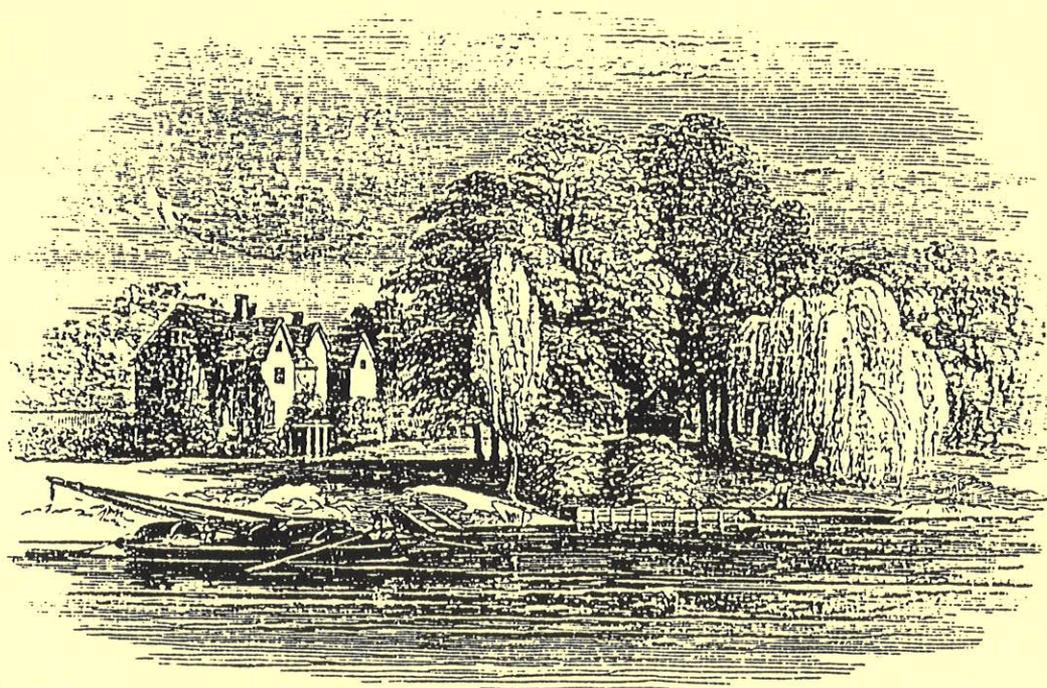


ANKERWYCKE PRIORY, WRAYSBURY BERKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

TQ 004727



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

March-April 1993

(Revised March 1994)

**ANKERWYCKE PRIORY, WRAYSBURY, BERKSHIRE
TQ 004727**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

by Graham D Keevill MIFA, with a major contribution from Julian Munby, and contributions from Gill Campbell and Catherine Underwood-Keevill

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

MARCH-APRIL 1993
(Revised March 1994)

CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction
 - 1.1 Background
 - 1.2 Site description
 - 1.3 Previous work
 - 1.4 Reason for the project
 - 1.5 Methodology

- 2 Results
 - 2.1 The post-Dissolution history of the Priory
 - 2.1.1 Introduction
 - 2.1.2 Owners and occupiers of Ankerwycke
 - 2.1.2.1 Manorial descent
 - 2.1.2.2 Family History
 - 2.1.2.3 Occupiers of Ankerwycke
 - 2.1.3 Sale to Bucks County Council
 - 2.1.4 Title Deeds
 - 2.1.5 Ankerwycke House
 - 2.1.6 The park and gardens
 - 2.1.7 Documentary sources
 - 2.1.8 Maps and land use
 - 2.1.8.1 The enclosure map and award of 1800
 - 2.1.8.2 Deposited road plan of 1840
 - 2.1.8.3 The Tithe map of 1840
 - 2.1.8.4 OS 1st edition 25" plan of 1869
 - 2.1.8.4 OS 1st edition 25" plan of 1869
 - 2.1.8.5 OS 2nd edition 6", 3rd edition 25" plans
 - 2.1.9 Pictorial sources
 - 2.1.10 Conclusions
 - 2.2 The auger survey
 - 2.3 The trial trenches
 - 2.3.1 Trench 1
 - 2.3.2 Trench 2
 - 2.3.3 Trench 3
 - 2.3.4 Trench 4
 - 2.3.5 Trench 5
 - 2.3.6 The ceramics, by Cathy Underwood-Keevill
 - 2.4 Level transect

- 3 Discussion
 - 3.1 Gravel levels and geology
 - 3.2 Prehistoric activity
 - 3.3 The medieval use of the site
 - 3.3.1 The linear earthwork
 - 3.4 Post-medieval activity
 - 3.4.1 Artificial raising of the ground level
 - 3.4.2 The Victorian garden

- 4 Recommendations
 - 4.1 Environmental considerations - general
 - 4.2 Environmental considerations - the channel and fishponds
 - 4.3 The archaeological potential
 - 4.3.1 The fishponds and channel
 - 4.3.2 The standing structure and platform
 - 4.3.3 The Victorian landscaped garden
 - 4.4 Display

Bibliography

- Appendix B1 List & Index Soc. ns III(i) *Lands of Dissolved Religious Houses*
- Appendix B2 *Bucks Record Office, Aylesbury: Wraysbury Index Cards*
- Appendix B3 *Bucks Record Office, Aylesbury 24/3/1993: selected material in **D49 Ankerwycke House** collection*
- Appendix B6 Dyfed RO list
- Appendix B7 Surrey RO list
- Appendix C1 *1800 Enclosure Award* (extract)
- Appendix C3 *1840 Wraysbury Tithe Award* (extract)

Illustrations

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 RCHM survey, including location of Trenches 1-5
- Fig. 3 Location of auger samples
- Fig. 4 Excavation plans and/or sections
- Fig. 5 1800 Enclosure Map
- Fig. 6 1840 Deposited road plan
- Fig. 7 1840 Tithe Map
- Fig. 8 1869 OS 1st edn 25" plan
- Fig. 9 c1900 OS 2nd edn 6" plan
- Fig. 10 1932 OS 3rd edn 25" plan

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ankerwycke Priory lies on the N bank of the river Thames, 1 km S of the village of Wraysbury (Fig. 1). The site lies opposite to Runnymede field, and Magna Carta (or Charta) Island is immediately upstream from the Priory. Ankerwycke was in Buckinghamshire until 1974, when boundary changes took the site into Berkshire. The site is owned by Berkshire County Council.

The area is dominated by floodplain gravels, with extensive deposits of alluvium on the S bank. The Geological Survey of Great Britain (map 269), however, does not show alluvium on the N bank around Ankerwycke.

The priory was a Benedictine nunnery founded in the mid 12th century, probably not before 1160. The site is not mentioned in the Domesday Book. The house was dedicated to St Mary Magdalen. Its founders were Gilbert de Muntfichet, lord of Wraysbury (Wyrardisbury), and his son Richard. The nunnery always seems to have been poor, and in the early 16th century only the prioress and six or seven nuns were present. Ankerwycke was suppressed before 8 July 1536, when the last prioress, Magdalen Downes, received a pension of £5 a year.

The priory was originally endowed with the demesne of Ankerwycke and other small parcels of land in Wyrardisbury parish, along with other pieces at Egham, Greenford, Stanwell, Henley, Windsor and so on. The distribution of these properties is predominantly local, with most being within 5 km of the site. Henley, 24 km to the W, is the furthest afield. Greenford is less than 18 km to the NE. Very few new endowments appear to have occurred. The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* assessed the revenue from the properties at £22 0s 2d (VCH 1, 355-7). The priory also owned all fisheries and weirs in the Thames from Old Windsor to Ankerwycke Ferry (VCH 3, 324). The post-Dissolution history of the site is summarised in some detail below.

1.2 Site description

The priory site consists of an island bounded by the Thames to the W, and tributary channels to the N and E. The S end of the island is defined by a canalised channel running. The island is separated into two parts by a N-S linear feature. The land to the E is raised above the surrounding level and contains extensive earthworks, including a pair of fishponds. A fragment of masonry is all that survives of the priory buildings. The raised area also contains a famous yew tree, traditionally the site of a meeting between Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn (Lipscomb 1847, 600).

The land W of the linear earthwork contains a few slight earthworks, but is also crossed by E-W ridge-and furrow. It is notable that the latter crosses the linear earthwork.

1.3 Previous work

Little or no archaeological work had been undertaken at Ankerwycke Priory until 1992, when Berkshire County Council commissioned an earthwork survey from the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME). The survey plan has been used as the basis for Figures 2 and 3. The principal earthworks are: the N-S linear feature; the fishponds; terracing to the W of the linear feature at the N end of the island; a pronounced platform which includes the surviving masonry and appears to contain other building platforms; and various amorphous features on the E half of the island.

Berkshire County Council also commissioned an evaluation of the surviving masonry and associated deposits. This was undertaken by Thames Valley Archaeological Services in January 1993. Three small trial trenches were excavated against the surviving wall faces. The results suggest that a large amount of overburden had been dumped on the area. The chalk block masonry continues for approximately 1 m below the current ground level. The tops of the foundations were exposed in all trenches, and a plain tiled floor was found in Trench B.

The Council also asked Professor Brian Kemp of Reading University to undertake an evaluation of the historical sources for the priory.

1.4 Reason for the project

Berkshire County Council, as owners of Ankerwycke Priory, intend to develop its potential as an archaeological/historical amenity resource. The possibility of recreating the fishpond environments has been specifically identified as a target. The Oxford Archaeological Unit was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the fishponds and other elements of the site by the County.

A brief for the work was provided by the County Archaeological Officer. This stipulated that the project should consist of three main elements: documentary research into the post-Dissolution history of the site; an auger survey of the N-S linear earthwork, the fishponds, and the channel on the E side of the island; and trial excavations of the channel and fishpond banks. The documentary research commenced at the beginning of March 1993, with the fieldwork starting immediately thereafter. This report presents and analyses the results of the project.

1.5 Methodology

The documentary research into the post-medieval site use was undertaken by Julian Munby of the OAU. Extensive searches were made in the Buckinghamshire Record Office, the Public Records Office and elsewhere, while collections relating to Wraysbury in Surrey and Dyfed were also researched.

Primary, secondary (ie printed books) and map sources were used. Information from the initial searches was used in determining elements of the fieldwork strategy.

The auger survey was undertaken by Bill Bevan and Jon Tilney of the Archaeological Research Consultancy at the University of Sheffield (ARCUS) from 10-12 March 1993. Thirty-five augers were taken in total (Fig. 2, and see 2.2). A Dutch screw auger was used on all solid ground positions, but a Russian gouge was used in the fishponds and channel where unconsolidated organic deposits were present. Levels were taken at the surface position of each auger, and the depth below that point was noted for all changes in the soil profile. The auger survey information was recorded in writing. Most augers could be recorded in detail, but that in the centre of the E-W fishpond had to be recorded rapidly because of the precarious nature of the sample location. The auger record was passed to the OAU at the end of the survey work.

Five trial trenches were excavated on the E half of the island, concentrating on the fishponds and channel (Figs 3-4). Approximate trench locations were agreed in advance by the County Archaeological Officer, but Trenches 1 and 2 had to be repositioned because of ground conditions. All excavation was by hand.

All deposits identified in the excavation trenches were given unique context numbers in a continuous sequence, using the OAU standard recording system (Wilkinson ed. 1992). Plans and sections were mostly drawn at 1:20; plan 4 was drawn at 1:50. Trenches, augers and level positions were surveyed in relation to fixed points and lines located on the RCHME survey plot; a 1:1000 version was supplied to the OAU for this purpose. Finds and soil samples were recorded by context. Black-and-white negative and colour slide photographs were taken of the excavations and auguring in progress, and of the site in general.

All levels, both for augers and in the excavations, were related to a benchmark of 16.82 m above Ordnance Datum (Newlyn) situated at the S end of the bridge which gives access to the island at its N end. A useful check of levels was provided by plans supplied by the National Rivers Authority showing bank levels along the Thames at intervals of between 25 m and 75 m. Levels taken by OAU and ARCUS conformed to those on the NRA plans, with only one exception (see Auger 29, below). A transect of levels was taken across the platform to the S of the surviving masonry up to the Thames. Levels were read at 10 m intervals. The position of the transect is shown on Figure 3.

2 RESULTS

2.1 The post-Dissolution history of the Priory

2.1.1 Introduction

The site of the Priory, by the River Thames in the parish of Wraysbury (also known as Wyrardisbury), was in Buckinghamshire until 1974, and consequently the study has been concentrated on sources for Buckinghamshire history. The history of the parish is well-recorded in printed sources, and there are useful representations on maps, though no early estate plans have been discovered. A number of relevant record deposits have been identified, though the title deeds of the property have not been located.

This part of the evaluation report presents an outline of the post-medieval history of the site. The archive contains a series of appendices which bring together some of the original and secondary sources on which it is based. The contents list below lists these appendices in full. The starred items are reproduced in full at the end of this report. References to the full appendices are included in the text below.

A. Printed materials

- A1** *VCH Buckinghamshire i*, ed. W. Page (19//), 355-7.
- A2** *VCH Buckinghamshire iii*, ed. W. Page (1925), 320-5.
- A3** D.& S. Lysons, *Magna Britannia [Bucks]* (1813), 681-2.
- A4** *Burke's Commoners of Great Britain* (1834-8) ii. 221-3.
- A5** G. Lipscomb, *History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham* (1847) iv, 586-620.
- A6** J.J. Sheahan, *History and Topography of Buckinghamshire* (1862), 876-7.
- A7** G.W.J. Gyll, *History of the Parish of Wraysbury, Ankerwycke Priory, and Magna Carta Island...* (1862), 46-57.
- A8** *Kelly's Directory of Buckinghamshire* (also *Berks, Bucks & Oxon.*)
- A9** *Buckinghamshire County Council Minutes and Reports* (1937-8)
- A10** Ankerwycke House sale particulars, 1855 [BRO D49/55]
- A11** Ankerwycke House sale particulars, 1863 [BRO D18/1/9]

B. Documentary sources

- * **B1** List and Index Soc
- * **B2** BRO Wraysbury Listings
- * **B3** BRO Ankerwycke papers (D49) list and notes
- B4** Ditto, copy of D49/19 (schedule)
- B5** Ditto, copy of D49/40 (rental)
- B6** Dyfed RO list
- B7** Surrey RO list

- C. Maps
- * (Fig. 5) **C1** 1800 Enclosure Map and Schedule (Bucks CRO)
 - * (Fig. 6) **C2** 1840 Deposited road plan (Bucks CRO QH 98)
 - * (Fig. 7) **C3** 1840 Tithe Map and Schedule (Bucks CRO)
 - * (Fig. 8) **C4** 1869 OS 1st edn 25" plan
 - * (Fig. 9) **C5** c1900 OS 2nd edn 6" plan
 - * (Fig. 10) **C6** 1932 OS 3rd edn 25" plan
- D. Pictorial sources
- E. Bibliography (incorporated in main bibliography here)

2.1.2 Owners and occupiers of Ankerwycke

2.1.2.1 Manorial descent

Since there are four manors in Wraysbury with an interlinked history, the manorial descent given in the *Victoria County History* is rather confusing [App.A2], but by reference to Burke [App.A4], Lipscomb [App.A5], and later Directories [App.A8] it is possible to construct the following list of owners (where conflicting, the dates are from *VCH*):

Ankerwycke Priory

1536	John Norris
1538	Bisham Priory
1539	Lord Windsor
1542	The Crown
1550	Sir Thomas Smith [*Inventory]
1577	George Smith (brother of last)
1584	(Sir) William Smith (son of last)

Ankerwycke with the manor of Remenham

c.1626	(Sir William Smith acquires Remenham)
1626	Sir William Smith (son of last)
1631	Edward Smith (infant son of last, d.1651), whose mother remarried to Sir William Salter and continued to live at Ankerwycke
1651	Remenham sold by (Sir) Thomas Smith (uncle of last)

Ankerwycke

1652	John Lee I purchases Ankerwycke from Thomas Smith
1682	John Lee II (son of last)

Ankerwycke with the manor of Wyrardisbury

1685	(John Lee II acquires Wyrardisbury)
1704	Mary (widow of John Lee II)
1725	Philip Harcourt (grand-nephew of John Lee)
1759	John Harcourt (1708-1785) (brother of last)

1785	John Simon Harcourt (1772-1810) (son of last)
1805	John Blagrove acquires manor, and demolishes Ankerwycke house, building a new house (d.1824)
<i>Ankerwycke (as a reputed manor)</i>	
1829	George Simon Harcourt (1807-1871) (son of J.S. Harcourt) repurchases land in Ankerwycke
1871	John Simon Chandos Harcourt (1835-1890) (son of last)
1890	Guy Elliot Harcourt (son of last)
c.1924	Arthur Henry Benson purchases manor
c.1935	F.E.G. Stanford
1937	Buckinghamshire County Council purchases from Stanford
1974	Berkshire County Council acquires on Reorganisation

2.1.2.2 Family History

Pedigrees of the Smith and Harcourt Families are given by Lipscomb, who also records the inscriptions on many of the monuments in the church and churchyard [App.A5, 589-92, 598, 616-9]; a shorter pedigree of Harcourt is supplied by Burke [App.A4].

2.1.2.3 Occupiers of Ankerwycke

For much of its later history under the Harcourt family it would appear that Ankerwycke House was not occupied by the Harcourts, but let to individuals. There is an element of uncertainty in this, as Gyll [App.A7] refers to tenants of the Harcourts being in the adjacent house called Little Ankerwycke (built in about 1730), though after the demolition of Ankerwycke the new house that replaced it was certainly tenanted. G.S. Harcourt lived in the house for some years after 1829 (a child of his was born there in 1841), but later rented it out again (there were sales of the contents in 1855 and 1863 [App.A10-11]). The names of several tenants are given by Gyll [App.A7, 46-7]. For the period after 1862 the occupiers are named in Kelly's *Directory* [App.A8]. The last tenant, A.H. Benson, purchased the manor from Guy Harcourt in about 1924.

2.1.3 Sale to Bucks County Council

The site was purchased from F.E.G. Stanford by Bucks County Council in 1937 to preserve it as public open space under the Green Belt Scheme.¹ Since there was no statutory means of preserving land from development, the only way to secure its status was by purchase [App.A9]. In 1974 on Local Government

¹ Berks County Council deeds CL616, 29 Sept 1937 from F.E.G. Stanford (ex inf. D. Littler).

Reorganisation the land was transferred to Berkshire County Council, the present owners.

2.1.4 Title Deeds

Although Lipscomb refers to many deeds which seem to have been in possession of the Harcourt family, these do not seem to have passed to Buckinghamshire County Council, and are not preserved in the Harcourt papers in the Bucks Record Office. Berkshire County Council has no deeds earlier than that of 1937. It is possible that some papers may remain with of the Smith family of Hill Hall, Theydon Mount, Essex, or with the Harcourts of Stanton Harcourt, Oxon. The earlier grants in the PRO have yet to be checked for details, and there is some possibility of property descriptions in either the Inquisitions Post Mortem or any inventories accompanying wills in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) referred to in *VCH*. It appears, however, that Lipscomb often gives such information as could be found in the deeds that he saw, and he quotes in full Sir Thomas Smith's inventory of Ankerwycke House in 1569 [App.A5, 595-6].

2.1.5 Ankerwycke House

Lysons reported that there were no remains of the conventual buildings, but 'the hall remains' of the mansion built on the site of the priory [App. A3] Little is known of this house except for the inventory of 1569, a view of the house taken before its demolition in 1805 [App.A5, 599], and its representation on the Enclosure map of 1800 [App.C1]. The ruins of the nunnery, illustrated by Lipscomb [App.A5, 593], are specifically described by Gyll as being remnants of the Old Hall [App.A7, 46]. A separate house, known as Little Ankerwycke, was built nearby in about 1730 [App.A7, 46].

Several references in the inventory of Sir Thomas Smith (reprinted in Lipscomb 1847, App.A5, 595-6) are worthy of comment in this respect; all appear to date from 1549, although the inventory as a whole was drawn up in 1569. Firstly, there is a reference to "A boreskin chest, a quistion [elsewhere quishion, = cushion?] for the church in it of damaske"; which church is not stated, but see below. Secondly, "Without the Chamber in the corner to the Priory. An iron chimney Two Tente". Finally, "In the Chapel. Cupbord on Altar...Vestment & albe for a preist A byble A payer of virginalls". The chapel could have been a newly-built part of the house, but it is surely as likely to have been incorporated from the priory. The second reference at least indicates that some of the priory buildings had been retained.

The inventory otherwise refers to the following rooms: the maydes Chamber; my wiefes Closet; myne owne Chamber; the Chamberlayrs Chamber; half part to the Great Chamber; the great Gest Chamber; the Inner Chamber to the same, on the south syde; the North Inner Chamber; my Fathers Chamber; my Lordes Chamber; the South Servants Chamber; the North Servants Chamber; the High Gallery, called Cole's Chamber; the Kytchen; the litle Parler; the Hall; the great

Parlour; the Buttery; the Wardroppe; various outbuildings; and Ankerwycke and Farms. The inventory shows that the house was very comfortably furnished.

The new Ankerwycke House built by John Blagrove in 1805 lay to the north of the priory (probably on the site of 'Little Ankerwycke'), and is described as a 'stately but plain edifice' by Sheahan [App.A6], and 'commodious rather than elegant' by Gyll [App.A7, 46]. Following the departure of a tenant in 1855 a sale of the contents was held, from which it appears that the house was richly furnished [App.A10]. The interior is described by Gyll as it was in 1862 [App.A7, 47], and there was a further sale of 'modern and costly household furniture' and farming stock in 1863 [App.A11].

2.1.6 The park and gardens

Either Blagrove or G.S. Harcourt (after he repurchased the site in 1829) laid out the ornamental grounds and parkland, while the house was known as Ankerwycke Park at this time [App.A4]. The parkland is shown on the Tithe Map of 1840 [App.C3], and included specimen trees (a prodigious Yew, a cedar, several Planes and Willows), and a shrubbery. The grounds are described in detail by Gyll [App.A7, 47-50], and further details are given below in section 6. Associated with the grounds was Magna Carta Island on which King John is supposed to have sealed the Charter in 1215, and where a cottage was decked out with heraldic achievements and the stone on which the charter is supposed to have been sealed [App.A5, 601-2; A7, 50-4]. The park was opened on occasions for public entertainments and visits to the priory ruins, and was in 1853 the scene of spectacular military manoeuvres [App.A7, 54-5; *Records of Bucks* iv (1870, 393)].

2.1.7 Documentary sources

Of the papers in the Bucks Record Office indexed under Wraysbury, few seem likely to have much relevance to Ankerwycke [App.B2]. The Harcourt-Ankerwycke papers in the Bucks Record Office (D49) are rather disappointing for any information about the house and its grounds [App.B3]. In particular, the schedules of deeds made no mention of early deeds, and there was little estate correspondence of great value; in addition to the copy of the list of the deposit some notes on those items which were examined are appended [App.B3]. A schedule of land purchased by Harcourt indicated the extent to which the 'manor' of Ankerwycke had been built up through purchase [App.B4], and a rental demonstrates that the entire estate was rented out [App.B5]. Collections in other Record Offices, for which catalogues were seen in Bucks Record Office had little of relevance, even for those which contain material about Ankerwycke [App.B6-7]. The map of the Thames in Dyfed Record Office was seen in a full-scale photocopy at the Surrey Record Office, Kingston-Upon-Thames. The map deals exclusively with land S of the Thames; the bend of the river and the location of the Priory island are shown, but there is no detail at all of the island. The map is therefore of no use for this study.

2.1.8 Maps and land use

2.1.8.1 The enclosure map and award of 1800 [App.C1]

The enclosure of Wraysbury followed an Act of 1799, and the map accompanying the Award is dated 1800. Most of the land subject to enclosure lay in the centre of the parish, but the opportunity was taken to provide a general survey of the entire area of the parish, and a complete schedule is given at the back of the Award. Thus the environs of Ankerwycke are mapped, even though not subject to enclosure under the Act. The house and grounds belonged to J.S. Harcourt, intermixed with the holding of J. Harcourt Powell, though there seems to have been some exchange of land at around this date, and all may have been held by J.S. Harcourt [see App.C1]. The house itself was surrounded by gardens: a 'grass platt' or lawn in front of it, shrubberies behind and beside it, and a 'garden' (presumably a kitchen garden) behind to the north-west. Beyond the irregular outline of the gardens the remainder of Long or Ankerwycke Mead was meadow land, though an area at the south end by the river was marked as shrubbery. No details of the planting of any of these areas is known. Ankerwycke House lay on a clearly defined island surrounded by a watercourse; no fishponds are shown on the Enclosure map, though there were larger areas of water round the osier bed on a small eyot to the south. The regular course of the stream round Little Day Meadow may suggest an artificial creation here. The other Harcourt land was mostly meadow or orchard, though there were two areas of arable in Reddings Meadow and Upper and Lower Warren. No farm is clearly shown as such, though the 'homestead' (no. 50) by Little Ankerwycke may have been such.

2.1.8.2 Deposited road plan of 1840 [App.C2]

This plan, associated with the building of a new road round the village, is perhaps of no independent value from the Tithe Map, but shows slightly different details of the building of Ankerwycke House and Farm, and the altered access from the village road.

2.1.8.3 The Tithe map of 1840 [App.C3]

This map is again a complete survey, covering both tithable and non-tithable land. It shows the environs of Ankerwycke transformed by the building of the new house and laying out of the grounds. The new house is approached down a tree-lined drive from the north-east, past a new Kitchen Garden (no. 121). The old access road now leads to the new Farmstead (no. 123) and the service end of the house. Great Day and Reddings Meadow are now parkland (no. 111), with two small clumps of trees, while the osier bed on 'Ankerwycke Ayte' has become a wood (no. 112). The arable of Lower Warren is now grass, and run into Long Mead (no. 134). Being aligned north-south the house looked out on parkland or meadow, and the 'pleasure ground' comprising the site of the old house was now at some distance from the new house. It was approached down a tree-lined path between

the Park and Little Day Meadow, and a sinuous paths then led through the former shrubberies by the old house and at the south end by the river. These were much the same shape as had been shown on the Enclosure map, though the fishponds are now depicted, and from the descriptions it is clear that the shrubberies were now matured to woodland (nos. 113, 115). The site of the former house, its lawn and kitchen garden were now part of Ankerwycke Mead, and the fenceline surrounding them had been removed (no.116). A small portion of building is shown as standing at the east end of the old house. Thus it was that the old grounds had been preserved as a typical early Victorian landscape with an irregular path through woods and past the ivy-covered ruin, and the remainder had been converted to maximise the grassland.

2.1.8.4 OS 1st edition 25" plan of 1869 [App.C4]

There is little difference between 1840 and 1869, though trees have grown up in the Park and on Ankerwycke Mead, and those on Ankerwycke Ayte have been felled. The Ordnance plan depicts a mixture of coniferous and deciduous trees in the Pleasure Ground, and marks an earthwork that seems to delimit the former area of lawn.

2.1.8.5 OS 2nd edition 6" and 3rd edition 25" plans [App.C5-6]

The 2nd edition 6" plan (c.1900?) shows by stippling the full extent of parkland surrounding the house, and gives some indication of the extent of tree planting. On this, as on the 3rd edition 25" plan, the area of woodland at the southern end of the pleasure ground has been reduced, so that the path now went no further than the area of the fishponds.

2.1.9 Pictorial sources

No pictorial sources were found for the Priory outside of those in publications.

2.1.10 Conclusions

The lack of direct documentation for Ankerwycke in the post-medieval period is compensated for by the existence of printed histories for which such documentation was available. There does remain some scope for following up all possible leads in order to find further materials relating to the house and its owners. The evidence of maps has clearly shown the transformation of the landscape first by the provision of gardens round the old house, and then by the development of a Victorian pleasure ground. The existence of these pleasure grounds, the former lawn and kitchen garden, may suggest that existing earthworks may be the result of post-medieval landscaping as much as being survivals of the medieval landscape of the priory.