

Asset Details

Asset name	Came Park designed landscape
Asset address	Nr Came House Winterborne Came Dorchester Dorset DT2 8NU
Additional location information	what3words Travels.cries.fairness
Asset type	Gardens and designed landscapes

Heritage Significance

Value	Description	Level
Archaeological value	<p>Within the boundary of Came Park there are two possible areas of archaeological interest, one being low earthworks suggesting the presence of a prehistoric banked field system, and the other being low earthworks relating to the deserted medieval village of Winterborne Came.</p> <p>The presence of a prehistoric field system has had little impact on the layout or appearance of the later designed landscape. The medieval village has a closer connection to the estate, indicating the location of the principal settlement in the historic parish of Winterborne Came. The church is the most visible link to this earlier settlement, surviving the abandonment of the village and its transformation into a private estate landscape. However, the village survives as below ground remains and has little influence on the resulting design or aesthetics of the landscape. While both sites have archaeological interest in their own right in terms of what they can tell us about the landscape that preceded the establishment of Came Park, their contribution to the designed landscape – or potential to reveal more about the historic interest of the estate – is limited.</p>	Little
Architectural value	<p>Came Park is a large parkland of mixed use, including formal gardens, grazing land, arable, woodland and meadows, centred around the grade I listed Came House. The park and house were created around 1754 and underwent substantial development between 1820-1880. The architectural value of the asset is derived from the quality of the detailing and decorative features on the listed buildings within the garden boundary, primarily the Palladian Came House, whose designation indicates its national importance.</p> <p>Came House was built in 1754 by Francis Cartwright of Blandford for John Damer. Constructed of Portland stone in the Palladian architectural style, the building has seven bays, of which the centre three project as a columned and pedimented centre piece. The quality of the design and intactness of the historic architectural features add greatly to the architectural contribution of the house to the value of the park. The grade I listed parish church and other nationally important buildings on site are set in the scenic landscape within the park boundary, and the eastern boundary is marked by an attractive lodge. Other structures of note that contribute to the architectural interest of the site include the walled garden and associated buildings, bridge, entrance gates, stables and forecourt balustrading.</p>	Outstanding
Historic illustrative value	<p>The historic value of the asset is derived from the way in which the elements of the garden and parkland reflect the history of the estate. The component parts of the estate – the relationship between house, walled garden and stables, for</p>	High

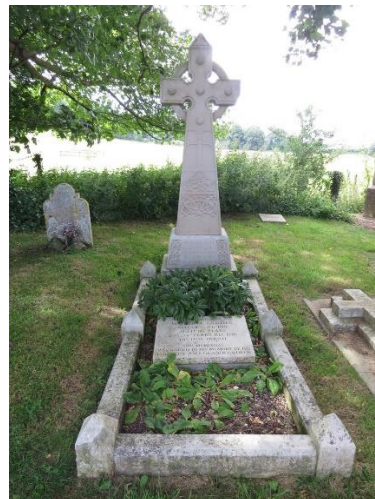
	<p>example – tell us something of how the estate functioned on a practical level, as well as the structures having aesthetic value in themselves. The adoption of the Palladian style for the house and the English landscape aesthetic for the parkland illustrate the influence of the fashions and tastes of the time.</p> <p>Evidence from historic maps indicate that the majority of Came Park has not been lost or altered over time. Although some of the pasture has been given over to arable use, the designed landscape is still legible and the aesthetic intent has been largely retained. The boundary is still clear and significant parts of the planting survive well.</p> <p>Historically, the designed landscape of an estate was as important a feature as the main house and often required considerably greater investment to create and manage than the house itself. The investment at Came Park illustrates the fortune held by the owners, as well the importance placed on the designed landscape and estate management. Seen collectively, the park and associated buildings represent the wealth and privilege of aristocratic families from a now vanished era.</p>	
Historic associative value	<p>The historic associative value is partly derived from of the park’s connection to the wealthy landowner Sir John Damer, younger brother of the Earl of Dorchester of Milton Abbey, who built and owned Came Park and House.</p> <p>Came House was one of the final works of the architect, Francis Cartwright, who died in 1758. The house appears to have had great significance to him as his memorial plaque, in Blandford St. Mary Church, features a carving of an architect’s tool set and a drawing of a Palladian House, which arguably represents Came House.</p> <p>Also of note is the association between Came Park and the poet and rector William Barnes. Barnes is principally remembered as poet who wrote in the local dialect about the landscape and people of Dorset. He was a highly learned man, who also worked as a schoolteacher and was rector of Whitcombe and Winterborne Came. Given his connections to the estate it is probable that he taught at the school shown within the walled garden on historic OS maps. Upon his death, Barnes was buried within the churchyard at the Church of St Peter in Came Park. His monument is grade II listed.</p>	Outstanding
Aesthetic or artistic value	<p>The park is on a generous scale with designed features from a number of periods, including an intact walled garden with associated buildings, shelter belts, an early tree-lined avenue approach from the north and a later realigned drive from the east, gate piers, conservatory and balustrading. The South Winterborne watercourse transects the park to the north of Came House. Throughout the woodland and formal gardens is a network of sinuous paths that lead the visitor around the estate. Perambulations are punctuated with views and points of interest, the most obvious being the church and walled garden. The walled garden would have been a source of pleasure and production and an important part of the estate tour for visitors. The inclusion of the church and churchyard into the landscape reflects the fashion of both 18th and 19th century landscape design for incorporating references to antiquity – either real or in the form of follies – to give the estate a sense of time-depth and permanence, as well as providing visual interest and entertaining diversions.</p> <p>There are informal clumps of trees and scattered standard trees throughout the parkland along with shelterbelt planting, which defines the boundary of the park. The use of different planting devices within the park create depth, texture and movement. They contain and reveal views and play with perspective in a way that would have changed as you passed through the park, creating a dynamic and continually evolving experience. The expanses of grassland between them provided contrast and provided the space to show off expensive livestock and hay meadows. The deliberate siting and ratio between planting and open grassland was intended to manipulate the views and ultimately enhance the prominence of the house in the landscape. These are all tools and devices that were intentionally designed into the landscape to impress the onlooker. As the majority of the park remains intact, this aesthetic intent still remains.</p>	High
Communal value	<p>This area of parkland appears to be highly valued locally and is a strong feature in the landscape.</p>	Moderate



Came Park and House viewed from the north. In the left-hand photograph, the Church of St Peter and walled garden can be seen to the far left. The deserted medieval village is in the field in front of the house to the right. The house has been deliberately placed on a knoll to increase its prominence, with trees to frame and provide a backdrop. Note the pasture in front of the house, which runs right up to the forecourt, creating an intimate relationship between house, formal space and the parkland beyond.



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"William Barnes' grave, Winterborne Came" by [Odd Wellies](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)