Top of Form

# Historic England Research Records

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| Thornbury Park | |
| **Hob Uid:** 201694 |  |
| **Location :**  South Gloucestershire Thornbury, Oldbury-upon-Severn |
| **Grid Ref :** ST6316691122 |
| **Summary :** A licence to first empark Thornbury Park was granted in 1510 to the Duke of Buckingham, with another licence granted in 1517 to impark a further 500 acres. The deer park at Thornbury was bounded on the west by the highway, which separated it from another of the Duke's deerparks at Marlwood (NRHE number 201535). No substantial earthworks survive of the deerpark but there are fishponds (NRHE number 201701) and an unfinished canal (NRHE number 201692). This park was assessed for adding to the Register of Parks and Gardens in 2011 but failed to meet the required criteria. |
| **More information :** (ST 633909) Thornbury Park (NAT) (extent of  parkland shown). (1)   A licence was granted by Henry VIII to Edward Stafford, Duke of  Buckingham in 1510 to impark 1,000 acres at Thornbury; a second  licence was granted in 1517 to impark a further 500 acres. The  deer park at Thornbury was bounded on the west by the highway,  which separated it from another of the Duke's deerparks at  Marlwood (ST 68 NW 19). (2-4)   New Park was first established as a deer park by Edward Stafford, the Third Duke of Buckingham in the early 16th century. King Henry VIII granted a royal license to empark 1000 acres of the land around Thornbury in July 1510 and later granted a license to empark a further 500 aces in 1517. The park was one of three deer parks associated with the castle and earlier manor house at Thornbury (NRHE number 201683), the other two being Eastwood Park (NRHE number 201662) and Marlwood Park (NRHE number 201535), both earlier. The deer park was developed in two stages in 1508-10 and 1515-1517, and it has been suggested that the earlier boundary line from the 1508-10 development can be traced in the existing field boundaries. The works to the deer park occurred at the same time as Stafford was carrying out a scheme to repair and improve Thornbury Castle which took place in 1508 and then again in 1511, with the new park creating a setting for the house. In the early 16th century The Duke began work to add a canal (NRHE number 201692) through the park, sections of which are understood to survive, however it was not completed as, in 1521, the Duke was executed. It is also understood that The Duke¿s plans for an extensive woodland in the park were never realised. Following Stafford¿s execution, Henry VIII confiscated the land formerly in his ownership, although the land was restored to the Stafford family in 1554. Deer were maintained in the park until at least 1541, and by 1550 it was used for pasture, though still enclosed as a park. By 1554/5 records show that cattle and sheep were kept in the deer park, as well as horses. In the 17th and 18th century the area of New Park appears to lie within an amenity park. The most recent aerial images of the site show that some of the fields have been ploughed and are still in under cultivation, while others have continued to be used for pasture.   Archaeological excavation, lidar and geophysical survey have been carried out on the area which is currently subject to the planning application. The geophysical and lidar surveys have not identified any substantial earthworks pertaining to the park pales within the planning proposal area. A documentary survey of New Park was also carried out as part of the planning application. This report provides various historic documents and historic map analysis to identify the likely boundaries of the site. This report suggests that the inner boundary of the park would have run partly through the area. In the Avon Extensive Urban Survey of Thornbury (1996), it is acknowledged that there had not, at that point, been an extensive field survey of the boundaries of the deer park. Field name evidence also identifies the location of a rabbit warren in the south-west area of the park. Documentary evidence suggests that the route of the unfinished canal may have run through the southern edge of the proposed development, however the various surveys carried out in the proposed development area do not show clear evidence of the proposed canal. The documentary and field boundary evidence suggests that the boundary of the park corresponds closely to the current road that creates a loop around the area; this suggests the boundary follows Butts Lane up the west side of the park, cutting across to Kington Lane at the north east corner and continuing down this road on the east side, connecting with Oldland Road in the south and continuing on round to Park Road in the south-west corner.   As stated in `Annex 1: Criteria for assessing the national importance of monuments¿, incorporated within the DCMS publication on Scheduling published in March 2010, relevant consideration for the selection of archaeological sites for national designation are archaeological potential; degree of rarity; level of documentation; group value; survival and/or condition; fragility and/or vulnerability; and the degree of diversity.   A deer park is an area of land, usually enclosed, which is set aside and equipped for the management and hunting of deer and other wild animals to provide a constant and sustainable supply of food throughout the year. Deer parks are recognised through their distinctive boundaries which take the form of a linear earthwork. A high number of deer parks were created in England, circa. 3500, and are often very similar in design, usually oval shape with a major phase of development between 13th and 14th century. Many deer parks survive either as agricultural areas or as parts of a larger ornamental landscape. Therefore a greater degree of selection is required when assessing national importance. The deer park at Thornbury is a relatively late and short-lived example of this monument type. The level of documentary evidence for this site is good and the likely extent of the park is evident from field boundaries and roads recorded in historic maps. The current road system seems to largely respect these boundaries. However it is not clear to what extent the surviving boundary is medieval in origin. Most of the evidence for the boundary has been taken from documentary sources, field names and maps, both historic and current. There is some reported evidence of ditches and banks around the periphery of the site; however there has not been sufficient investigation of these features to firmly date them. Boundaries are very susceptible to damage, whether it is through field clearance, road construction and/or widening, or other developments. The survival level of the deer park boundary has not been established and on the available evidence appears poor. Furthermore, a housing development in the south-west corner of the park and other small scale development around the perimeter of the park will have impacted further on the remains of the park boundary. The archaeological potential of the deer park must, therefore, also be considered low.  Based on the available evidence, the deer park does not meet the tests for national importance. The former deer park, New Park, is however of considerable local importance, particularly as part of the wider landscape which developed around the Castle during the medieval and early post-medieval periods. (5) |

**Sources :**

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| Source Number : 1 Source : Ordnance Survey Map (Scale / Date) Source details : OS 6" 1889 Page(s) :  Figs. :  Plates :  Vol(s) : |

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| Source Number : 2 Source : Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Source details : (A D K Hawkyard) Page(s) : 51 Figs. :  Plates :  Vol(s) : 95 (1977) |

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| Source Number : 3 Source : Archaeologia : or miscellaneous tracts relating to antiquity Source details : (J Gage) Page(s) : 312 Figs. :  Plates :  Vol(s) : 25 (1834) |

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| Source Number : 4 Source : Bristol Archaeological Research Group (B.A.R.G.) bulletin Source details : (R Iles) Page(s) : 119 Figs. :  Plates :  Vol(s) : 6 No 5 (1978) |

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| Source Number : 5 Source : UDS Non-Designation case Source details : Case 467431 Page(s) :  Figs. :  Plates :  Vol(s) : |

**Monument Types:**

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| Monument Period Name : Medieval Display Date : Licence granted 1510 Monument End Date : 1510 Monument Start Date : 1508 Monument Type : Deer Park Evidence : Documentary Evidence |

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| Monument Period Name : Medieval Display Date : Licence granted 1517 Monument End Date : 1517 Monument Start Date : 1515 Monument Type : Deer Park Evidence : Documentary Evidence |

**Components and Objects:**

**Related Records from other datasets:**

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| External Cross Reference Source : No List Case External Cross Reference Number : 467431 External Cross Reference Notes : |

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| External Cross Reference Source : National Monuments Record Number External Cross Reference Number : ST 69 SW 14 External Cross Reference Notes : |