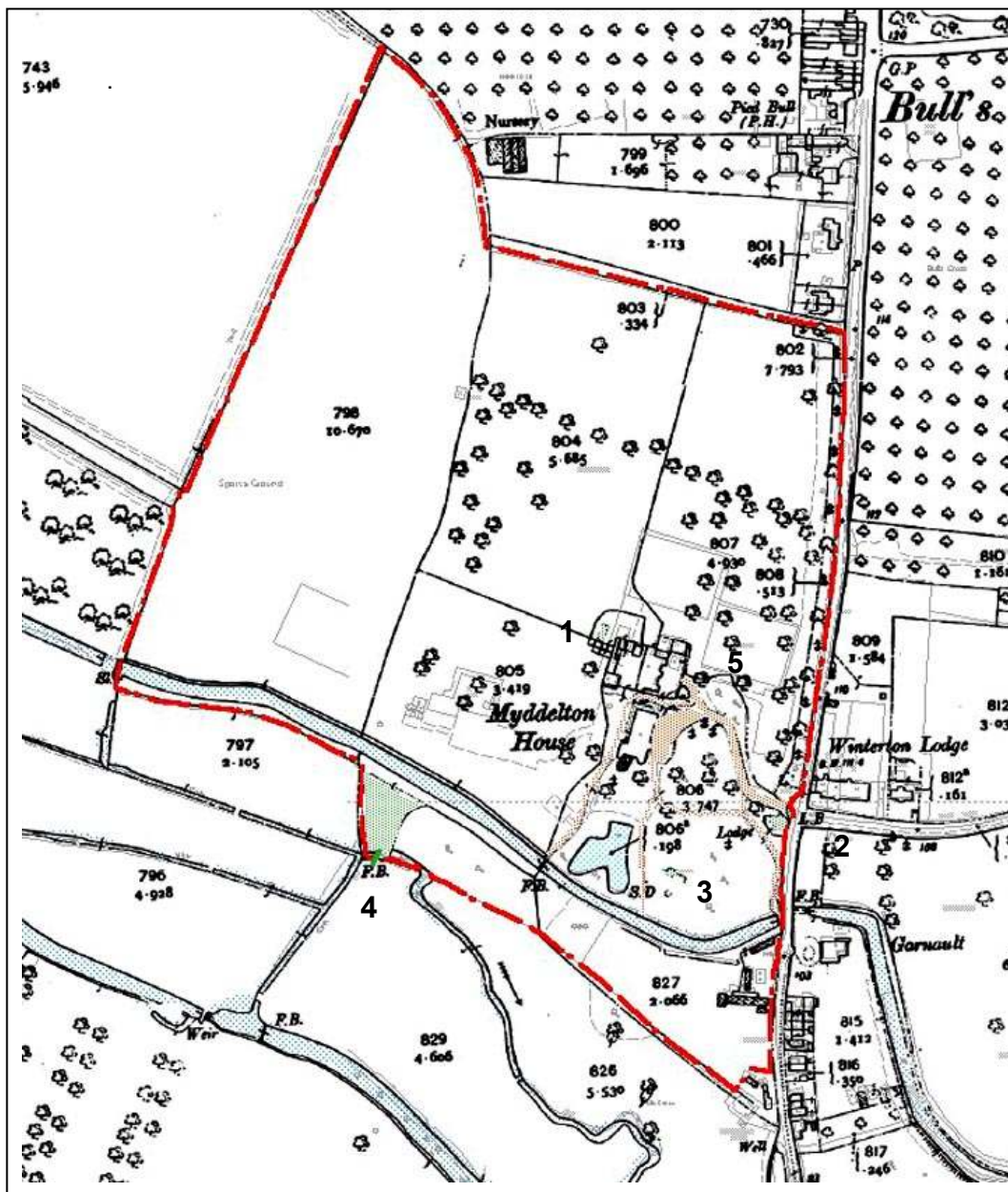


Fig 3.42: 1913 Ordnance Survey 25 inch, overlaid on current Ordnance Survey, new features highlighted.

This follows the first major phase of E.A. Bowles' work. For more detail see also A3 version..

- 1 Minor alterations to farmyard
- 2 Lodge extended
- 3 'Irishman's shirt' shown- wall and summerhouse
- 4 'Pinkadoo' bridge linking extended Rock Garden to Forty Hall estate and other footbridges
- 5 Park railing- extended slightly northwards

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.3.5 Specialist Collections [1]

Bowles developed collections of his favourite genera. Foremost of these were Crocus and Colchicum. In 1886, George Maw had identified 65 species/varieties of crocus; by 1901 Bowles grew 135 species/varieties of crocus, largely in beds and frames in the **Kitchen Garden** [021], sheltered by the peach house. In 1923 he was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Veitch Memorial Gold Award for his work on Crocus and Colchicum and other garden plants and *A Handbook of Crocus and Colchicum for Gardeners* was published the following year, and was a standard work for many years.



Fig 3.43: Crocus beds (Allan 1973)

In the 1890s he began his snowdrop collection, described as his second love.

He also developed collections of Euphorbia, Narcissus, Iris, Lily and Tulip, of which latter he had 140 species/varieties. His *Handbook of Narcissus* was published in 1934, also becoming a standard work. His books contained some of his meticulously observed and executed botanical paintings.

He supplied plants to friends and to leading gardens including the RHS garden at Wisley and the Cambridge Botanic Garden.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.3.6 Connections with Forty Hall - the setting of the garden

In 1894 Bowles' father bought the Forty Hall estate for his eldest son, Henry, who took up residence in 1895. As the two estates were under one family ownership, links between the two were re-established, including the 'Pinkadoo' bridge which led from the furthest corner of the Rock Garden into Forty Hall and the bridge at the northern end of the Forty Hall avenue. These bridges are shown on the 1913 Ordnance Survey.



Fig 3.44: The 'Pinkadoo' bridge led from the Rock Garden to the Forty Hall estate (Myddelton House Archive)

There are many references to Bowles and his 'boys' walking, exploring and skating in Forty Hall grounds. The path to the Church also led through his brother's land. This connection was broken again in 1951 when Derek Parker Bowles left Forty Hall, much to Bowles' sadness. Derek had moved to Forty Hall on the death of his grandfather Henry in 1943.

It is clear from photographs and the 1950 aerial photograph in particular that there were many visual connections between the gardens and parkland. By 1955, the year after Bowles' death, the character of the setting was already changing, with the loss of parkland trees and the outline of the present car parks was already distinguishable on the aerial photograph of 1955.

3.0 Evolution of the Site



Fig 3.45 & 3.46: Park railings along the entrance drive separated the garden from the park (Myddelton House Archive), now the site of car parks, 2003.



Fig 3.47: RAF Aerial photograph from 1955, showing the loss of parkland trees (National Monument Records)

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.3.7 Main buildings on the site

During this period there was remarkably little change to the main buildings; in fact Bowles seems to have positively resisted change, reluctantly allowing a gas supply to the kitchen only in 1945; there was no electricity until after his death in 1954. His declared aim was to smother the house in creepers, an aim which he achieved (*Spring* p 16). Both the house and 'Museum' housed a great quantity of natural history and botanical specimens, as well as cut flowers from the kitchen garden; later in his life the dining room was said to resemble a potting shed (Allan p162). The 'boys' were allowed increasing access to the house following his father's death, both to assist Bowles, to be rewarded with tea and to access the large quantities of skates and other sporting equipment kept here and in the Museum.

There were other small changes. The 1913 Ordnance Survey map shows minor additions to the farmyard and to the west of the Lodge, while by the time of the 1935 OS map a new building at No. 87 Bulls Cross had been built in the south-east corner of the Kitchen Gardens. During the Second World War there was minor bomb damage in and around the house and gardens including a New Year's Eve V2 bomb which blew out windows in Myddelton House. Anti-aircraft guns were positioned at the entrance gates, as the site was within the Luftwaffe's 'Bomb Alley' to London.



Fig 3.48: Photograph by Leslie Dale of 1932 showing a creeper clad Myddelton House, new beds on lawn and sundial in the place of the 'Waterloo Cedar' (Myddelton House Archive)

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.3.8 The New River [8]

Bowles maintained the old loop of the New River as a **major landscape feature** of the garden, using the sweep of its northern bank to display his iris collection and the terrace to the south to display tulips, succulents in pots and other statuary. The river was used by his protégés for fishing, skating and canoeing. In 1859, the Whitwebbs loop was made redundant but as his father was the last governor of the New River Company, the water supply to the loop was maintained. From 1898 water was supplied from the Crews Hill Pumping Station but following its closure c1950 the old course of the New River began to deteriorate and became clogged up with silt and weeds.



Fig 3.49: Canoeing on the New River (Myddelton House Archive)

3.3.9 Later history

Bowles continued to develop the planting of his garden until his death, although his eyesight had deteriorated markedly, compensated by a keen sense of smell and touch. His scrap books held at the RHS Lindley Library are an invaluable record of the garden's development.



Fig 3.50: Looking over the Pinkadoo bridge into the extended Rock garden (Myddelton House Archive)

3.0 Evolution of the Site

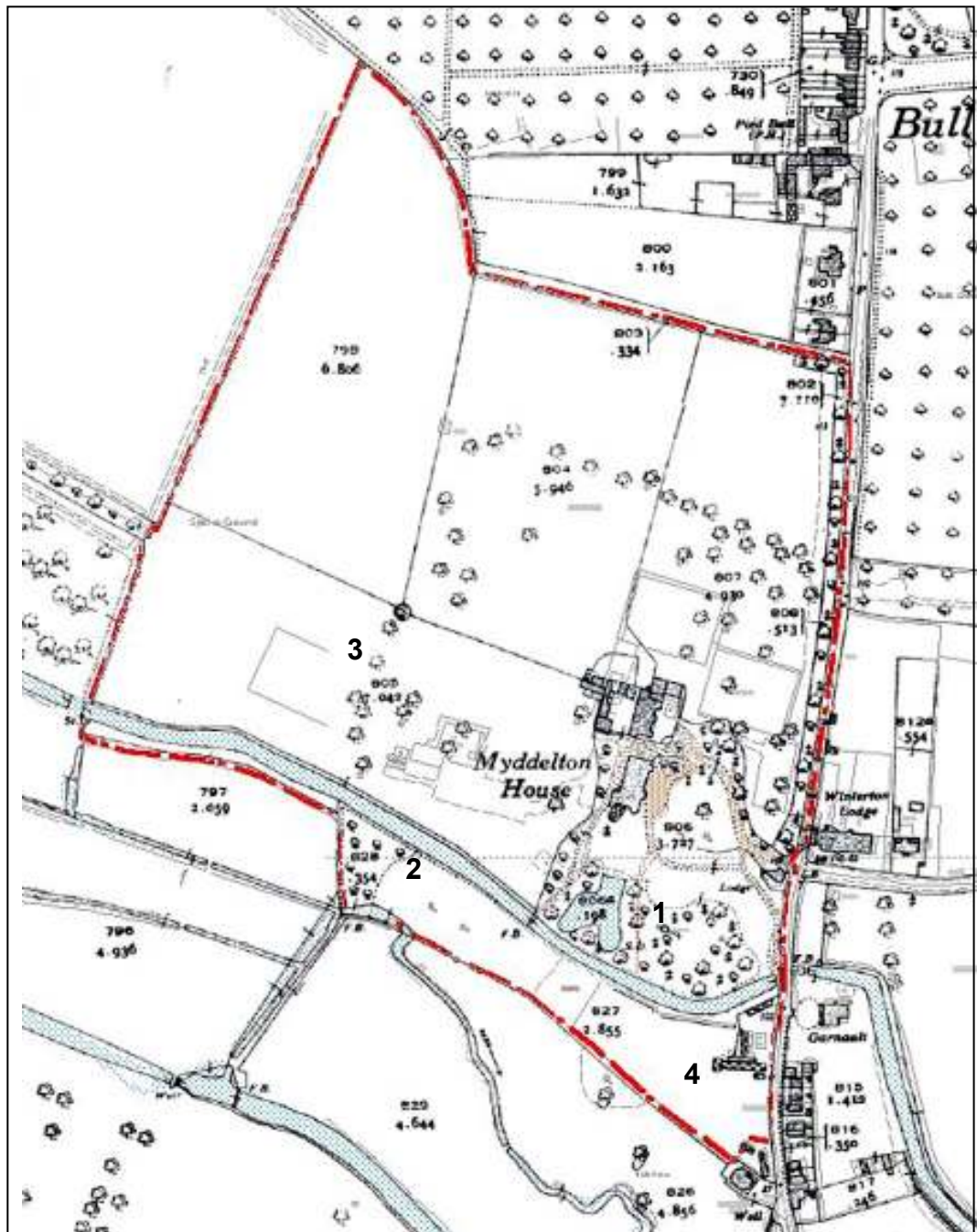


Fig 3.51: 1935 Ordnance Survey 25 inch, overlaid on current Ordnance Survey, new features highlighted.

This follows the completion of E.A. Bowles' major work. For more detail see also A3 version..

- 1 Planting developed in gardens, indicated on plan
- 2 Planting developed in Rock Garden, indicated on plan
- 3 Part of previous park boundary removed
- 4 Part of Kitchen Garden taken out of site for building of house on Bulls Cross.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

In 1935, to mark his 70th birthday, he was presented with a Japanese lantern and an album containing 431 signatures of parishioners. In 1936 he was redesigning the heather bed annex and planning a new hedge to give shelter (Allan pp 198, 203).

3.3.10 The future of the gardens

Towards the end of his life Bowles was concerned about the future of the garden, as he had no heir. In 1950 he was contacted by Professor Fairbairn who had been directed to Myddelton by the Chelsea physic garden, in his search for Chinese Rhubarb. This led to the joint transfer of the garden to the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine and the University of London's School of Pharmacy after his death.



Fig 3.52: E.A. Bowles with Japanese lantern he was given for his 70th birthday (Hewitt 1997).

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.4 Period 4: 1954-2003

This Period follows the death of E.A. Bowles and the **significant changes to the buildings and the landscape, brought about by the change of use of the Myddelton House and Gardens** from a private residential property to an educational campus for the London University, and finally adapted again to be used as the headquarters of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority up to the present day (2003).

3.4.1 Use of the site as a University Campus: 1954-1968

Towards the end of his life E.A. Bowles was concerned about the future of the site – particularly his garden, as he had no heirs. He was partly assured by the knowledge that the gardens would fall within the boundary of the soon to be designated London Green Belt.

However, he had been in contact with a Professor Fairbairn from the London University's School of Pharmacy regarding the search for Chinese rhubarb. This connection and the possibility of a wider, public medicinal use of Bowles' unique plant collection led to the transfer of the House and Gardens to the joint ownership of the School of Pharmacy and the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine after Bowles' death in 1954.

As a further assurance, the Myddelton House Gardens Advisory Committee (MHGAC) was established to oversee the maintenance of the gardens, chaired by the gardener, writer and close friend of E.A Bowles, Frances Perry.

During this period trees and shrubs but few herbaceous plants were recorded; some plants were removed to Wisley and the Cambridge botanic garden and others were almost certainly stolen (Stebbing 1989). A glass house was demolished, car parks and tennis courts laid out, the drive resurfaced, the perimeter hedge planted and box hedges from the Rose Garden and tulip beds removed.

The University converted **Myddelton House** [011] to educational use involving considerable alterations to the interior, but not the exterior of the building. Lecture rooms, a student union, student residences on the top floor and sports changing facilities in the basement were all added. A cattery was built within the yard of the **Stable Block** [012] and the **Kitchen Gardens** [021] were used to grow medicinal plants with the **Potting Shed** [022] used as a small laboratory. It was at this time that the entrance gates were altered to allow coach access to the **Sports Fields** [019] behind the House.

In 1965 the MHGAC reported that the Old Course of the New River that ran through the Gardens was becoming difficult to maintain without the help from the Water Board. The stagnant water was clogging up with silt and weeds. The decision was taken by the Committee to close the River and by 1968 the channel was filled in and replaced by the **New River Lawn** [026].

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.4.2 The use of Myddelton House as the headquarters for the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority: 1968 onwards

In 1966 an Act of Parliament set up the Park Authority (LVRPA) to manage the newly designated Lee Valley Regional Park: a 25 mile long public resource following the River Lea from Ware in Hertfordshire to the River Thames in London; providing leisure, recreation and nature conservation for the region. The Authority initially shared its offices with the Greater London Council (GLC) in County Hall, central London.

The London University was finding the Myddelton House and Gardens increasingly expensive to maintain and was happy to oblige when the LVRPA approached them regarding the establishment of a new headquarters for the Authority's staff.

At first the Authority shared **Myddelton House** [011] with the University, but following an abortive attempt to build an extension, the whole building was converted for office use in 1969. The ground, first and second floors were adapted to contain offices and meeting rooms; with the basement used for storage, print facilities and plant. A new fire-escape stair was constructed inside the building to facilitate the conversion of the upper floors to office use. However, the exterior of the building remained largely unaltered.

The interior of the building was altered again in 1994 although this was restricted to improvements to the reception area.



Fig 3.53: Rear (West) elevation of Myddelton House viewed from the sports fields, 2003

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.4.3 The shared use of the rest of the site

In 1968 the LVRPA also owned the **Museum** [014] and the **Lodge** [015], and took over the maintenance of the gardens to the south and east of the House, including the **Alpine Meadow** [027]. The School of Pharmacy retained the **Kitchen Gardens** [021] and the buildings within it, while the School of Medicine retained the **Sports Fields** [019], the **Stables** [012] and the **Farmyard** [013].

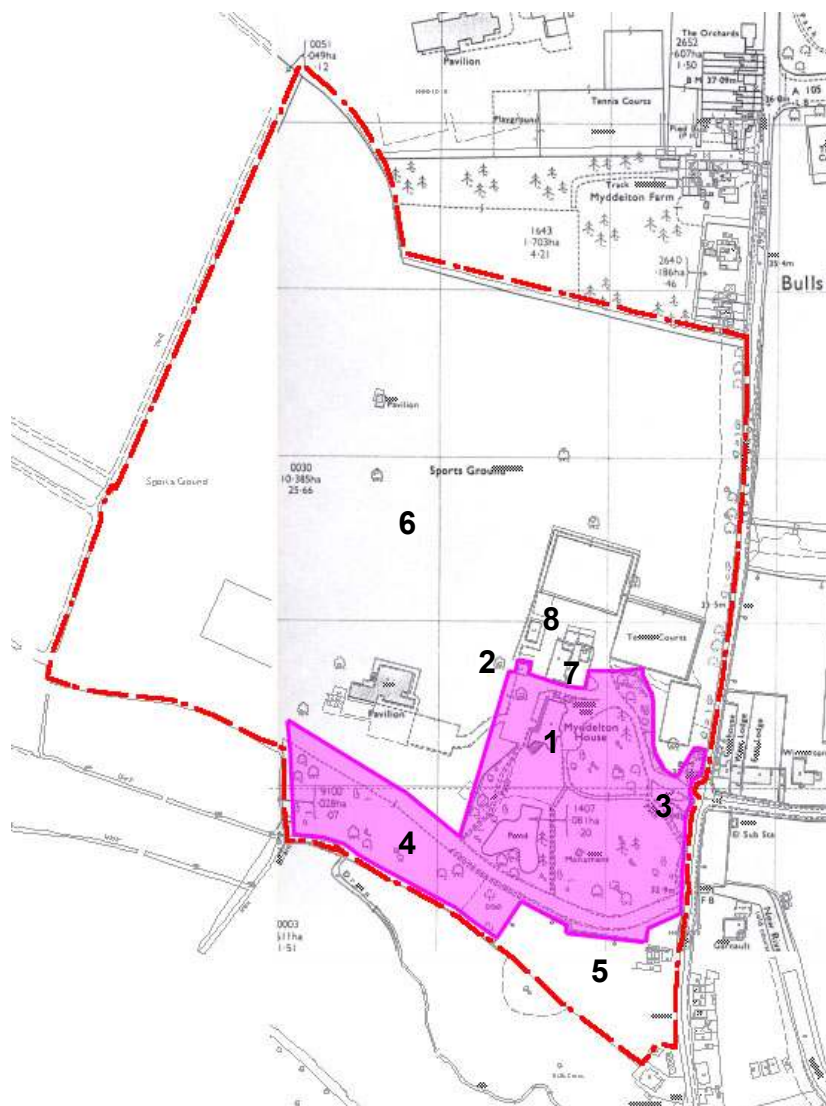


Fig 3.54: 1972 OS Map showing the overall site boundary and the area owned by LVRPA

- 1 Myddelton House
- 2 Museum
- 3 Lodge
- 4 Alpine Meadow
- 5 Kitchen Gardens
- 6 Sports Fields
- 7 Stables
- 8 Farmyard

3.0 Evolution of the Site

By 1972 the University had removed most of the farmyard buildings, replacing them with a residential **Bungalow** [013] used by a groundsman and added two **Sports Pavilions** [016] within the sports fields: a larger brick pavilion built to the south of the fields in 1968 and a small timber pavilion to the north after 1954. The OS Map from this period also shows a number of tennis courts built to the north and east of the stables and one built next to the brick pavilion to the west of the site. The tennis courts around the stables would soon be used to park the growing number of vehicles using the site.



Fig 3.55: Large brick pavilion, 2003



Fig 3.56: Smaller timber pavilion, 2003

The LVRPA's only development of the site during this time was the extension of the **Lodge** [015] for residential use by the office caretaker. However, in 1979 the LVRPA bought the **Stables** [012] and the former **Farmyard** – including the **Bungalow** [013], with the long-term intention of using the extra buildings to house additional staff as the Authority grew.



Fig 3.57: Stables and bungalow looking south towards Myddelton House beyond, 2003

In 1988 the LVRPA bought the land around the stables including the former tennis courts now used as car parking and finally, in 2002, the Authority bought the **Kitchen Gardens** [021] and the **Sports Fields** [019] to re-create the immediate site boundaries as they were in the E.A. Bowles period. Presently (2003) the LVRPA lease the Sports Fields, including the **Pavilions** [016], to a professional football club.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

3.4.4 The restoration of Myddelton House Gardens and the ancillary buildings and structures throughout the site

The Myddelton House Gardens were poorly maintained by the LVRPA during the first fifteen years of ownership, with the Park Authority using its general Lee Valley Park gardeners to manage the specific needs of Bowles' plant collection.

In 1983, representatives of the RHS and the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) concluded that most of the rarest and finest plants had been lost. Many garden ornaments were broken and the pond was empty and overgrown. (Stebbing 1989). In response to this, in 1984, the Authority appointed a new head gardener who was sympathetic to the history of the site to recreate the gardens 'in the style of' Bowles. Geoff Stebbings, the head gardener, assembled a large body of information, much of which was drawn from E.A. Bowles' scrapbooks held at the RHS Lindley Library. He described each area, comparing it to records of c1910, identifying any surviving plantings and set about replacing those which had been lost. The great majority of plants associated with Bowles had disappeared, as had key plants such as the Eremurus plants in the Eremurus bed and irises from the iris beds. These latter were to be developed as the national collection of award winning bearded iris. Beds on the river terrace and in the rose garden and the pergola [029] were replaced. An attempt to restore the rock garden and cactus bank was not sustained due to shortage of labour. About 2,000 plants had been introduced to the garden by 1987 (Hewitt 1997).

Following the resignation of the Head Gardener in 1989, restructuring eventually led to the Countryside Service of the LVRPA assuming responsibility for management of the gardens. This is seen as a positive development and the level of staffing has increased to 3 full time gardeners, seasonal staff and volunteers (2003). In 1993 the E.A. Bowles of Myddelton House Society was formed to promote the work of E.A. Bowles and support work on the garden.

3.0 Evolution of the Site

The development of the site from 1985 to 2002 is represented by a series of significant developments and improvements brought about by the LVRPA, which included the opening up of the restored gardens to the public:

- 1 In 1985 a conservatory was added to the gardens, located to the west of the pond next to the **Nursery Yard** [030], for the use of visitors to the gardens. This has since been replaced by another temporary structure in 2001, a summerhouse, that provides a sheltered area for visitors to the gardens to gather with seating and hot drinks facilities.
- 2 The **Pond** [025], which had dried up in 1983, was lined and the Grade II Listed Terrace repaired and replaced with 'Haddonstone' in 1988.
- 3 Improvements to the **Lodge** [015] were added from 1986 to 1992.
- 4 The **Stables** [012] were renovated in 1995. This involved the repairing of the clock, the demolition of the cattery within the yard and the timber shed to the rear.
- 5 The **Bungalow** [013] was converted to office use in 2000.
- 6 In 2002, the Grade II Listed brick wall running along the **Eastern Site Boundary** [020] - south of the site entrance, was repaired and strengthened with added buttress supports.



Fig 3.58: Myddelton House viewed from across the pond, 2003

4.0 Significance

4.0 SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 General Statement

The site contains major elements which are recognised through their statutory and non-statutory designations as being of national significance. These are the Listed Buildings and Structures spread throughout the site and the Registered Garden.

The single most important element is the association with the luminary plantsman, E.A. Bowles (1865-1954) and his legacy to the world of horticulture.

However, this is only one layer of the development of the site of Myddelton House and Gardens, which owes its richness to its possible Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Tudor origins - with major elements from the C17 and early C19. The New River which ran through the site was a major technological achievement and landscape feature. The gardens have a long history of social and historic associations nationally and locally and the value of the site's wildlife is a continuing theme.

These less well recognised elements which add to the heritage merit can be grouped as follows:

- **Natural features:** geology, topography and nature conservation
- **Designed features:** archaeology, buildings, structures, landscape and setting

These can be further defined by four main themes, deriving from different historical periods:

- **Before the building of Myddelton House (pre-1818)**
- **The New River (1609-1968)**
- **The Bowles family and community use of the site (1818-2003)**
- **E.A. Bowles' plant collection (c1890-2003)**

It can also be argued that the garden has international significance because of its association with E.A. Bowles and his unique plant collection.

4.0 Significance

4.2 Natural features: Geology, Topography and Nature Conservation

4.2.1 Geology

The geology of the site and surrounding area is significant for the following contributions to the character of the site:

- The alluvial soils and clays in the Turkey Brook valley support meadowland and accommodate the ponds or water gardens associated with Elsyng Palace.
- The free draining river terrace gravels of the higher garden areas had a major influence on the garden planting developed there.
- Due to the gravel soils, the pond and New River were lined with puddled clay, both of which are known to have leaked on occasion. The New River leaks were exploited by E.A. Bowles to make moist planting areas.
- The reddish gravels were used for paths in the garden (*Spring*, p 12, *Autumn and Winter*, p 112).
- The springs in the chalk at Chadwell Spring near Ware, to the north, fed the New River, which became a major feature of the site. The alkaline water affected some plants.



Fig 4.1: Geological formation supports Pond and moist planting, 2003

4.0 Significance

4.2 Natural features: Geology, Topography and Nature Conservation

4.2.2 Topography

The site overlooks the valley of the Turkey Brook, with views southwards over the valley towards Forty Hill, some 20m higher. The landform contributes:

- Views which connect the garden to the wider landscape.
- Important south-facing slopes in the kitchen garden and alpine meadow.

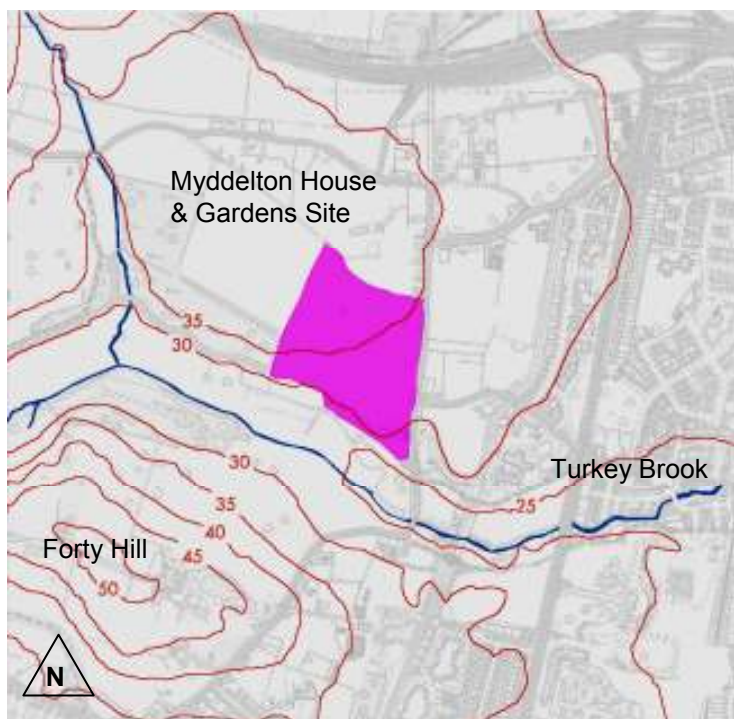


Fig 4.2: Local site topography

4.0 Significance

4.2.3 Nature Conservation

The ecology of the site is significant to the past and present character and future management of the site:

- Past: wildlife was certainly an important element of the landscape in the past. Bowles' first interest was in natural history; he was a keen collector and had major collections of insects, animals and birds eggs, snails shells and geological specimens many of which were displayed in cases in the house and the 'Museum'. In his books he wrote of wild plants in the estate. Much of the land had been managed as parkland with hedgerow trees which would have supported a wide variety of wildlife.
- Present: surveys show that the site supports good populations of breeding birds, butterflies and dragonflies. There is an important mistletoe population and seed is donated to other sites in London. The proximity of Forty Hall with its ponds and meadows is likely to provide rich biodiversity.
- There is potential for further habitat enhancement, especially in newly acquired areas such as the kitchen gardens and the playing fields.



Fig 4.3: Former pharmacy beds in the Kitchen Garden, 2003

4.0 Significance

4.3 Designed features: Archaeology, Buildings, Structures, Landscape and Setting

4.3.1 Archaeology

- Some of the more radical, important man-made additions to the site, such as the Roman Ermine Street and the course of the New River, are now hidden underground or have become an accepted part of the underlying landscape.
- There may be significant archaeological remains associated with these features and the original Bowling Green House.

4.3.2 Buildings

- The main buildings date from the early C19 and collectively portray a history of the use and organisation of the site under the Bowles family ownership.
- The main house and stables block are Grade II Listed Buildings and represent fine examples of buildings of their period.



Fig 4.4: The Stables block is a fine example of early C19 architecture in good condition, 2003

4.0 Significance

4.3.3 Other structures

- The boundary wall to the east of the property is a rare survival from the period preceding the construction of Myddelton House.
- The entrance railings are typical of mid Victorian design



Fig 4.5: Kitchen garden/boundary wall, 2003



Fig 4.6: The front gate railings before they were adapted to widen the entrance c1910 (Myddelton House Archive)

4.0 Significance

- The garden houses a great range of structures and artefacts [302], salvaged and assembled by E.A. Bowles to provide focus, detail and to improve conditions for the care and display of his plant collections. Some such as the Enfield Market Cross are listed structures in their own right.



Fig 4.7: The Rose Garden c1920 (from Allan) former Showing the listed Market Cross [29]



Fig 4.8: The listed Wysteria Bridge[17] over the New River, 2003



Fig 4.9: Plinth, 2003



Fig 4.10: Balustrade in 'Lunatic Asylum'[30]



Fig 4.11: petrified tree in stone Garden, 2003



Fig 4.12: Garden artefacts at the rear of the potting shed, 2003

4.0 Significance

4.3.4 Landscape and setting (see also 4.4.1 below)

The landscape owes its significance to:

- Origins as part of the royal hunting forest of Enfield Chase and the New Park associated with Elsyng Palace which forms the setting of the garden.
- Links with the Forty Hall estate: there is a major visual connection along the avenue from the west of the site to Forty Hall.
- Elements from the landscape surrounding Bowling Green House.
- The garden and parkland surrounding the early C19 Myddelton House.
- The development of the gardens as a major experimental plantsmans garden by E. A. Bowles.



Fig 4.13: View to Forty Hall along the lime avenue, 2003



Fig 4.14: Parkland seen from the south-west of the gardens and New River, c1920

The gardens were enclosed by park railings and the grazed parkland formed an important setting for the gardens.

(Myddelton House archive)

4.0 Significance

4.4 The Main Historical Themes

4.4.1 Before the building of Myddelton House (pre-1818)

The contribution of the earlier landscape history is significant in placing the garden in context. This period contributes important archaeological elements:

- Links with Roman Britain: the site adjoins the Roman road of Ermine Street.
- Links with Elsyng Manor and Palace: the archaeological remains of Elsyng Palace adjoin the site, and its New Park formed part of the site of Myddelton House.
- Links with Bowling Green House: buried archaeology is thought to underlie the garden and several yews may derive from a hedge in the garden of Bowling Green House.



Fig 4.15: Eliab Breton's Forty Hall Estate Plan 1785 shows Daniel Garnault's Bowling Green House adjoining Forty Hall and the former Elsyng New Park to the west. (Enfield History Unit)

4.0 Significance

4.4.2 The New River (1609-1968)

The New River has high significance in the following aspects:

- Major technical and engineering achievement of the early C17.
- Source of the Bowles family wealth, which paid for the building of Myddelton House and its gardens.
- Providing the name for Myddelton House, after Sir Hugh Myddelton, founder of the New River Company.
- Link with the Lea Valley and London's water supply.
- Major feature of E.A. Bowles' garden, both for landscape and recreation.
- Source of water for the garden, particularly pools in the Rock Garden.



Fig 4.16: The New River Head waterworks and reservoirs at Islington with the London skyline behind c1730 (Weinreb & Hibbert, 1983)



Fig 4.17: The New River in the 1900s (Myddelton House Archive)



Fig 4.18: The New River Lawn in 2003

4.0 Significance

4.4.3 Social significance and historical association: the Bowles family and community use of the site (1818-2003)

Social significance is derived from:

- The Bowles family origins as an immigrant Huguenot family.
- The Bowles family tradition of involving the local community: hosting fetes, sporting events and celebrations, E.A. Bowles' Night School and other activities for local boys etc.

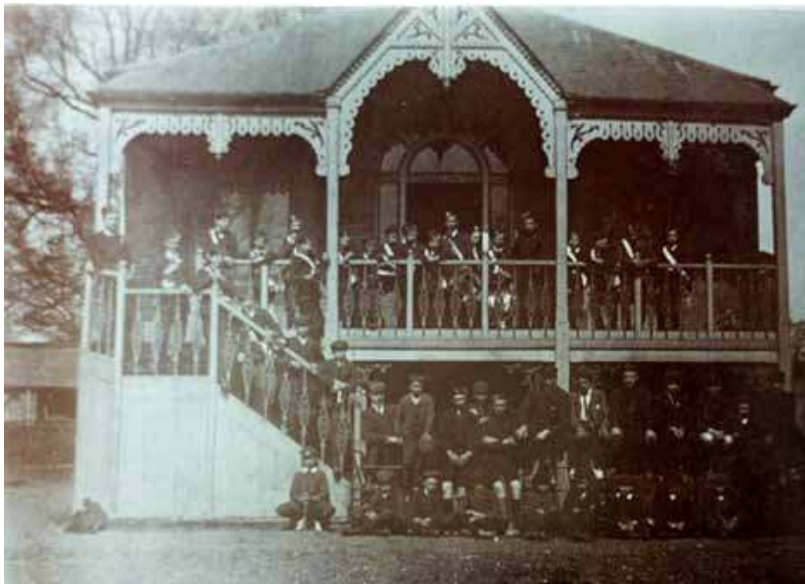


Fig 4.19: Boys on the museum verandah c1900 (Myddelton House Archive)

- E.A. Bowles' charisma which attracted a devoted following of national and local horticulturalists, staff and the boys who made Myddelton House and grounds their second home.
- The unusually detailed and entertaining personal documentation of the use of the site, written by E.A. Bowles and others.
- The dedication of those who had an association with E.A. Bowles continues in the activities of the E.A. Bowles of Myddelton House Society and current garden staff.

4.0 Significance

4.4.4 E A Bowles' plant collection and horticultural legacy (c1890-2003)

Bowles is recognised for:

- Outstanding plantsmanship and developing the concept of the plantsman's garden.
- A pioneering role in experimenting with growing tender plants as hardy and naturalising introductions.
- Receiving, raising and disseminating new introductions from major collectors such as Reginald Farrer.
- Breeding new varieties; this is a lasting legacy as many plants are still popular: Chelsea show gardens often list Bowles plants.
- Specialist collections including Crocus and Colchicum, Galanthus, Euphorbia, Narcissus, Iris and Tulip.



Fig 4.20: Crocus beds c1920 (Allan 1973)



Fig 4.21: Wisteria bridge, 2003

4.0 Significance

- A major role in the Royal Horticultural Society which derived from his exceptional service and this legacy persists to this day: articles frequently appear in the RHS Journal *The Garden*, RHS garden Wisley maintains a 'Bowles corner' with plant lists published on their website.
- As an author: his Trilogy remains in print; his monographs on Narcissus and Crocus and Colchicum were for many years standard works.
- As a plant illustrator: Bowles left an exceptional collection of botanical drawings.



Figs 4.22 & 4.23: Illustrations by E.A.Bowles (Hewitt 1997)

5.0 Issues and Policies

5.00 ISSUES AND POLICIES

5.1 Understanding the Significance of the Site

Issue: it is essential that those involved in the management of the site are aware of its significance deriving from its long history.

Policy 1: Adopt Conservation Plan and ensure that all those making decisions which might affect the site do so with reference to the statement of significance and with the aim of conserving the site's significance.

Policy 2: Co-ordinate work with other plans, particularly *Forty Hall Conservation Management Plan* and work with special interest groups and organisations.

Policy 3: Assessment: Set up a system of assessment against the Conservation Plan and review of the Plan.

Policy 4: Recording: Keep accurate records of all works affecting built and landscape features.

Policy 5: Materials: Use historically accurate materials and techniques for restoration and repair work, unless there is evidence of past failure of such techniques or designs.

5.0 Issues and Policies

5.2 Natural features: Geology, Topography and Nature Conservation

Issues:

- The underlying landform, geology and soils have shaped the character of the landscape and its natural and planted vegetation.
- The natural habitat is highly vulnerable to changes in management - past and future.
- Natural history was of great importance to E.A. Bowles.
- Management policy required for recently acquired areas: sports fields and kitchen garden.

Policy 6: Natural Landscape: Work within planning designations; have regard to the wider impact on the landscape as a whole, both from within and from outside the site.

Policy 7: Nature conservation: Adopt management techniques which will conserve and enhance the range and diversity of habitats, respecting the design intentions of the historic landscape features and prioritising areas where there is known continuity of habitat and therefore significance in relation to the designed landscape. For example, ancient trees, hedgerows, ditches and pasture. Take account of Biodiversity Action Plans within the LVRPA structure.



Fig 5.1: The southern boundary ditch was the boundary of the C16 New Park. Looking south from Alpine meadow, Spring 2003.

5.0 Issues and Policies

5.3 Designed features: Archaeology, Buildings, Structures, Landscape and Setting.

Issues:

- Conserving the quality of the buildings and landscape.
- Accommodating changing uses and demands on the buildings and grounds.
- The relationship between the buildings, gardens and wider landscape setting.
- Loss of designed views within the garden and wider landscape.
- Forming a long term strategy to include recently acquired parts of the site.
- Impact of vehicle movement and parking.
- Conservation and protection of garden features and artefacts.



Fig 5.2: The overspill car park on former parkland north of the Stable block, 2003

Policy 8: The future management and development of the site should be based on an understanding of the site's significance as an historic landscape and seek to conserve the historic fabric.

5.0 Issues and Policies

Policy 9: The relationship of the gardens and buildings to the wider landscape setting should be assessed in the light of the site's history and future management.



Fig 5.3: The relationship between the buildings and gardens and the wider landscape has largely been lost. The tennis courts block the view along the Forty Hall avenue, 2003.

Policy 10: The future management and development of the site should respect key views within the garden and wider landscape.

Policy 11: New features should respect the design intentions of the historic landscape

Policy 12: Develop and implement a long term management and maintenance plan for the site.

Policy 13: Set up a programme of regular inspection of built features and artefacts.



Fig 5.4: New River Terrace (Spring 1914)



Fig 5.5: Kitchen Garden steps, 2003

5.0 Issues and Policies

Policy 14: Minimise the impact of vehicle movement and parking on the historic landscape.



Fig 5.6: Parking at the rear of Myddelton House and vehicle access to the sports pavilion interrupts the relationship of buildings to the landscape and conflicts with pedestrian routes, 2003



Fig 5.7: Parking to the north of the gardens separates the garden from its parkland setting, 2003

5.0 Issues and Policies

5.4 Historical Theme 1: archaeology (pre 1818 - before the building of Myddelton House)

Issue: the whole site and surrounds have a highly significant history and high archaeological potential, relating to the possible prehistoric origins, the construction and use of the Roman Ermine Street, the site's association with the nearby Royal Elsyng Palace, its deerpark and the previous Bowling Green House and land use. The significance is not always well understood or valued. Any excavation for buildings or services including cultivation may damage buried or field archaeology.



Fig 5.8: Bowling Green House: from a painting courtesy of Derek Parker Bowles (copy in Myddelton House Archive)

Policy 15: Any essential excavation should be monitored and recorded and reported under an archaeological watching brief. Field archaeology should be recorded before any heavy equipment is brought in. Any investigation should be undertaken to a properly considered and properly set out programme, carried out under relevant expertise.

5.0 Issues and Policies

5.5 Historical Theme 2: History and engineering achievement of the New River

Issue: The source of water for this loop of the New River has been lost and the riverbed filled in. As a result, the character and quality of the garden and landscape has been fundamentally altered.

Policy 16: Take into account the significance of the New River in long term strategies.



Fig 5.9: The New River , bridge and ostriches (Myddelton House Archive)



Fig 5.10: The dried bed of the New River in 1962 (Myddelton House Archive)

5.0 Issues and Policies

5.6 Historical Theme 3: Social, Community and Educational use

Issues:

- Valued history of community use.
- Accommodating new uses.
- Adequacy of access to existing and newly acquired areas.
- Safety and security.
- Provision of appropriate facilities for a range of users.
- Conservation of archives.

Policy 17: Devise a safe and secure access and circulation strategy to include staff, visitors and all other users of the site and provide appropriate facilities.

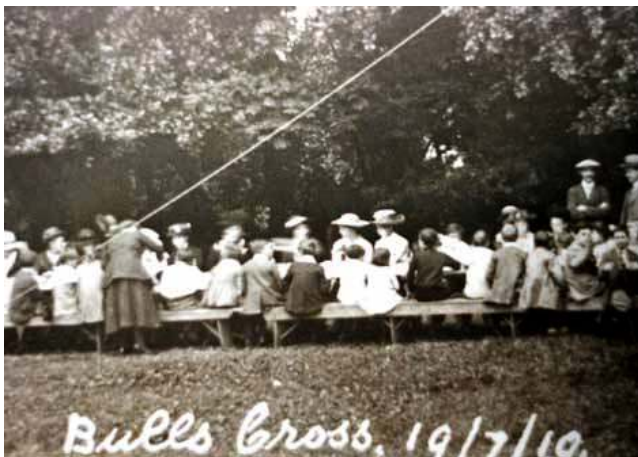


Fig 5.11: Tea at Myddelton House 1919 (Myddelton House Archive)



Fig 5.12: Temporary facilities and plant sales, June 2003

5.0 Issues and Policies

Policy 18: Devise an interpretation and education strategy.

Policy 19: Promote education and opportunities for training.

Policy 20: Seek to accommodate, conserve and disseminate archival material.

5.7 Historical Theme 4: E.A. Bowles Plant Collection

Issues:

- Bowles worked in the garden for 60 years and constant changes were made; he admitted that some plantings were unsuccessful and some features described in his books were replaced.
- Many unique plant varieties have been lost and may continue to be lost.
- Identification and records are incomplete.
- Many of Bowles planted areas had a high maintenance requirement.



Fig 5.13: The cactus bank in the Rock garden (*My Garden in Summer, 1914*)

5.0 Issues and Policies

Policy 21: Update and maintain database and plans of the plant collections and form an action plan to fill gaps in knowledge; working with partner organisations such as the RHS and NCCPG.

Policy 22: Locate, record and where possible conserve plants lost from the collection; add records to the archive.

Policy 23: Protect the significance of the collection by the choice of appropriate plants.

Policy 24: Co-ordinate the conservation of collections with an overall site management and maintenance and security plan.



Fig 5.14: Alpine Meadow and overgrown Rock Garden, June 2003

6.0 Gazetteer

6.0 GAZETTEER

6.1 Introduction

The Gazetteer is a major component of the first phase of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP1). It provides a comprehensive and detailed inventory of all of the site's resources. This comprises the physical assets and features of the site, such as Bowles' plant collection, archaeology, buildings and landscape; as well as some of the more cultural aspects of the site, e.g. the social history and public use of the site. Each description records the negative aspects of each asset as well as the positive aspects.

6.2 Structure

The structure of the Gazetteer has been organised to allow easy access to the asset information. All items are ordered in an identical manner, with at least two pages for each asset, organised as follows:

The front page for each asset provides a quick, easy-to-read summary of the asset with the headings listed below:

Number: Unique identifier.

Name: Commonly given name of the asset.

Location: A written description of the location.

Typology: Archaeology, Building and Structures, Landscape (natural or designed).

Designations: Relevant Statutory Designations:
Listed Building or Structure (within curtilage of), Registered Landscape, Conservation Area, Green Belt, Area of Special Character, Ancient Monument.

Significance: Local, National, and International.

Plus a short statement linked to the 4 historic periods: pre-1818, 1818-1890, 1890-1954, 1954-2003.

6.0 Gazetteer

Survival: Level of survival of the asset:

Extant: The feature is predominantly extant and its original form can be easily discerned.

Partially Extant: Varying proportions of the feature may still be extant and visible and its original form can, in places, still be discerned.

Non-extant: The feature is no longer visible and its original form has largely been superseded by later developments.

Unknown: The survival is unknown (this category has been predominantly used for archaeological features).

Condition: Brief summary of the condition based on the following:

Good: The asset is in a good physical condition with no major issues.

Fair: The asset is in an acceptable condition with few issues.

Variable: The condition is variable and the asset is likely to require some attention.

Poor: The asset requires attention and has some major issues.

Unknown. The condition is unknown (this category has been predominantly used for archaeological features).

Issues/vulnerability: Brief list of issues facing the asset and its significance e.g. loss of character, maintenance.

Recommendations: Brief list of recommended actions for each asset e.g. conserve views, review security.

The second page of each asset provide more detailed written information about the feature including:

Historic Information: Details the history and use of the asset.

Description: Present day physical description of the asset.

Maps/Sources: As general (located within the Bibliography) or a specific reference.

6.0 Gazetteer

Illustrations are provided throughout the Gazetteer to help identify the feature: the front page includes a location plan – indicating the whereabouts of the feature on the site plan. Other images, or photographs are also inserted, showing the asset in its present form and an historic image (if available) showing what the asset would have looked like in its prime.

6.3 Using the Gazetteer

The Gazetteer Inventory is not intended to be read from front to back. It contains over thirty asset entries that are fully comprehensive and detailed. The Inventory is designed to support the main sections of Phase 1 of the Conservation Management Plan, and also to be used as a tool by the site owners, the LVRPA. It is expected that staff and managers will be able to refer to the Inventory and analyse the issues and recommendations contained when planning management actions and detailing development strategies that may affect the site.

6.4 Outline Discussions of the Findings

The Gazetteer contains 34 entries. These are broken down as follows:

Typology

Some of the assets contain more than one typology, for instance the Old Course of the New River is both an archaeological and a designed landscape feature.

Archaeological	5
Building	7
Structure	6
Natural Landscape	2
Designed Landscape	22
Social	1

6.0 Gazetteer

Survival

Only one of the known sites assets has been lost. The original Bowling Green House has two entries with the survival of the building being Non-extant and the condition of the remains being Unknown.

Extant	17
Partially Extant	15
Non-extant	1
Unknown	3

Condition

The condition of the natural Geology and Topography of the site is not applicable.

Good	4
Fair	16
Variable	2
Poor	7
Unknown	4
N/A	1

Comments

The previous figures demonstrate that the majority of the features are equally split between being Extant or Partially Extant, and have survived in a Fair condition. Most of the sites assets are Designed Landscape features and the figures are not surprising in that they reflect the inherent difficulty in maintaining the planting over a hundred year period.

Also, the Park Authority have only recently acquired the Kitchen Gardens and the Sports Fields that cover the majority of the site. The condition of these recent acquisitions have meant that the Authority is inheriting landscape features that are already far from their original, early twentieth century grandeur.

6.0 Gazetteer

6.5 Gazetteer

Resources Inventory

- 001 E.A. Bowles' Plant Collections
- 002 Social History and Public Use
- 003 Geology and Topography
- 004 Prehistory
- 005 Ermine Street Roman Road
- 006 Elsyng Palace
- 007 Bowling Green House
- 008 New River
- 009 Elements from the early landscape
- 010 Landscape Setting
- 011 Myddelton House and Conservatory
- 012 Stables
- 013 Farmyard and Bungalow
- 014 Museum
- 015 Lodge
- 016 Sports Pavilions
- 017 Wisteria Bridge
- 018 Entrance and Approach, path network
- 019 Parkland inc. Sports Fields, car parks
- 020 Site Boundaries
- 021 Kitchen Gardens
- 022 Potting Shed and glass houses
- 023 North Lawn inc. petrified tree, sponge bed
- 024 Bowling Green Lawn and Eremerus bed, Tom Tiddlers Ground

6.0 Gazetteer

- 025 Pond and steps
- 026 New River lawn inc. terrace and iris beds
- 027 Alpine Meadow, rock garden and cactus banks
- 028 Irishman's Shirt
- 029 Rose garden, pergola and wild garden inc. Enfield Market Cross
- 030 Lunatic Asylum and Hollow lawn
- 031 Nursery yard
- 032 Artefacts
- 033 Ecological value
- 034 Vehicular use of the site

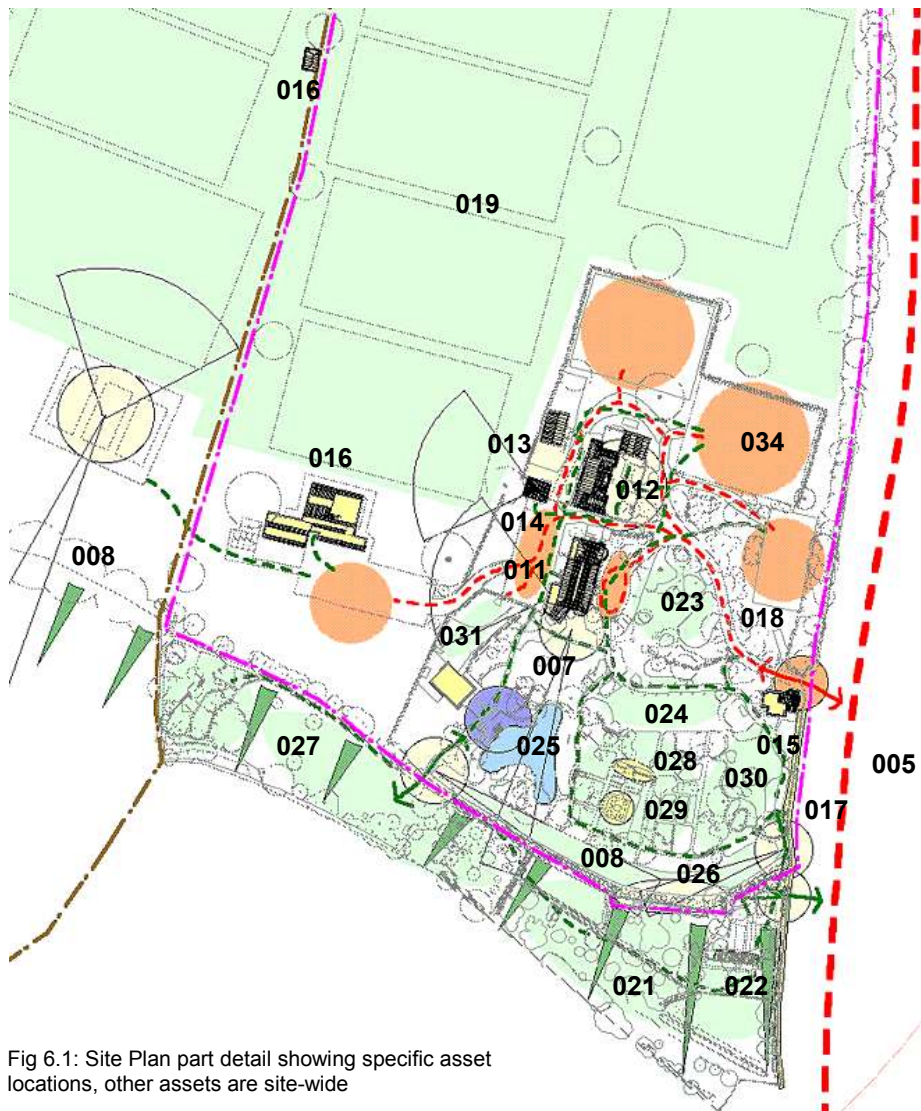


Fig 6.1: Site Plan part detail showing specific asset locations, other assets are site-wide

Appendix A: Bibliography

A.1 Maps and Surveys

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A.2 Plans and Proposals

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Journal of the RHS, LXXIX (1954) 'E.A. Bowles and Myddelton House garden'
Frances Perry

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Bowles Book Committee for sponsorship for Mea Allan's biography)

Collins, William Job "The Garnault Group of families' reprinted from *Proceedings
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Hertfordshire Past No 23: Autumn 1987

Jones, Ian K and Drayton, Ivy W "The Royal Palaces of Enfield' *Enfield
Archaeological Society* Report No 4.

A.5 Archival and Unpublished Items

Sale Catalogue of Contents of Myddelton House, 1954 (Enfield Local History Unit)

Gifford and Partners, *Forty Hall Enfield Desk Based Assessment*

Debois Landscape Survey Group, *Forty Hall Field Survey*, 1998

Camilla Beresford, *Forty Hall Landscape History*, 1998

Broadway Mayan Cultural Heritage, *Conservation Management Plan for the Forty Hall Estate, Enfield* (1999)

E.A. Bowles of Myddelton House Society Archives held at Myddelton House, including information collected by Bryan Hewitt:

Press cuttings from *Enfield Gazette* and *Observer*:

21 May 1954 Death of EAB 'the Last of Enfield's Grand Old Men'.

27 August 1954 Sale of contents of Myddelton House.

Notes of Open Days in 1980s

Correspondence

Photograph albums

Stebbings, Geoffrey: *The History and Development of Myddelton House Gardens*, 1989, including copies of many published and archival items.

Inventory of Furniture and goods bought by Michael Garnault in (Bowling Green) house at Forty hill by him from John Johnson 8th March 1720 for £215.00, transcription by Geoffrey Gillam.

Royal Free Hospital list of trees and shrubs 1956 (included in Stebbings 1989):

List of Broad Leaved Trees 1957 (included in Stebbings 1989).

List of Galanthus- numbered labels 1957-8 (included in Stebbings 1989).

List of Plants to be collected by Wisley c1957 (included in Stebbings 1989).

Appendix A: Bibliography

Information from English Heritage: National Monuments Records:-

405517: Elsyng Hall.

405573: Forty Hall.

1115911: Myddelton House, comprising the following identifiers:-

GD1152: Register of Parks and Gardens.

NBR Index Number 82422.

Listed Building List Entry 200543, 544, 545, 785, 798, 799, 800.

1140494: Forty Hall.

Pearson, Kenwyn, *Myddelton House Gardens Development and Management Plan*, 1994.

Enfield Preservation Society: *Heritage Walks No.1, Forty Hill and Bulls Cross*, 1995.

Correspondence from Enfield Archaeological Society, re: Archaeology of Bowling Green House and New River, 2001-03.

Web-sites:

britannia.com: information and maps for Ermine Street Roman Road.

enfieldpressoc.freeserve.co.uk: web-site for Enfield Preservation Society with information on Forty Hall, the New River.

leevalley-online.co.uk: information on the New River and the River Lea.

leevalleypark.org.uk: web-site for the Lee Valley Regional Park with up-to-date and historical information on the whole of the Lea valley.

romans-in-britain.org.uk: information on Roman Roads in Britain.

A.6 Consultations

Conversation with Jack Frost (Bowles Boy), 07 May 2003.

Conversations, meetings and correspondence with English Heritage, Feb-May 2003.

Conversations, meetings and correspondence with Enfield Borough Council Planning and Conservation Officers, Feb-May 2003.

Meeting with Camilla Beresford, landscape historian, 16 April 2003 (undertook research on Forty Hall and English Heritage Register Inspector for Myddelton House).

Conversation with Geoffrey Gillam. Enfield Archaeological Society, 23 April 2003.

Conversations with Christine Murphy and Bryan Hewitt; gardeners for the LVRPA at Myddelton House, Feb-July 2003.

Appendix B: Attached Figures

B.1 Map of Middlesex by Richard Blome, 1672.

Shows an enclosed forest to the east of 'Morchatch' in the approximate location of Elsyng New Park; copy from Enfield Local History Unit.

B.2 Survey of London by John Roque, 1754.

Shows properties in the approximate location of Bowling Green House, Forty Hall Lime Avenue and the Whitwebbs Loop of the New River; copy from Enfield Local History Unit.

B.3 Plan of the Forty Hall Estate for Eliab Breton, 1785.

Shows Bowling Green House, Forty Hall, Lime Avenue, Turkey Brook and the New River; copy from Enfield Local History Unit.

B.4 Overlay of 1785 Sale Plan on current Ordnance Survey.

Detail of part of plan showing Bowling Green House, overlaid with the boundary of Elsyng New Park and the current Ordnance Survey; copy from Enfield Local History Unit, overlay by Sarah Couch/Cazenove Architects.

B.5 Overlay of 1867 Ordnance Survey on current Ordnance Survey.

OS copy from Enfield Local History Unit, overlay by Sarah Couch/Cazenove Architects.

B.6 Overlay of 1896 Ordnance Survey on current Ordnance Survey.

OS copy from Enfield Local History Unit, overlay by Sarah Couch/Cazenove Architects.

B.7 Overlay of 1913 Ordnance Survey on current Ordnance Survey.

OS copy from Enfield Local History Unit, overlay by Sarah Couch/Cazenove Architects.

Appendix B: Attached Figures

B.8 Overlay of 1935 Ordnance Survey on current Ordnance Survey.

OS copy from Enfield Local History Unit, overlay by Sarah Couch/Cazenove Architects.

B.9 Overlay of 1972 Ordnance Survey on current Ordnance Survey.

OS copy from Enfield Local History Unit, overlay by Sarah Couch/Cazenove Architects.

B.10 Current Site Plan, 2003.

Showing site usage, features, routes, orientation and planning designations; by Cazenove Architects.

B.11 Overlay of current Ordnance Survey on Aerial Photograph, 2000.

Photograph by LVRPA, overlay by Sarah Couch/Cazenove Architects.