

CHRISTCHURCH



Christchurch

Historic England Register

None

Dorset Gardens Trust List of Sites of Historical and Landscape Significance

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Highcliffe Castle

Address:	Highcliffe Castle, Rothesay Drive, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 4LE		
District:	Christchurch Borough Council	Ward:	Highcliffe
Map Series:	Landranger	Map Sheet:	195
		Grid Reference:	203 933
Area (ha):	5.2 ha		
Site owner(s):	Christchurch Borough Council		
Designation:	Dorset Gardens Trust Local List		
Site designers:	Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, W.J. Donthorne		

Brief description of site:

Highcliffe Castle is on a cliff site of 5.2 ha surrounding an 1830's gothic revival castle, now approached from the A35 to the north through a housing development on the former parkland. The grounds incorporate the sloping cliffs to the beach and there are wide ranging sea views along the coast and to the Isle of Wight. The grounds are now well wooded with walks through the pines and evergreen oaks, some of considerable age. There are relics of former plantings and more formal gardens. There is a sandy beach and pine wood seaside landscape once noted for contributions by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, but little evidence of these now remain due to coastal erosion.

Brief history of site:

Lord Bute, Prime Minister and friend of George III in the early years of the King's reign, first developed Highcliffe in the 1770's. He built a house on the barren cliffs which was successively enlarged throughout his life. Capability Brown was asked in the late 1770's for plans and advice. Tree planting and shelter belts were created to the north and west of the house to preserve the views. After Lord Bute's death the site was sold by his fourth son and then repurchased by his son. In the meantime the house had been demolished and the new owner Lord Stuart de Rothesay employed Donthorne to create a new castle using pieces of old French stonework that he had collected. The property remained in the family until 1950 when it was sold and most of the surrounding land was redeveloped as housing and a golf course. Following two fires and general neglect the castle and surrounding grounds were compulsorily purchased by the Borough Council in 1977. A programme of restoration of both house and grounds has commenced with Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England support.

Significance:

Gardens created on wind swept coastal location developed by a former 18th C Prime Minister and his family around two properties that they had built. Important designers employed on the project and there are remains of original planting in spite of erosion and surrounding development.

Sources:

Country Life – 24th April, 1st & 8th May 1942
Timothy Mowl *Historic Gardens of Dorset* p. 102
John Newman & Nikolaus Pevsner *The Buildings of Britain – Hampshire* p292
Michael Hill *East Dorset Country Houses* 2013 p 209
Nikolaus Pevsner and David Lloyd. *The Buildings of Hampshire and IoW*, Penquin Books 1967



Hurn Court

Address:	Hurn Court, Hurn, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 6BH				
District:	Christchurch Borough Council	Ward:	Commons Ward		
Map Series:	Landranger	Map Sheet:	195	Grid Reference:	124 959
Area (ha):	6.8 ha				
Site owner(s):	Multiple Private Ownership				
Designation:	Dorset Gardens Trust Local List				
Site designers:	Not known				

Brief description of site:

Hurn Court, also known as Heron Court, is north of the conurbation of Bournemouth near the village of Hurn on flat ground just north of the River Stour. Watercourses and drainage channels run round three sides of the site to the east, south and west. Hurn Court House is situated centrally within the grounds and is approached from the north with the main façade facing south. To the west of the house discreet buildings were added during the time it was a school and the original outbuildings have been transformed into separate terraces of houses. The kitchen garden with its crinkle-crankle wall lies to the south west of the house. The site has good specimen trees many of which were commemorative plantings and is well wooded and maintains a rural feel. The ornamental bridge c1815 over the River Stour lies to the south of the house

Brief history of site:

Originally a fishing lodge for the monks at Christchurch Priory, the site later became the home of the Hoopers and then at the end of the 18th C the estate was acquired by the Earls of Malmesbury. There was major tree planting and ground landscaping between 1812-50 when the house was substantially altered. The house was sold by the Earl of Malmesbury in 1952 and became a school which it remained until 1989. The house and grounds were acquired by a developer who split the house into flats and converted the school buildings into additional housing while the grounds remained unaffected.

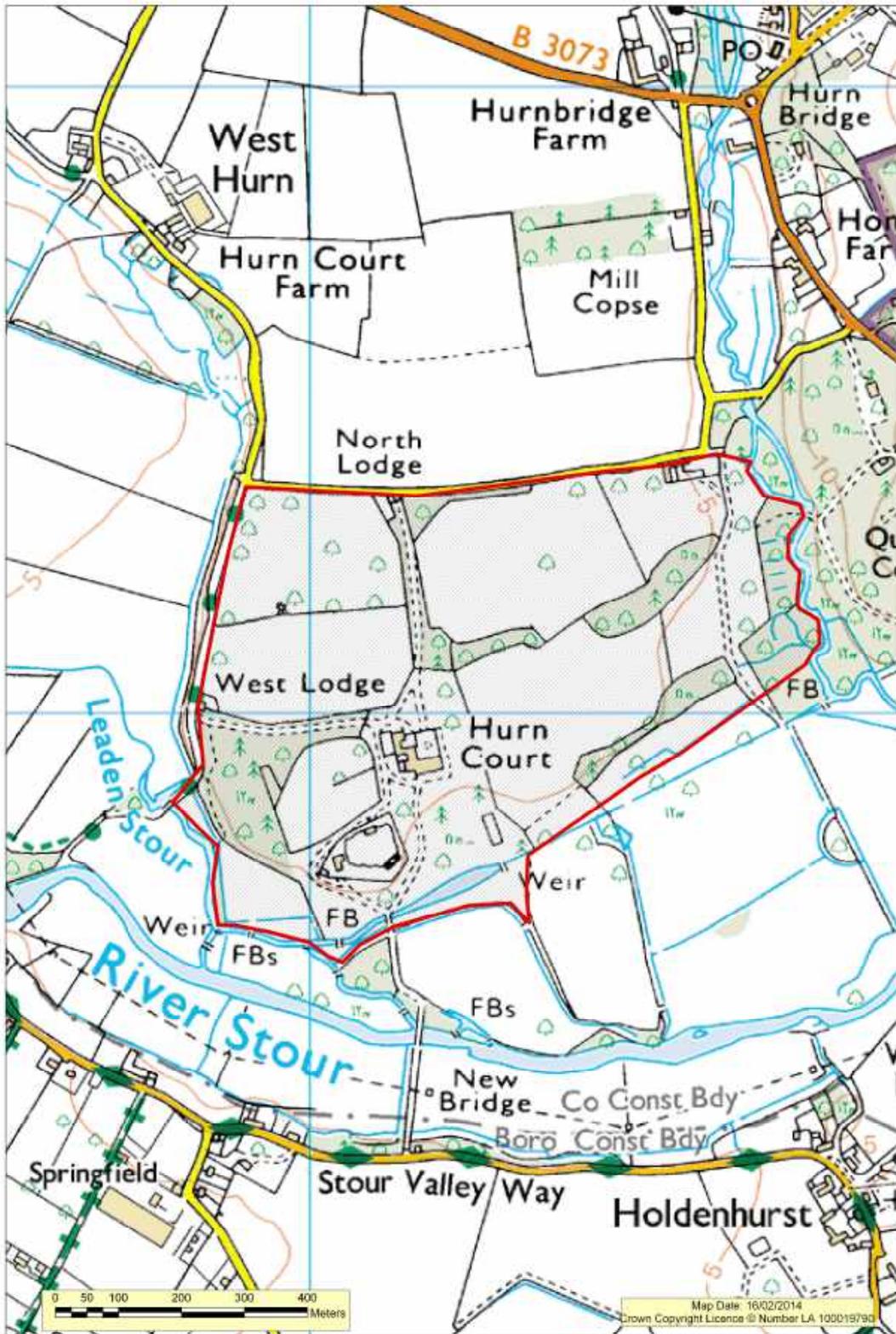
Significance:

There is a long history of development from the Monastic days. Despite multiple ownership, the grounds maintain the 19th C character with notable kitchen garden with crinkle-crankle wall. Important country house estate within the Bournemouth conurbation.

Sources:

Michael Hill *East Dorset Country Houses 2013 p 204*
J. Hutchins *The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset - vol III*
Nikolaus Pevsner and David Lloyd. *The Buildings of Hampshire and IoW, Penquin Books 1967*

Hurn Court





Millhams Mead

Address: Millhams Mead, Millhams Street, Christchurch, BH23 1DN

District: Christchurch Borough Council **Ward :** Town Centre

Map Series: Landranger **Map Sheet:** 195 **Grid Reference:** 155 933

Area (ha): 1 ha

Site owner(s): Private

Designation: Dorset Gardens Trust Local List

Site designers: Not known

Brief description of site:

Millhams Mead is a town garden in the centre of Christchurch behind houses in Millhams Street. It is a partly walled garden extending to Mill Stream then across a footbridge to an orchard and kitchen garden with the Avon river meadows beyond.

Brief history of site:

Traditional town centre garden behind 18th C house listed Grade II by Historic England.

Significance:

Town centre garden maintaining views out to the water meadows together with listed house.

Sources:

Nikolaus Pevsner and David Lloyd. *The Buildings of Hampshire and IoW*, Penguin Books 1967

Millhams Mead, Christchurch

