

Wentworth Castle Gardens

Pre-opening works: Heritage Impact Assessment

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Proposed works under consideration

The following impact assessment considers the heritage impacts of five elements of physical works to be carried out at Wentworth Castle Gardens in the winter of 2018/19, prior to reopening to the public. These consist of

- a) Trenching to install IT infrastructure between existing BT services and key visitor touchpoints in the car park and the Long Barn, as well as NT offices north of the “Gun Room”.
- b) Installation of a large grease trap, and associated piping south of the Long Barn
- c) Construction of a new visitor reception building
- d) Refurbishment and minor alteration to the interior of the Long Barn
- e) Repairs to the Serpentine Bridge
- f) Walling repairs to the stone walling of the SE corner of the walled garden

In the main the impacts, certainly from an archaeological perspective, of c) to e) are relatively slight. Although these works are covered here, the majority of investigative research has concentrated on understanding the greater impacts of a) and b).

Available research

The history, and some degree archaeology, of Wentworth Castle has been researched and evaluated during a number of rounds of conservation management planning (and practical work on the ground) since the early 1990s.

The National Trust are very much newcomers as managers of the site, and are currently on a steep learning curve. Climbing that curve has been complicated by the confidentiality with which negotiations have needed to be conducted. As a result, although we are aware of the existence of a number of previous completed conservation management plans and other reports, we have not yet been able to obtain complete copies of them all yet, especially the earlier iterations. However, this is substantially mitigated by having access to the most recent, the Conservation Management Plan produced by HTLA in 2005, and its sequel produced for Wentworth Castle and Stainborough Park Heritage Trust for Phase 2 works by the same authors in November 2007. These texts review and critique earlier work as well as compile new research, and are therefore the most recent texts on the subject matter. In the longer term it would also be useful to obtain and review the report produced by Chris Blandford Associates in 2003, to which the HTLA volumes refer, but this is not currently available. Neither have copies of specific archaeological reports produced in support of the two phases of HLF funded restoration yet been obtained.

It is felt that the HTLA reports provide a well-researched and informed understanding of the history of the site, and that informs the text that follows.

However, as well as specific investigative site visits, a map regression exercise for the kitchen garden area has been undertaken in house, with analysis seeking to integrate

what can be suggested from illustrative sources for the site. This was conducted independently of reference to the CMP texts, often drawing conclusions which chimed with the framework of understanding of the site's history. But it also became clear that the illustrative and cartographic sources have the potential to add considerably to the previously secured narrative. No one has sought to ask the map and visual sources the particular, relevant to present concerns, questions hitherto. This is fully anticipated in HTLA 2005 which wisely states *"As specific research questions are identified and explored, there is no doubt that it will be possible to build an even yet more detailed picture of the historical development of the site"* (para 3.8.2 p.78).

It must always be recalled though that a) illustrative sources and b) a scattering of identifiable dates – be these documentary references, dates of publication of engravings or completion of maps – are merely suggestive evidence as regards chronology and anything but a comprehensive or complete framework.

With regard to the map regression, it should also be noted that at present this has only be conducted "by eye", making assumptions that elements of similar form or orientation in successive sources actually refer to the same feature. More detailed metrical analysis might possibly draw differing conclusions, and should be considered at a future date.

Evolution of the walled garden area

Although considerable previous work has been focussed on understanding the walled garden and its surrounding setting affected by the present works, there appears to be more that can be said about its evolution, and therefore significance and archaeological potentials.

When Wentworth Castle is first illustrated in 1711, the site of the walled garden had generally yet to be developed. The estate had passed into the hands of the Wentworths (who would rigorously develop it) in 1708. It is believed that at least some of the features illustrated at this early stage owe their origins to the previous owners, the Cutler family, whose seventeenth century development of Wentworth is scarcely documented. Amongst the suggested Cutler works is a quadrangular service block to the north of the mansion, seemingly including the present Long Barn. At the time the north-west extension of the mansion, its gardens and appurtenances, would have been limited by the then public road running along a tree-lined course to the rear of the quadrangular service block (whose southern continuation continues to be marked today by the alignment of the great avenue focussed on the Gun Room). The only element shown reaching beyond the road is a double avenue, seemingly framing a view north, either from the north side of the house, or – more likely – a courtyard on the west side of the mansion. It is said, in HTLA 2005, that the Cutler House was approached from the north: the evidence for this is not explained, and if it rested on the 1711 engraving, then one has to say that the engravers depicted no clear negotiation of the public road, and the Wentworths had made some pretty rapid and radical changes to favour the east approach so immediately. On the face of the depictive evidence, the avenue looks much more like it framed a view than lined an approach to the house, especially as at this date nothing but what would become called Lowe Wood – and certainly no evident road – lay beyond it.

Interesting changes were already in hand by the time that the next illustration appeared in 1714. Now a square walled garden is shown in the NW angle between the east side of the avenue and the public road, which is still in its historical position. While in outline this undoubtedly somewhat reflected changes that were actually in hand or in planning, later evidence would suggest that the walled garden was never actually constructed on this configuration. The rich correspondence between the Wentworths and their gardener, John Arnold (now in the British Library, ADD 22239) demonstrates that work to set up the walled garden was underway in preceding years. In 1713 Arnold reported having raised no fewer than 3-400 orange and lemon trees (HTLA 2007, 2.1.33, possibly in a letter of 24th July also mentioning care of a stock of nectarines); on the 16th March 1713 (1714 in modern dates) he reported finding the ground being dug for the productive garden shallow-soiled “*nothing but a quarry of stone*”. Several references indicate that the Wentworths had sought the advice, and designs, of no less a gardening authority than one of Queen Anne’s favoured gardeners, George London, of the London and Wise partnership. These covered the ornamental gardens as well as the productive. However, on June 4th 1714 Arnold reported that as regards the latter he was “*not following Mr London’s dimensions*” (perhaps because of the conditions being encountered on site). Arnold’s changes would certainly explain the difference between the 1714 depiction of a square enclosure, and the rectilinear one shown on all subsequent sources.

While the ongoing correspondence illuminates continuing development of the productive gardens (for example discussion of planting of new lengths of walls in 1719,

1720 and 1722; preparation of melon beds in 1718, and perhaps raising pineapples in 1730), illustrative sources run dry until the early 1730s. There is then a relative richness with two views by Bladesdale and Roque c.1732 and our earliest cartographic source, an estate map of 1734. There is strong correlation between the detailing of the more elevated Bladesdale view and that of the estate plan.

Both sources show very significant change, made possible by the Wentworths choosing to change the layout of the landscape in very much the contemporary fashion. The key change is the removal of the historical, broadly NE/SW, roadway northwards away from near the house to the position the lane presently occupies along the southern edge of Lowe Wood. A long rectangular walled garden extends from the position occupied by the square garden in 1714, north to the new road line, but on a narrower width dictated by (symmetrically placed on?) the Cutlers' quadrangular range. The garden did not directly abut those buildings but was separated from them by a small yard, spanning the previous site of the public road. The quadrangle has also been significantly altered, by means of the demolition of its southern range, producing a courtyard opening to the south. It seems very likely that this demolition will have occurred as part of the works to create the great Octagonal Pool and its setting, which Arnold also had in hand from 1714. The demolition would have been needed to create the terrace north of the excavation, and the double avenue running along it shown by Bladesdale. The "lower level" Bladesdale view shows three gables for the quadrangular block rather than two, which is a little confusing. This cannot be reconciled with the estate plan, although the map does show further buildings to the north-east of the quadrangle (as does the "higher" view) which survive to the present day. It is possible that the third gable derived from some confusion in the studio converting on-site sketches into an engraving.

Both the higher Bladesdale and the estate plan add a new component to the landscape – a further enclosed garden area, with interior features (perhaps a water feature and surrounding planting) with a structure on its eastern side, located to the north-east of the southern end of the long productive garden. The building appears to correspond with what still (in part) survives as the Orangery. Rather helpfully, it is noted (HTLA 2007, p.55) that the Orangery was in construction in 1728, probably giving us the date of this enclosure, which established the full width of the walled gardens as seen today. The relationship between an orangery and a formally gardened area around a water feature is mirrored at a number of other contemporary sites, not least at Lord Burlington's Orange Tree garden at Chiswick House.

The illustrative sources show that this second enclosure only extended north for about half the length of the first. Bladesdale shows the rest of the extent occupied by regularly spaced planting, very likely an orchard; the estate map leaves the space blank. The two sources also seem to differ on the form and location of the southern end of the enclosure. Being of its nature, the estate map is the more compelling source showing a raked end joining boundaries enclosing the area around the quadrangular building and the formal gardens. Bladesdale shows a more rectangular enclosure, which is more akin – but not identical – to what appears on later mapping. The area east of the quadrangular building was shown laid out as a formal rectilinear space/garden in 1714 – but this was probably – like the depiction square walled garden – speculative. In every later depiction it is simply shown open, mainly under grass or sometimes perhaps shrub planting.

A very significant feature, not previously commented on (at least by HTLA), is that the line of the south side of the new Orangery enclosure was adopted by a new double avenue and seemingly a significant – if perhaps short lived – approach to the mansion along the line of what is now known as Shed Lane. Running parallel with the avenue west of the productive garden discussed above, it forms a seamless extension of the formal geometric pattern dictated by the mansion’s layout – but not one present on the earlier sources. Previously this area was only divided by meandering hedgerows of the Town Inq, or common grazing, beside the old road (hedgerows that were allowed to remain further to the south). An important clue as to the status of the newly created north-south access is that at its junction with the diverted public road the park boundary is provided with a semi-circular entrance forecourt. This highlights this route as an important – albeit workaday – means of entry to the property at the time, as well as (perhaps primarily serving as) a line of egress to the wilderness walks and other features being created in Lowe Wood. Precisely the same form and scale of entry point is provided at the east end of the great east avenue, beyond the Serpentine, reiterating the significance and importance of these entry points.

There is then a long pause in the accessible evidence, HTLA noting the potential for further research in the estate correspondence for the later C18. There is an undated plan of Stainborough, of rather sketchy detail, on paper watermarked 1824 (Sheffield Archives VWM/Maps/8) and then a tithe award survey with even slighter detailing of 1844.

The post-1824 plan shows some detailing we can identify from the earlier sources. The enclosed gardens are both shown considerably cropped off from the north, the overall length being reduced by around a third. The south end of the Orangery enclosure is also shown differently, with a raking south wall, aligned with buildings to the west, depiction that will be repeated on the OS first edition. South of this there is a new enclosure of the ground east of the quadrangular complex, broadly along the lines defined by the road as seen today. This space appears to include a building not shown on any other source; there are also new structures next to the Orangery and to the east of its enclosure along Shed Lane. These appear to be associated with a new square end of an adjoining land boundary on the opposite side of the lane, which endures onto modern mapping. There is no sign of the north –south road nor its avenue, though.

Wentworth had passed into the hands of the Vernon-Wentworths in 1803. Their correspondence shows an enduring interest in horticulture and the emerging technologies that supported it.

The first edition OS 6” survey was published in 1855. This detailed survey now shows productive use extended north again as far as the relocated lane, with a NE/SW roadway between this area and the previous maintained gardens where the present roadway is. There is a reinvigorated management of the internal spaces and a number of new buildings depicted within and around the gardens. Significantly, in terms of the earlier loss of the Shed Lane access, the north end of that route is cut by what is labelled as an “Old Quarry”. This map also shows the road running along the north side of the productive gardens, on the line of the present college access road. This will probably

have replaced the Shed Lane route when it went out of use, but is not clearly depicted in 1824/1844.

The previously noted square boundary east of the lane is represented again, but now with a sub-circle of planting around its southern side, and with a belt of planting heading north, parallel with and to the east of the Shed Lane line. The eastern edge of this planting does seem to be represented as a line of trees on the 1844 Tithe Award survey.

The 6" survey was revised and the first edition 25" survey published in 1891. There had been further reorganisation of the productive gardens and the addition of further buildings – including extensive building along the west side of Shed Lane. At least some form of access has been re-established along the lane's route, although probably not vehicular at least in terms of being able to exit the property. There are also three small new buildings in the square-bounded area, whose southern planting has also changed shape and enlarged. The planting on the east of Shed Lane has also been more than doubled in depth with the planting up of further rectilinear plots. This planting is not characterised by the OS and may possibly have been to provide screening for the productive gardens from cold easterly winds. Access through the new belt to the open fields to the east is provided on the line of the previously adopted NE/SW productive gardens' cross-track. The pillared barn has also been placed to the NW of the gardens. A late addition to the suite of buildings on Shed Lane is added to its east side, north-east of the Orangery, before 1903.

The changes on the OS mapping reflect the Vernon-Wentworth's ongoing commitment to their property and interest in modern horticulture. Documentary resources suggest considerable spending on the productive gardens especially in the 1870s and 1880s.

Later, C20, OS editions are mainly of note as a record of further landscape changes east of Shed Lane. The planting around the square boundary feature is further enlarged and extended by 1903, before being depicted as part of Coronation Wood (established to mark the coronation of George V in 1910) in 1929. Planting the wood had involved taking in significantly more of the field east of Shed Lane, although a third "tier" of rectilinear enclosure was also laid out, separating the earlier woodland from this extension.

The OS mapping in isolation doesn't really tell the story of the twentieth century in these gardens, and are certainly scant as regards the impacts of the century's second half – other than the dearth of new structures. In fact the condition of the gardens declined considerably and a great deal of historic interest was lost to pragmatic modernisation. After the Second World War Barnsley MDC took over management and turned the gardens to production of bedding plants and similar for municipal needs. The garden's need of conservation care has long been recognised, but fell beyond the reach of the HLF projects of the early 2000s.

Evolution of the area NW of the mansion

An area to the north-west of the mansion, between that building and the Gun Room, will be crossed by one component of the IT infrastructure. Its current character is dominated by a 1970s, brutalist, teaching block erected by the College, with a surfaced roadway separating the built/gardened setting of the building from the environs of the Grade II* listed Gun Room.

It is difficult to judge with precision, but the 1711 image suggests that this site may have lain within an enclosed garden on the west side of the mansion. In 1714 the vicinity hosted what appears to be a two-storey service building, aligned to the south of the quadrangular range. However, given that this building appears on no other source, it might well be that it was still at the proposal stage when the engraving was produced, like the large square walled garden. The depictions of the 1730s are not consistent, but would suggest that by that date the site was either part of a large open courtyard on the west side of the house, or an also quite open parcel with avenues planted across it, opening onto the allee/vista to the west of the productive garden.

The Gun Room is not marked on the 1734 map, and only appears for the first time in 1824. Depiction is very faint, but appears to show a boundary line running between the mansion and the range adjoining the Gun Room to the north, broadly followed in organisation of the landscape today, with gardens to the west of this line. That is certainly the case by 1855, when the site of the modern teaching block is depicted as a separately managed element of the gardens, perhaps a small shrubbery or Lady's Garden with direct attachment to the mansion.

This layout was changed when a new building, the Conservatory (complete with electrical power), was introduced at an unknown date between 1855 and 1878, when gardening work within it is first recorded. Planting was extending and a quite intricate path network introduced to link the various components of the landscape here together. There is little change in map depiction in subsequent editions up until that of 1979, when the present arrangements are shown.

The Serpentine

The origins of the, artificial, Serpentine river have been the subject of considerable research and debate, as captured by HTLA. A lone reference suggest that it may have been in existence as early as 1738, but construction in the early 1750s may be more plausible. The bridge over the body of water can be more securely dated to the late 1750s. While design and use of the wider parkland has varied considerably over the centuries this section has remained relatively little changed, aside from the loss of water probably as a result of deep mining below.

Heritage Values

The significances and sensitivities of the heritage assets in the affected areas can usefully be identified following the practice and advice provided in the English Heritage Conservation Principles (2008). This commences with identification of aspects of four principal heritage values.

That said, the assessment that follows should be taken as informed, carefully considered, but provisional. Access to the site has been limited (for both safety and political reasons), and the author's familiarity with it is at an early stage.

Identification of heritage assets

Assessment of the areas affected by the proposed works has identified the following heritage assets, which are then taken into account in identifying specific heritage values.

- The Wentworth Castle garden and Park, Grade I registered park and garden
- Wentworth Castle Grade I Listed building
- St James' Church Grade II Listed building
- The Long Barn, Grade II Listed building
- The Gun Room, Grade II* Listed Building
- Serpentine Bridge, Grade II Listed building

- Potential archaeological remains of the C17 and earlier
- Archaeological remains from C18/C19 productive gardening and other land uses
- Remains of demolished buildings
- Elements of landscape design

Evidential value

Productive gardens area

Previous conservation management planning has noted the recovery of Roman material by gardeners, while the LUC report of 2001 claimed an Iron Age presence, though the source for this claim is unspecified. Long antiquarian interest has focussed on the site of the Stainborough Castle folly as a possible early defensible site, though no clear archaeological evidence for this has yet been recovered to confirm that. There are also traces of sporadic medieval land use across the property, presaging its development as a proto country house estate in the seventeenth century.

There is certainly potential for archaeological remains from these periods to be encountered in the general walled garden area. However in areas that have been built on, used for access or cultivated, any such material is likely to be residual and of limited significance. There are a few identifiable exceptions to these generalisations. There is higher potential for the preservation of structural remains of wholly or partially

demolished structures. Of greatest identifiable historical significance, presently, is the south range of the quadrangular service building, the site of which was not, seemingly, cultivated after demolition. The areas south of the Long Barn also seems to have been less cultivated than some other parts of the site, while both mapping and structural evidence in the remaining buildings may point to there having been other structures in this area. There is also evidence for the natural slopes of the site necessitating terracing; this subject has not yet been explored in any detail to date, though obviously where any ground was built up the potential for buried archaeological remains would be higher. However, one does also need to note poor John Arnold's discovery of the proximity of bedrock, which would argue against the likelihood of deep stratigraphy ever having been present.

To generalise, one would have to say there is just slight **Potential** for the presence of earlier archaeology which would probably only be of Local-Regional significance if it were found to exist.

An important exception, though, is the south range of the quadrangular block. Intrinsically, any archaeological remains of seventeenth century fabric would probably only rate as Local to Regional significance. However, they should also be seen as part of the setting of the Grade II listed building (Long Barn), and are also an integral – and currently little explored – component of Wentworth's unique historical record. As such they could be suggested to be of **Some-Moderate** value.

The analysis recited above has identified Shed Lane as a once rather significant point of entry into the property. It is possible that the road treatment here would have been more diligent than elsewhere on the property, but even if archaeological remains of this survive, they would be of limited intrinsic value.

Similarly, there will be archaeological remains associated with the creation of the slips east of Shed Lane, which are terraced into the hill side. These will, of course be relatively recent in date and of limited evidential value.

Archaeological remains of lost gardening-related buildings undoubtedly exist across the area, although it has not been possible to explore this potential systematically across the site in preparation of this document. Areas likely to be disturbed have been examined though. There is some potential for encountering remains along Shed Lane, discussed below: Some of the relevant structures could be EC19 in date, but most date from later in the century. These remains, archaeologically, would be said to be of **Some** evidential value, unless evidence for more sophisticated garden practice (such as heating systems) was found to survive, which could rise to Moderate.

The surviving built fabric of the productive gardens has been little explored to date. There are certain a consider range of dates and phases of construction illustrated by the employment of different types of bricks and bonds, as well as structural relationships, surviving. These subtleties are an important part of the limited pool of evidence for the

evolution of the gardens, and should be accorded care and attention in future conservation works, so their full Evidential value can be recorded and decoded.

Area near mansion

The same generic early archaeological potential can be said to exist in this area, though the nineteenth century gardening history followed by twentieth century development, makes the probability of survival rather lower.

It is possible that traces of garden features, such as paths, may survive in the area north of the teaching block and around Gun Room, but on current evidence this is unlikely to consist of anything more than traces of paths.

One aspect is of further interest, though. It seems unlikely that the early electrical supply was powered from plant sited in immediate proximity to the Conservatory. This raises the possibility of transmission from another structure, the most plausible site of which might be in association with range adjoining the Gun Room. If remains of the transmission survive, those could be of some technological interest.

Serpentine

The proposed repairs only concern relatively recently restored fabric. There is unlikely to be any significant evidential value present in this material.

Historical Value

Productive gardens area

There are no known Associative values present, aside from links with the owning family and their advisers. The origins of the productive gardens in advice obtained from George London is interesting, but there is nothing evident on the site today (and nor has there been for centuries, perhaps) that speaks directly to this tenuous connection.

Any element of Historic Illustrative value is significantly compromised by the recent history of the site and its current state of management. The historical functional intents for the productive garden area remain clearly legible, but very much compromised by decay and the removal of so much of the physical infrastructure of classic walled garden horticulture. Although richly resourced, at times, it has not been suggested that even at their nadir the productive gardens were an especially notable example of their type. They are certainly not in their current state.

Historic illustrative value has been further compromised by pragmatic visitor management in recent years, as far as this impinges on the landscape, including the play area within what was once productive garden space and the restoration/repurposing of the Long Barn and its environs. The south-facing aspects of the Long Barn group speak

more to historical precedent, complementing the mansion, but rather in a nineteenth century idiom with echoes of the eighteenth century arrangements.

Set within an RPG one would need to conclude that there is **Some** Historic Illustrative value present, though considerably compromised. There is certainly potential to recover more of that value through more appropriate management.

Area near the mansion

The principal historical value remaining here would arise from the electrical equipment, should any be present.

Aesthetic value

This value takes two forms, designed and aesthetic.

Productive gardens area

As regards designed intentions, these were undoubtedly always present in the creation and evolution of the walled gardens. The basic rectilinear form of the various components is dictated by – and complementary to – the largescale formal geometry of the wider gardened/designed landscape that was once focussed on the mansion. (It is interesting, though, that productive potential was obviously subservient to other priorities in the designed landscape, the layout of the productive gardens forgoing prioritising south-facing aspects to fit into the geometry of the wider landscape design). Subsequent change has removed a great many of the elements of that geometry, leaving just the massing of the productive gardens as a significant survivor (not that it much feels like it). It is also possible to suggest that the approach along Shed Lane was once one of considerable prominence in the hierarchy of the site design – though it also needs to be noted that this was consciously, deliberately, changed in later times.

The areas that probably preserve the highest designed aesthetic value are those to the south of the Long Barn and, perhaps, the slips between Shed Lane and the car park. The former constitutes a significant part of the setting of the mansion as seen from the east. Its detailing and planting today probably owes most to the nineteenth century, and dressing of the site after construction of the present St James Church in 1835. Site inspection suggests that the rise up to the level of the mansion entrance was raised, ramped, as part of a landscaping scheme that may be contemporary with the church. The mature trees here even echo the treatment that once superintended the Octagon pool, according to Bladesdale.

The slips below Shed Lane are of a much lower level of significance, though they remain of some interest. Their precise purpose has not yet been determined, although they are obviously creations of the nineteenth century, and on into the twentieth. It is interesting to note how much more dramatically elevated the eighteenth century access along Shed Lane would have been without them moderating the slope below.

Overall one would probably suggest that there is **Some** designed aesthetic value present, in the productive garden with elements of raised significance. That said one must also note that the study area is sited within a Grade I RPG, of the **Highest** value, potentially of International significance.

As regards fortuitous aesthetic, current condition and state of management probably means that this aspect of heritage value is presently **Intrusive** or detrimental.

Area near the mansion

There was a time when this was an important area of interaction between different components of the garden, though this is now much overshadowed by the teaching block and its associated landscaping. The key residual importance is how the area contributes to the setting of the Grade II* listed Gun Room.

Serpentine

The bridge and its setting are a classic piece of 18th century design, of national significance as reflected by its Listed status. This is obviously of High heritage value, currently compromised by the condition of the bridge.

Communal/Social value

This area of heritage value is concerned with how heritage assets are used and valued by society.

The only element of symbolic/commemorative use known to be present is the religious function of St James' Church.

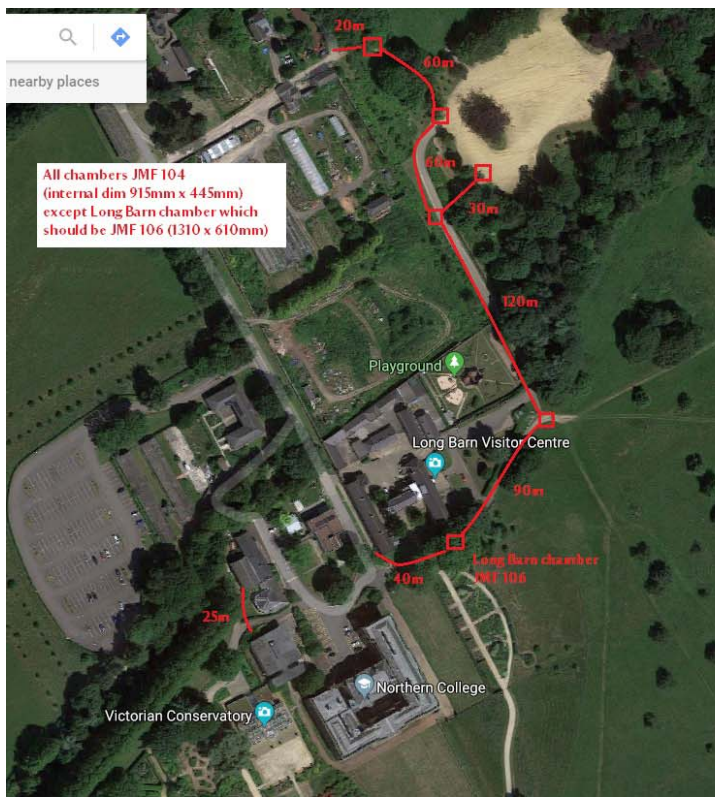
Local authority management since WWII introduced a number of public benefits from the use of the heritage assets, but rarely derived from their heritage value. Wentworth College's work and specialist skills are of great social value, but have necessitated considerable impact on a number of heritage assets. Wider public benefit in the site was revitalised by the injection of HLF funding in the early years twenty-first century, though this is, obviously, seriously impaired by the present closure of the site.

Physical impacts of proposed works

- a) Installation of IT infrastructure between existing BT services and key visitor touchpoints in the car park and the Long Barn, as well as NT offices north of the “Gun Room”.

The planned reintroduction of visitor access to the site will necessitate installation of some new modern, effective, infrastructure. This includes new communications connections, requiring trenching (for cable ducting and junction boxes) from an existing BT cable NE of the productive gardens, into the car park in Coronation Wood, then along Shed Lane, past the south side of the Long Barn and upslope to outside the north range of the quadrangular block. From here ducting will be installed inside existing culverting, except for a short length (c.25m) to the north-west of the mansion, where further trenching may be needed to reach the NT offices.

The trenches (c.420m in total) will be generally 350mm wide and 450mm deep, enlarging slightly at six points to install junction boxes. One point of entry into a building will be required at the Long Barn, possibly involving boring through the south gable wall.



After installation the ducting should be invisible except for the presence of inspection hatches at the junction boxes.

b) Installation of a grease trap to the south of the Long Barn

Site surveys and assessments have identified significant issues connected with the operation of catering facilities in the Long Barn. It has been determined currently there is no – or only deficient – grease trapping on the drainage system. In order to comply with modern standards, protect the septic tank system (into which the catering drainage discharges) and to underpin operational needs associated with providing public facilities, that a significant grease trap will need to be installed to the south of the Long Barn, just outside the presently walled, terrace, area.

Installation will require excavation of an insertion pit, measuring around 3m long by 2m wide and deep. The trap will also require laying of new connecting drainage in and out, to a total of around 30m. This should be not more than 450mm deep and wide.

After completion only three new inspection chambers will be visible above ground.

c) Construction of a new visitor reception building

A pre-fabricated visitor welcome building is to be installed on the southern side of the car park in Coronation Wood. This structure will have a footprint of 36 square metres and will be set on a slab foundation 300mm deep. It will not be provided with utilities except for the IT cabling.

d) Refurbishment and minor alteration to the interior of the Long Barn

The Long Barn was recovered from dereliction during HLF funded works in 2007, including a full internal fit out. It is only elements of that fit out that will be affected by the works planned by the National Trust and not any surviving historic fabric.

e) Repairs to the Serpentine Bridge

The planned works to the bridge constitute repairs to the section of balustrade which suffered vandalism in 2017. Toppled elements of the balustrade were smashed and damaged beyond repair, so replacement will be in matching stone, to the original design but will deeper concealed dowel fixings to prevent similar vandalism in future. The presence of existing but ineffective dowels indicates the relatively recent date of the fabric which is to be replaced, restoring original Georgian work.

f) Repairs to the SE corner of the wall of the productive gardens

The section of boundary wall to the south east corner is in local sandstone, much of which is highly eroded and beyond reuse. The failed section will be dismantled and rebuilt in a style to match the present form. This may involve importing some new matching stone to site. Works will be limited to above ground masonry only.

Repairs to other sections of the walls around the garden are being considered as future works.

Heritage Impact Assessment

a) Trenching to install IT infrastructure between existing BT services and key visitor touchpoints in the car park and the Long Barn, as well as NT offices north of the “Gun Room”.

The required trenching work is essential in order to install the IT infrastructure needed to facilitate future operation of the site. There are no evident options for reducing the extent or nature of excavations, aside from contemplating an overhead system. Not only is such technology outdated, but its heritage impacts are considered to be unacceptable within a Grade I RPG. Wifi alternatives have been considered by the technology has been assessed not to be currently viable on this site.

On the basis of currently understanding the trench route generally represents only a modest risk to heritage values. Obviously physical excavation stands to impact/destroy any archaeological remains encountered, though on no part of the route is the excavation assessed as being likely to encounter/damage more than a small sample of any buried deposits/features.

To describe and assess the route from its northern end -

- a) The first section of trenching down to the western corner of the car park (80m) follows an existing track. The historic mapping shows that this follows an opening through the slips east of Shed Lane, left in place from the time of their first laying out. As such any trench is only likely to encounter surfacing materials of a relatively recent date (if any are present) and then the potential of underlying earlier archaeology (the probability of whose presence is assessed as low). It is possible that the northern end of the trench could encounter a small part of any surfacing of the C18 entry route along Shed Lane. After installation the trench will only be marked by two inspection chambers.

The risk of heritage impact is therefore assessed as low, and the impact as being at most Slight.

- b) The next section follows an existing roadway from the west corner of the car park, up onto Shed Lane and continues south to the SE corner of the productive gardens (180m).

The historic mapping is clear that there were gardening related buildings constructed along Shed Lane in the nineteenth century these endured into the twentieth. It is not entirely clear whether they were west or east of the existing garden wall in this section. It is quite likely that they were to the west, but if this was not the case then it is possible that the planned trench may encounter sub-surface remains of the buildings.

The northern end of the road being followed does not appear on any mapping prior to the current OS and it is assumed that its curve into the car park was constructed as part of the HLF funded project that created the car park. This crosses the terracing of the slip gardens east of Shed Lane. It is possible that trenching here may encounter physical archaeology relating to that terracing. Obviously much better preserved sections of this terracing exist to either side of the road.

After construction works are completed the trench will only be visible by means of two inspection chambers.

The risk of heritage impact is therefore assessed as low to (potentially) moderate, and the potential impact as being Some.

- c) This section consists of a 30m spur trench to connect section (b) with the planned visitor reception building.

This section cuts eastwards across the terraces below Shed Lane on a course not used previously. As such it is likely to encounter physical structures associated with those terraces. It is planned that only a narrow trench will be cut here.

At the eastern end of the trench, excavation will be through the car park surfacing laid during the HLF funded projects, and then any underlying deposits. Documentary research suggests that this area was previously only an open field, prior to enclosure within the expanded park boundaries and (c.1910) planting as a woodland. This history does not suggest a high likelihood of significant archaeological deposits here, and of course construction of the car park will have truncated the pre-existing soil horizons (probably to substrate).

The other issue to be aware of, is that the 1893 OS map does show a small square ancillary building close to the anticipated excavation line. This will be avoided if it is detectable, but its precise site is not currently known.

The risk of heritage impact is therefore assessed as low, and the impact as being at most Some.

- d) The next 90m section continues up the side of the existing road to near the SE corner of the Long Barn. This route appears to have been established in the early nineteenth century. Potentially it crosses boundary lines that were part of C18 landscape design, including the boundary wall, shown by Bladesdale, running between the productive gardens and the enclosure around the Octagon Pond.

While any deposits relating to the present road are not likely to be significant, any remains relating to earlier divisions in the landscape would be of more interest – though again the width of the trench would only represent a small slice through long linear features.

The risk of heritage impact is therefore assessed as low to medium, and the impact as being Some.

- e) The next 40m section runs to the south of the Long Barn/St.James' complex, under a garden boundary wall and curves north under a flower bed to access a stone and concrete culvert.

This is a section of higher sensitivity. Evidence suggests that there was a further range of a quadrangular service building here, probably built by the Cutler family, and demolished during construction of the Octagonal Pool and its setting. The condition of the ground surface today suggests that it has been raised to the west, to produce a gentle ramp up to the level of the approaches to the mansion (note in particular burial of the roots boles of the mature trees). This suggests that the dividing low boundary wall and gate are also a late installation, probably of 19th century vintage. Thus, further to the west, it is more likely that the required excavations will encounter just relatively recently made ground. However, to the east there is certainly a possibility that the trench will encounter remains of the removed C17 range.

While of limited intrinsic significance, and only at risk from a single narrow trench, such archaeology would be of considerable interest in developing understanding of Wentworth Castle's evolution. It is also unknown what purpose the lost building served, and there may be physical remains reflecting that too.

The section at the west end of this run is thought most likely to encounter just garden soil and landscaping deposits.

The risk of heritage impact here is therefore assessed as Medium, and the impact (given the nature of the archaeology arguably present) assessed as Some.

The next section will be installed in two existing culverts, therefore having no heritage impact. The trench then emerges near the Gun Room.

- f) The final 25m of excavation will extend from an emergence point south of the Gun Room, to the modern office range north of that building. The northern end of this section has been much disturbed by building work associated with

construction of the offices, and restoration of the Conservatory. However, the full extent of disturbance is unclear.

There is some potential to encounter remains relating to earlier garden use of the area and possibly even an early electrical transmission system.

The risk of heritage impact is therefore assessed as low, due to previous disturbance, and the impact as being at most Some.

b) Installation of the grease trap

This installation will require a significant amount of excavation on an area of the site that seems to have been relatively little disturbed previously. That said, the documentary evidence does not suggest a particularly complicated history of land use. The 1714 depiction of a possibly gardened – certainly formally managed – area here may not ever have been put into effect; certainly later depictions only suggest relatively informal management under grass or perhaps trees/shrubs. The earlier C19 suggestion of building south of the Long Barn lies well to the south of the area affected by this work.

All that said, there is certainly potential for archaeological interest this area, relating to gardening/landscaping activity not clearly shown in the documentary record (including surfaced routes to/around the quadrangular range), or perhaps more informal activity/temporary structures around the focus of the C17 service buildings. Such is perhaps less likely from the C18 onwards.

Excavation will, of course destroy any archaeology encountered, and here such archaeology is much less likely to take the sort of linear forms discussed above. The impacts might, therefore be more significant. That is certainly the case for the trap insertion pit, which will cover a much larger continuous area than the duct or drain trenches.

The risk of heritage impact is therefore assessed as potential but would be of moderate to high impact if significant archaeology was found to be present.

c) Construction of a new visitor reception building

Excavations to install the necessary slab foundations will primarily encounter surfacing materials used in the creation of the present car park. Then, as in 1c, there is potential for excavation to reach underlying substrates. The probability of encountering significant archaeology here would appear to be low, based on understanding of the site's development.

Introduction of the visitor reception building will represent long term change, albeit reversible, within the RPG. It will alter views within the car park (themselves only recently established) and the view of the terraced slips below Shed Lane. However, the car park is screened by mature tree cover on most sides and the new building should not be visible from many other parts of the park.

The risk of heritage impact is therefore assessed as low, and the impact as being Some.

Installation of this building will serve providing public access to the property, and therefore be a beneficial impact to social/communal heritage value.

d) Refurbishment and minor alteration to the interior of the Long Barn

The planned refurbishments only affect the fitting out completed in the past ten years. As such it is assessed that the presently planned works will have no heritage impact aside from the beneficial impact of facilitating public benefit.

e) Repairs to the Serpentine Bridge

The planned repairs involve restoration of recently restored fabric to the original design. The risk of heritage impact is therefore assessed as High, and the impact as being Moderate to High – but of a beneficial nature.

f) Walling repairs.

As in any such repair works, the interventions planned will represent some loss of original built fabric and therefore some element of identifiable heritage impact. However, the extent of works will be *de minimis* and sympathetic to the historic fabric. Moreover the current condition of these walls is not stable and therefore much more would be lost without intervention (which is also needed for public safety purposes).

The risk of heritage impact is therefore assessed as Moderate, but very limited in scope and balanced by considerable beneficial gain.

Overall assessment

Overall it is the National Trust's assessment that the planned works do represent a number of usually small potential impacts on specific aspects of heritage value that can be identified. However, it is felt that all of these are measured and proportionate, more than compensated for by the broader public benefits of facilitating reopening of the site, which cannot be achieved without these interventions. Moreover understanding of the site stands to be improved by careful observation and recording of any archaeology encountered.

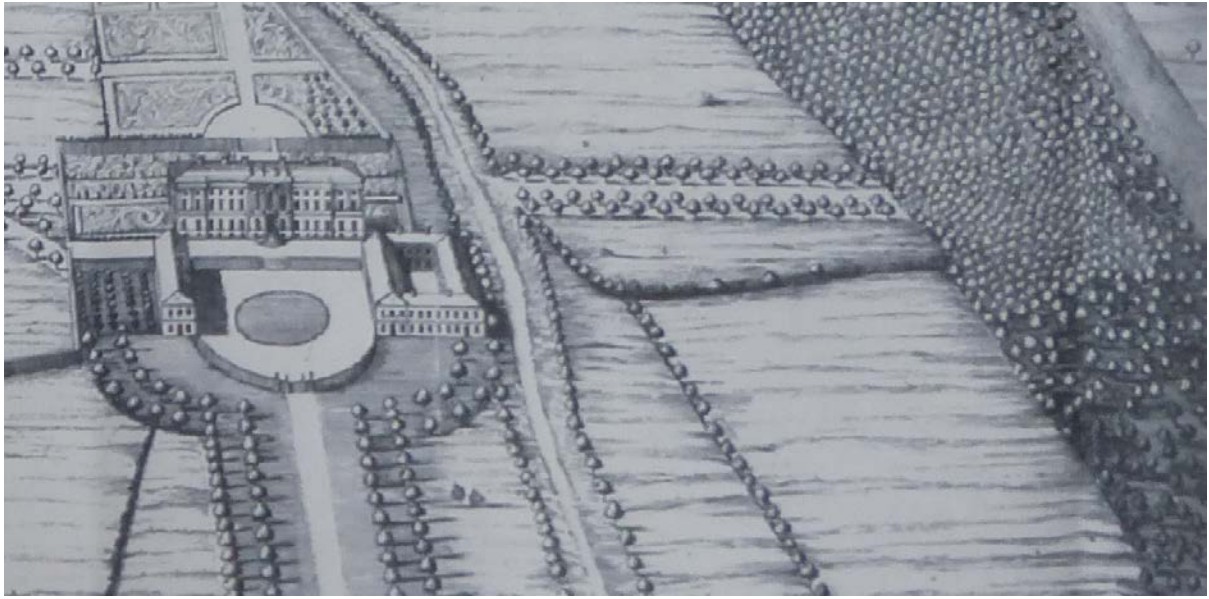
Taking all of the above into account, it is the National Trust's assessment (in response to the test contained in NPPF paragraph 196) that no element of the proposed development constitutes Substantial harm to a recognised heritage asset.

Mitigation

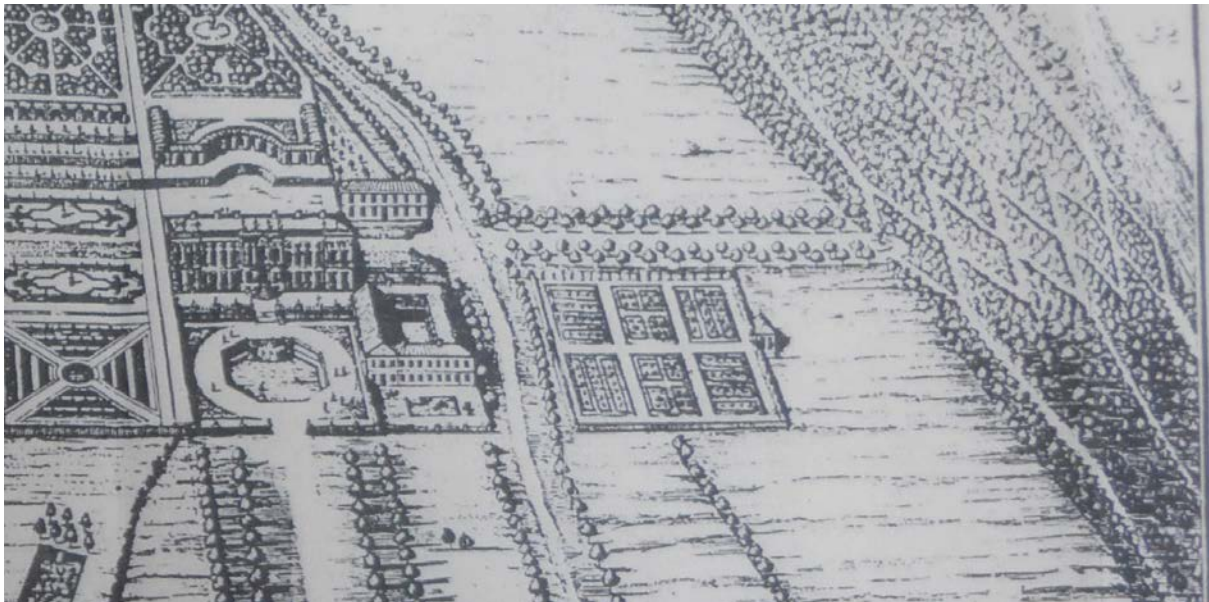
It is proposed that a full archaeological watching brief will be conducted during excavations associated with items a), b) and c). It is proposed that, beyond this, recording undertaken by the main works contractor as part of the buildings works commissions for d) – f) will be sufficient to record the extent of interventions undertaken, and that that record alone proportionate to the nature, probability and extent of the heritage impacts anticipated.

Should significant historic fabric be encountered in tasks a and b, if feasible and safe, any excavation through it will be undertaken by archaeological means.

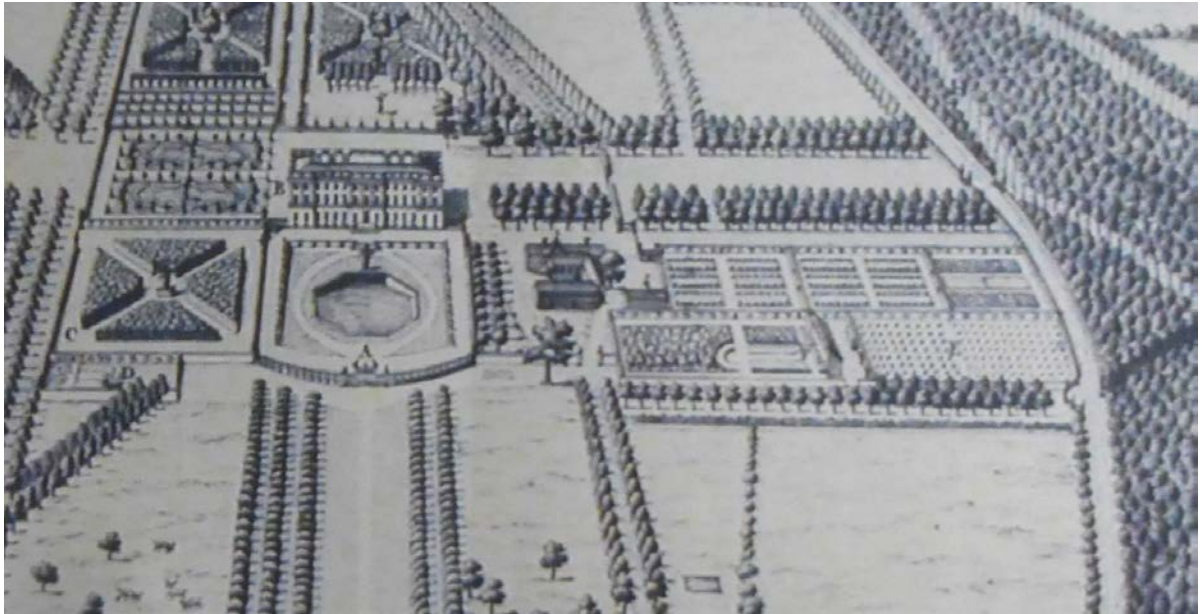
A full report on any observations made will be compiled and appended to NT conservation management systems. Copies will also be made available to Barnsley MDC and the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. A full entry on the recording will be made on the OASIS system.



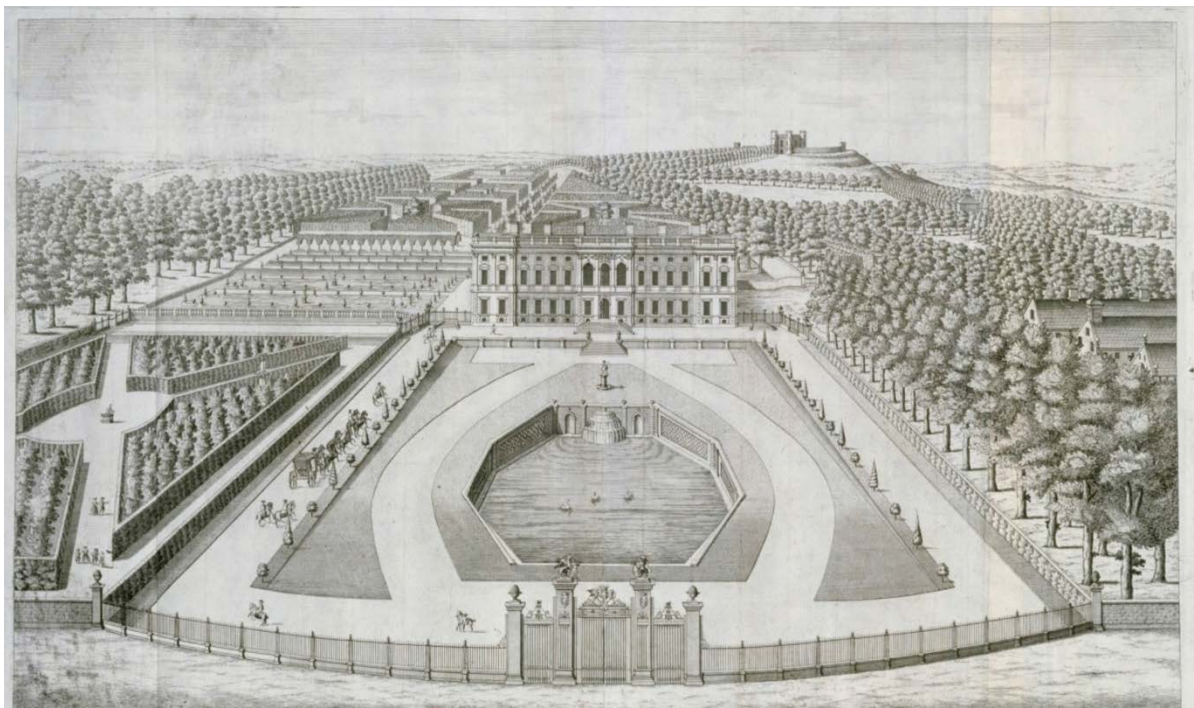
1711 Kip and Kniff?



1714 Kip and Kniff



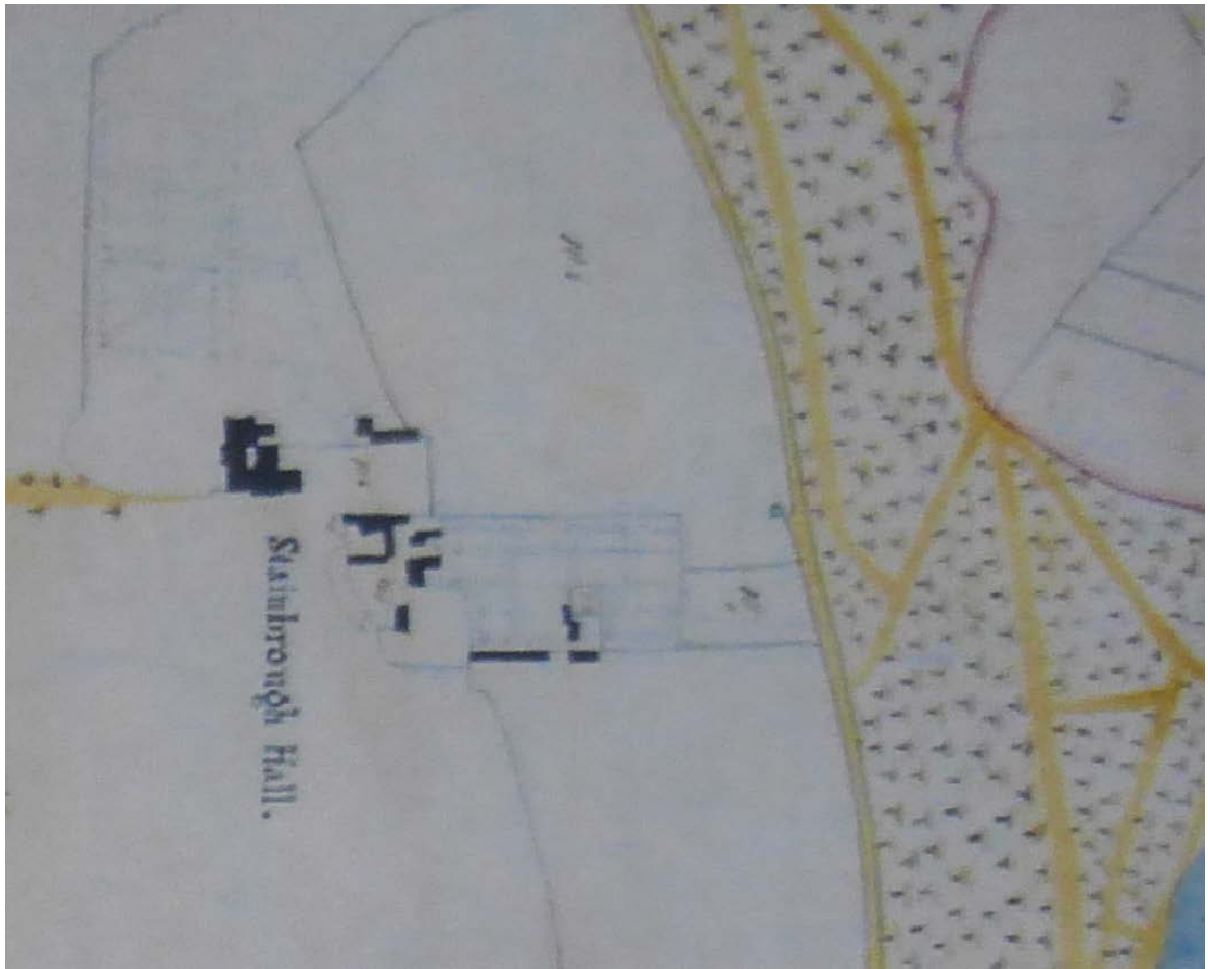
c.1732 Bladestale and Roque (1739)



c.1732 Bladestale and Roque (1739)



c.1734 Estate plan Sheffield Archives VWM/Maps/63R



Map of Stainborough, watermark 1824, Sheffield Archives VWM/Maps/8



Tithe Map 1844

OS



OS 6" first edition 1855



OS 6" publ 1891



OS 25" first edition surveyed 1891, publ 1893



OS 25" surveyed 1903 publ 1906



OS 25" surveyed 1929 publ 1931



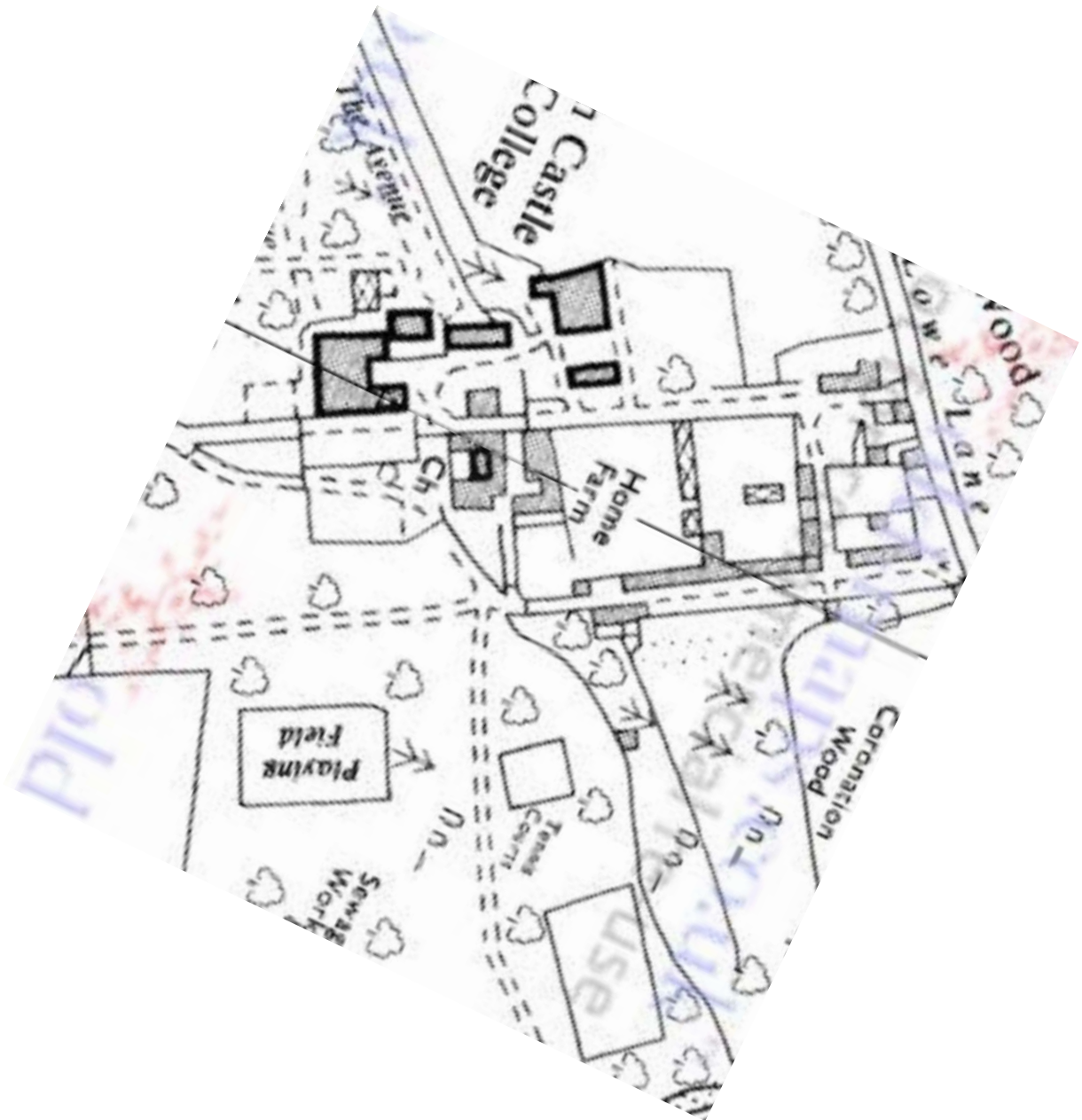
OS 6" 1948



OS6" 1955

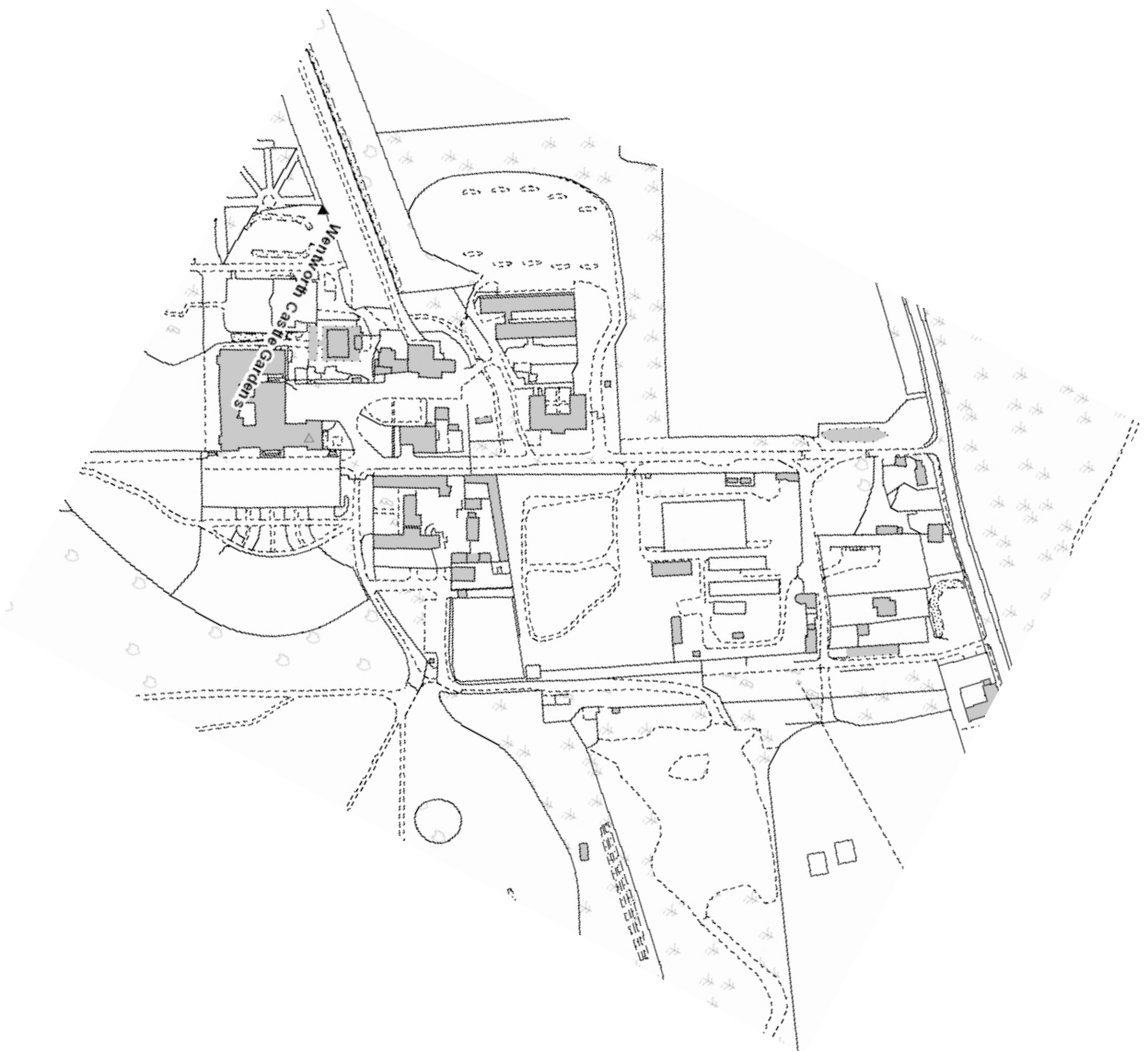


OS 25" 1962-3



OS 6" 1979-89

Modern



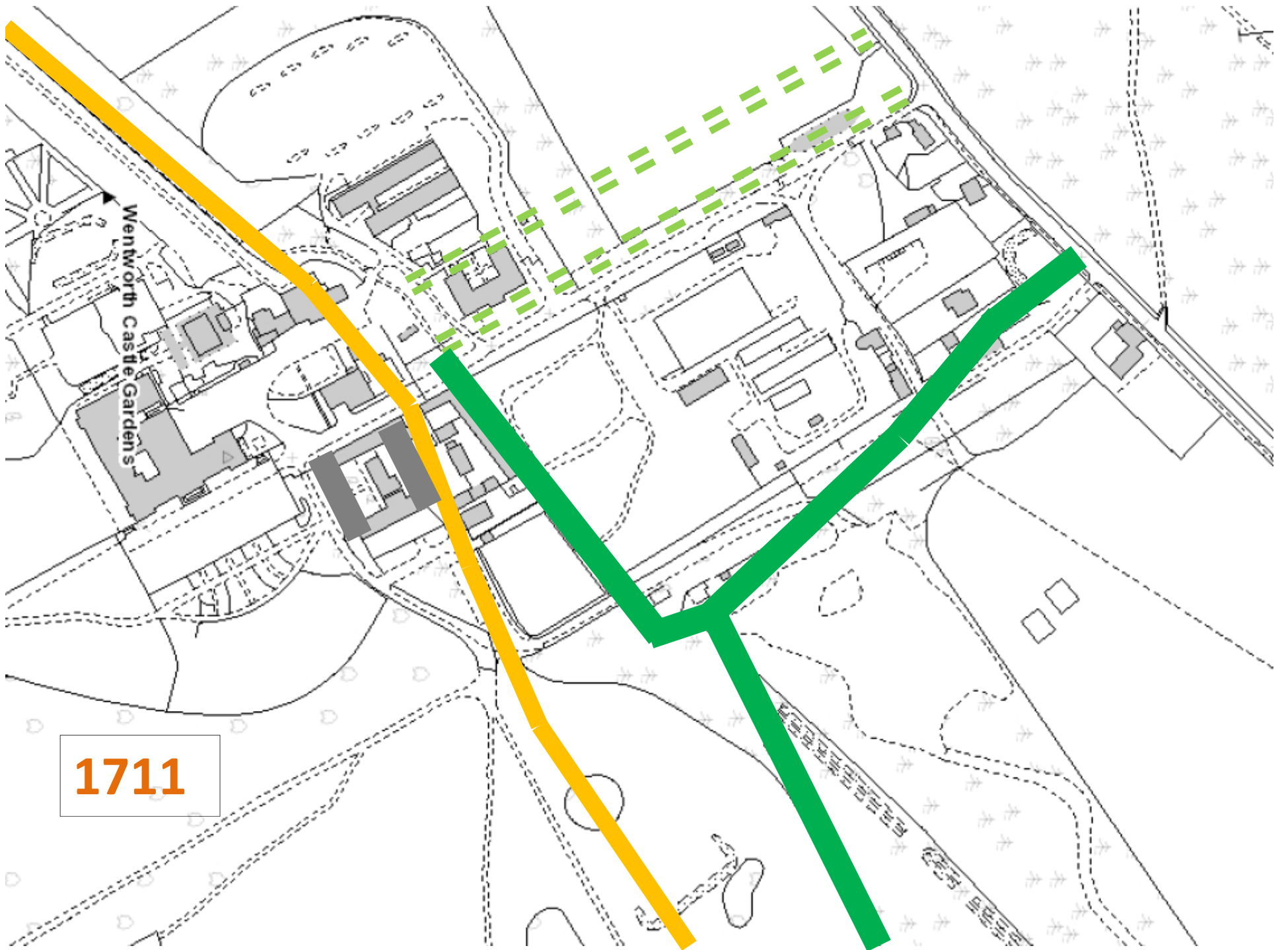
Modern OS

AP overlaid with 1893 OS



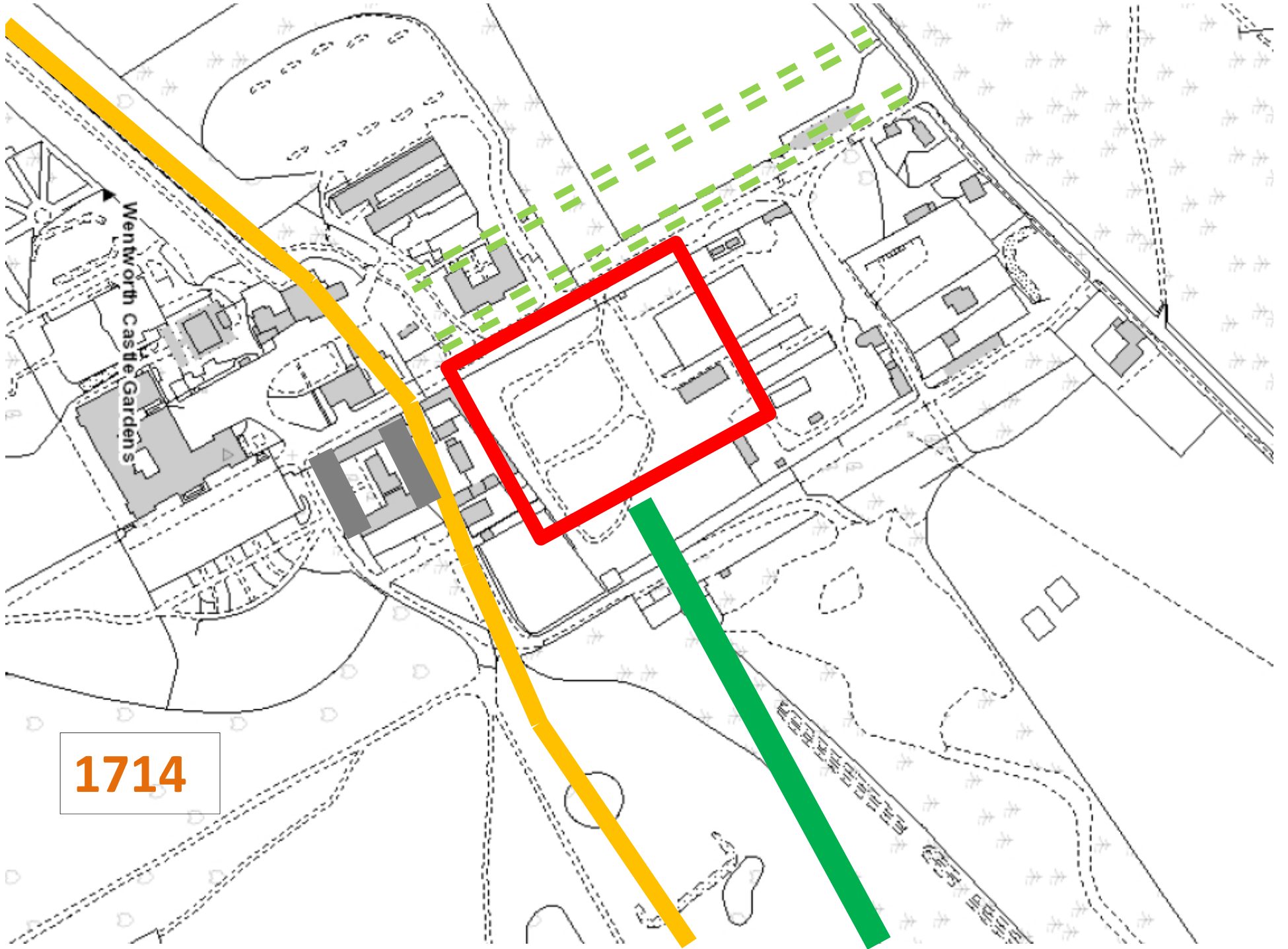






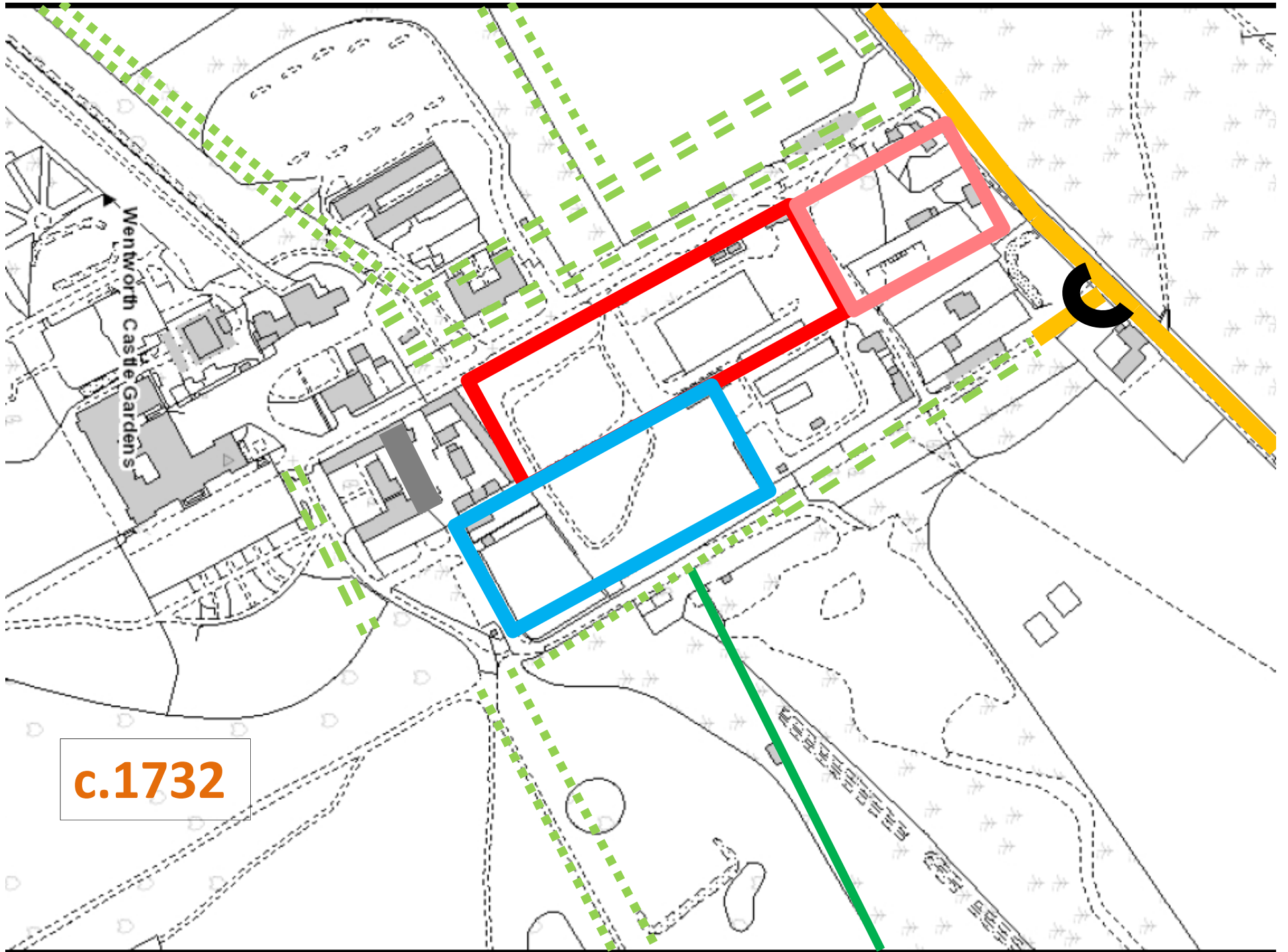
Wentworth Castle Gardens

1711

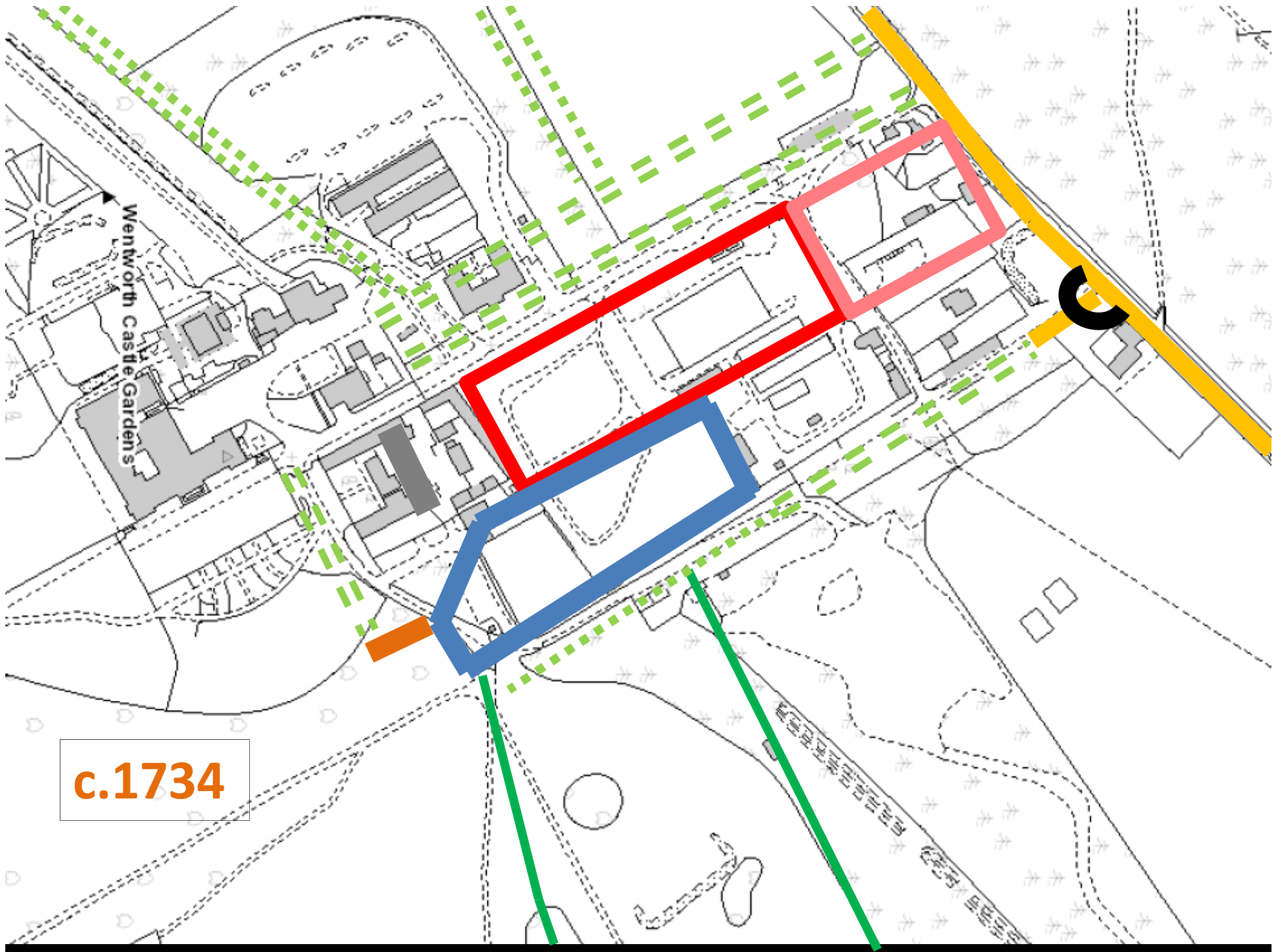


Wentworth Castle Gardens

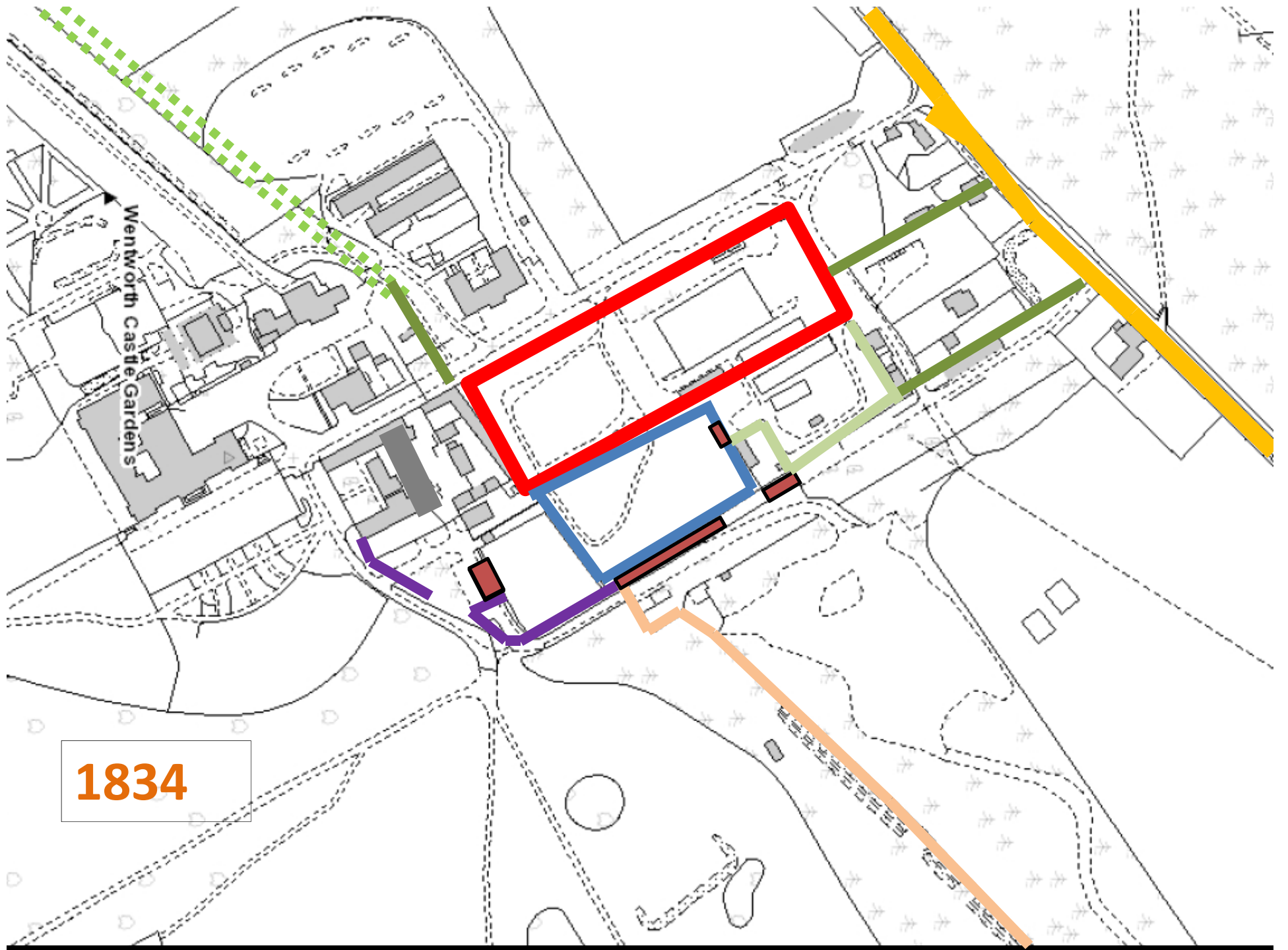
1714



c.1732

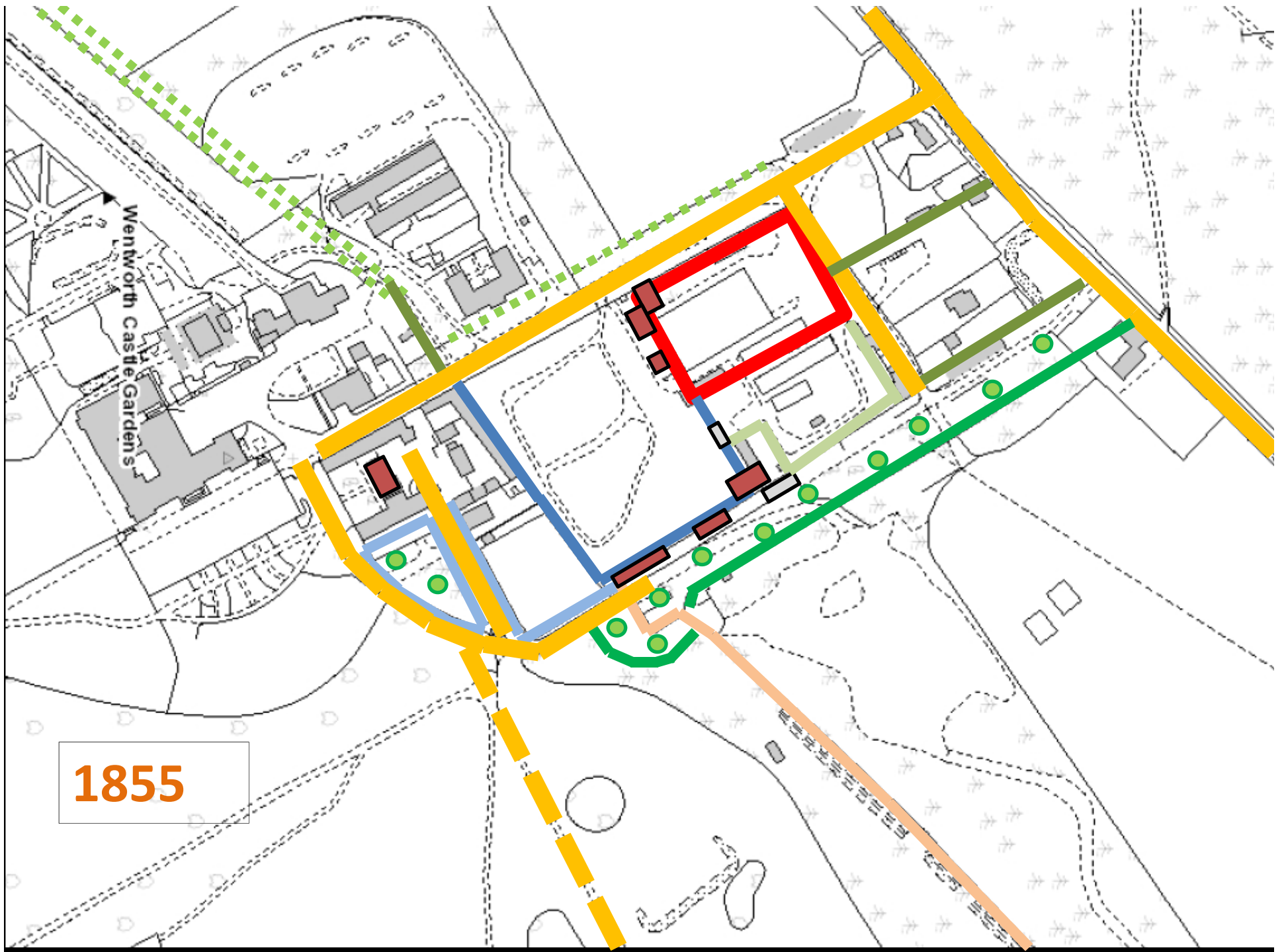


c.1734

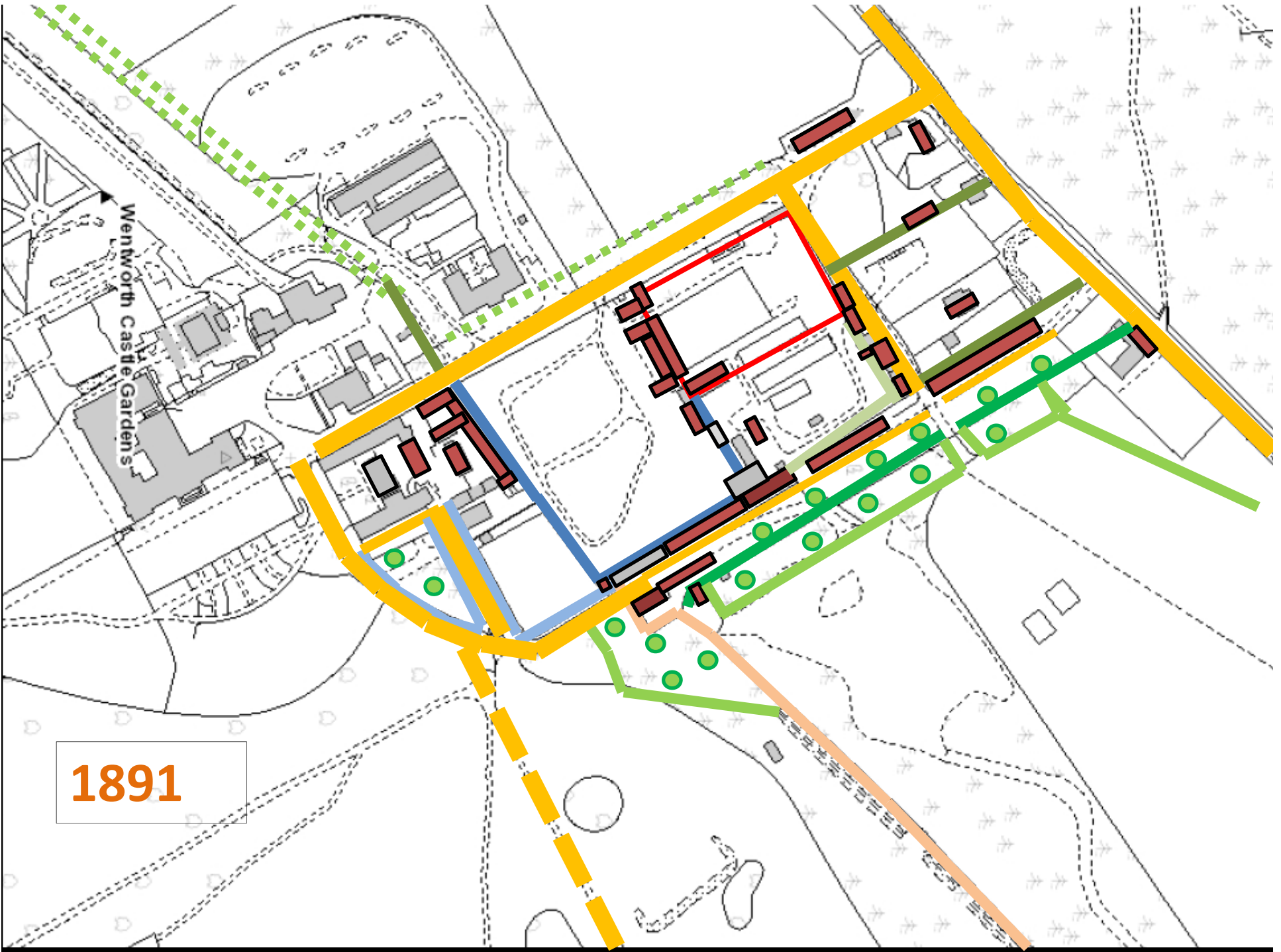


Wentworth Castle Gardens

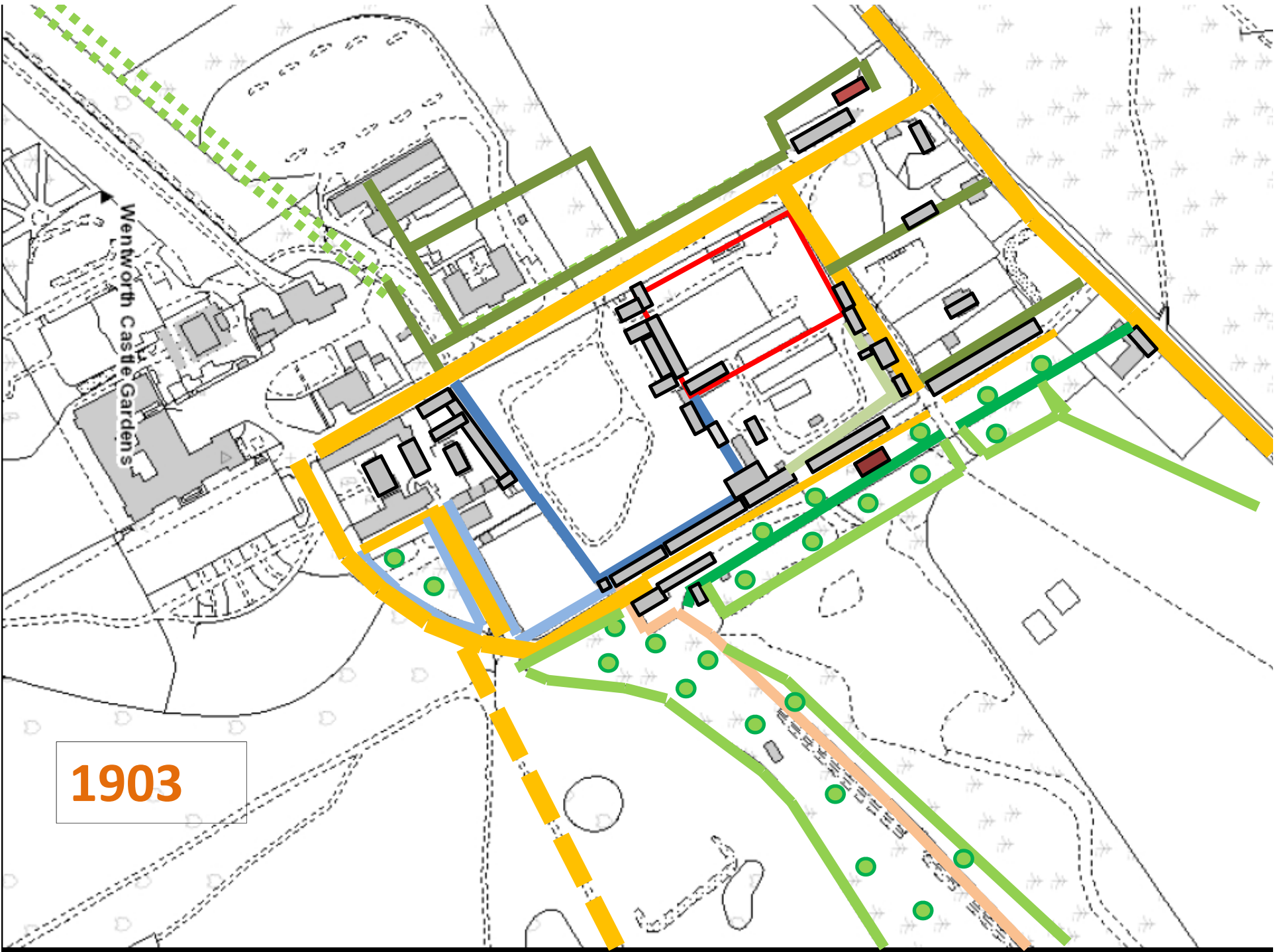
1834



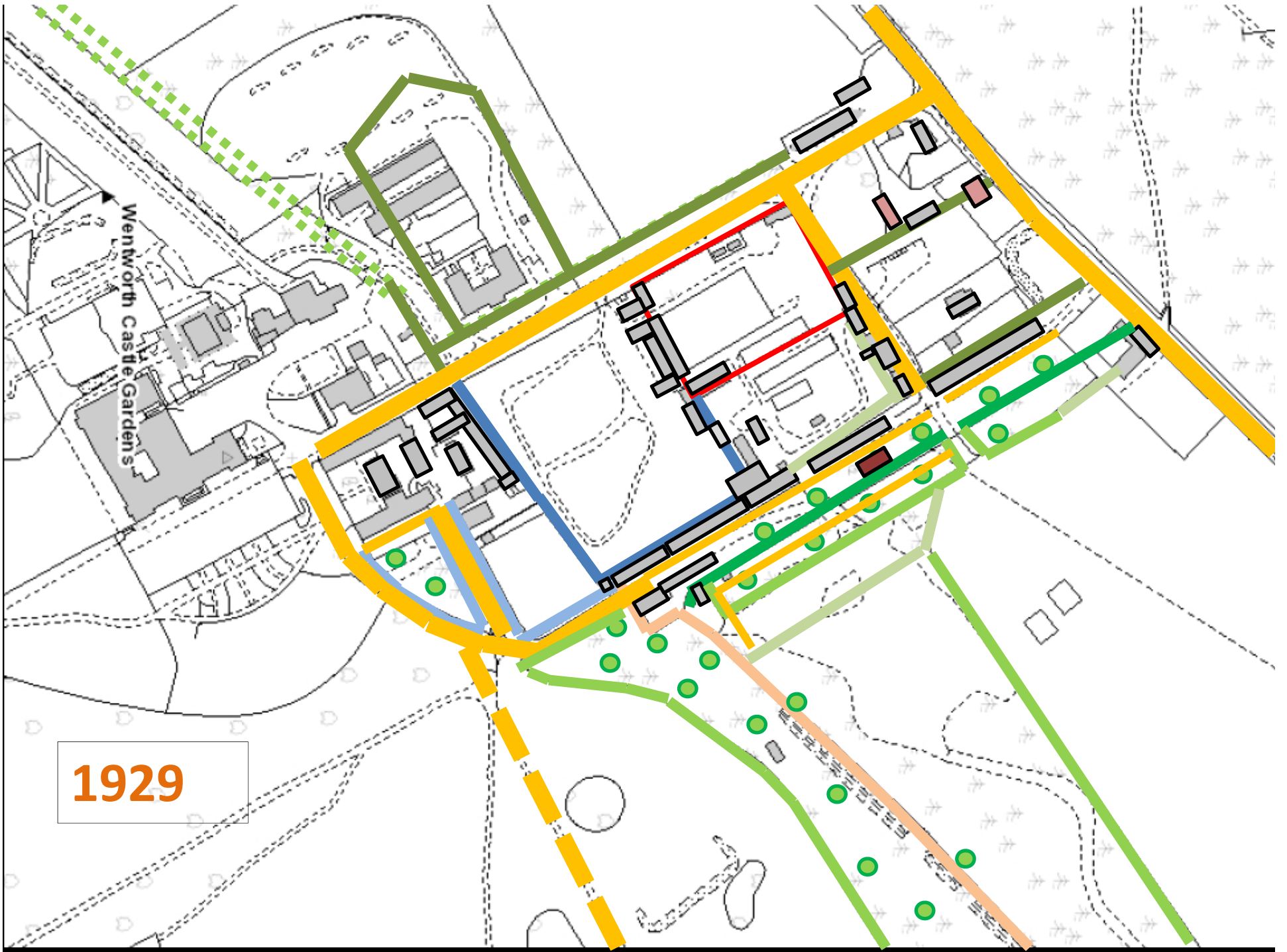
1855



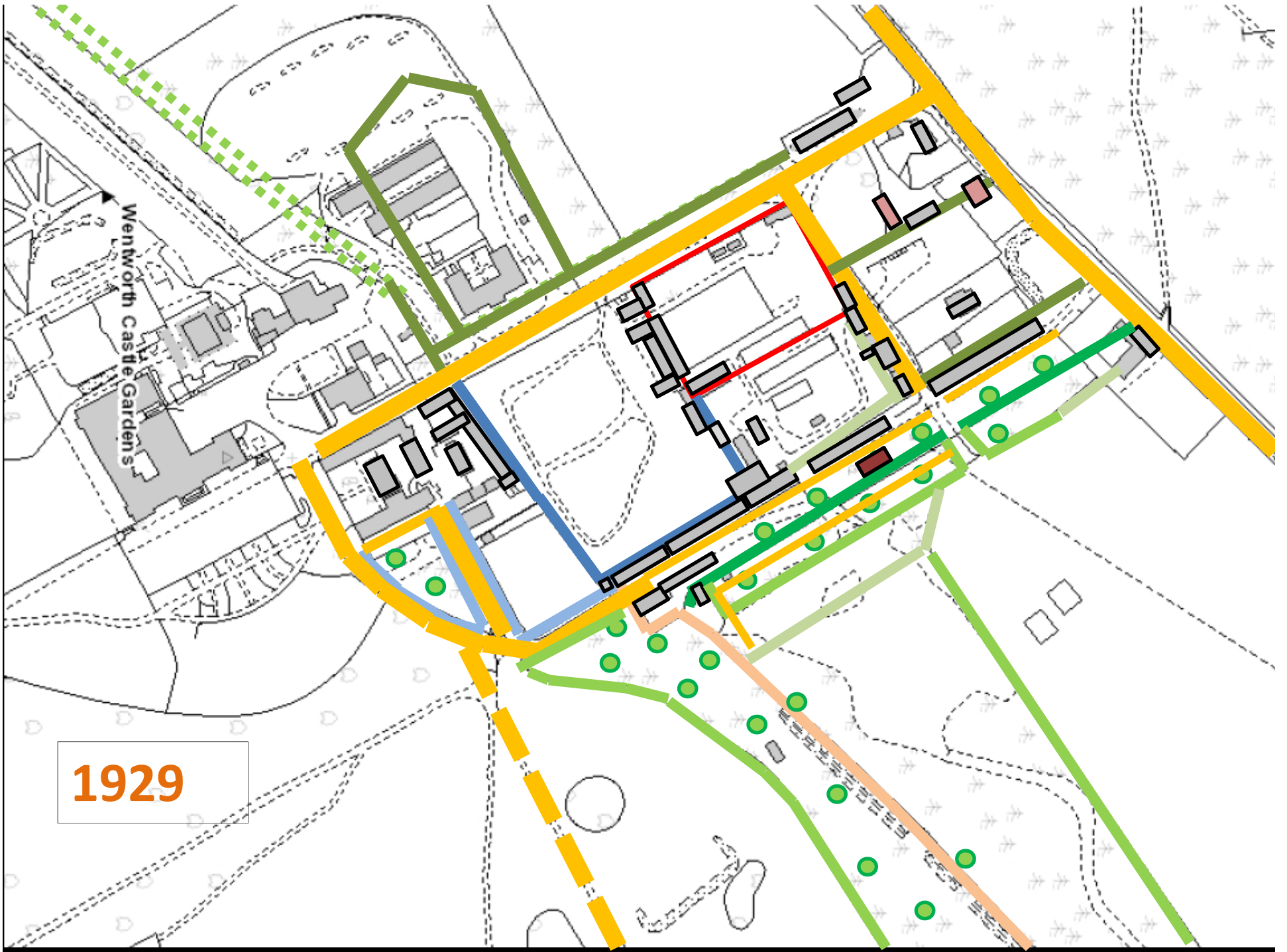
1891



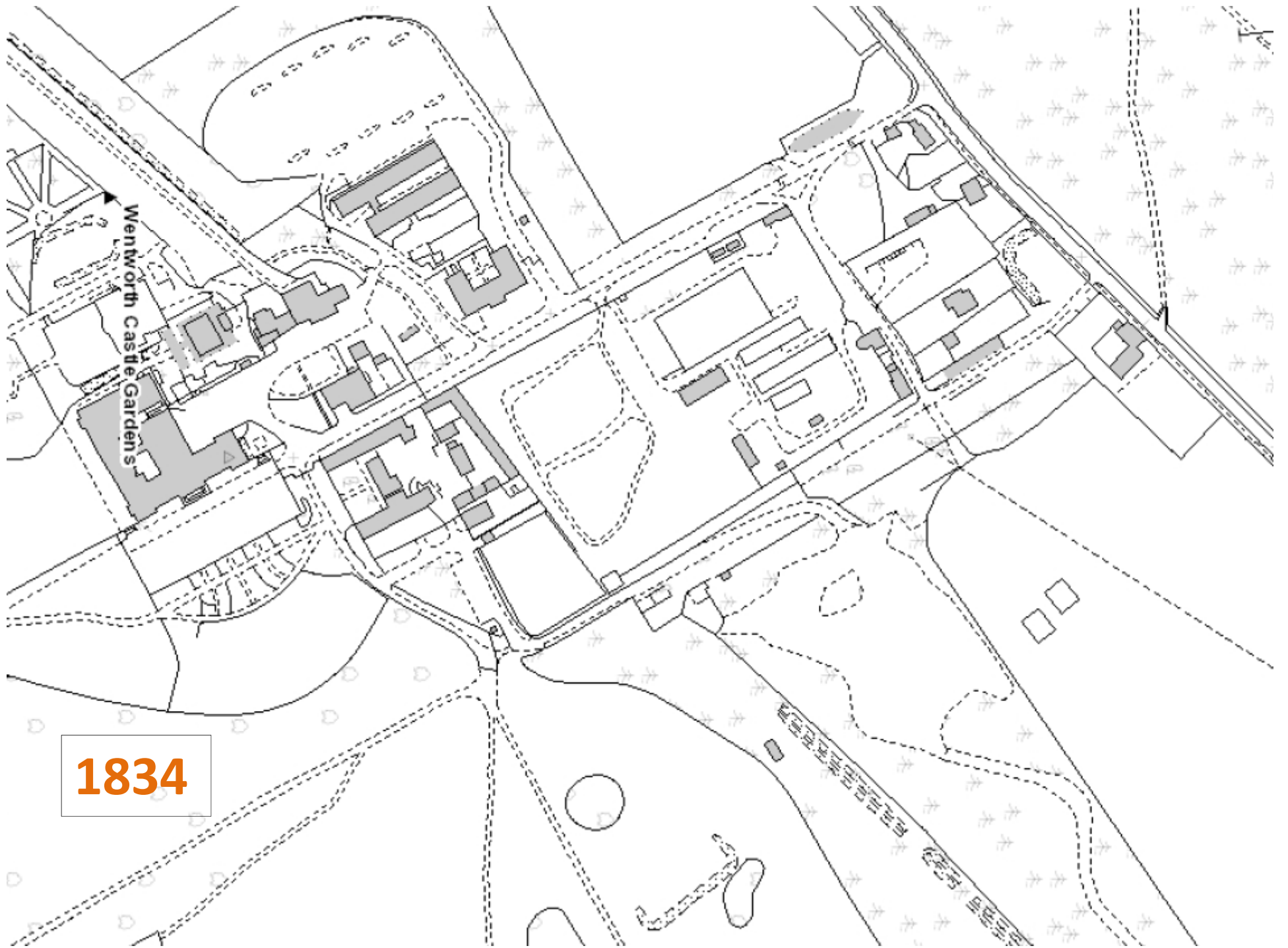
1903



1929



1929



1834