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Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes of England

Inventory of Great Britain

LINDRIDGE

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Name:	LINDRIDGE
County:	Devon
District:	Teignbridge (District Authority)
Parish:	Bishopsteignton
County:	Devon
District:	Teignbridge (District Authority)
Parish:	Kingsteignton
label.localisation:	Latitude: 50.566105 Longitude: -3.5682365 National Grid Reference: SX 89030 75214 Map: Download a full scale map (PDF)
label.overview:	Heritage Category: Park and Garden Grade: II List Entry Number: 1000357 Date first listed: 01-Sep-1988

Details

This list entry was subject to a Minor Amendment on 26/08/2011

An early C20 garden of formal terraces by Edward White and informal pleasure grounds planted by Robert Veitch & Son around an early C17 house (destroyed by fire in 1963) set in parkland of C17 or early C18 origin.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Lindridge formed part of an estate belonging to the bishops of Exeter from the mid C11 until the Reformation, when it was acquired by Sir Andrew Dudley. Passing through several hands in the C16, it belonged from 1614 to the Martin family, the last of whom sold the property to Sir Peter Lear Bt, a West India merchant, who appears to have built the C17 mansion (CL 1938). A park with a herd of 120 deer was recorded at the death of Sir John Lear in 1737 (guidebook c 1962). The property was sold in 1739, and again, to John Baring of Exeter, in 1746. In the mid C18 the house was reduced by the demolition of two wings, as shown in an engraving of 1769 (CL 1938). This view suggests remnants of a formal layout in the park with avenues to the south-west and north-east, while Donn's Map of Devon (1765) shows a long drive approaching from the south-west. In 1777 the Rev John Templer of Stover Park, Devon (qv) acquired Lindridge by marriage, and in 1793 Polwhele noted that the grounds were picturesque, with 'the woods clothing the hills or waving in dark masses'. In the early C19 Hyett commented on the 'rich lawn, beautifully wooded' (1803), while Stockdale (DEI) noted that 'the surrounding demesne is fairly wooded & presents a variety of the most pleasing scenes imaginable'. Lindridge was owned by the Templer family throughout the C19, and was let from c 1913 to Lord Cable, before being sold to him in 1920. Lord Cable commissioned the architect James Ransome and the Exeter nursery Robert Veitch & Son to remodel the grounds in 1913; this work was continued by Edward White (c 1873-1955) of Milner, White and Son in 1913-14 (CL 1938; J Inst Landscape Architects 1952). White continued to advise on the gardens

until c 1939 (R P Benthall pers comm, 1999). Remodelled by Ransome in 1916, the house was used as an hospital for wounded officers in 1917-18. Lindridge continued to be owned by Lord Cable's family and their Trustees until 1962, when it was sold to John Brady, who opened it to the public. The following year the house was gutted by fire, and in January 1964, Mr and Mrs Brady purchased Compton Acres, Poole, Dorset (qv), whither various garden ornaments were apparently removed. Planning permission for a new structure containing apartments on the site of the mansion, the conversion of the stables and construction of houses in a former kitchen garden was granted in 1988. This work was undertaken in the early 1990s, accompanied by restoration of the early C20 formal gardens and informal pleasure grounds. The site is now (1999) in divided private ownership.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Lindridge is situated c 2km north-west of the village of Bishopsteignton and c 0.5km north-west of the hamlet of Humber. The c 63ha site comprises some 7ha of formal and informal gardens and kitchen gardens, c 35ha of parkland, and c 21ha of woodland. To the north-east, east and south the site is bordered by Humber Lane, a minor road leading from Ideford c 1.5km to the north-west to Kingsteignton c 2.75km to the south-west. Agricultural land enclosed by traditional hedge banks adjoins the site to the north, north-west and south-west, while to the west a finger of plantation, King's Wood, extends c 1.25km from the south-west boundary of the park on a north-west-facing hillside. The site rises to the north, north-east and south-east, while a valley extends south-west from the site of the mansion through the park. From the terraces west and north-west of the house there are extensive views westwards towards Dartmoor.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The site is approached from Humber Lane which forms its southern boundary. Opposite its junction with the road leading south-south-east to Bishopsteignton, a high, early C20 concave rendered wall with piers surmounted by ball and strapwork finials flanks square gate piers with moulded caps, supporting elaborate early C20 wrought-iron gates (all listed grade II). North-east and outside the gates stands a single-storey early C19 lodge (listed grade II), while south-west and inside the gates stands an early C20 single-storey rendered lodge (listed grade II). The gates, wing and screen walls, and south-west lodge form part of a 1920s scheme for Lord Cable which was incomplete at his death in 1927. The tarmac drive extends c 250m north-west on high ground with views north across the park and gardens to the house, before descending to meet the south-west drive c 400m south-west of the house. Turning north-east the drive passes through an early C20 gateway comprising square rubble-stone piers with ball finials (rebuilt late C20) and continues generally level, retained above the park to the north by a low stone wall with semicircular bastions c 190m and 100m south-west of the house. Approaching the site of the mansion, the drive turns south before ascending c 80m north-east on the line of the former service drive, to reach the late C20 houses in the former walled garden. The south-west drive shown on Donn's Map of Devon (1765) approaches the site from Lindridge Hill c 1km north of Kingsteignton and passes through King's Wood, initially following a stream to the north for c 1km to a point opposite Whiteway Barton. Thence the drive, now surviving as a woodland track, climbs gently, to emerge c 600m south-west of the house at a point giving views across the park to the house. Former lime kilns, overgrown rocks and a quarry c 1km south-west of the house provide a picturesque incident on the south-west drive as it passes through King's Wood. As it approaches the principal drive at a spacious junction c 400m south-west of the house, the final 180m of this drive is enclosed by C19 metal estate fencing. A late C19 or early C20 double, curve-braced timber gate with vertical rails partly survives adjacent to a late C20 gate marking the entry of the drive into King's Wood. From the road forming the northern boundary a drive extends c 250m south-west through an avenue of limes to approach the former stables north of the house. The north entrance is marked by concave stone wing walls flanking square gate piers with moulded pyramid caps, and an early C20 two-storey brick and tile lodge which stands to the east of the gate. A drive runs 400m south-east from the former service quarters north of the house to Home Humber, the former home farm, adjacent to the site boundary.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING The late C20 structure taking the place of the C17 mansion destroyed by fire in 1963 is constructed in red brick under a slate Mansard roof, and comprises two storeys with attic dormers. The C17 mansion as remodelled and clad in brick by James Ransome c 1916 was of three storeys under a Mansard roof with round-headed attic dormers, and had a well-defined entrance on the west facade. The present structure is not constructed on the footprint of the earlier building but stands c 20m further west. The central feature of each facade does not relate to the central axes of the gardens below.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS Early C20 formal gardens and informal pleasure grounds lie to the south, south-west, west and north-west of the principal building. The formal terraced garden to the south, known as the Italian Garden, is separated from the building and an early C20 stone-flagged and balustraded terrace, lily pool and stone steps by the late C20 drive which is bordered to the south by an early C20 stone balustrade. Semicircular stone-flagged steps flanked by low rusticated piers with ball finials descend to an axial flagged walk which extends c 50m through two terraces, to reach the pool garden on the lowest terrace. The upper terrace is laid out with two symmetrical plats whose geometric beds are divided by narrow flagged walks leading to central stone pedestals, now (1999) lacking their early C20 figures. Semicircular stone steps descend to the second terrace, which is divided into four grass quarters by cruciform flagged walks meeting at a central, octagonal, stone-kerbed pool. The terrace is enclosed to east and west by low rubble walls with recesses, originally containing stone seats, aligned on the cross walk. Herbaceous borders surround the garden, and are separated from the lawns by flagged perimeter walks. Topiary shapes flank the east and west ends of the cross walk, while low right-angled yew hedges enclose the outer corners of the lawns. Topiary peacocks on stepped yew plinths flank the south end of the central walk, but similar topiary to the north does not survive. Tall, rusticated stone piers with ball finials flank a double flight of shallow stone steps descending to the pool garden on the third terrace. Enclosed by high, buttressed yew hedges forming a circular enclosure with arched entrances leading east and west, the pool garden contains a circular stone-kerbed pool surrounded by a flagged walk. In the centre of the pool, reached by low-arched bridges from east and west, a rounded, octagonal, rusticated stone island with four lead lion-mask spouts (one missing 1999) on its angled faces and ball finials at its angles, supports a late C20 inaccurate recreation of the Ionic rotunda shown in early C20 photographs. The early C20 rotunda designed by Ransome was removed in the 1930s on the advice of Edward White who considered it too dominant; a vista was cut through the surrounding evergreens to the park (CL 1938; R P Benthall pers comm, 1999). South of this garden, and framed by massive yew hedges, tall, rusticated stone piers with ball finials support elaborate early C20 wrought-iron gates surmounted by a wrought-iron overthrow. Arched entrances in the yew hedge west of the pool garden lead to the water garden, an area of informal planting with specimen trees and shrubs. A rocky stream fed from a leat descends a north-facing slope to a pool and water garden. A gravel path traverses the slope, crossing the stream on a rusticated single-arched stone bridge. The gravel path reaches the leat c 160m south of the house, and follows it north-west as a terrace walk above the informal gardens. The Water Garden has been restored in the late C20. West of the house a grass terrace with an early C20 circular stone-edged pool forms the domestic gardens of apartments in the late C20 structure, replacing the early C20 carriage court. A yew hedge and early C20 brick and stone-coped terrace walls to the west have been retained. Semicircular stone steps descend to lawns separated from the park to the west by fences. North-west, at a higher level and approached by a late C20 sloping path, a terrace and lawn is supported by a rubble wall with a semicircular bastion c 100m west of the house giving views across the park. Parallel to the terrace wall, a stone-kerbed rectangular swimming pool was developed in 1925 from an earlier serpentine pool (OS 1887). Originally c 50m long, the swimming pool has been reduced by infilling c 30m at the south-east end to form a late C20 rose garden with a central gravel walk and rose arches. At the south-west end of the pool, c 100m west of the house, an early C20 stone temple with a pediment supported on four Ionic columns, stands on a flagged base, its interior infilled with late C20 painted timber panels to form a changing room. A grass bank planted with four Irish yews north-east of the pool rises to a lawn, whence serpentine gravel walks extend north and north-east through C19 informal pleasure grounds with specimen trees and shrubs (OS 1887). A ha-ha forming the north-west boundary c 130m north-west of the house allows views north and north-west across parkland, now (1999) pasture. A former byre c 170m north-west of the house has been converted in the mid C20 to a dwelling. An adjacent quarry, The Dell, was developed in the 1930s as a garden with collections of primulas, alpine and dwarf rhododendrons (CL 1938; R P Benthall pers comm, 1999). North-east a mid C20 hard tennis court has an early C20 timber and tile-roofed pavilion at the north end. A water tower c 100m north of the house supports an unusual early C20 observation pavilion with a timber gallery and fretwork balustrade under a pyramidal tile roof. South-east of the informal gardens an early C20 pergola overlooks a terraced south-facing grass slope. Extending c 50m west from an arched entrance and early C20 wrought-iron gate in the former kitchen garden wall, the timber superstructure is supported on square rubble-stone piers. Shaped brackets frame openings at the west end, and in the centre of the north and south sides. A flagged walk within the pergola, flanked by low stone walls, leads west to mid C20 stone steps descending to

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the swimming pool terrace. The west end of the pergola was originally enclosed by a low wall, forming a viewpoint. To the south, shallow curved steps lead south-east and south-west down the south-facing slope, meeting at the midpoint of the lower terrace and continuing through two further grass-banked terraces as an axial flight of steps to reach a yew hedge north of the former carriage court. East of the former walled garden, grass slopes with a scatter of mature trees have been landscaped with late C20 rock gardens.

PARK Lying to the west, south and east of the house, the park remains pasture with scattered groups and individual deciduous trees. To the south-west a shallow valley extends from the boundary of the gardens through the park, while to the south the park rises with groups of trees on the higher ground. The park south-east of the house is now (1999) agricultural land, but an ornamental plantation on the Humber Lane boundary c 420m south-east of the house survives, together with ornamental trees c 350m south-south-east. The trees in the park are significantly reduced in number since the late C19 (OS 1887), when traces of a formal arrangement of avenues west of the house appeared to survive. A programme of replanting has been undertaken in the late C20.

KITCHEN GARDEN The extensive kitchen garden north of the house and stables is now (1999) the site of several late C20 detached dwellings. The rubble-stone walls c 2.5m high survive to north and west, and in part to the south and north-east. Some 100m east of the house, an early C20 part-walled garden survives in a derelict and overgrown condition. At the west corner a semicircular screen wall c 2m high composed of closely spaced tall brick balusters is pierced by gates leading north-north-east and north-east which are closed by an early C20 wrought-iron gate supported by rusticated brick piers with stone bases for large ball finials (missing 1999). A stone-flagged terrace (mostly removed, 1999) outside the garden is retained by a stone-coped buttressed brick wall and overlooks a circular garden with a central stone-kerbed circular pool (infilled and partly covered by spoil, 1999). Stone-flagged steps ascend from the lower garden to the north-east gate which leads to an overgrown box-edged path extending c 50m north-east within the garden to a perimeter walk. The interior of the garden is heavily overgrown with young sycamores.

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Description written: February 1999 Amended: August 1999; May 2000 Register Inspector: JML Edited: July 2000

Legal

This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by Historic England for its special historic interest.