

would have extended onto land abutting the eighteenth-century approach to the house from the Wyke Green lodges. The Inspector found that the land in question was an important buffer between the historic park and the encircling urban development. The appeals were dismissed.

The third case, again resulting in a Public Inquiry, concerns applications made to the London Borough of Lewisham for planning permission to extend the golf course and to form a golf driving range and tennis centre at *Beckenham Place Park*, which straddles the borough boundary between Lewisham and Bromley. The Park is not included in the Register, mainly because of the damage already done to it by use for golf and by the draining of the former lake, but it is nevertheless of historic interest, being formed in the late eighteenth century from woodland and farmland, the boundaries and remnants of which are still evident. The park is Metropolitan Open Land. The Inspector found that the MOL, the setting of the Grade II* mansion, and the historic landscape and archaeology issues all weighed heavily. He was critical of the lack of a long-term management plan for the historic park and dismissed the appeals.

RESTORATION of the PARK AND GARDENS at HAMPTON COURT

By Simon Thurley

Hampton Court Palace has what are probably the most famous baroque gardens in England (fig. 16). Laid out after the Restoration, first by Charles II and then most notably by William III, the bones of the park and gardens still exist to-day. Yet time has treated neither the great avenues in the park nor the elaborate parterres closer to the Palace very kindly. Long before the storms of 1987 decimated the avenues in the parks, they were already beginning to look gappy. The formal gardens had been left to grow out after the head gardenership of Lancelot Capability Brown and bear little or no relationship to the way they looked in their peak.

Historic Royal Palaces, the Government agency which looks after Hampton Court Palace, has been undertaking a programme of restoration both in the park and in the gar-

dens. Restoration of the avenues in the park is well advanced. The glorious Cross Avenue, laid out in c.1690, and stretching for 1.4 miles across Home Park, has been clear-felled and replanted with 1,247 lime trees (*Tilia x. europaea*) in precisely their original positions after a programme of field archaeology established their layout. A small amount of local resistance was met after Hampton Court made its intentions clear, yet now the work is nearly complete, even the fiercest critics admit that the replanting has been a stunning success. Not only has the avenue been replanted, but the Ditton and Kingston circles (c.1690), once completely lost, have been recreated.

Nearer to the Palace, what is possibly the largest garden restoration currently underway in Europe, is nearing completion. The restoration of the Privy Garden, King William III's private garden to the south of the Palace, opened to the public in early July this year (fig. 17). It will show the garden with its cutwork, topiary and splendid hornbeam bower as it was laid out between 1695-1712. The re-creation will have been achieved using the voluminous documentary evidence, excellent topographical information and a two year archaeological programme of investigations.

The results of this research into the garden will be published this summer (1995), and will fully document the restoration, outlining not only the academic research and archaeology, but also the methodology of the restoration.

The Agency is due to publish a garden strategy document later in 1995 which will outline the future plans for the Hampton Court gardens, and subsequent phases of the replanting of the avenues in Home Park.

HISTORY of SPENCER HOUSE GARDEN

27 ST JAMES'S PLACE, SW1

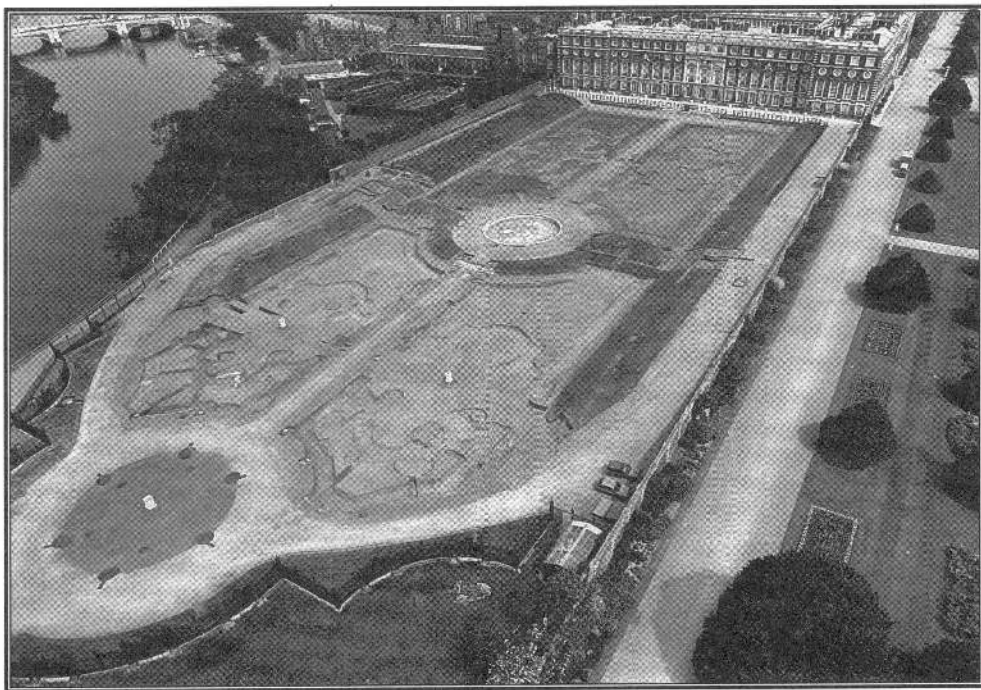
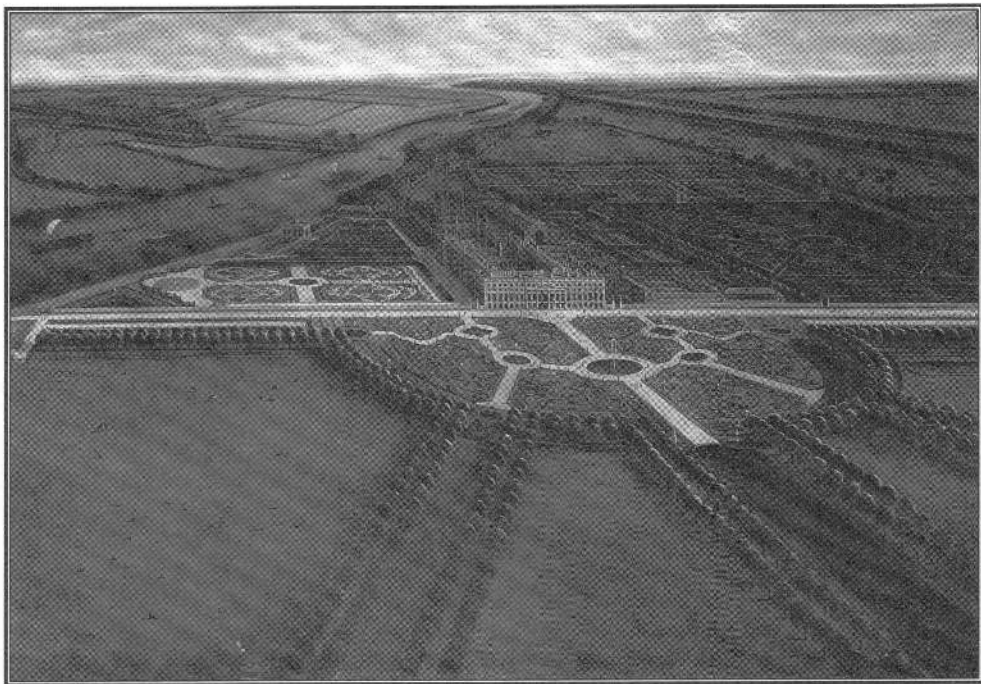
By Todd Longstaffe-Gowan

When in the autumn of 1755 John Spencer purchased the site for his future town house in St James's Place he bought a smart address commanding a prospect of Green Park.¹ He also inherited John Vardy, the architect of the previous lessee,

1. Green Park was also known as Little St James's or Upper St James's Park.

2. Although the property had been bought from the dowager Countess Burlington, it had been leased until 1755 to Henry Bromley, first Baron Montfort (d.1755).

RESTORATION of *the* PARK AND GARDENS at HAMPTON COURT



16. Leonard Knyff's bird's eye view of Hampton Court Palace, c.1703. (ROYAL COLLECTION, WINDSOR)

17. Aerial view of the excavations at the Privy Garden, Hampton Court, 1994. (CROWN COPYRIGHT: HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES)