

SHILLINGLEE PARK

Parish: Kirdford
District: Chichester
County: West Sussex
Grid Ref: SU965319

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF SHILLINGLEE PARK

The importance of the Shillinglee Park lies in the high aesthetic value of the house and ancillary buildings, its roots in the landscape, its structural planting and in its close connection with the surrounding estates of Petworth Park, Cowdray Park and Burton Park. All have connections to Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, with known work by Brown at Petworth and Cowdray and accounts for work carried out at both Burton Park and Shillinglee Park. Maps of the Shillinglee estate after alterations took place show increased levels of woodland planting in the park that gradually narrow the view from the house to the lake, clumps of tree planting, smoothing of the edges of the lake, and a less formal parkland. Large scale planting of thousands of trees took place in the 1760s outside the park but within the estate. The view of the expert on Brown and his work is that his suggestions in his general plan were carried out.

The evidential value of fishponds, the use of iron production and brickmaking allow for both archaeological evidence and remnants, together with historic value from the documentary evidence of tree planting and how it is linked to the design of the landscape, together with the supply of plants and flowers for the house.

Shillinglee Park has been owned by the Turnour family for 300 years and the family has provided both Members of Parliament, members of the Privy Council and the Government in their time.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

The iron industry at Shillinglee was developed during the 16th century when the three hammer ponds were formed at Shillinglee lake. The main foundry was located by what is now Park Mill Farm. The former dam for the hammers was converted into the present road. The first known record of 1574 states that 'there is a new furnace at Shillinglee Park run by Smithe of Petworth and one Everfield of Grensted'. The water system involved three existing sluices: the main sluice at North end which has similar brickwork to the bay wall, with a date stone of 1708, the Cornmill sluice with similar brickwork and adapted in 1900 to provide electricity for Shillinglee House, an overspill sluice at the south end in brick and concrete with a 1779 date stone. The industry continued until 1615 when an Act of Parliament prohibited the use of oaks for furnaces and the iron works were closed by 1620. (ref: John Freeman).

Gerard Gore and his brother Christopher (some refer to him as Gerard Gore's nephew) bought 'all that the Manor of Shillinglees alias Shillinglee Park' for the sum

of £4587 from Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel. After the death of the last Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel, in 1580 the Keeper of the Park was John Scarlett. The park then measured 'six miles in compass within the pale'. Scarlett is said to have built on his own copyhold 'a convenient house for a gentleman', which presumably was the house that was used by the new owners. Two dates for this purchase are suggested, 1620 and circa 1641. Gerard was an Alderman and Merchant Taylor of London. His daughter Sarah married Sir Edward Turnour (various spellings of Turnour occur) and brought with her the manor of Shillinglee in 1678, via 'Sir William Turner Kt to pass to John Gore his nephew after Sir William's death for his life, then to Arthur Turnour' (West Sussex Record Office (WSRO) Shillinglee Add Ms 3/22) and succeeding generations. Sir Edward's estates were in Essex, notably at Little Parndon (purchased by him in 1651 although his father, Arthur, lived there possibly as a lessee), the manor house being Parndon Hall, later demolished to make way for the railway. These lands remained with the family, Shillinglee Park being a secondary house.

Sir Edward (1617-1676) was the son of Arthur Turnour who married Anne, daughter of John Jermy of Gunton in Norfolk. Edward entered the legal profession and became a powerful figure in Government after the restoration of Charles II as Speaker of the House of Commons in 1661-1671 and Solicitor General. At the time of the Commonwealth he represented Ongar as Member of Parliament and remained neutral, but was excluded in 1656 and was recognised as no friend of the regime. He then worked to ease the way for Charles II to return to England and take the throne. An example of the payments that could be achieved by his position is the 'gift of £25,000 to him by Charles II by the King's free gift and bounty without account'. Listed as a Court dependent in 1664 'he was useful to the Court and to himself'. His final position was Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer from 1671-1676, but by then his reputation was somewhat sullied for taking a 'small present' of 50 gold pieces from the East India Company for 'good service done the company'. He died in 1676. His portrait, painted by Michael Wright, was photographed hanging over the fireplace in the drawing room in a 1936 article in *Country Life* and can be found today in the *Country Life* Picture Archives.

The website www.historyofparliamentonline.org has a comprehensive record of Sir Edward's career and tells us that his Will left various substantial bequests: £6,000 to one of his two daughters, £2,000 to a granddaughter and his son Arthur inherited Shillinglee Park. At least two portraits of Sir Edward were painted. One hung in Shillinglee House and one is in the National Portrait Gallery, London. Other portraits of the family were hung in the house and some can be found online.

Sir Edward Turnour, the second, (c1662-1721) was born at Little Parndon, Essex and was MP for Orford in Essex from 1701 to 1709. He married Lady Isabella Keith, daughter of William Keith, 7th Earl Marischal, and had eight children. He owned Little Parndon and Great Hallingbury, Essex, purchased for him by his father. Sir Edward settled Little Parndon on his son Charles (www.british-historyonline.ac.uk); He was Deputy Lieutenant and a JP in Essex. In later years he changed his Will in 1691, 1694, and 1696, much annoyed by two of his children, Charles, who was the

Godson of Charles II, and Sarah, who both married without his permission. The following instruction to his lawyer, Thomas Lutwyche in 1719 states:

If it should be asked why I leave my son Charles Turnour and Sarah Gee out of this my last Will let this answer suffice, because they both married themselves without my consent or leavt askt, nay even contrary to my particular commands to two most beggarly persons; my son's wife [Dorothea Fenwick] a papist, and my daughter Gee's husband [Francis] a vile profligate wretch by which means they have (especially my son) ruined themselves and almost undon their father by continuall suits at law for almost twenty five years. (WSRO, Winterton/Shillinglee Mss, Ac454/302)

Although Sir Edward's connection with Shillinglee is tenuous, his inclusion in the report is important in placing him in the family pedigree and to illustrate how it came about that it was his granddaughter, Sarah Garth who inherited Shillinglee from Edward Turnour, Sir Edward's nephew.

Arthur Turnour (c1651-1724), second son of the first Sir Edward Turnour, inherited Shillinglee on his father's death in 1676. He married Elizabeth Urling and they had one son, Edward. Arthur Turnour held the post of High Sheriff of Sussex until succeeded by John Shelley in 1705. Previously he had had property sequestered on conviction of the manslaughter of Joseph Loftus in 1694.

Derek Holden, who has extensively researched the history of Shillinglee Park, writes in his report about Shillinglee for the Haslemere Angling Society newsletter that Arthur extended the main lake. 'The early estate map shows the outline of the lake as the main body of water, smaller than that of today, from which two elongated arms stretch up – one to where China Bridge now stands, the other towards the Bicknell Pond (constructed by Haslemere Anglian Society in the late 1980s by damming the eastern arm of the lake) and not at all dissimilar in shape and size to that which remained when the water was recently drained, to the base of the wall, during recent repair work, this having been necessary on various occasions. Thus, this was the pond, retained only by an earth and cinder dam that served the ironworks and the early years of the mill until, in 1708 (there is a date stone set into the brickwork) using bricks from his own brickyard above the Upper North Pond (as marked on earlier Ordnance Survey maps), Arthur Turnour added the wall, raised the level of the water by eight feet or so and thereby created a very much larger body of water; though possibly not yet quite that which we see today (subsequent siltation notwithstanding).'

Other references in the Shillinglee Archives confirm that Arthur resided at Shillinglee Park and his Will of 1721 referenced him as Arthur Turnour Esq of Shillinglee Park (WSRO Add Ms 25/21).

Arthur's son Edward (1678-1736) inherited from his father in 1724. It was this Turnour who built a new house facing west in the Palladian style in the north east corner of the park with its date stone of 1735. In 1734 an agreement is recorded between Edward Turnour Esq and Thomas Steel Jnr of Chichester to build a house at Shillinglee. Faint lines on the undated estate map (WSRO ref: Shillinglee Mss 26/10) but prepared for Edward Turnour Esq, possibly before his death in 1736, show a large half oval separating the house grounds from the park, the house facing west and located at the north east boundary of the park, abutting the Sussex/Surrey county boundary. A line of fencing delineating the gardens of the house and park has continued to be shown on illustrations of Shillinglee from 1832. Subsequent decades including a *Country Life* photograph of an ironwork fence from 1936 continues to show a similar fence. A small formal garden is said to have been planted within this area. As was common practice for the upper classes, Edward Turnour's London residence was in Bloomsbury.

In the same way that all the eldest sons in the Turnour family were called Edward, at least one daughter of each generation was called Sarah. Sarah Gore married Sir Edward Turnour and had a daughter, Sarah, who married George Clarke but apparently had no children. Sir Edward Turnour the younger had a daughter, Sarah, who married Francis Gee, without the permission of her father, and had a daughter Sarah, who married Joseph Garth. This Sarah had a son Edward in 1734 and a daughter, Sarah in 1737. Edward Garth (1734-1788) inherited from his mother aged 10 on her death in 1744. He took the name of Turnour by Royal license, following the request of Edward Turnour to do so in his Will. During his minority the estate was managed by trustees and within this time a proposal was prepared to lease 330 acres of Shillinglee c1744 which gives full details of the fields and the management that was expected of Thomas Manfield. He was to take over the running of that part of the estate from the previous tenant Thomas White (WSRO, Shillinglee 3/27/6).

In 1755 on reaching his majority, the Trust was released from its management of Shillinglee Park and Edward Garth Turner took control of his estate. In 1756 he married the Hon. Anne Archer, the daughter of Thomas Archer, 1st Baron Archer, and they had eight surviving children. Anne died in 1775 and Edward married again to Elizabeth Armstrong in 1778 and had two surviving children. 1756 is the date stone set into the brickwork of China Bridge, crossing the lake at the western end.

Edward Garth Turnour was MP for Bramber from 1761 to 1769 and in 1761 was raised to the Peerage of Ireland as Baron Winterton of Gort in the County of Galway. In 1766 he was created Viscount Turnour and Earl Winterton of Gort, the title of Viscount allowing his heir to have a junior title. The granting of the titles was aided by his friendship with the Duke of Newcastle, correspondence of which is archived in the British Library. A letter dated 16 November 1765 from the Duke to Lord Winterton announced the King's approbation to the grant of the Earldom (WSRO Shillinglee 2/31). In 1757 his London residence was in Great Brooke Street.

Lord Winterton decided to extend Shillinglee House by building a south front, to connect with the earlier house that faced west. It therefore roughly formed a 'T' shape. The date stone for the house is 1778.

Lord Winterton's Will stipulated that the contents of the house and outbuildings at Shillinglee be sold on his death in 1788. It is thought that the reason for this was that it would provide income for his unmarried daughters. The 1788 sale catalogue is available in the Shillinglee Archive (WSRO 37/102) and it provides interesting information as to some of the buildings on the estate: A hermitage is noted as of course is the garden, which appears to be the kitchen garden, containing the usual equipment that would one expect including a number of frames for melon and for cucumbers. Less usual was the sundial and a young eagle, chain and post. The greenhouse notes a selection of greenhouse plants in pots, including orange and lemon trees. On the North Water (measuring six acres) was a 'fast sailing pleasure sloop, mounting 16 iron guns on carriages, with anchor, awning, sails, rigging, and colours complete in excellent condition', together with a neat skiff, with carved head, and a flat bottom fishing boat. On the Large Mill Water, was an excellent four oar pleasure boat, completely equipped, and a large flat bottom fishing boat. Written in hand at the end of the catalogue is 'A Chinese summer house'.

In 1781 Edward Turnour, the 2nd Earl Winterton married Jane, the daughter of Richard Chapman, by whom he had seven children before Jane died aged just 28 years in 1792. He remarried in 1795, to a Harriet Bodicote but had no further children.

The 2nd Earl is mentioned by W^m Cobbett in his *Rural Rides* following their meeting in November 1825 whilst Cobbett was travelling north from Petworth. He died in 1821 to be followed by his eldest son, Edward Turnour, the 3rd Earl who died in 1833. In turn, his eldest son, Edward Turnour, the 4th Earl (1810-1879) was a first class cricketer who played for Sussex on many occasions as was and did, his eldest son, Edward Turnour the 5th Earl (1837-1907) demonstrated by the cricket ground shown to the north of the house on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1875. This connection led to the famous English batsman K.S.Ranjitsinhji leasing the house during the early years of the 20th century when amongst the visitors to the cricket ground was, on at least one occasion, W.G.Grace. On the death of the 5th Earl his only child Edward Turnour (1883-1961) became the 6th and last English Earl Winterton.

The 6th Earl lived a life devoted to public duty being M.P. for Horsham & Worthing throughout his Parliamentary career as well as holding the posts of Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Admiralty (1905), Under Secretary of State for India (1922-29), Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Member of the Air Council (1938) and British Delegate Burma Round Table Conference (1931) amongst others. He was an avid huntsman and Master of the Chiddingfold Foxhounds. Further details of his life may be found within any of the three volumes of his memoirs. During the First World

War, the 6th Earl served in the desert campaign with T.E.Lawrence. He died in 1961 and the property and Earldom passed to his cousin, Lord Nunburnholme. It was he that wanted to see the house restored following its destruction. His heirs, the late 7th Earl and the 8th Earl resided and reside in Canada.

In January 1943 Shillinglee House was being used as a billet for Canadian soldiers when a fire broke out in a downstairs room which swept through the house. Many works of art, manuscripts and furniture were passed out hand-to-hand by the soldiers but the building was lost. The house was restored and sold as three private apartments in 1975 when, following the death of Monica Countess Winterton, much of the estate was divided and sold by the Trustees. Haslemere Angling Society was able to buy the Mill Pond.

Sale particulars of 1996 give details of the Deer Tower which had previously been converted into a private residence and new gardens were subsequently designed around it. The parkland sold with it extends to 120 acres (48.56 ha). The new gardens are formal and provide different aspects from the house; a water garden to the south, a rose garden to the north, a pair of pavilions to the west, to the east the park is the main focus. Yew hedging and box divide up the areas. Further elements provide a lime avenue in the park, specimen trees, and spring bulbs in the orchard.

THE PARK

Shillinglee Park has a long history, traceable from its Tudor ownership to the Gores and then the Turnours who owned it for 300 years. Its domestic boundaries of buildings and deer park have remained consistent throughout. After 1975 and the division in ownership of the estate, the park boundaries have remained as they were. Saxton's map of Sussex in 1579 gives Shillinglee Park great prominence in terms of size within its park pale, and each map of during the 17th to 19th centuries continues to follow a similar pattern. One change is that the map of Sussex by John Cary of 1805 shows an avenue reaching from the eastern boundary of the estate towards Plaistow through what would have been the wider estate outside the deer park boundary. This does not appear on the 1836 map of Kirdford Parish.

In 1832 Dallaway wrote about Shillinglee that 'the beautiful forest scenery commands a view of the lake of 70 acres (28.3 ha) in extent'. This is likely to be an exaggeration as the size is in the region of 30-40 acres (12-14 ha). 'Large woodland tracts, called Kings Park and Ash Park are contiguous and included in the same property, which contains 6,000 acres (2,428 ha) in a ring fence'. The woodland continues to form a large portion of the park although less so on the undated estate map c1735 for Edward Turnour Esq.

This estate map of Shillinglee Park shows a formal landscape with extensive areas of water; the two North Ponds, New Pond, The Lake (more often referred to as the Mill Pond) and a number of lesser ponds and feeder streams. It is notable that the edges of the lake are irregular with many curves and inlets.

The deer park is marked at points A to E on the map and is contained to the south of one of the main drives to 'The Buildings', otherwise the Home Farm, that continues to the house and the northern boundary of the estate. Shown within the park are three deer barns and the Deer Tower (marked as Lodge) which was four storeys high with its four turrets and an imitation keep. Detailed examination of the map show that the house and deer barns and deer tower are outlined in red, as is the China Bridge, which may mean that they were added at a later date.

Field divisions are shown throughout the plan with an index providing field names and uses. The deer park is divided in much the same way and in the north east corner is an area containing four fields, marked as Paddock. A network of drives, access ways and paths intersect the estate, the drives being shown as tree lined avenues. The South Walk commences at the northern end of the deer park adjacent to one of the drives, with a marked entrance, perhaps gates, and continues due south to the boundary, crossing the lake at the China Bridge. This again is shown as tree lined.

By 1761 Edward Turnour had been granted the Barony of Gort and had taken the title of Lord Winterton. In the style of Lancelot Brown, he started planting two outlying areas of land to the east of the Park known as Kings Park and Ash Park. Three documents written as certificates, now in the Royal Society of Arts archive, show that he had instructed his bailiff, James Peto, to plant '20 acres (8 ha) in the freehold estate of Lord Winterton', 13 acres (5 ha) being a parcel of a farm called Kings Park and other 2 acres (0.8 ha) adjoining it, and then 4 acres (1.6 ha) of a parcel of land at Ash Park. It was to be 'sufficiently ploughed and planted with 84 bushells of the best and soundest acorns, and to be 'well and effectually fenced and secured on all sides with a wide deep Ditch and a high Bank and a very good strong Hedge fence thereon'. This was signed by James Peto, Thomas Hock, Carter to Lord Winterton and John Parkhurst, husbandman. The accounts show that in 1760 Joseph Cox was planting acorns in Kings Park and work continued using women and families. A year later John Parkhurst was working there for six months. The bills were signed by William Heath, presumably the Earl's steward.

Two further documents follow in 1766 from the newly ennobled Earl, one for Ash Park where '2,000 small-leaved English Elms, (well fenced in and preserved from Cattle)' and the second where '12 acres (4.8 ha) in Shillinglee Park were set with Spanish Chestnuts. On each acre of which there are now many more than five hundred Spanish Chestnut Plants', a total of 12,000 Spanish or sweet chestnuts were planted. These two certificates were signed by Walter King Gardener and Peter Holden. The employment of Walter King as gardener was a new departure for Lord Winterton. In 1766 the fish pond was being mended and stocked with carp, perch and tench. The park and garden were drained by James Baker with three men, this being a regular occurrence.

The Earl was awarded medals from the Royal Society for the tree planting; there was concern at the time, because of the loss of trees needed for shipbuilding while the

country was at war, so tree planting was encouraged. In his Will the 1st Earl Winterton bequeathed to his five youngest sons 'the five gold medals which I received of the Society of Arts & Commerce for planting Timber'.

Again in 1766 the Earl was buying trees, this time from Viscount Midleton (the 4th Viscount of Peper Harrow), some being relatively newly arrived in England and more exotic varieties than his previous purchases. The list with quantities varying from 100 to 4 and with spellings as written consists of America Oaks, Deciduis Cypress, Sweet Gums, Broad leaved Spindle trees, Small Virginian Tulip Trees, Small Red Cedars, Pine Asters, Scotch Fires, Small judas trees, White American Ash, White Mulberry trees, America Berch, Small Cockspur thorns, Small Mountain Ash, Lymes, Waymouth pines, Carolina poplars, and was signed by John Coulson (WSRO, Shillinglee, Acc 454/44). Note: *Pine Asters* – *Pinus pinaster*, *Mediterranean pine*. *Deciduis Cypress* – *Taxodium distichum*.

This planting period ties in with the date of 7th February 1762 when Lancelot Brown sent in his account to Earl Winterton 'To a survey paid to Brown with his expenses up and down at 4 pence per acre, the amount being £12.13s. 0d.' Then follows 'To a general Plan for the Place very large and very troublesome' costing £40.0.0. Following on 'To various times being at Shillingley [sic] Park to view it in order to make a Plan to several times being there to mark Timber and to men trying the ground etc etc' that amounted to £31.10.0, bringing a total of £84.3.0. The estimated size of the park at this time, given the costs involved, was 759 acres (307 ha)

Shillinglee lies north of Petworth, with lands running adjacent to each other. The road to North Chapel and Chiddingfold runs immediate on east side of the park at Petworth and by turning right after North Chapel the visitor arrives at Shillinglee. There exists in the Shillinglee archive correspondence concerning rights to the different lands and it is almost unconceivable that the families did not meet on social occasions. Brown was working at Petworth between 1751 and 1764 which would allow for him to be in Sussex around 1761 and 1762.

Brown's account for his work at Shillinglee and the planting of vast numbers of trees both within the park and at Kings and Ash Parks, together with the map evidence of the changes in both woodland and the lake at Shillinglee, would suggest that the timings are more than coincidental. Indeed, examination of the maps and plans, by one of the most qualified Brown experts, confirms the view that Brown's work for Earl Winterton was carried out although the map evidence suggests that this was not in the lifetime of the 1st Earl.

The estate contains all the hallmarks of Brown's landscapes. There are the rolling contours, the serpentine lake and both single and tree clumps, the changing of South Walk to the softer more diagonal route through the park, together with vast areas of tree planting both within and beyond the park.

The Shillinglee archive accounts (WSRO 35/45) show that one of the carpenter's jobs in 1772 was spent moving the summerhouse from New Copse and moving the gates in the paddock; it is possible that this was the Chinese summerhouse noted in the sales particulars. Other entries in the accounts mention work on the 'Little House'. It is possible that this was the garden building shown on the Ordnance Surveyors' drawing, Midhurst, of 1808 and to be seen on the print of Shillinglee of 1832.

At present three plans of Shillinglee in the late 17th century in West Sussex are missing in the West Sussex Record office, but the Ordnance Surveyors' Drawing of Midhurst shows Shillinglee without much change. A print of Shillinglee Park 'Contributed by the Rt Hon. Earl Winterton' (the 3rd Earl), and a detailed map of Kirdford Parish of 1836 show evidence of the changes noted below. The print shows a conservatory on the east wing of the smaller two bays either side of the new south facing wing and a fence separating the house from the park which slopes gently down to the lake before it rises again showing a landscape of great aesthetic appeal. None of the lakes can be seen but woodland rings the edges of the park, together with tree clumps and specimen trees set within the open landscape of the park. To the west of the house appears an obelisk on its plinth and a garden house again set on a low plinth and two stories high. So far there are no records of these garden structures but they may appear on the map of 1808. It is difficult to confirm this without more information about their exact location.

The 1836 map of Kirdford Parish (WSRO, Add Mss 2056) shows Shillinglee in detail, with the boundaries of the park corresponding with the earlier maps. New tree planting runs from the western side of the stream linking the Upper North and Lower North Ponds and the New Pond and likely to be where the 12,000 Spanish Chestnuts were planted. This is named as New Copse on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps of 1875 and 1899. Woodland curves gently from north to south to meet the southern end of New Pond. Groups of trees in twos, threes and fours stand in the park, together with specimen trees. The South Walk shown on the earlier plan has gone, and replaced with a curving drive which forks in the middle of the park to go to the Deer Tower (Lodge) and over China Bridge to the edge of the park at the south west corner. In the other direction it passes the end of the eastern arm of the lake and continues to interconnect with other drives. The lake has its edges smoothed into gentle contours to the eastern end where the Park Mill stands, together with a sluice. To the west another stream feeds into the lake and again the stream has edges that have been softened and widened to form interconnecting ponds.

The next century following the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1875 shows little map evidence of change to the landscape. Subsequent Earls were evidently happy with the setting of the house and landscape but continued to maintain the various areas of woodland, lakes and feeder streams. At some point, New Pond was drained and filled.

The changes to ownership from the 1970s, with the division of the landscape, has made little impact, the house and park remain as it has been for so many years, serene in its setting.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main approaches to Shillinglee Park remain as they were in the 18th century; one from the north, where it turns south west after passing the house, enters the park from a minor road to Chiddingfold and then continues south east to The Buildings. The entrance from the west enters the park and runs due east to meet The Buildings and then connects with the north entrance. The 1836 map of Kirdford parish shows a lodge at the entrance. This drive through the park is now a public road that runs in a west/east direction from the A283 Petworth to Chiddingfold road towards Plaistow. Another main entrance shown on the 1836 map is in the south west corner of the park. The historic drives and access routes are still in existence on the modern map as footpaths or bridleways, indicating their original uses.

Way Wardens or overseers of the highways were appointed each year from 1630 until 1764 when the record written by Richard Mosse finished (WSRO Shillinglee 3/34).

KITCHEN GARDEN

There is no map evidence of a kitchen garden before 1808, where its location is shown on the 1808 Ordnance Surveyors' drawing and the 1836 map of Kirdford Parish. Both show a square kitchen garden with diagonal paths dividing the beds, located on the northern border of the estate, to the north west of the house. The diagonal beds are shown on later maps to have been changed to the more usual quarter paths running with the walls of the kitchen garden.

We can assume that given the new south wing of the house and Lord Winterton's elevated position to the Earldom that the walled kitchen garden was in place by the mid to late 17th century. Bricks would have come from the brick kiln noted as on plans on the north west of the estate. Its existence is confirmed by an extensive plant list for the kitchen garden dated July 25, 1771 from James Gordon which shows that equipment was being purchased, as well as flowers, but that in the main it was for the supply of vegetables. (British Museum Ref: Collection, Heal,74.16).

Although there is little evidence to date of a formal garden, in February, March and April 1766, the Earl was employing 9, 15 and 26 gardeners under the head gardener, Walter King. Mending the Pond Head in the garden was mentioned.

SW
Sussex Gardens Trust
November 2015

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WSRO Kirdford Tithe Map, TD/W74 1845-47

WSRO Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" to the mile 1875 WSRO Plan of Shillinglee Park, Kirdford circa 1735 for Edward Turnour Esq, ref: Shillinglee Mss 26/10

WSRO Gardner and Gream 1795, ref: MP 4015

WSRO Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6" to the mile 1899