

SECTION 2 – LANDSCAPE HISTORY

2.0 LANDSCAPE HISTORY

(Note: The maps, plans and illustrations referred to in this chapter are reproduced in Appendix I)

2.1. THE PITTVILLE GARDENS

2.1.1 The history of the Gardens before their purchase by the Council

i. The land now occupied by the Pittville Gardens originally lay partly within Cheltenham parish and partly within Prestbury, the boundary being represented by Wyman's Brook. South of the brook, the land formed part of Cheltenham's Open or Common Fields, a relic of the medieval farming system, in which the land was held in strips by a large number of owners. The western part of this land was often referred to as 'the Common called the Marsh'. The only significant building within the area prior to the 1820s was a farmhouse at the top of North Place, the site of which is now occupied by the south-east corner of Clarence Square; the actress Sarah Siddons lived there for a while in 1803 and described it as 'a little cottage...some distance from the town, perfectly retired, surrounded by hills and fields and groves'.

ii. With the rapid growth of Cheltenham from the 1780s and the increasing demand for building land, the 'enclosure' of the Open Fields and the replacement of the strips by larger blocks of land became inevitable. An Act of Parliament to enclose the fields was obtained in 1801, the actual 'award' of plots to the former owners of the strips taking place in 1806.

iii. One of the largest landowners in the Open Fields was Joseph Pitt (1759-1842), a Cirencester lawyer and banker, who had begun to acquire land and property at Cheltenham from 1789 onwards, including, in 1800, large tracts of land in the Open Fields, purchased from the Earl of Essex. In the 1806 Award, Pitt received a huge swathe of land (over 253 acres) that included most of the future site of Pittville south of Wyman's Brook. (See Fig 2.1)

iv. From 1810 onwards, Pitt acquired further land adjoining his 1806 allotments, plus around 48 acres of land to the north of Wyman's Brook, on which the northern part of Pittville, including the Pump Room, was later built. In 1824, at the height of a national and local building boom, Pitt launched his 'new town' of Pittville, comprising around 100 acres of land, with plots for at least 500 houses, all culminating in the new Pittville Spa and Pump Room.

v. The actual gardens were laid out as part of the overall scheme. Wyman's Brook was dammed to form an artificial lake, and was crossed at its east and west ends by two stone-built ornamental bridges; these were presumably designed by the architect John Forbes, who was responsible for designing the Pump Room and for the overall layout of the Estate. A central Promenade or 'Long Walk', with shrubberies and subsidiary paths on either side, was laid out between the Pump Room and the Lake, south of which were two more rectangular 'Long Gardens' and a series of tree-lined 'walks and rides'. A circular garden, enclosed by a drive, was established immediately north of the Pump Room, and ornamental gardens were laid out in a residential Crescent and in two residential Squares (named after the dukes of Clarence and Wellington); in 1828 a commercial nursery.

(described in Merrett's 1834 map as a Botanic Garden) was established in the south-west corner of Wellington Square by a nurseryman named Richard Ware, who was probably responsible for the planting of the gardens.

vi. The proposed layout of the Estate and Gardens is shown on a plan published in Samuel Griffith's *New Historical Description of Cheltenham* (1826) (See Fig 2.2), and the reality of its final form (including the layout of the various paths within the gardens) may be seen in a number of later maps and plans, the most detailed of which are Merrett's 1834 map of Cheltenham (See Fig 2.3) the 1843 and 1845 plans drawn up to accompany the auction sales of Pitt's residual property following his death, the 1855-7 'Old Town Survey', and the First Edition (1884) Ordnance Survey. A full list of the trees and shrubs in the gardens in 1842 is included in James Buckman's 1842 *Guide to Pittville*, pp.10-12.

vii. In describing the Pittville Estate, the 1838 edition of Griffith's *History* noted 'the extensive and elegant improvements that have been effected in the grounds, the completion of which must have led to an almost incalculable expense. Delightful walks, rides and drives intersect and encircle the beautiful lawns and plantations, which are kept in the most admirable order, and richly supplied with choice and rare plants. Pittville is further distinguished by a beautiful and spacious lake at the bottom of the grand promenade, crossed at either extremity by a handsome stone bridge. Flowering shrubs ornament the margin of this lake, and the green turf slopes gently down from the neat gravelled path by which it is surrounded'.

viii. Very little evidence exists of any changes in the layout of the Gardens between their establishment in 1824 - 1830 (the date of the opening of the Pump Room) and their purchase by the Town Council in 1890. It is, however, possible that the relative failure of the Estate to realise its full potential, either as a residential area (barely 250 houses having been built by 1890) or as a social focus for the town, meant that they were neither developed beyond their original layout, nor even that well maintained. In his Report on the future of the Estate, presented to the Parks and Recreation Grounds Committee in February 1891, the Borough Surveyor noted 'the bare and naked appearance of the lake owing to the paths adjoining and forming the margin of it at all points, and the absence of borders for flowers in all parts of the grounds', while in 1896, Horace Edwards' *Penny Guide to Cheltenham* remarked upon 'the woefully desolate and weedy Pittville Gardens' of a few years before.

ix. Pitt's income from the Estate, and the cost of its maintenance, was intended to come from the sale of building plots, the annual ground rents paid by the owners of the plots (or the houses built on them) and the annual rent charge paid by the tenant of the Pump Room. However, because far fewer plots were sold than Pitt had hoped, he was saddled with a disproportionately large part of the Estate expenses, and by the time of his death in 1842 he was heavily in debt. Because of this, the administration of the estate was taken over by the Court of Chancery, and the remaining building land was sold at a series of auction sales in 1843 and 1845 (See Fig 2.4) though much of it remained undeveloped for many years. By the end of 1845, all that was left of the Estate was the Pump Room, a small subsidiary spa in Central Cross Drive called Essex Lodge (also known as 'the Little Spa'), and the Gardens, plus an outstanding mortgage debt of £10,800, owed to the County of Gloucester Bank, which continued to receive annual interest payments from the Estate for the next 45 years.

x. During the period 1842-1890, the management and receivership of the Estate was in the hands of a local firm of Estate Agents and Surveyors, Messrs Engall and Co., being the particular responsibility of George James Engall (between 1842 and 1872) and Thomas Sanders (between 1872 and 1890, although he also continued to manage the Estate, on behalf of the Council, during the early 1890s). (See Fig 2.5)

xi. Eventually, on 13 March 1888, Messrs Ticehurst and Son, solicitors for the County of Gloucester Bank, wrote to the Town Council offering to sell them the Estate for £4,500, representing half of the outstanding debt.

2.1.2 . The Council's plans for, and purchase of, the Gardens

i. The County of Gloucester Bank's offer was agreed to by the Town Council later in 1888 and a clause authorising them to purchase the property and to raise the necessary loan to complete the sale was included in the 1889 Cheltenham Improvement Act. A £6,000 loan to cover the purchase and other expenses was agreed by the Town Improvement Committee on 24 November 1890 and the Estate was formally conveyed to the Council on 31 December 1890 (See Fig 2.6).

ii. The Council also purchased a number of effects from the last tenant of the Pump Room, Edward Shenton, including 'a handsome fountain, large iron shell supported by three dolphins in gold and green with rockery and iron railings round – with cistern to hold 2000 gallons of water with waste pipes etc. and in good working order'; this stood in front of the Pump Room, presumably from when Shenton took over its tenancy in December 1886, and is shown in several photographs of the Pump Room. It presumably remained *in situ* for some time after 1890, but must have been removed by (or perhaps in) 1900, when the bandstand was built in front of the Pump Room.

iii. Although a major part of the present Pittville Gardens was purchased by the Council directly from the County of Gloucester Bank, a small tract of land with a 345 foot frontage (west) to Evesham Road, a 470 foot semicircular frontage (east and south) to West Spa Drive, and a 212 foot frontage (north) to a house called St Arvans had already been sold as building land, earlier in the century. That land comprised Lots 4-6 at the 10 September 1845 auction sale of Joseph Pitt's unsold Pittville property, at which it was acquired by the Bank. In 1868, the Bank agreed to sell the land to the Revd. William Boyce of Southsea, who in turn agreed to transfer it to a Cheltenham builder, Edwin Broom, to whom it was conveyed in 1887. Broom subsequently used the land as security for a mortgage, on which he defaulted, as a consequence of which his mortgagees sold the land to the Council for £300 on 9 July 1892. This land is now occupied by the Aviaries and the Children's Play Area.

2.1.3 . The buildings and other features of the Gardens

The Pump Room, and the 'Long Walk' and gardens between the Pump Room and Lake

i. The Pump Room was built between 1825 and 1830 and was leased to a succession of tenants, at an annual rental of £230. In 1890 the Pump Room was acquired by the Council, along with the rest of the Estate. During both World Wars, the Pump Room was taken over by the military authorities, and its military use between 1940 and 1944 resulted in structural damage and deterioration that was rectified in a major restoration programme between 1949 and 1960.

ii. Following the Council's purchase of the Estate, the gravelled Long Walk between the Pump Room and the Lake was replaced by a large area of turf, which is maintained to this day. However, many of the trees and shrubs on either side of the Long Walk were retained, and Committee minutes in 1930 refer to plans for their removal, in order to 'open up' the view between the Pump Room and the Lake. During the Second World War a large area of the garden in front of the Pump Room was also requisitioned for military use and became the site of new access roads and at least five large nissen huts; following their post-war removal, the gardens were reinstated as before, although in 1944-5 there were discussions about creating a new terraced tea garden between the Pump Room and the Lake.

The Long Gardens

- i. The two rectangular gardens south of the Lake were sometimes known as Long Gardens Nos.1 and 2, No.1 being closest to the Lake.
- ii. In 1905, a Wild Flower Garden that had been sited in the Marle Hill Annexe since 1896 (see the section on Marle Hill Annexe and Lake, below, for further details) was relocated in Long Garden No. 1, close to the gates at the top of Pittville Lawn. To coincide with its 1905 transfer to Pittville Gardens, the garden's founder, Mr W. L. Mellersh, presented an ornamental sundial. By 1919, the garden's unsatisfactory condition led the Council to abandon it and turf over its site; the sundial was given to the Cheltenham Ladies' College, where Mellersh re-established the garden. The sundial still stands in the College grounds.
- iii. From the early years of the Estate, the Long Gardens were surrounded by railings, to which the owners and occupiers of the houses within the Estate had keys; like the other private gardens, the Long Gardens later contained tennis courts. Between 1890 and 1954 the Council charged a fee for entrance to the Long Gardens.
- iv. A particularly full description of the Gardens is to be found in *Cheltenham Parks and Gardens. A handbook for every citizen*, which was published by the Borough Council sometime between 1960 and 1965. This notes that : 'The park is generally of informal layout containing numerous specimen trees of great interest, age and beauty, which include the Cedar of Lebanon, various Acers, the Junipers, Oaks, Elms, Chestnut, Maidenhair Tree, Flowering Cherry and Crab, set in spacious lawn areas. Horticultural features include an extensive herbaceous border, rock gardens, shrubberies and formal bedding...Formal seasonal bedding provides a blaze of colour with pastel shades predominating from May until the Autumn frosts, with the thousands of Tulips, Wallflowers, Myosotis, Polyanthus, Arabis and Aubretia as the main subjects in the spring display. Geraniums, Petunias, Verbenas, Heliotrope, Fuschia and Begonias are the main subjects in the summer display and grown with great success to give an exotic effect are the Cannas, Plumbago, Datura, Leucophytum, Maize, Eucalyptus, Acalypha, Coleus, Iresine, Ipomea and Grevillea. Rock Gardens contain a comprehensive collection of rock plants and shrubs which provide a brilliant array of colour during the early spring and autumn'.

Gate Piers and Railings

- i. The only significant survival of the original gates and railings around the Long Gardens appears to be the Grade 2 listed gates at the top of Pittville Lawn, opposite Lake House. These comprise two large and two small octagonal 'gothic-style' limestone piers, connected by a low stone wall. The adjoining railings have long since gone, but one must assume that both of the Long Gardens were originally railed, as they were private to the owners and occupiers of the Estate's houses.
- ii. Exactly when the railings were removed is uncertain, although a certain amount of ironwork was certainly taken for salvage during the Second World War, particularly where a good hedge existed, although the surviving records are insufficient to identify exactly which, and when, railings were removed.
- iii. In 1948, Messrs R.E. and C. Marshall agreed to provide gates at the east and west entrances to the Pump Room, from East and West Approach Drives (presumably replacing gates removed during the war) at a cost of £129 7s. 6d. However, whether these are the present gates is uncertain, for in 1960 it was agreed to purchase wrought iron gates for the entrance to the Pump Room from East Approach Drive and to move the gates from Lake house to the entrance from West Approach Drive.

iv. In 1953-4, new gates were provided for the entrance to the Gardens from Evesham Road north of the West Bridge, being the gift of the Floral Fete Committee of the Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce, as a tribute to the work of Alderman W.J. Green as Vice-Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Grounds Committee between 1935 and 1951. The gates were supplied by Messrs R.E. and C. Marshall, and a suitably-worded plaque was obtained from Messrs H. H. Martyn and Co. There is some evidence that the gates were actually transferred from Oxford Parade, on London Road. The gates were first used on 9 April 1954.

Essex Lodge (the Little Spa)

i. Essex Lodge, which stood at the corner of Pittville Lawn (originally known as the Central Drive) and Central Cross Drive, was built in the second half of the 1820s as a 'subsidiary' spa, at which the mineral waters could be obtained. Acquired by the Council as part of its 1890 purchase, it continued in use until January 1903, when it was demolished following the opening of the new Refreshment Chalet. The work of demolition was undertaken by Mr C. W. Spackman, who paid the Council £9 for the materials, *in lieu* of a fee.

The Refreshment Chalet

i. Plans to replace Essex Lodge with a new Refreshment and Entrance Lodge dated from March 1901. The Chalet was designed by the Borough Surveyor, Joseph Hall, and was built, at a cost of £373, by Messrs A. C. and S. Billings during 1902-3. It was sited a little to the west of Essex Lodge, on the north side of Central Cross Drive, at the southern end of Long Garden No. 1. Until 1954 it acted as the point at which visitors paid their admission charge, and it still serves refreshments to this day.

The Bandstand

i. In a February 1891 Report on the future of the Estate, the Borough Surveyor stated that 'in front of the pump room I propose to erect a band stand...of wrought iron with zinc scale roof, and stone platform, the cost of which would be about £200'. However, nothing was done at this stage and it was not until April 1900 that Hall submitted plans for two bandstands – one circular and the other rectangular - for Pittville Gardens and the Marle Hill Annexe. In June 1900, the contract for building the two bandstands, at a cost of £317, plus an additional £60 if (as was in fact the case) they were roofed in oak shingles rather than tiles, was awarded to Messrs Collins and Godfrey.

ii. By the end of 1900 the circular bandstand had been built, directly in front of the Pump Room, facing the Lake. In 1901, however, it was decided that the position of the new bandstand was inappropriate, and Messrs Collins and Godfrey were paid £25 to move it to its present position opposite the south-west corner of the Pump Room.

iii. In 1994-5 the bandstand was restored by the Cheltenham Branch of the Royal Air Force Association, at a cost of £6,000.

The Lake (often known from the 1890s as the Upper Lake)

i. The east and west bridges have been repaired on numerous occasions since their completion in the 1820s, although no details of specific works are available.

ii. Several 19th-century guide books to the town describe the Lake; for instance, George Rowe's 1845 *Illustrated Cheltenham Guide* noted that its banks were 'overhung with weeping willows', and that there was 'a gravel path winding along its margin'. Early 20th-century photographs reveal that the banks of the Lake were edged with stone.

iii. Rockeries close to both bridges are referred to in Committee minutes from at least 1891, and may therefore pre-date the Council's purchase of the Estate; they are also shown in early photographs and postcards. What appear to be stones from the former rockery are now set into the flower bed adjoining the West Bridge.

iv. In 1928, Committee minutes record that the East Gloucestershire Branch of the RSPCA had erected a stone ornamental bird bath and table as a memorial to Mrs Daubeny 'on the town side of the Upper Lake'; a photograph and a watercolour of what may be this bird bath are in the Cheltenham art Gallery and Museum collection.

Summer House(s)

i. A small wooden Summer House, open on its west side and fitted with seats, is shown on the north side of the Lake in photographs of c.1903 onwards, but neither its date, nor the date of its removal, are known. A second, smaller structure, possibly another shelter, to the east of the Summer House, is shown in a postcard of c.1910-20.

ii. Repairs to 'the Summer House by Pittville Lake' were authorised the Parks and Recreation Grounds Committee in 1922.

iii. In 1926, Committee minutes record that 'the shelter near the Lake' had been appropriated for the water fowl and that a new 'rustic shelter' would be provided at a cost of £33 by Messrs T.W. Smith and Sons, although it is unclear which structure this refers to.

The Aviaries and Children's Play Area

i. The inventory of Edward Shenton's property at Pittville in 1890 includes mention of aviaries and various animal houses, although exactly where these were sited is unclear, as is whether any were acquired by the Council. Plans for new aviaries were certainly included in the Borough Surveyor's February 1891 report on the future of the Gardens, but there is no evidence that these were ever created.

ii. The present aviaries, which occupy part of the land purchased from the mortgagees of Edwin Broom in 1892, appear to have been established in 1936, by which time swings and other children's play equipment seems to have been in place. Committee minutes record the provision of various new aviaries, dovecotes, pens and water troughs at various times thereafter.

iii. In 1993, Council plans to remove the funding for the Aviaries and to disperse the 35 birds and 5 rabbits led to the formation of a campaigning group, 'Save Our Bird and Bunnies', and eventually to the provision of a large new aviary building, largely paid for with a grant from Gulf Oil.

Greenhouses

i. The Borough Surveyor's 1891 plans for the Estate included the provision of 'a range of low glass houses (lean to) along the northern boundary of your property, when some of the trees

and shrubs are removed', and the area immediately north of the Pump Room (now occupied by the Car Park) was largely taken up with greenhouses from the 1890s until their removal following the establishment of the Council's new Central Nurseries at Old Gloucester Road in 1964-5. Committee minutes record the addition of several new greenhouses at various time during the first half of the 20th century and their layout is shown in one of the Parks and Recreation Department's plans now in the Gloucestershire Archives.

The Former Air Raid Precaution Control and Report Centre, Central Cross Drive

i. This was built by S. C. Morris and Son Ltd., at a cost of £2537, plus £384 for a car park, in 1942. Following the War it was occupied in turn by the Parks Department as a store, by the Parklands Community Centre (1970 - c.1980) and as a Scout hut (from 1982 to the present time).

Public Conveniences

i. Two separate blocks of ladies' and gentlemen's closets were situated in the shrubberies at the rear of the Pump Room, probably soon after the establishment of the Estate, and their removal was proposed following the Council's purchase of the Estate in 1890. They are, however, still shown on plans as late as 1948 and were eventually replaced, sometime after 1950, by temporary conveniences by the Parks Department Yard between the West Bridge and the Aviaries/Play Area. These were replaced by new conveniences, on their present site, sometime after 1960.

ii. The conveniences were rebuilt in 2001-2, the only element to survive of a plan to rebuild them as part of a larger building to include a heritage centre, meeting rooms and an office for the Park Rangers.

Pittville Gates

i. The stone piers at the southern end of Pittville Lawn date from the early days of the estate and are shown in a number of early topographical prints. The ironwork showing the borough's coat of arms, by William Letheren, was added in 1897.

ii. Committee minutes record the repair and renovation of the ironwork and the piers on a number of occasions, including, in 1921, the removal of the actual gates and their eventual disposal as scrap iron in 1932.

iii. Further ironwork appears to have been removed for salvage during the Second World War.

Clarence Square, Wellington Square and Pittville Crescent

i. The gardens in each of these were laid out in the early days of the Estate as private pleasure grounds to which the owners and occupiers of the houses had keys. The actual layouts, including paths, are shown on early maps of the town. They were acquired by the Council, along with the rest of the Estate, in 1890 and their gardens became public after the abolition of the Estate rent charges in 1954. Tennis and croquet courts were maintained in all of these gardens from at least 1920.

ii. During the Second World War, all three gardens were taken over as allotments, and a Nursery Ground was established in Clarence Square.

2.2. THE MARLE HILL ANNEXE AND LAKE

2.2.1 The history of the site before its purchase by the Council

i. The future site of the Marle Hill Annexe and Lake was originally part of two separate estates – Marle Hill and a piece of land called ‘The Holts’, which by 1892 were owned by Charles Crawford Noble and James Batten Winterbotham respectively (See Fig 2.7).

ii. The Marle Hill Estate included land in Cheltenham and Prestbury parishes. That part of the estate in Cheltenham (i.e. south of Wyman’s Brook) was originally part of ‘the Common called The Marsh’, and was largely awarded to Francis Welles in the 1806 Cheltenham Enclosure Award. By 1810 Welles had built Marle Hill House and had dammed Wyman’s Brook to create a lake at the base of the hill on which his house stood. Griffith’s 1826 *History* described the house as ‘delightfully situated on a gentle eminence, at the base of which an extensive lake is formed. The house command views of some of the most lovely landscapes in the vicinity; and its proximity to the town, contrasted with the immediate seclusion of its shaded walks, renders it a most agreeable residence – a perfect “rus in urbe”’.

iii. Francis Welles later sold the estate to Robert Capper, and the Lake was often thereafter known as ‘Capper’s Pond’. On 17 May 1833, Capper sold the estate to Lewis Griffiths, who owned it until the late 1870s. On 22 June 1879, the trustees of Griffiths’ will sold the estate to William James Bulmer La Terriere of Oxford Terrace, Hyde Park, for £12,000. On 22 June 1891, La Terriere sold the entire estate, totalling 56 acres 3 roods 6 perches, to Charles Crawford Noble of Aylesmore Court, near Coleford, for £11,000.

iv. The southern part of the Estate, beyond the Lake, included the future site of the Agg-Gardner Recreation Ground, where two entrance lodges, both reached by pre-1806 paths from the High Street, are shown on the 1834 map (See Fig 2.3). One stood at the top of what is now Hanover Parade (originally Hanover Street North) and the other at the top of what is now Marle Hill Parade. The former was still there, as a cottage (called Mill Cottage on the 1855-7 map) in 1892, but the latter appears to have been demolished by c.1870.

v. ‘The Holts’ comprised 10 acres 3 roods 8 perches of land and was bounded on the south and east by parts of the Pittville Estate (now represented by Wellesley Road, West Drive and the northern boundary of Saxham Villas) and by Evesham Road, on the west by part of the Marle Hill Estate and on the north by Wyman’s Brook. By 1887, it was the property of James Tynte Agg-Gardner, by whom it was sold to a local solicitor, James Batten Winterbotham, for £2,500, on 8 August 1887.

2.2.2. The Council’s plans for, and purchase of, the Marle Hill Annexe

i. On 5 October 1891, Charles Crawford Noble agreed to sell the Council a total of 12 acres 1 rood 18 perches of land for £1,854 7s. 6d. The land comprised the whole of the Lake, plus a certain amount of land around its banks, and a small strip of land on the north side of the brook, as far east as Evesham Road. The land was formally conveyed by Noble to the Council on 14 July 1892.

ii. Also on 5 October 1891, James Batten Winterbotham agreed to sell the Council a total of 2 acres 2 roods 6 perches of land for £500. The land comprised the northern part of ‘The Holts’, including the south side of the brook (which formed the boundary between the two estates) and a frontage to Evesham Road. The land was formally conveyed to the Council on 16 December 1892. The remainder of ‘The Holts’ is now occupied by the new Dunalley School and its playing fields.

- iii. In order to purchase these two pieces of land, the Council had to obtain an amendment to the 1889 Cheltenham Improvement Act, Royal Assent for which was obtained on 28 June 1892. The approval of the Local Government Board for the raising of the necessary loan was obtained after June 1892, but no details of the lender are available. The total cost of the project, including land purchases, bridges, boat house and boats, was estimated at around £6,000.
- iv. On 8 March 1894 it was agreed that Pittville Gardens and the Marle Hill Annexe should in future be known as 'Pittville Park'.
- v. On 25 April 1894, the newly enlarged 'Pittville Park' was formally opened to the public by the Mayor. Two years later, Horace Edwards' *Penny Guide to Cheltenham* (1896) remarked that 'those who remember Capper's Pond and its surroundings cannot fail to be struck with the transformation that has taken place. Pittville Park, with its beautiful background of green hills, its splendid Pump Room, well wooded drives, artistically created lakes, bridges and boat houses, the arrangement of its walks, rockeries, shrubberies, its profusion of flowers etc. is a pleasure ground absolutely unequalled in England'.
- vi. The Borough Surveyor's Annual Report, delivered to the Town Improvement Committee on 30 April 1894, noted of the Annexe that 'the grounds are not laid out for formal gardening, but for the display of those plants which have luxuriant growth, and it is hoped that those who have large specimens of sub-tropical aspect, such as hardy palms, yuccas, aloes, dracaenas, Phormium-tenax etc. will remember that there is space for such, and they will be welcome when too large for indoor growth'.
- vii. Following its purchase, an unclimbable fence was erected on the north and west sides of the Annexe, to prevent access to the remaining part of Noble's Marle Hill Estate; the contractor appears to have been Messrs Hill and Smith of Brierley Hill. A fence appears to have existed until as late as c.1970.

2.2.3. The buildings and other features of the Marle Hill Annexe

The Lake (often known from the 1890s as the Lower Lake)

- i. The 1891 agreement with J. B. Winterbotham noted that 'the Corporation are desirous of widening the stream between the Evesham Road and Marle Hill Lake and of converting the land on each side of the water as so widened and of the said Marle Hill Lake into public pleasure grounds with walks and drives on the sides thereof'. Even before the formal conveyance of Winterbotham's land, the Council had sought tenders for the creation of the new eastern part of the Lake and on 2 December 1892 the Town Improvement Committee accepted the £1,552 10s. tender of J. K. Baker of Cromer for this work. This extended the total length of the Lake to 550 yards, leaving a short stretch of the winding Wyman's Brook between the eastern edge of the Lake and Evesham Road (See Fig 2.8).
- ii. In January 1934, plans were made to turn that part of the Marle Hill Lake east of the Boat House into a children's boating lake, at a cost of £350, to cover the necessary work in shallowing the lake, providing a firm bottom, and constructing a low fence to divide the two parts of the lake. The shrubs and trees between the Lake and Evesham Road would be removed and replaced with flower beds.
- iii. In 1938-9 the rockery at the east end of the Lake, adjacent to the old watercourse, was extended.

The Boathouse

i. A small boathouse midway along the north side of the Lake, connected to Marle Hill House by a footpath, is shown on maps from 1855-7 onwards, but this appears to have been removed by 1892. In March-April 1894, following the eastwards extension of the Lake, a new timber-built boathouse was built on its northern side, at an estimated cost of no more than £90, to a design by the Borough Surveyor. A total of 10 boats were purchased from Mr Halford's Boat Building Yard in Gloucester.

The Rustic Bridge

i. A bridge across Wyman's Brook, at the eastern end of the original Marle Hill Lake, is shown on maps from 1810 onwards; it formed part of a winding footpath from the eastern of the two lodges to Marle Hill House.

ii. Following the extension of the Lake in 1893, a new bridge of bamboos was constructed in its place, generally known as 'the rustic bridge'. This was altered and/or repaired on a number of occasions after 1893; several photographs of the bridge are available, and a detailed plan and elevation of the bridge, drawn in 1961, perhaps as a model for a proposed bridge on the Chelt Walk, is included among the Parks and Recreation Grounds Department plans in the Gloucestershire Archives.

iii. By 1966, the bridge was in such poor repair that its demolition and replacement with a new bridge of pre-stressed concrete was proposed, but not adopted. In 1974, plans to replace it with a single-span laminated timber bridge, at a total cost of around £6,000, were shelved due to a lack of funds and the bridge was removed as unsafe. In 1983 a replica bridge was built as a training exercise by the Junior Leaders Regiment of the Royal Engineers, the only cost being £3,000 for the treated fresh oak timbers. This bridge survived until April 2004 when it had to be removed after a stolen car had been driven into it in July 2003. All that now remains *in situ* in the Lake are the bridge's metal footings.

The Mill House

i. A corn or flour mill at the west end of Capper's Pond is shown on maps and drawings from at least 1834. Long disused, in 1894 it was re-roofed for use as a tool shed and, according to Edward Burrow's 1897 town guide, it had been converted into a summer house by 1897. It later became disused once more and on 23 January 1935 the Committee agreed to its demolition, and to the extension of the rockery at the western end of the lake. This does not, however, appear to have been finally undertaken until April-May 1945, although, puzzlingly, plans for the illumination of the Annexe in June 1955 still mention 'the old mill house'.

ii. A wooden bridge across the Wyman's Brook, adjacent to the mill, is shown in early maps; in 1922 it was reported to have collapsed and was to be replaced in ferro-concrete.

The Bandstand

i. A 'temporary bandstand' existed in the Marle Hill Annexe from at least 1895, and in 1900, the Borough Surveyor submitted plans for two new bandstands – one circular and the other rectangular – for Pittville Gardens and the Marle Hill Annexe. In June 1900, the contract for building the two bandstands, at a cost of £317 plus an additional £60 if (as was in fact the case) they were roofed in oak shingles rather than tiles, was awarded to Messrs Collins and Godfrey. By the end of 1900 the rectangular bandstand had been built on the south side of

the Marle Hill Lake, close to the island towards its western end, 'on the site of the existing temporary bandstand'.

ii. By 1957 the Marle Hill bandstand was little used and had suffered from vandalism; plans to convert it into a Refreshment Kiosk came to nothing as no offers of tenancy were received and in February 1958 it was decided to remove it and to turf its site, as soon as possible.

The Subway

i. At its meeting on 2 December 1892, the Town Improvement Committee accepted the £340 tender of John Strachan of Cardiff for the creation of a pedestrian subway beneath Evesham Road. Apparently once lined with glazed tiles, its surfaces were later concreted. In 1905, a turnstile was installed at the Marle Hill end of the subway to prevent users of the Annexe from gaining free access to Pittville Gardens.

Public Conveniences

i. These were built towards the eastern end of the Annexe, at the top of West Drive, close to Saxham Villas in c.1895, at a cost of £273, the contractor being Charles Malvern and Sons. Although shown on the 1955 O.S. map, they have since been removed.

The Wild Flower Garden

i. In 1896, Mr W.L. Mellersh proposed the establishment, close to the Lower Lake, of a 'living herbarium' of some of the more notable or rare plants to be found in Gloucestershire, which he would create and maintain. In 1905, this garden was transferred to the historic Pittville Gardens (see the Pittville Gardens section, above, for further details).

The Rock Garden

i. In 1945, the Parks and Recreation Grounds Committee minutes noted that 'the Marle Hill Annexe Rock Garden' needed total replanting; its exact location is, however, unknown.

The Summer House

i. Although not marked on any plans of the Annexe, a rectangular wooden structure, similar in style to the summer house that once stood by the Upper Lake, is shown on the north side of the Lower Lake, presumably west of the Boathouse, in a postcard of c.1910.

ii. In 1929, the Committee minutes record that 'the Summer House given by Mrs H. M. Cobbold had been erected in the Marle Hill Annexe', although the likely date of the postcard noted above would suggest that this is not the structure shown on that.

2.3. THE APPROACH GOLF COURSE AND TENNIS COURTS

2.3.1. The history of the land before its purchase by the Council

i. That section of the Golf Course between Evesham Road and Tommy Taylor's Lane was once part of the Marle Hill Estate (largely within Prestbury parish), and was retained by William La Terriere following the sale of the Lake to the Council in 1892. Marle Hill House itself stood immediately north of the Golf Course, its site now being occupied by the houses of Albemarle Gate, a part of the Pittville Mount Park Estate, the site of which was sold off by the Council for private housing in 1964.

ii. That section of the Golf Course to the west of Tommy Taylor's Lane is part of a large tract of land that was owned in 1945 by the Personal Representatives of the late Edward Leighton Baylis (died 12 February 1944). Although the exact boundaries are unclear, this land may also once have been part of the Marle Hill Estate.

2.3.2. The Council's plans for, and purchase of, the land

i. On 1 March 1929, the Auctioneers, Bruton Knowles and Co., wrote to the Council, on behalf of the owner, offering to sell them Marle Hill House and the remainder of the Estate. Consideration of the matter was deferred by the Parks and Recreation Grounds Committee on 11 March 1929, but a decision to purchase the land was subsequently taken.

ii. On 1 October 1931, 41 acres 3 roods of land were purchased by the Council from the Personal Representatives of Joseph Maby for £6,500. The exact use of the land from 1931 onwards is unclear, but at least part of it was requisitioned for military use and/or used as allotments during and after the Second World War [NB : on 30 September 1964, 14.78 acres of this land to the north of the Golf Course, including the site of Marle Hill House, were sold to Milcel Ltd. for housing development; now the site of Pittville Mount Park Estate. This was to help fund additional recreational facilities for the area].

iii. On 16 March 1945, a large tract of land on either side of Tommy Taylor's Lane, as far west as the Honeybourne Railway Line, was purchased by the Council from Lloyds Bank Ltd. (acting in its capacity as the Personal Representative of the late Edward Leighton Baylis) for £4,200. The land, which comprised allotments, a clay pit, the former Folly Brick Works and a number of cottages, also included the future sites of Leisure@Cheltenham (built on Creamery Piece Allotments) and the Prince of Wales Stadium (built on Baglin's Piece Allotments), as well as the western part of the golf course. Until 1964 at least part of the land was used for tipping.

iv. The date of the demolition of Marle Hill House is uncertain, but it is still shown on the 1955 O.S. map; it may have been demolished following the sale of its site for housing in 1964.

2.3.3. The creation of the new facilities

i. Plans for the creation of new recreational facilities (to be known as 'the Pittville Sports Area') on land north of the Marle Hill Annexe, including a golf course, tennis courts, bowling green and pavilion, were first discussed by the Parks and Recreation Grounds Committee in 1946. By 1951 all that remained of the scheme was a plan for a 9 hole golf course with an adjoining car park and ticket hut, to the west of Evesham Road, which was officially opened on 8 May 1953. Plans for the enlargement of the golf course were discussed from 1959 onwards and an additional 4 holes were provided between the existing course and Tommy Taylor's Lane in 1965-6. Plans to provide the final 5 holes necessary to create an 18 hole course by utilising part of the Creamery Piece Allotments (on the east side of Tommy

Taylor's Lane, to the south of Wyman's Brook and the new golf course extension) were abandoned when it was decided to use that land for an indoor swimming pool. In 1969 the final 5 holes were provided on the former Folly Lane tip site, to the west of Tommy Taylor's Lane.

ii. The scheme for tennis courts appears to have been revived during 1953, and a £2,605 14s. 6d. tender for creating six all-weather courts, from a company called En Tout Cas, was accepted in March of that year.

2.4. THE AGG - GARDNER RECREATION GROUND

2.4.1. The history of the site before its purchase by the Council

i. On 16 May 1877, 4 acres 1 rood 3 perches of freehold land was conveyed by the trustees of the will of the late Lewis Griffiths (died 26 April 1869) to a Cheltenham butcher, Henry William Holliday, for £700 plus £55 for the timber growing thereon. The land was described as 'all that piece or parcel of freehold meadow or pasture land near to the Old Lodge formerly the southern entrance to the Marle Hill Estate and extending thence about half way to the Marle Hill Lake'. The land had been sold to Holliday at an auction sale held at the 'Plough' Hotel on 15 February 1877. 'The Old Lodge' probably refers to the early 19th-century lodge that was situated at the top of what is now Hanover Parade (described as 'Mill Cottage' on the 1855-7 map), which is the only one of the two lodges shown on the 1834 map that is included on the plan accompanying this conveyance.

ii. On 12 December 1879, 2 acres 3 roods 23 perches of copyhold land to the south and west of the above freehold land, purchased from the trustees of Griffiths' will for £543, was transferred to Holliday at the Cheltenham Manor Court. The land was described as 'all that piece or parcel of copyhold meadow or pasture land with the cottage and garden'. The land included the line of a road forming a northwards extension of Hanover Street North (now Hanover Parade); 'the cottage' presumably refers to Mill Cottage, the former lodge at the top of Hanover Parade, which appears to have been demolished soon after the acquisition of the land by the Council.

iii. Both the above pieces of land were formerly part of the Marle Hill Estate, which Lewis Griffiths had purchased from Robert Capper in May 1833.

iv. On 19 November 1881, four plots of land, including three building plots 'in a new road called Marle Hill Road', were purchased by Holliday from Courtenay Connell Prance of Evesham, gentleman, for £215. These plots were intended for a mixture of houses and branch roads from Marle Hill Road to Holliday's property to the north.

2.4.2. The Council's plans for, and purchase of, the Recreation Ground

i. On 3 August 1880, the Council appointed a Committee to consider the provision of a public recreation ground, but this appears to have made little progress.

ii. On 1 December 1884, the Council appointed a new Committee 'to consider the desirability of establishing baths and recreation grounds for the working classes'.

iii. On 31 August 1887, the Baths and Recreation Grounds Committee agreed to purchase from Holliday the two plots that he had acquired from the trustees of Griffiths' will (totalling 7 acres 0 roods 26 perches of land), plus two of the three plots that he had acquired from Prance (with frontages of 40 foot and 50 foot to Marle Hill Road respectively) 'for the purpose of a Public Pleasure Ground', for £2,200. A total loan of £3,000 was to be obtained, to cover

the purchase of the land, plus the cost of fencing, shelters, closets and forming paths; the raising of the loan was sanctioned of the Local Government Board on 14 October 1887 and by March 1888 the Council had arranged to borrow this sum from Mr William Grover Cooley of Sheffield at 3.5% per annum for a period of three years.

iv. On 6 March 1888, Holliday's land was formally conveyed to the Council.

v. On 28 April 1888, William James Bulmer La Terriere, owner of the Marle Hill Estate, agreed to sell 31.5 perches of land adjoining the north - west edge of the proposed Recreation Ground site to the Council for £50 plus the transfer to him of half a perch of Council-owned land immediately to the east; this land, which served to 'straighten' the northern boundary of the Ground, was formally conveyed to the Council on 21 September 1888.

vi. On 5 May 1888, Mr (later Sir) James Tynte Agg – Gardner M. P., Lord of the Manor of Cheltenham, with whom the Town Clerk had been discussing the enfranchisement of the copyhold parts of the new Recreation Ground, wrote to the Council offering a gift of £3000 to cover the entire estimated cost of the new Recreation Ground. This was gratefully accepted by the Council at its meeting on 9 May 1888 and Mr Cooley's loan was subsequently repaid in full.

vii. On 20 June 1888, the new Recreation Ground was formally opened to the public, in heavy rain, by James Tynte Agg - Gardner. At first known simply as 'the Recreation Ground', 'the North Ward Recreation Ground, or 'the Marle Hill Recreation Ground', it had originally been proposed, by Agg - Gardner, that the Ground should be named after a prominent local solicitor and public servant, W. H. Gwinnett, but Gwinnett declined the honour, insisting that the new Ground should bear Agg - Gardner's name instead, given his generosity in funding it. In its edition for 27 June 1888, the Ground was described by the *Cheltenham Examiner* as "prettily wooded with beech, elms and willows, with a fine view of Marle Hill House and Gardens".

viii. On 7 July 1888, the copyhold parts of the Recreation Ground site were formally enfranchised (thereby becoming freehold), free of charge, by James Tynte Agg – Gardner.

ix. It is likely that the new Recreation Ground was fenced (in either wood or iron) from soon after its purchase, in order to prevent users of the Ground from gaining access to the adjacent properties of William La Terriere (Marle Hill) and James Batten Winterbotham (The Holts). However, the details are unclear, for in 1897, there are references in the Committee minutes to plans to erect 'an unclimbable iron fence according to pattern 1556 in Messrs Hill and Smith's catalogue' on the north and east sides of the Recreation Ground, and in 1899 to Messrs R. E. and C. Marshall providing a fence at a cost of £136 15s. 0d. Fencing appears to have been maintained until 1977, when the Recreation Ground was united with the Marle Hill Annexe and the distinction between the two vanished. The centre of the Ground was occupied by sports pitches, and a screen of trees (which may pre-date 1888, as part of the Marle Hill Estate) was maintained on its south and east sides. Committee minutes in 1897 refer to the presence of beech trees and to the addition of larches and conifers. Flower beds, including a Rose Garden, are mentioned in Committee minutes from 1899 onwards.

2.4.3. The buildings and other features of the Recreation Ground

The Caretaker's Lodge

i. On 22 March 1888, the Baths and Recreation Grounds Committee decided to build a Caretaker's Lodge on the plot of land opposite Brunswick Street, where a second entrance to the Ground would be made, in addition to that at the top of Marle Hill Parade. Tenders for its

construction were sought and on 1 August 1888 the tender of Mr H. D. Brown, for £25510s., was accepted. The first occupant of the new Lodge was ex- Police Sergeant James Maggs, who had been appointed as Caretaker of the Recreation Ground, at a salary of £1 per week, plus free housing, on 1 June 1888. He was to occupy this position until his death in 1899, when he was succeeded by Mr C. W. Lodge.

ii. The cottage was to carry a grey granite plaque with an inscription recording that ‘This Recreation Ground was presented to the Corporation of Cheltenham for the use of the inhabitants by James Tynte Agg - Gardner Esq., the Member of Parliament for the Borough, in the year 1888’. The plaque was provided by a local monumental mason, Herbert Henry Martyn (later the founder of the important local firm of H H Martyn and Co.), at a cost of £7 10s. 0d., and was affixed to the wall of the completed Lodge sometime between 27 December 1889 and 26 March 1890.

iii. The Lodge remained the property of the Parks and Recreation Department until it was transferred to the Housing Department as part of the Borough’s general housing stock in 1987.

The Drinking Fountain

i. The Baths and Recreation Grounds Committee decided to provide a Drinking Fountain for the new Recreation Ground at its meeting on 22 June 1888. By the time of the Committee’s next meeting, on 22 July 1888, the Cheltenham Temperance Union had offered to fund the cost of the new fountain, and on 24 May 1889, the engineer of the Cheltenham Water Works Company laid his plans for the Fountain before the Committee.

ii. The Drinking Fountain was sited immediately opposite the Brunswick Street entrance to the Recreation Ground, close to the Caretaker’s Lodge. Vandalised on a number of occasions during its existence, the fountain appears to have been replaced at least once, in 1964. The date of its removal is unknown.

The Shelter/Pavilion/Bandstand

i. On 22 March 1888, the Baths and Recreation Grounds Committee decided to build a public shelter in the new Recreation Ground and by December 1888 it was described as ‘proceeding rapidly’. The shelter appears to have included a W C. and may also have incorporated a stand from which bands could play. The shelter was located on the south side of the Ground, on the site of the present changing pavilion; no drawings or photographs of the Stand have been located.

ii. A ‘temporary bandstand’ was erected in the Recreation Ground for the opening ceremony on 20 June 1888, and it is possible that a ‘temporary’ or portable bandstand was used/sited in the Recreation Ground until at least 1919, although the details are unclear.

iii. The building of a new Pavilion was agreed by the Leisure Committee in October 1978, the lowest tender price being £29,916; it was opened in August 1979.

Public Conveniences

i. Proposals for conveniences on the west side of the entrance from Brunswick Street, immediately south of the Caretaker’s Lodge, were discussed by the Committee on 24 May 1894, when their likely cost was estimated at £100. They were completed by November 1894, and survived until 1982, when they were demolished as surplus to requirements.

The Children's Play Area

i. Swings etc. were provided for the new Recreation Ground soon after its opening and have been maintained ever since, although their location has varied at different times.

The Children's Paddling Pool

i. A Paddling Pool at the north-west corner of the original Recreation Ground was created in 1937-8 at a cost of £574. It was 'damaged by enemy action' during the Second World War (possibly during the air raid of 27 July 1942, during which several streets in the St Paul's area were bombed) and was reinstated during 1947 – 8 at a cost of £1189 11s. 2d., the cost being borne by the War Damage Commission. The contractor was Mr E. L. Squire. The Paddling Pool is shown on the 1955 O.S. map, but has since been turfed over.

Planting etc.

i. The initial planting of the ground with trees and shrubs was undertaken by Mr Hopwood, who ran a commercial nursery in Cheltenham, and included larch (to screen the new conveniences) and conifers (to replace some dead beech trees at the ground's east end). There is, however, very little evidence of the exact location of specific flower beds, but there are references to a Rose Garden and a Garden of Rest. The latter appears to have been sited immediately north of the Brunswick Street entrance to the Ground.

ii. During both World Wars, parts of the Recreation Ground were requisitioned for wartime use; see Section 5, below.

Clock

On 27 August 1909, the Mineral Waters, Baths and Recreation Grounds Committee agreed to provide a clock for the Ground, but no further details have been found.

2.5. THE WESTERN EXTENSION OF THE RECREATION GROUND

i. During 1899, the Baths and Recreation Grounds Committee discussed the problem of the over-use of the Recreation Ground, particularly by football and cricket teams, and the need to acquire additional land, which would allow one third of the enlarged Ground to 'rest' so that the grass would re-grow. Consequently, on 28 June 1900, 3 acres 1 rood 13 perches of land to the south-west of the Marle Hill Annexe and bordered at its south-east corner by the western end of the Recreation Ground were sold to the Council by George Carwardine Francis, a Chepstow solicitor, for £450. This land was also originally part of the Marle Hill Estate and had been sold by La Terriere to Charles Crawford Noble on 22 June 1891; G.C. Francis may have been acting on Noble's behalf.

ii. Early references to this extension include mention of a seating area for the elderly, which still seems to have been in place in the early 1960s.

iii. During 1917-23, land at the western end of the enlarged Ground was let for cultivation, and during the international crisis of 1938 at least part of it was taken over for the digging of Air Raid Precaution Trenches, although the soil was later deemed unsuitable and they were filled in again during 1939. Between then and 1954 this part of the Ground was used as allotments. After 1954, plans to turn the land into hard standing for Fun Fairs or as an Ice

Skating Rink were not taken up, and the land was re-grassed and turned into a children's play area, which it remains today.

iv. In 1932 and again in 1959, a further westwards extension of the Recreation Ground onto the Creamery Piece Allotments (then in private ownership, but later acquired by the Council, in 1965) was proposed, but this land eventually became the site of Leisure@Cheltenham.

2.6. HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

This historical analysis should be read in conjunction with Figures 2.9 – 2.11

Significant changes in the landscape between 1870 and 1884

East Park

- Whilst the Pump Rooms had been built, few other houses appear on the 1870 map, however, by 1884, a significant number of the houses in the Pittville estate had been built;
- Layout of paths in Pittville Lawns remained largely the same;
- By 1884, Pittville Gates appear on the map.

West Park

- A circular carriage route is clearly marked on the 1870 map leading from the town centre, north towards Marle Hill House, south west towards capper's Fish Pond and south once again towards the town centre;
- The residential houses of St Paul's have not been built in 1870 but begin to appear by 1884. The carriage drive from Marle Hill House follows a sinuous path through tree planting in what is today, the Agg Gardner recreation ground and out towards the town centre. A number of additional routeways are clearly marked running north-south through this area in what is believed to be agricultural land.

Squares and Crescents

- Both Wellington and Clarence Square appear to be laid out in a similar pattern to today;
- Pittville Crescent appears to be under construction with only five houses built. No trees are marked on the 1870 plan, compared to significant tree cover by 1884.

Significant changes in the landscape between 1884 and 1903

East Park

- Central drive between Pump Rooms and upper lake has been removed;
- 3 buildings have appeared to the rear of the Pump Rooms;
- Residential buildings remain the same around the Pump Room lawns;
- Paths have been added to the south of the upper lake;
- Summer House (?) to north lake shore removed by 1903;
- Carriage drive appears to circle south shore of upper lake with no gates to south west;
- The sinuous path through Pittville Lawn North appears to have been straightened;
- Pittville Lawns South appear unchanged;
- Street trees are no longer shown on the OS map in 1903.

West Park

- Wyman's Brook has been dammed to form the lower lake and the Boat House built;
- The boat house to the north of Cappers Fish Pond has disappeared;

- Capper's Fish Pond has been enlarged and an island added;
- Bandstand now appears on the lower lake's south shore;
- A series of paths have been added to the south shore of the lower lake;
- The carriage drive between Cheltenham town centre and Marle Hill House appear to be less wooded (although this may be drawing style on the map);
- The carriage drive no longer runs through the recreation ground to the south of the lower lake, instead it enters the residential area at the position of the current St Paul's gateway;
- The recreation ground has been created with swings and bandstand;
- A path runs to the south of the recreation ground adjacent to the residential properties.

Squares and Crescents

- Both squares appear the same although street trees are no longer shown on the 1903 map;
- No change to Pittville Crescent

Significant changes in the landscape between 1903 and 1955

East Park

- Vegetation has been removed to north of Pump Rooms and variety of buildings added;
- Aviaries have been built;
- Bandstand located to south west of Pump Rooms by 1955;
- Playground is annotated;
- Collection of buildings to south west corner of play area;
- Subway built;
- Central Cross Café replaces Essex Lodge
- Scout Hut (former Air Raid Precaution Control Centre) built by 1955;
- Central Drive (running north-south to east of Pittville lawns) becomes Pittville Lawn.

West Park

- Buildings appear by 1955 to north-east of Marle Hill;
- Car Park has been provided to north-east of Marle Hill;
- Tennis courts appear with a small pavilion (?) to the west at the end of straight path which leads off Evesham Road;
- Landing stage has been built and children's boating lake established to east of lower lake;
- Carriage drive between town centre and Marle Hill House has disappeared;
- Approach golf course has been established;
- Marle Hill House and surrounding land to the north has been sold off;
- Quarrying activities visible to north west of Marle Hill and beyond Tommy Taylor's Lane;
- Allotment gardens established to west of lower lake;
- Children's paddling pool to south of lower lake;
- Residential area to south developed to include Hudson Street and Manser Street;
- Recreation ground renamed as Agg Gardner recreation ground;

- Carriage drive has disappeared from recreation ground and southern path has been reduced in length.

Squares and Crescents

Appear to have no significant changes

Significant changes in the landscape between 1955 and 2005

East Park

- Aviaries updated and gardens built to south to commemorate Queen Mother's birthday;
- Play area developed;
- Buildings removed from north of Pump Rooms and car park developed;
- Path network remains the same;
- No significant changes to Pittville Lawns;

West Park

- Skateboard park has been established within tennis court footprint;
- Buildings to north-east of Marle Hill disappeared and Albermarle Gate now constructed in their place;
- Significant residential development to the north of Marle Hill and within footprint / gardens of Marle Hill House;
- Quarry / Tip removed and land made good;
- Approach golf course extended to 18 holes;
- Prince of Wales stadium and Leisure@Cheltenham and large car park developed on former allotment gardens site;
- Small play area developed to south-west of lower lake;
- Small MUGA;
- Bandstand has disappeared and been replaced with Agg Gardner Pavilion;

Squares and Crescents

Appear to have no significant changes

The following photographic images represent the changes which have occurred in the landscape of Pittville Park.



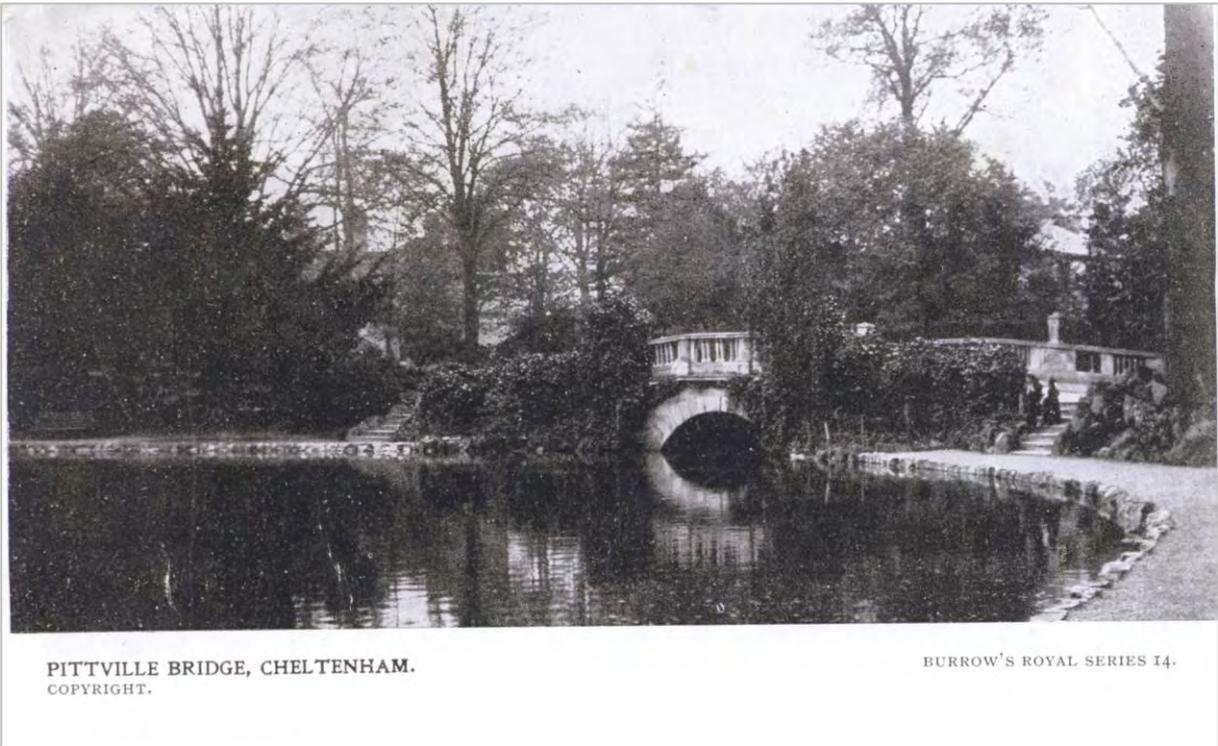
Pittville Pump Rooms - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Upper Lake East Bridge - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Upper Lake West Bridge - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





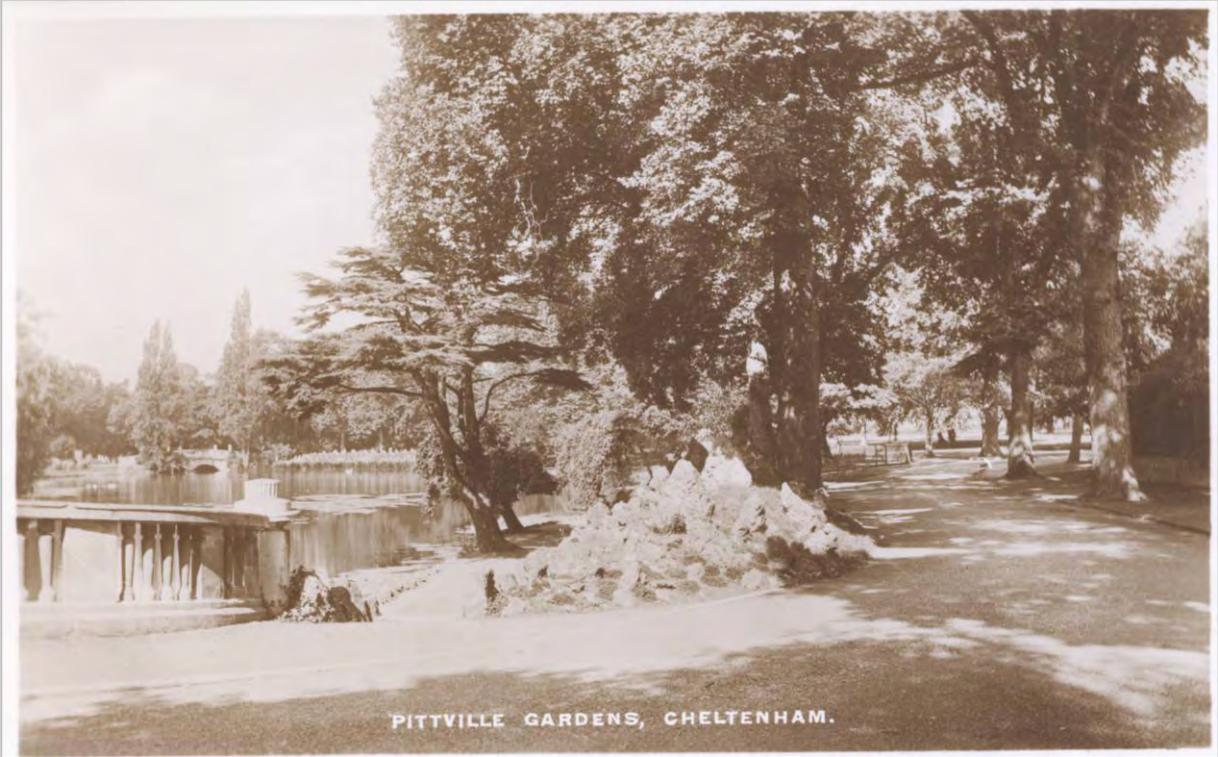
Upper Lake - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Upper Lake Summer House - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Upper Lake - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Pittville Park, Cheltenham

C.5823

Pittville Lawns - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





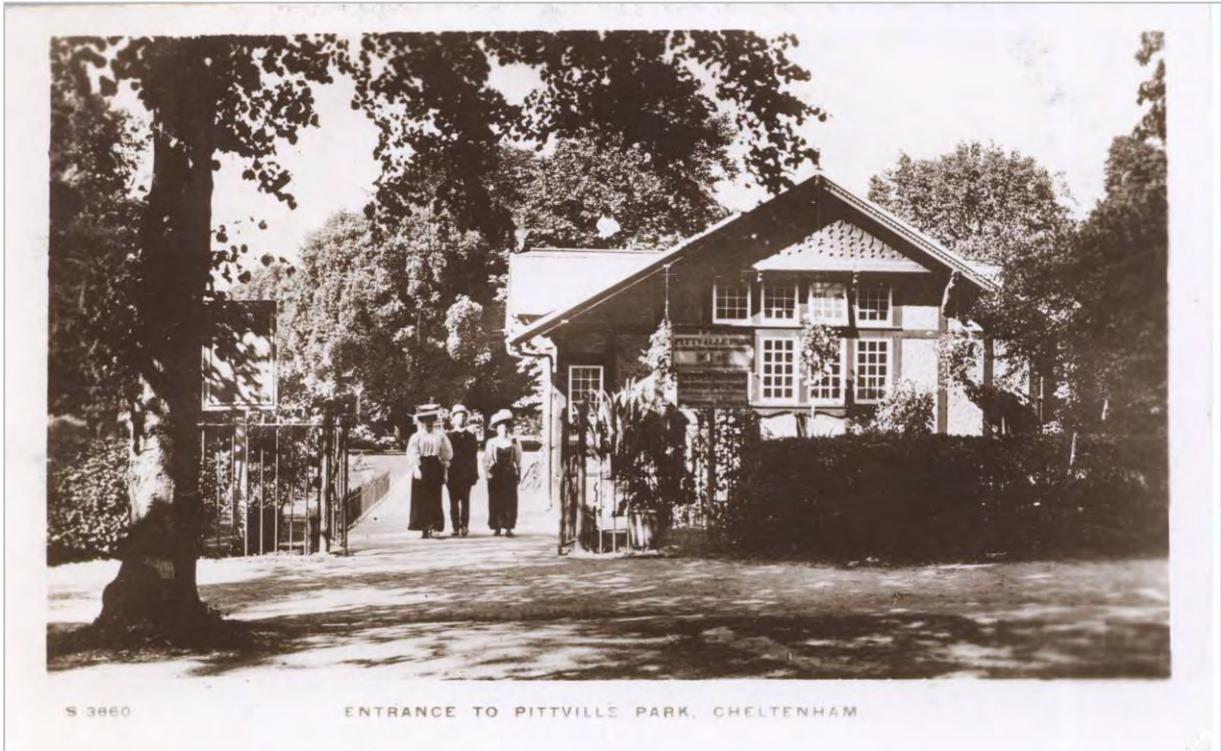
Lower Lake - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Lower Lake - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Central Cross Café - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





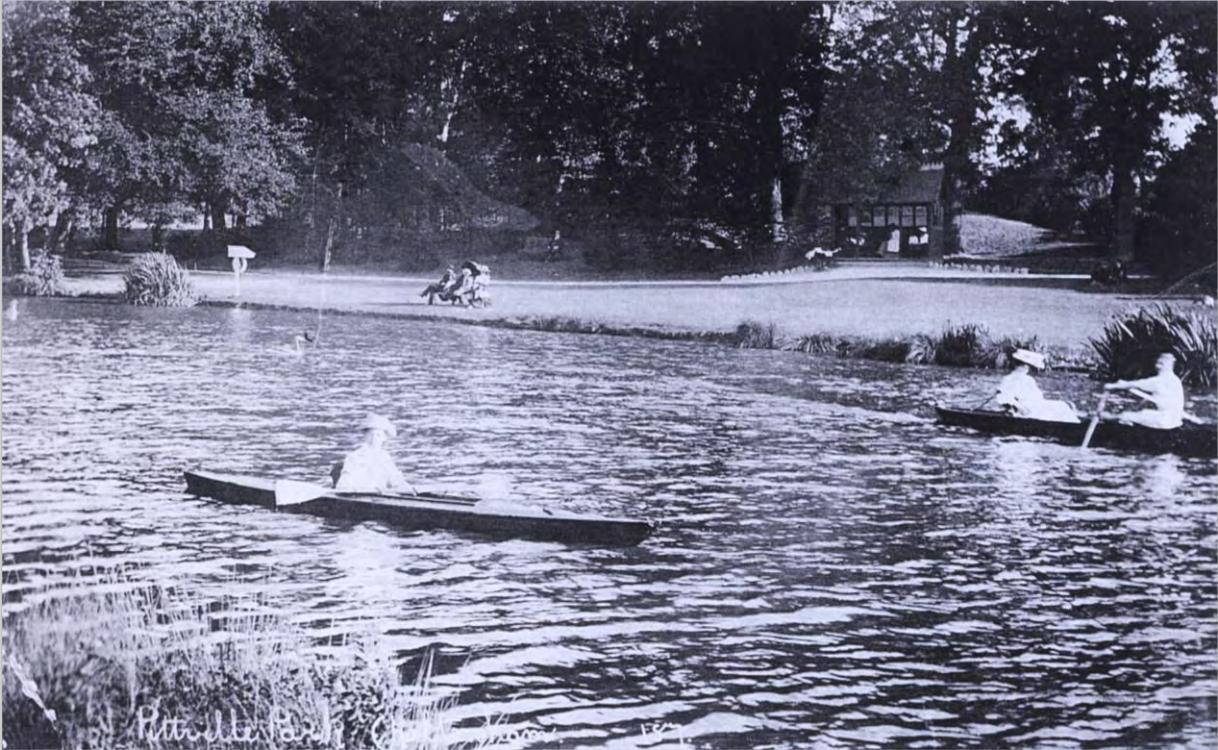
Bridge over Lower Lake - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





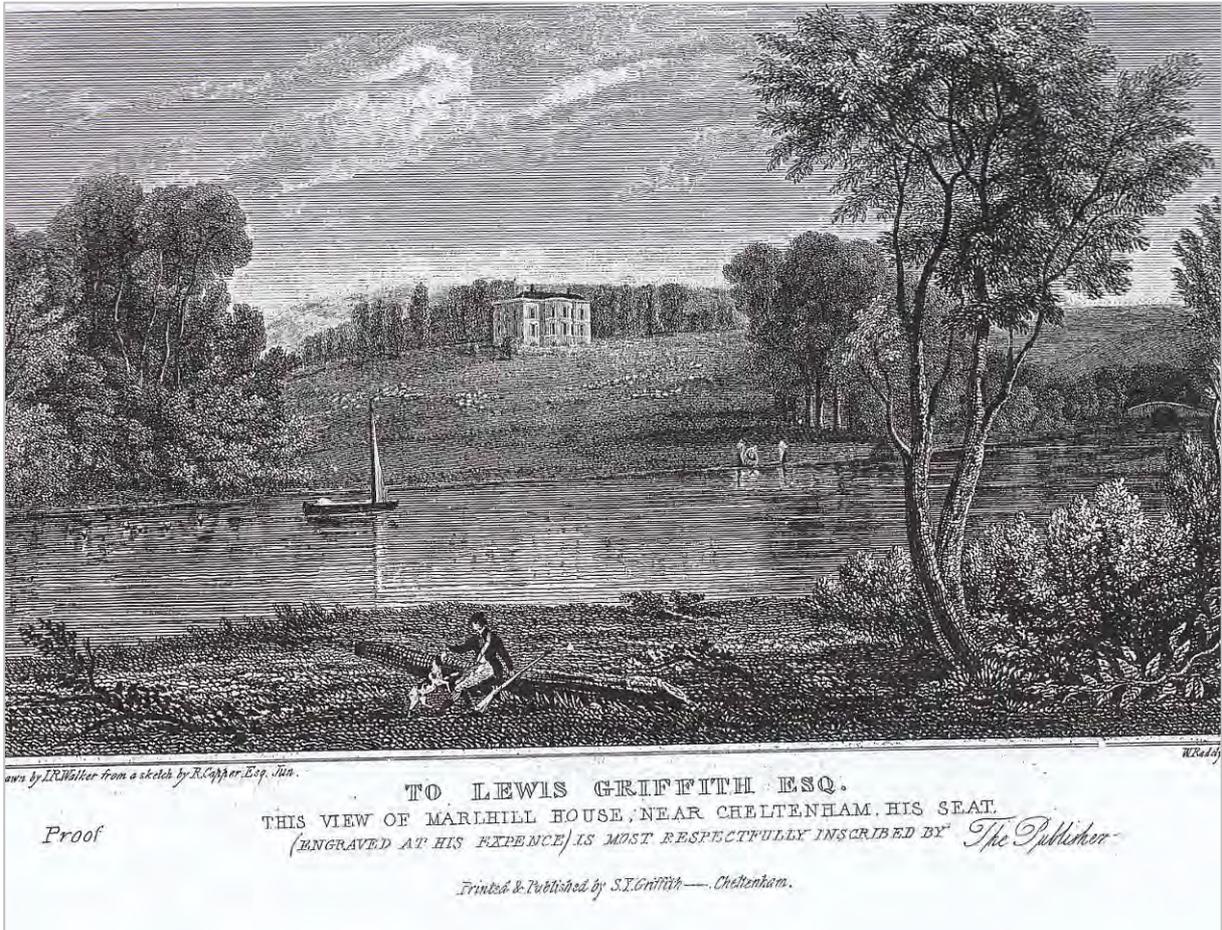
Marle Hill House and Lower Lake - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Lower Lake Boat House - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Marle Hill House - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Pittville Pump Rooms - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Upper Lake West Bridge - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Pittville Lawns - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Lower Lake Bandstand - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Pittville Pump Rooms - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below





Pittville Gates - unknown date above and 2008 (Friends of Pittville) below

