

# **Thornbridge Hall and Estate, Ashford in the Water**

Appeal against enforcement notice reference ENF: 21/0034  
Thornbridge Hall and Estate, Ashford in the Water, DE45 1NZ

**PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE: APP/M9496/C/21/3279072**  
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY REFERENCE: ENF: 21/0034**

## **CULTURAL HERITAGE NOTE – Attenuation Pond and Additional Documents**

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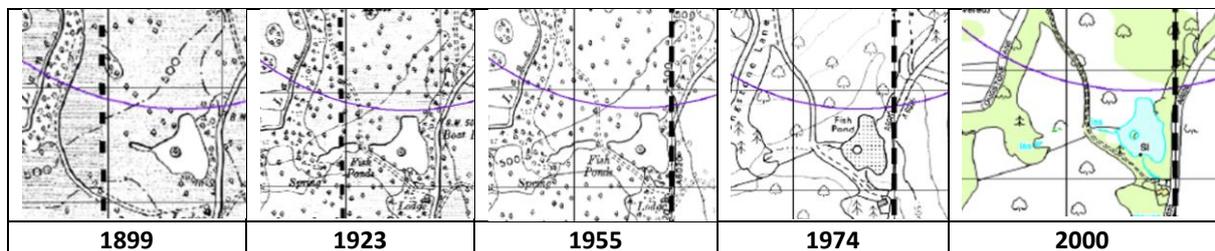
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## Comments to PDNPA Late Remarks on Drainage/Attenuation Pond

### Impact on Parkland and Setting

1. The proposed location is in an area where the size, number and location of water features have varied significantly over time, as shown by the historical OS mapping (Appendix 9, p 35-39, KSA POE) and below. In 1899 the route of the (possibly partly proposed) drive to the east entrance lodge is shown to the south of the boating pond. The constructed drive is shown in 1923 as running along the southwest edge of the boating pond with a separate pond to its west. The latter has disappeared by 1974, by which time the size and shape of the boating pond has also altered. The historic pond to the west has been reinstated, lost while the historic asset was under local authority control. The number and shape of the water features in this area as part of the setting of the historic assets are not a constant and the addition of a small new attenuation pond with the appearance of a marshy area is not inconsistent with the historic and existing setting.



2. The PDNPA describes the point where the drive passes between the two ponds as “a key aesthetic experience along the route to the hall” (Evans POE, 6.8) and that it would be harmful to the views, the relationship between the historic ponds, drive and Hall. This is an example of their exaggerating significance, in this case of a view which has not been identified as significant and adopted in the Conservation Area Appraisal.
3. The attenuated design of the proposed attenuation pond, with a marshy perimeter planted with reeds or similar vegetation will both prevent erosion and encourage bio-diversity. These also minimise the visual impact of changing water levels; at times of low or no water, it will appear as a small, green marshy expanse. Furthermore, the question raised concerning the design and materials of the small inlet and outlet areas ignore the fact that such materials were commonly used in parkland drainage. Should this be an area of concerns, these matters can be dealt with by conditions.
4. The Conservation Area Appraisal Adopted views which include this area are from south of the terrace of Thornbridge Hall. From this distance, identifying the margin of the pond would hardly be possible. Regarding the impact of the pond on the historic asset of Thornbridge Hall, the change is ‘a negligible change to the setting, such that the asset is hardly affected’ and the impact is assessed as neutral.
5. Regarding the Registered Park and Garden and the Conservation Area, of which the new pond forms part of a single parcel within an extensive area, it constitutes a negligible change defined as: “Very minor change to key historic landscape elements, parcels or components (a single component), resulting in a very small change to historic landscape character”, with a neutral impact.
6. Therefore, it is concluded that there is no harm to the heritage by the introduction of the attenuation pond.

## Comments on the Additional Proposed Core Documents

1. In an email of Fri 07/10/2022 14:00 Ruth Crowder of PDNPA discussed several additional core documents sent to the PI. These included:
  - CD8.20 - Photos from PDNPA Site Visit.
  - CD8.21 – Gardeners Chronicle Article
  - CD8.22 – C Mate Dissertation 1993 FINAL
2. The PDNPA reasoning for the very late submission of these documents was:  
'Additional core documents, CD8.21 and CD 8.22, are being submitted to provide the historical context for the parkland, in relation to the information on proposed mitigation and the draft UU supplied by the appellant.'
3. The proposed article from the Gardener's Chronicle and the proposed Masters thesis were documents referred to in the PDNPA proofs. The two documents do not appear to undermine the appellants case. However, it is unclear what specifically the PDNPA wish to refer to in these documents. Regardless, the two documents can be seen to provide additional evidence that the gardens and parkland were developed over time, with many changes apparent since the photographs in the 1898 article. It is national guidance that the conservation of heritage assets is the management of change in a manner that preserves the significance of the heritage assets. The approach that heritage assets should be frozen in time, apparent in the PDNPA proofs, is contrary to not only national guidance but international charters such as the Venice Charter.