

The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens for Swale District

King George V Playing Field, Sittingbourne



January 2024

King George V Playing Field

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INTRODUCTION

This site description and accompanying dossier have been prepared by the Kent Gardens Trust as part of its wider review of ***The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens***. This part of the review, carried out for Swale Borough Council in 2020-24, covers sites within the Swale local authority area with the aim to:

a) Review the historic nature, content, current state and significance of the sites currently identified in the ***Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens*** for the Swale local authority area along with others identified by Swale Borough Council. The review has been undertaken using Historic England's criteria for identifying the significance of local heritage assets to provide a consistent approach. The revised list of sites has the potential to support development of a Local List of historic sites in Swale should the Council wish to progress this in future¹. The list of sites researched and evaluated in this review would be subject to consultation as part of any Local List development and is therefore not intended to be final.

b) Inform future funding applications for historic spaces by the identification of significance

c) Inform future conservation and/or any development of sites by the identification of the significance of key historic character, features and association including that of setting and viewpoints.

The extent of the area identified represents the current surviving area of the designed landscape, the boundary line generally reflecting the maximum extent of the historic gardens or parkland (although there are exceptions such as where land has been irreversibly lost to development). The boundary line takes no account of current ownership. Further information is available from the contacts listed below. The partnership would like to thank the volunteers and owners who have participated in this project and given so much of their time, effort and hospitality to complete this challenging and rewarding task.

Swale Borough Council
Conservation and Design
Swale House
East Street
Sittingbourne
ME10 3HT
www.swale.gov.uk

Kent County Council
Heritage Conservation
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XX
www.kent.gov.uk

Kent Gardens Trust
www.kentgardenstrust.org.uk

Historic England
www.historicengland.org.uk/

¹ English Heritage (2012) 'Good Practice Guide to Local Listing'

KENT

KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

SITTINGBOURNE

Centred on 590040 162460

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

EVIDENTIAL

A park with level sports field designated as a King George V Playing Field with the memorial plaque set into Victorian red brick piers at the main entrance. A tulip tree planted at the 1937 inauguration is situated near the former late 18C stable block of the private Gore Court estate. This building, converted into a sports pavilion, displays a large plaque on the side wall describing the history of the site. Vestiges of ionic columns of the grand rear portico of the demolished Gore Court mansion remain in hedge undergrowth at the northern perimeter of the park. Some mature trees from the Victorian parkland remain.

HISTORICAL

The open space is what remains of the extensive parkland of a former private estate, Gore Court, which was developed by Colonel Gabriel Harper (d.1800) who had made his fortune in Colonial India. A mansion was built c.1791 by the prominent architect Samuel Pepys Cockerell (1753-1827). An early Victorian owner, Frank Bradley Dyne (1823-1861), instigated use of the park for cricket matches and Gore Court Cricket Club was founded here in 1837. From 1853, a local brick and shipping magnate George Smeed hosted sporting and charitable public events and outings in the park, the grounds effectively acting as an early 'People's Park' for Sittingbourne residents. In World War I the site was used as a Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) Training Camp and Hospital. Sittingbourne Town Council acquired the remaining open green space for use as a sports field and Lord Harris, son of the former English Cricket captain, opened it as the first King George V Playing Field in Kent, in 1937.

AESTHETIC

The playing field, intended primarily as an area for sport and active recreation, has a flat area for ball games and tennis courts. An avenue of horse chestnut trees flank the main east-west pathway and the elevated eastern boundary has an attractive double row of mature pines. The newly created (early 2020s) sensory garden, constructed using local materials, provides a decorative interesting planted area and recent additional tree planting will enhance the visual as well as ecological potential of this green space.

COMMUNAL

The playing field provides a community area for local residents as green space with a good children's playground and facilities for amateur football and tennis. It is a desirable location for dog walkers and joggers and for those wishing to use the café that operates from the pavilion. The wide paved paths of the horse chestnut avenue and the area around the pavilion and sensory garden, make the space accessible for wheelchair users. A 'Friends of George V Playing Fields, Sittingbourne' Facebook group set up in May 2020 has 1.3K followers (Nov 2023).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The known archaeological potential at the site arises from its former use as part of Gore Court, a post medieval and perhaps earlier estate. The playing field was also used during the First World War as a training camp and hospital. Archaeological remains relating to both the estate and training camp/hospital could still survive within the site and as the text below demonstrates, some features of the estate can still be seen above ground. The playing field also has potential arising from its more general location. Although there are no known discoveries nearby, prehistoric and medieval remains have been found 600m to the east, and cropmarks of an enclosure and trackway have been observed 1 km to the west. The use of the playing field as part of an estate and playing field may have protected any remains within the site.

SUMMARY OF THE HISTORIC INTEREST

The King George V Playing Field was developed in the remaining grounds of a private estate, Gore Court, in which a mansion was built c.1791. The prominent architect Samuel Pepys Cockerell (1753-1827) was commissioned by a Colonel Gabriel Harper (d.1800) of the East India Company and the grand Palladian style house and designed parkland was commensurate with the aspirations of those who made their fortunes in Colonial British India. An early Victorian owner, Frank Bradley Dyne (1823-1861), instigated use of the park for cricket matches with the Gore Court Cricket Club being founded in 1837. From 1853, under the ownership of local brick and shipping magnate George Smeed, the grounds effectively acted as a 'People's Park' well before any public park was created in Sittingbourne, hosting sporting and charitable public events and outings. From 1889 the mansion and park were used as a select preparatory boarding school for young boys. During World War I the site was used as a Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) Training Camp and Hospital. The grounds continued to host athletic events and fêtes, including Sittingbourne's celebrations for the coronation of George V in 1911. Encroaching housing development after WWI reduced the open space, prompting Sittingbourne Town Council to purchase the remaining area for use as playing fields. In 1937 Lord Harris, son of the well-known MCC President at Lords and former English Cricket captain, opened the green space as the first King George V Playing Field in Kent.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The park, currently known as the King George V Playing field was in the past part of the estate known as Gore Court. The Old English word *gara*, meaning a wedge-shaped piece of land became 'Gore' by 1302 and in the early 1300's the estate's owner was known as John atte Gore. Over the centuries (dates unknown), his descendants sold to a Thomas Royden from East Peckham whose son sold it to Christopher Wood. The estate remained in the Wood family until 1674 when the property and grounds were sold to Charles Seager, owner of Borden Hall in the village of Borden southwest of the site.

The rector of Tunstall, Rev. Edward Mores bought the property in 1723 and by 1757 it was rented to the family of a Thomas Stanley. At this time, the records from the parish overseer's book describe Gore House as a six bedroomed farmhouse, part of a working farm with a yard and outbuildings. Between 1791-1795, this house was demolished and a new house, Gore Court, in Georgian classical style, designed by prominent architect Samuel Pepys Cockerell, was built for Colonel Gabriel Harper of Stanmore, Middlesex. Col Harper had been an officer in India in the Bengal Army and acted as provisional resident at Lucknow. The architect had designed for other officers of the East India Company and thus the grand house and designed parkland here was commensurate with the aspirations of those who had made their fortunes in colonial India. The building was surrounded by lawns and well-wooded parkland in the English Landscape fashion of the times. Dying of a liver complaint in 1800, Colonel Harper's will included a mention of 'gardening tools', which would indicate that gardening was important to him.

Very shortly after it had been built, Gore Court, was put up for sale. The new house and surrounding landscape are described in the sale particulars published in November 1797 in the local Kentish Express newspaper. There was a 'capital new-built mansion, stabling for fourteen horses, extensive and numerous offices' located in a 'situation elevated, dry, beautiful, perfectly healthy'. An 'excellent kitchen garden' is mentioned with 'lofty walls and planted with a selection of choice fruit-trees in full bearing'. The mansion is also described as being 'seated on a beautiful lawn' in the midst of 113 acres of uncommon rich land', as was the mid/late eighteenth century fashion, grass reaching right up to the house and no mention of any parterre gardens.

In 1812, a new owner, Andrew Bradley, had a stretch of the lane to Tunstall (now Woodstock Road) moved approximately 250 yards eastwards away from the house, as he considered it too close to the property. Just over 10 years later, in 1823, Frank Bradley Dyne and his wife Mary, daughter of Lord Harris of Belmont of Faversham, moved into Gore Court House. The 1839 Tithe map for Tunstall shows that Bradley leased approx. 100 acres of the estate to William Murton, but 17 acres of parkland remained under Bradley's management around the house. It was during his thirty-year residence that the parklands and lawn in the immediate environs of the house started to be mentioned as being used for cricket matches

entertaining the 'elite of the neighbourhood'. Gore Court Cricket Club was founded in 1839 and reports of their playing in the grounds of 'Mr Bradley's park at Gore Court' is regularly reported in the local newspaper in the 1840s.

After Bradley Dyne's death (c.1851) the Gore Court estate was put up for sale in October 1853. The description of Gore Court house includes:

'surrounded by ornamental pleasure grounds and shrubberies, with conservatory opening from the drawing room and grapery...two excellent walled gardens and walled fruit slip well planted with productive trees of every description, and framing ground...The mansion is surrounded by a well wooded and ornamental park of upward of 100 acres of rich and fertile land...and the Gore Court Cricket Club play weekly in the park during the summer.'

In 1864, details from the sale particulars of neighbouring land mentions the existence of a public walk through the park.

This desirable property was bought by Sittingbourne's brick producer and shipping magnate George Smeed (1812-1881) in 1853. Smeed, who owned around 22 square miles of land in Sittingbourne and Murston, bought the Gore Court estate for his private residence. Part of the wider Gore Court estate was farmed by Edward Homewood from Ufton Court, but Smeed retained the parkland around the house for his use.

Smeed, like his predecessor Bradley Dyne, made part of his park available for games of cricket and other sports from at least 1857, when the local paper reported Smeed celebrating the launch of his barge 'Eliza' with about 30 employees at Gore Park. The Gore Court Cricket Club used the park as before; when the Milton Cricket Club was formed in 1863, it was also offered the use of the Gore Court grounds. In February 1869, a Gore Court Football club was formed 'so as to supply a succession of games for the winter months.' George Smeed allowed the use of extra ground in the park, so as not to interfere with the cricket ground. From 1874 a Gore Court Archery Club numbering up to 120 members also held its meetings and competitions in the grounds.

From 1859, Smeed and his first wife instigated a philanthropic event that became an annual institution: his park hosted 'Entertainment of the poor and aged': a rural fête for the inmates of the Milton Union Workhouse and the widows, aged poor and other 'Persons in Receipt of Parochial Relief'. These 'Poor People's Fetes' started off as picnics and games in the park; by 1870 they had become large fund-raising spectacles organised by a committee providing sports activities and entertainments, illumination and fireworks and music as well as refreshment stalls. The 'poor' were issued free tickets for the event, others paid, thus raising funds at the same time. The 1879 event is believed to have attracted around 8000 attendees. Smeed also provided the park for use of other groups. In July 1869 it is reported that nearly 400 children of the Wesleyan Sunday School enjoyed tea and amusements on the grass and in the same month there were 'trees affording delightful shade to Forester Fathers' at a fête

for the 'Ancient Order of Foresters' organisation. In August the park hosted a 'Temperance Demonstration' for 3500 persons present, with the park 'rich in verdure.. looking its best'. Repeated mention is made in local newspaper reports of the beautiful picturesque park and the verdant lawn in front of the house as a backdrop to the numerous fêtes and gatherings.

Another occasion reminiscent of events put on in public parks elsewhere was a grand floral fête in 1873, again, for charity, with shows and circus acts. Rare ferns, flowers and plants lent for the occasion by various 'Gentlemen and Nurserymen of the county' were exhibited under large marquees, and 'cottagers' were invited to enter their flowers and produce for prizes.

Whilst George Smeed achieved considerable recognition and gratitude for making his grounds available in this way, (and some income was derived from it), it appears that he was genuinely pleased with offering this space for the people of the town. Articles in the local paper in 1878 comment that 'The public have had the use of his beautiful park for fêtes almost *ad libitum*', (as much as they wanted) and 'had it not been for the fact that Mr Smeed has on many occasions placed his beautiful park at the service of the residents of this neighbourhood they would indeed have been badly off'. Large manufacturing towns began to provide public parks from the 1840s onwards, however Sittingbourne's first municipal park was not opened until 1879. Before then, Gore Court effectively acted as a park for the people for at least some of the time, particularly with regard to sports facilities and public events.

During Smeed's time there, between production of the 1st edition OS map (1862-1875) and the second edition (1897-1900), the most obvious change to the landscape was the loss of all the trees on the southern side of the grand tree-lined carriage drive leading from the Tunstall Road to the rear of the mansion, along with many of the trees on the northern side of the drive.

A year after George Smeed's death in 1881, a local farmer, Richard Denne, bought the house and grounds. Denne leased the mansion and part of the land for use as a select preparatory boarding school to a Rev. H. Allen. In 1889-1901, the school was being directed by Arthur William Wollocombe Gordon. Records from this time show that there was an open-air swimming pool in the meadow near the house and that employees at the school included two gardeners. The grounds continued to host athletic events and fêtes and celebrations including Sittingbourne's celebrations for the coronation of George V in 1911.

An 1892 auction brochure for a proposed sale of the Gore Court estate describes a 'mansion surrounded by pleasure gardens with walled-in garden and a recently erected lodge'. A fernery is mentioned, as are tennis, archery and cricket grounds as well as the park and orchards. A map shows a tree-lined carriage drive (now Park Avenue) swept around the eastern side of the house to the front entrance of the mansion which faced the field. Another carriage drive ran beside the kitchen garden, now forming Park Drive. The sale was obviously unsuccessful as Richard Denne appears to have still owned the estate until his death in 1913.

At some time during the Great War 1914–1918, the Gore Court mansion [Monument details HER Number: TQ 96 SW 1254] was used as a Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) Training Camp and Hospital. Soldiers of the Royal Dublin Regiment were encamped here followed by the Royal West Surrey Regiment and regimental band music was played in the park on Sundays and their regimental sports meetings were held here.

In 1921, the northern 60 acres of the estate was offered for auction as ‘desirable freehold land for sale in building plots...overlooking Messrs Lloyds Limited’s playing fields and the two carriage drives leading to the house.’ The Lloyds’ playing field mentioned was immediately north of Gore Court, providing the sports facilities for the factory workers of Sittingbourne’s large Kemsley Paper Mills. Building plots were sold around the perimeter of the Gore Court park, the ancient avenue of trees lining the drive was cut down and in 1926 the dilapidated Gore Court House was demolished. Many local people remember the portico columns from the front entrance continuing to stand for some years after this; their bases can still be found among the shrubs of the southern hedgerow between the park and private gardens. The newly erected villas with gardens that now occupy the perimeter of the park sold for around £500 for each semi-detached residence in 1929.

Land along Bell Road north of Gore Park was bought by Messrs. F Austen Bensted and Sons and used for cattle ‘lairage’, where livestock were kept before and after the weekly Sittingbourne livestock market. The owners also allowed local sports teams, including Gore Court Cricket Club, to practice and play matches there. In 1925, the year in which the new Public Health Act stressed the need to reserve land for recreation, Sittingbourne Town Council passed a resolution to schedule that land as an open space. However, the owners argued that their land was too valuable to them, so when the council tried to open negotiations to purchase it in 1928, they were not willing to sell. Early in 1929, the lack of accommodation for the playing of organised games in Sittingbourne was emphasised at a Ministry of Health Inquiry. The council therefore presented a petition to the Minister of Health to put into force the powers of the Land Clauses Acts 1845: ‘purchase of lands otherwise than by agreement’ to acquire 4.7 acres of this open ground. The reason for this was both for widening of the highway and for the use as a playing field. The fact that it had been used for forty years by the Gore Court Cricket Club was instrumental in their application. This compulsory purchase attempt pre-dated the Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937, which would give a local authority the right to acquire and manage land for playing fields. Although unsuccessful, it was the precursor to the acquisition of part of Gore Park for use as playing fields.

In fact, Sittingbourne had other open spaces already available for recreational use nearer the town centre, not least the sports ground available to the 2500 employees of the local Lloyds Paper Mills, but it was argued that not all ages and social groups had access to this facility. The ten acre ‘public park’ opened in 1879 known as the ‘Recreation Ground’, next to the Bell Road Cemetery, was considered unsuitable for organised games owing to ‘possible danger to other

users of the ground'. A football ground in the town was mainly the preserve of the official Sittingbourne FC and other fields often used by amateur sports groups with permission of the owner had become unavailable to the general public as they were bought up for school playing fields. In the meantime, the trustees of the Gore Court Cricket Club had their tenure at the Bell Road site terminated and had signed a lease to use part of Grove Park to the west of Sittingbourne which had been gifted to the council for public use. Therefore, although Sittingbourne was not exceptionally short of open recreational space, the case was made to acquire the Gore Court land and application to the Kent County Playing Fields Association (formed in 1925) was made for financial assistance in this regard.

By 1935, the council, now as Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District Council, was able to announce that they 'have decided to reserve the centre of the park for all time as a playing field for the children of the residents in that area' and interim building development was refused. The inception of the King George's Fields Foundation in 1936 made it possible to apply for a grant of £500 to purchase 15 acres of the former Gore Court parkland at a cost of £1250. The aim of the Foundation, created as a memorial to King George V who died in that year, was to promote and assist the 'establishment of playing fields for the use and enjoyment of the people'. Each playing field would be called 'King George's Field' and be distinguished by heraldic panels or other appropriate commemorative panel. Thus it was that on Saturday 2nd October 1937 Lord Harris, George St Vincent Harris, Deputy Lieutenant for Kent opened the first King George V Playing Field in Kent. As 5th Baron Harris, he had a family connection with the grounds, as his great-great-aunt Mary was married to Frank Bradley Dyne of Gore Court in the 1840s. His father was a former English Cricket captain and president of the MCC who acted as president of the Gore Court Cricket Club for many years. The Faversham News of 9th October 1937 reported that Lord Harris 'recalled the pleasant associations of his father and himself with cricket in the park.' The unveiling of the heraldic panel on the Park Avenue entrance was watched by several hundred spectators and the gates to the park were unlocked with a special key. A plaque was fixed to the building whose frontage had been the Gore Court stable and coach house, proclaiming it to be the sports pavilion and in front of it a tulip tree was planted by the Council Chairman, Mr Baker, in memory of Councillor E. F. Handcock, who had died earlier that year.

The newly laid out park had a section for children with a sandpit in the former school swimming pool and swings and a see-saw. For the adults, the sports section included three pitches for football and hockey and four grass tennis courts. A number of old oak, chestnut, sycamore and lime trees remained and a new avenue of red and white horse chestnut trees was planted as well as a double row of pine trees along the eastern boundary.

The grounds continued to be maintained as playing fields under Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District Council's Open Spaces Committee. As well as football pitches, there was provision for three cricket pitches, the 'Don Bradman' concrete wicket and four hard tennis courts were added in the early 1950s to the grass courts and putting green. A full-time groundsman lived in a house adjoining the

Sports pavilion created from the former Gore Court stables. In 1964, Sittingbourne Athletic had permission from the council to erect a flagpole and to fly the club flag during the soccer season. A children's playground was upgraded in 1988, acting as a show-piece for the latest developments in safe rubberised surfaces.

In the 21st Century, the grass tennis courts were disbanded after 2007 and new landscaping to enhance the environment and ecological potential of the park has taken place. In 2022, young trees were planted by volunteers as part of 'National Tree Week' supported by the Tree Council. In the same year, flower beds in the north-eastern section of the park were restored as raised sensory beds and replanted by Swale Borough Council and volunteers. The former stable/pavilion continues in use as a children's nursery and a café.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

The King George V playing field consists of a slightly skewed quadrangle of around 5.3 hectares of mainly level ground situated approximately 1.5 km to the south of the A2 at Sittingbourne and 0.8 km north-east of the village of Tunstall. The park is enclosed on all sides by housing, dating from the late 1920's onwards.

The perimeter is predominantly constructed using wooden fencing, which forms the boundaries of the surrounding privately owned rear gardens. In places, particularly to the south and east of the site, old iron estate fencing with flat lower rails co-exists alongside the more recently installed, modern materials.

Although the ground is largely flat, as befits a playing field, the north-east corner and eastern boundary are slightly elevated, with terraced earth banks sloping down to the main area. A tarmac west-east path separates a 0.8 ha strip with an enclosed children's playground and a section of planted raised beds in the northern part of the park, from the grass playing field to the south of it.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

There are three entrances to the playing field. The main entrance is located on Park Avenue, at the northern-most part of the site. A King George's Field heraldic plaque is set into each of the 2m high redbrick piers which carry ornamented double iron gates for vehicular access. To the west, in a rounded alcove, stands a Swale Council Information Board giving the name and details of the playing field.

A short (70m) tarmac road leads from the main gate to a car parking area adjacent to the pavilion.

Alternative approaches to the park are located via the west and east, and these are connected by a tarmac pathway, cutting west-east across the site from Park

Drive to Woodstock Road. An avenue of horse chestnut trees flank the pathway, planted around the time of the park's transition to a King George V playing field in the early C20.

The west entrance is accessed along a tarmac pathway of approximately 60m, bordered on one side by the wooden fencing from the neighbouring gardens, and on the opposite side by a combination of old iron fencing and hedging. A row of ornamental *Prunus* trees line the approach to the park.

The eastern entrance path of approximately 130 metres is also bordered by a mixture of wooden fencing on one side and hedging on the other.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

On the west side of the car park stands the pavilion. Signage fixed to the side wall of the building facing the car park presents visitors with a brief history and photos of the playing field from the days when Gore Court house still stood. This building of red brick was formerly the stable and coach house, becoming the sports pavilion after 1937 and today housing a small café and community rooms. A commemorative plaque is located on the building, which celebrates the opening of the King George V Playing Field.

All that remains of Gore Court house are the stumps of four Ionic columns at the northern end of the playing field. From previous written sources, it appears that the columns remained intact for some years after demolition of the house in 1926, and locals remember them being a feature of the site. Today (2024), the column bases are difficult to find without prior knowledge of their existence. Ivy, laurel and elder now cover the majority of the remains.

PARKLAND

A children's play area is located north of the west-east path close to the site of the demolished Gore Court mansion. On the large field to the south of the path there is a marked-out football pitch and two full-sized tennis courts near the southern boundary.

As well as an avenue of horse chestnut trees planted when the park became a King George V Playing Field, there is a commemorative tulip tree situated just to the west of the pavilion, planted in 1937 in memory of Councillor E. F. Handcock. Next to the rear fences of gardens at the elevated eastern boundary is a double row of mature scots pines planted around the inception of the playing field in the 1930s.

A small number of mature trees dating back to the time of Gore Court are situated around the park. These include horse chestnut and oak and are predominately to be found close to the south and west boundaries. A generous area of newly planted native tree saplings is situated east of the tennis courts.

In the elevated north-east corner of the grounds is a sunken area of paving, edged with a low wall of Kentish Ragstone. The rectangular feature appears on maps from the 1907 OS map onwards and it is assumed that this was where the swimming pool from the school era in the early 1900s was located. Now it is a sensory garden with plants set into 4 equal rectangular raised beds in wooden planters surrounded by wide paths of early C21 block paving. Two paved sloping paths up to the garden makes this area fully accessible for wheelchairs.

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Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2020 review of Swale Borough

Fig. 1 Boundary Map



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2020 review of Swale Borough

Fig. 2 Aerial photograph (2016)



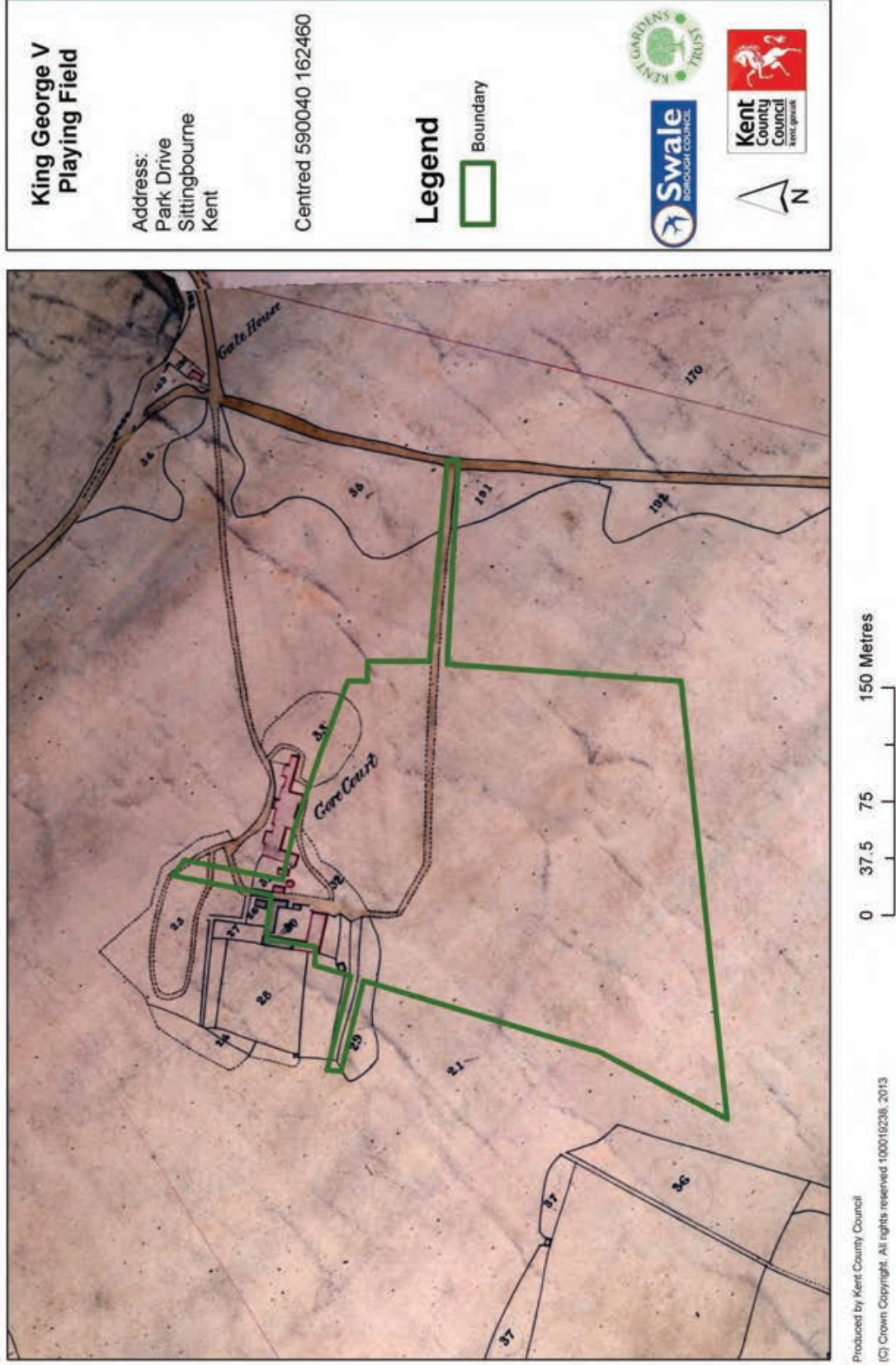
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Fig. 3 Gore Court 1838, view north to rear of house. Illustration from *The Epitome of the History of Kent* By C. Greenwood, Illustrating Gore Court, The Seat of Francis Dyne Bradley, Esq. Published in 1838. Photo Karen Emery 2023



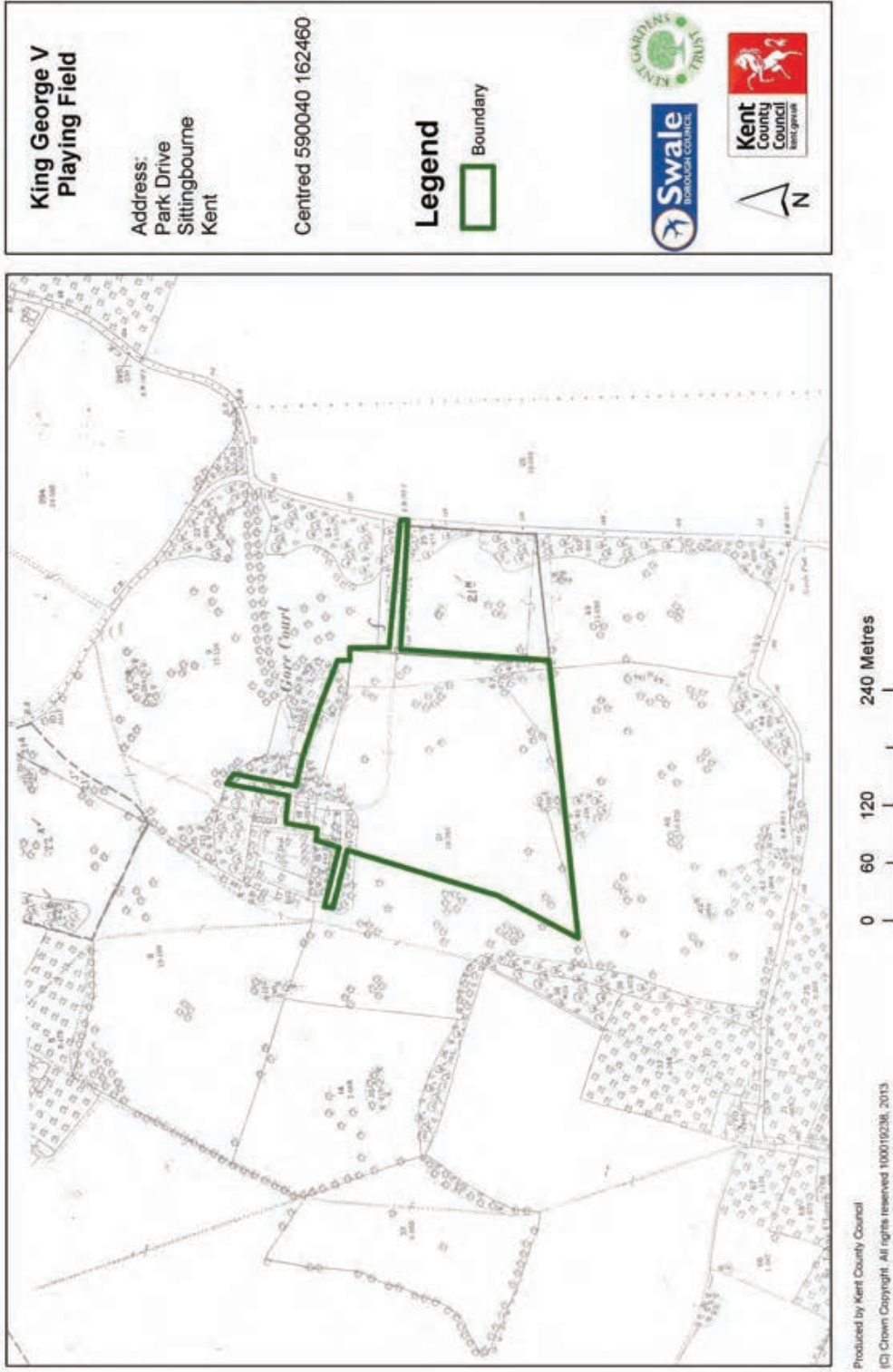
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Fig. 4 Tithe Map (c. 1840)



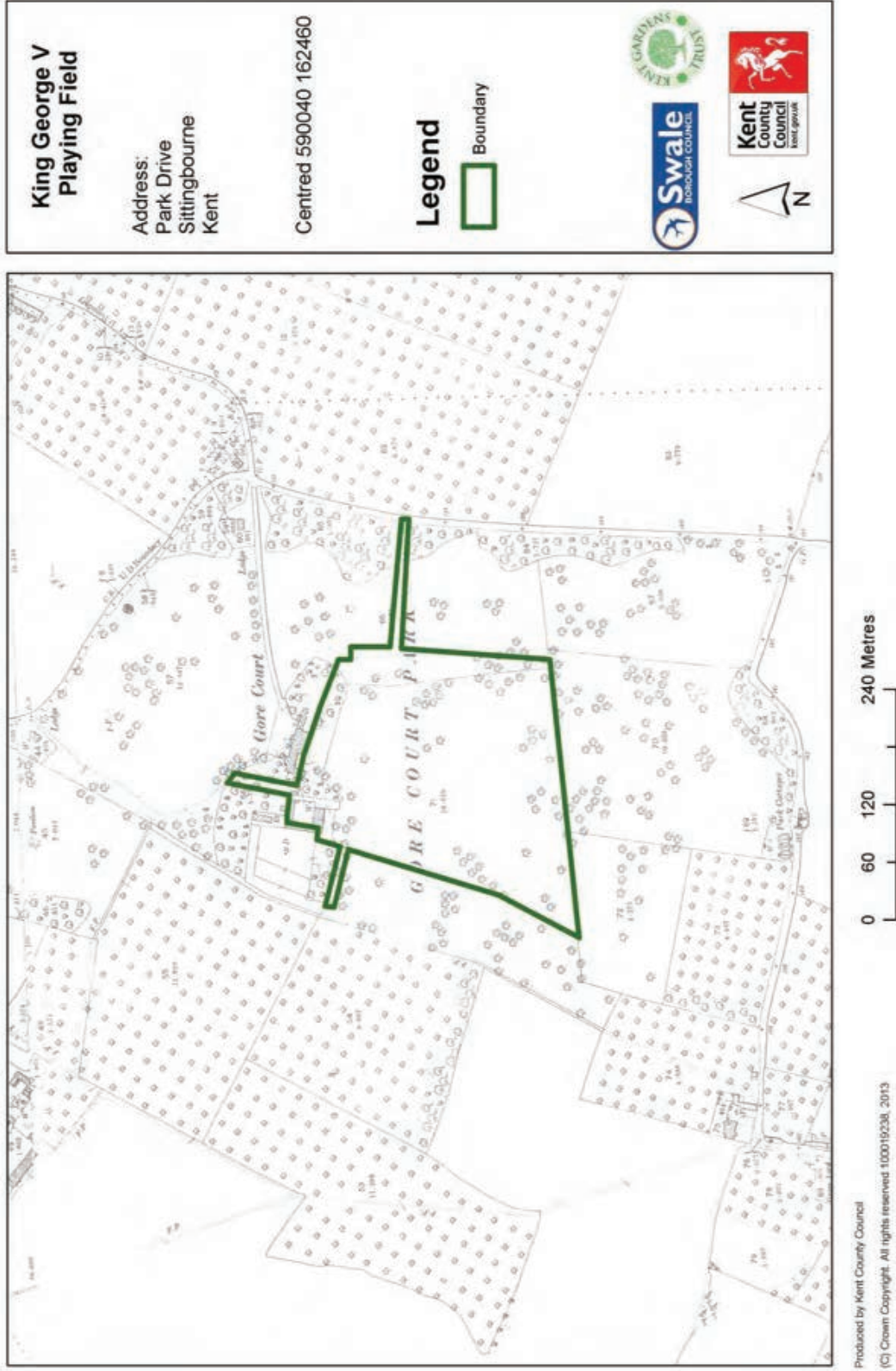
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Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" Map (1862-1872)



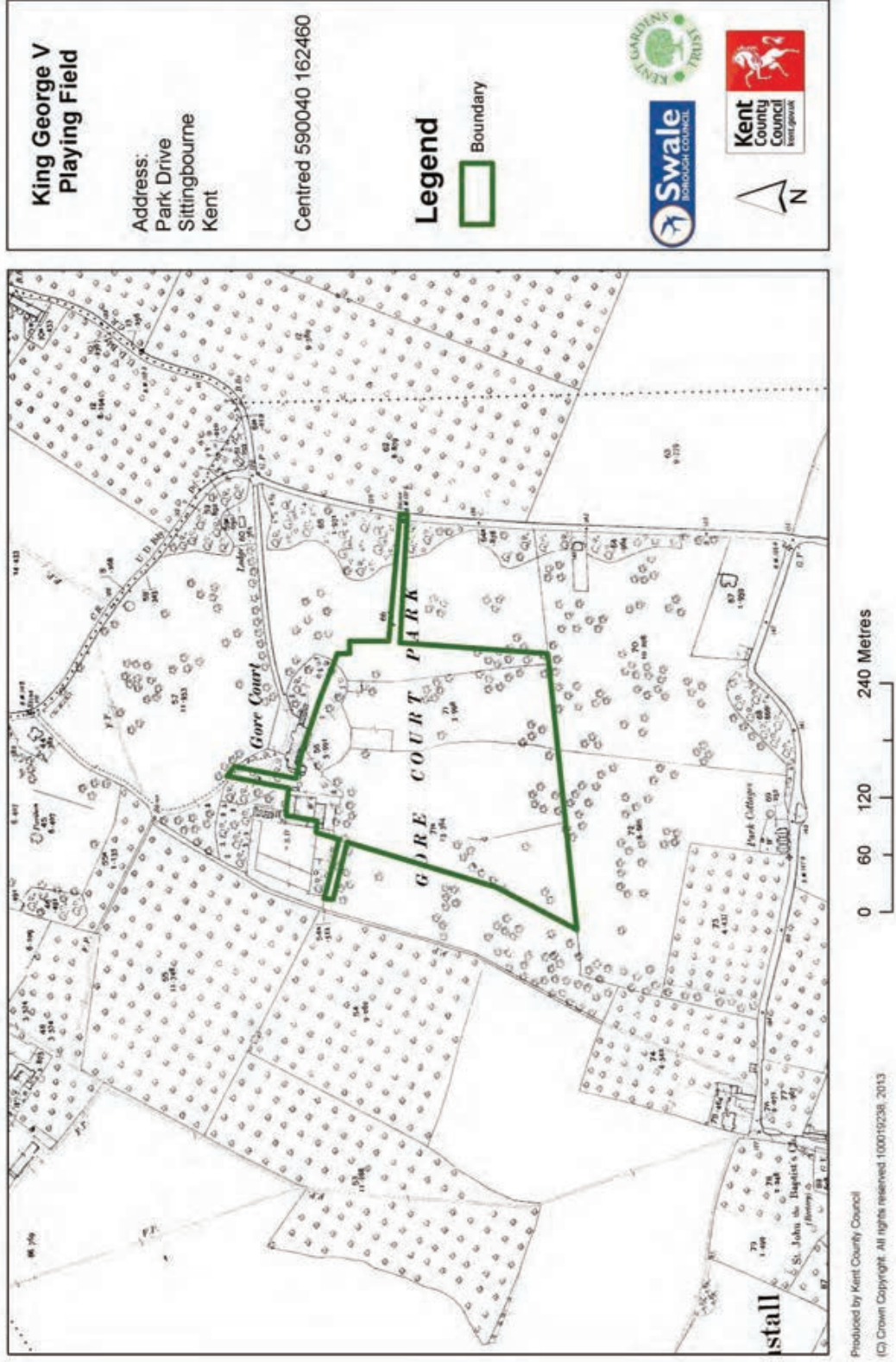
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Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25” Map (1897-1900)



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Fig. 7 Ordnance Survey 3rd edition Map (1907-1923)



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Fig. 8 Ordnance Survey 3rd edition Map (1907-1923)

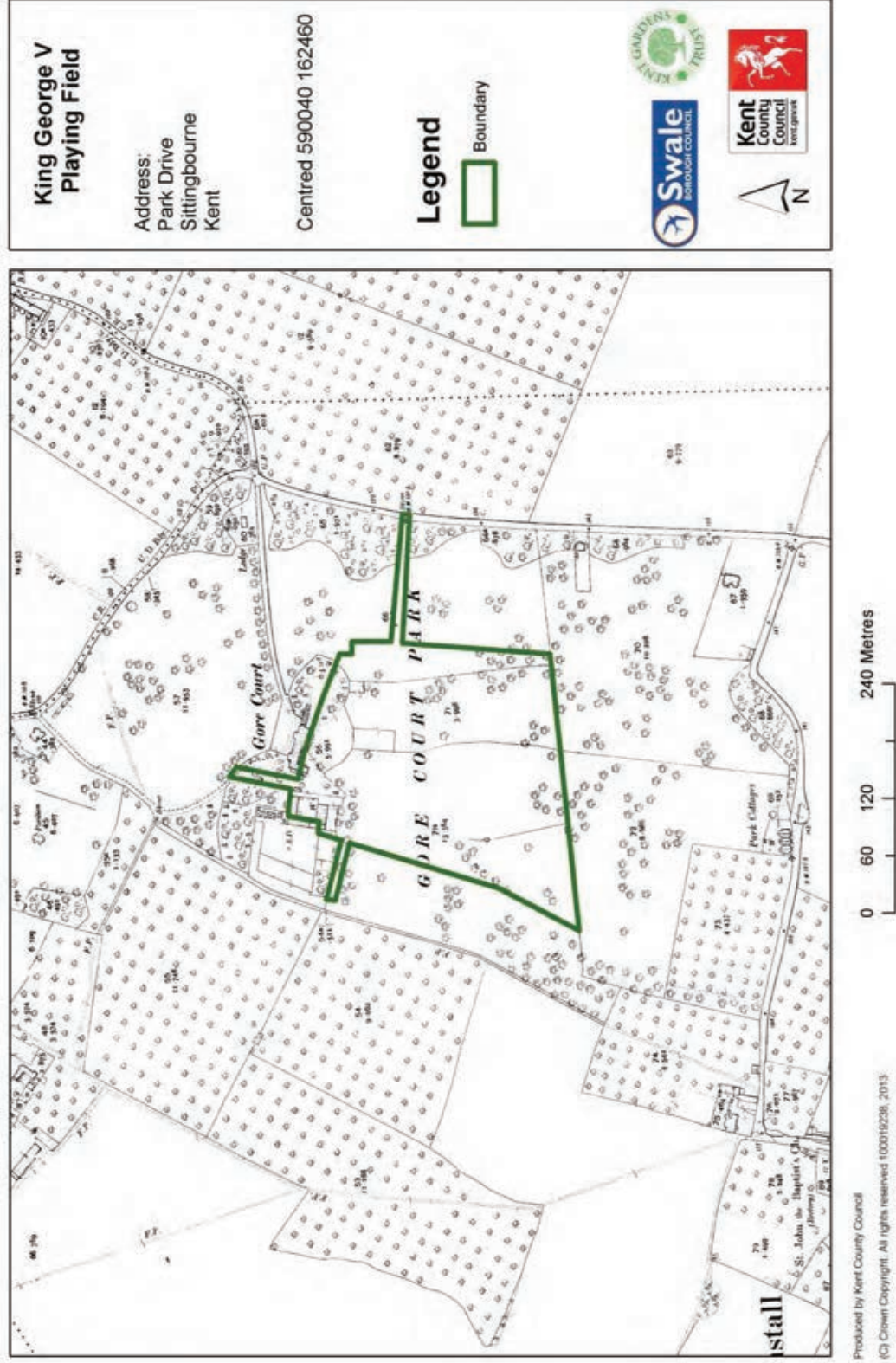


Fig. 9 1940 Aerial view of King George V Playing Field with original Gore Park trees, Google Earth
2023



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Fig. 10 View of pavilion with yellow information panels, Photo Karen Emery, 2024



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Fig. 11 View north towards pavilion and tulip tree, Photo Rachel Wiles, 2022.



Fig. 12 View of the northern boundary showing remnants of the rear portico of the demolished Gore Court House, Photo Rachel Wiles, 2022



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Fig. 13 Detail of the stump of the eastern-most Ionic column from the former mansion, Photo Rachel Wiles, 2022



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Fig. 14 View north-west from elevated ground in east, children’s play area north of horse chestnut avenue, Photo Rachel Wiles, 2022.



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Fig. 15 Sensory garden with raised beds and accessible paths looking south, Photo Rachel Wiles, 2022.



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**Fig. 16 Eastern boundary view south along the double row of Scots Pine trees,
Photo Rachel Wiles, 2022**



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Fig. 17 Old estate railings along the perimeter of the east boundary, Photo Rachel Wiles, 2022.



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Fig. 18 Southern boundary at rear of adjoining private properties with hard tennis court and new (2021) tree planting, Photo Rachel Wiles, 2022.



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Fig. 19 View from the south-west corner north towards the pavilion showing mature trees from the former Gore Park, Photo Rachel Wiles, 2022



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Fig. 20 Sports field and horse chestnut avenue from eastern footpath approach from Park Drive, Photo Rachel Wiles, 2022.



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Fig. 21 2011 Aerial view of King George V Playing Field with parch marks of former grass tennis courts on western side, Google Earth 2023.



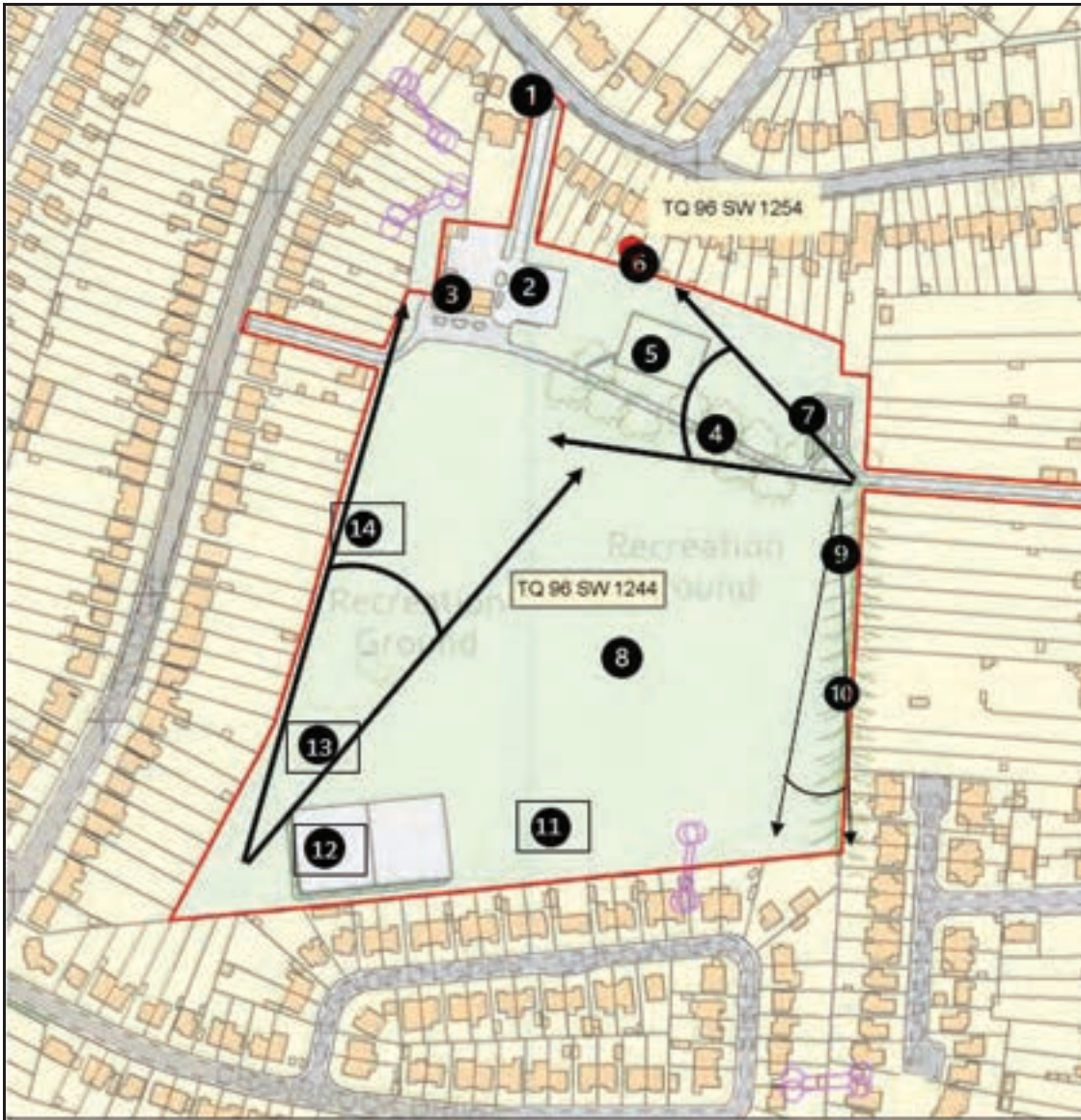
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Fig. 22 Northern main entrance on Park Avenue with commemorative plaque, Photo Karen Emery, 2024



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Fig. 23 Map of key views and features



- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Main (vehicular) entrance | 8 Grassed Playing field |
| 2 Car Park | 9 Scots Pine Avenue |
| 3 Pavilion | 10 Section of estate railing |
| 4 Horse Chestnut Avenue | 11 New tree planting |
| 5 Childrens Playground | 12 Hard tennis courts |
| 6 Remnants of Gore House portico | 13 Mature Gore Park trees |
| 7 Sensory Garden | 14 Site of former grass tennis courts |