

HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST  
LOCAL LIST: **DACORUM**

Present Name of Site  
**SHANTOCK HALL**

Historic Name

Parish/ Town: **Bovingdon**

National Grid Reference of Principal Building: TL 005 019

Present Area: 4 acres round house. In 1951 238 +200 acres

**Brief Description**

The property is situated to the SW of Bovingdon, very close to Shantock Lane. It is surrounded by pasture, arable land and woodland. Shantock Farm existed on the site in the sixteenth century. The small estate developed through the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries but was gradually broken up during the later part of the twentieth century.

**The Principal Building:** It is not known when Shantock Hall was built but parts of it possibly date back to the late seventeenth or early eighteenth centuries. It has been enlarged on a number of occasions. It is brick built, rendered, with slate and lead roofs and is comprised of three floors. The main entrance is on the SE side of the house and the main reception rooms face SW. The separate domestic offices were to the NW of the main building. A photograph of the SW side of the house taken in 1985 suggests that the eastern end bears a strong resemblance to a drawing of the house which although undated is late eighteenth or early nineteenth century in style. (HALS Gerish Box18)

**The Approach:**The property is approached today by a short drive from Shantock Lane. Trees to the N screen the drive from the lane.

There is a small lodge at the original entrance. of two storeys gabled on each side with ornamental bargeboards. The brickwork is currently painted grey.

A spur from the drive passes around the N of the building to the stables. According to the 1838 tithe map and the 1882 OS map the farm yard was then to the north of the property and Shantock Lane ran through it. The 1924 OS map shows that the farm had been moved to the N of the lane and a stable block had been built in its place.

**Pleasure Grounds:**The tithe map of 1838 shows the property sitting within one acre of garden. A sales brochure of 1951 states that the mansion and gardens covered 3.9 acres and included lawns, rose gardens and shrubberies with ornamental timbers. A pathway leads from the main drive round to the SW of the house and steps cut through a retaining wall lead down to the lawn. A photograph taken in 1985 shows this wall curving round to the SE of the property but aerial photographs taken recently show a shorter more angular wall which turns at a right angle SW at the edge of the lawn. The view from the house across open pasture and farmland is framed by mature trees and shrubs. The previous formal layout with central path is still visible on aerial photographs.

**The Walled Gardens:**The 1838 tithe map shows 4 walled gardens, 2 described as gardens and two as orchards. These are situated to the NW and E of the property. The 1951 sales brochure describes "well stocked walled orchards, small fruit gardens, kitchen gardens---". It would appear from recent aerial photographs that the 2 to the north now accommodate another property and its garden. The walled garden to the E

shown on the 1838 and on the 1951 map described as being an orchard and cottage garden is still visible.

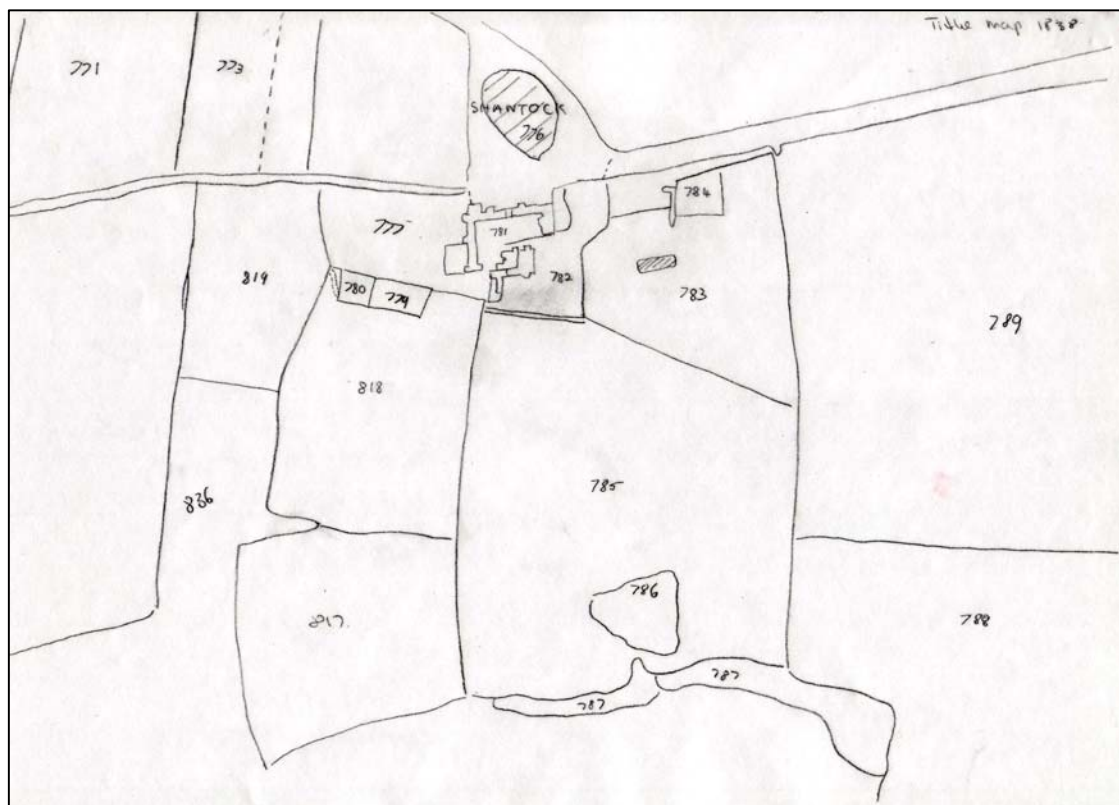
**The Stable:** This appears on the 1925 OS map and is shown as having its own access to Shantock Lane. It encloses three sides of a courtyard and is of brick construction with a tile roof. Recent aerial photographs suggest that it now provides separate, residential accommodation.

**The Home Farm:** A model farm on the north side of Shantock Lane, built in 1880s to replace timber framed farmhouse nearer to mansion. The central wing of the E-shaped byre and barn complex was demolished when the building was converted to residential use. The large farm pond, photographed at the turn of the 19/20 centuries is now silted up with trees growing in it. The pair of farm cottages has been converted into one house and the farmhouse garden is now a nursery.

**Woodland:** The 1838 tithe map, the 1882 and 1925 OS maps and the 1951 sales map all show Simon Deans Wood, Rabbit Dell and Fir Wood to the NW, W and SW of the property. The 1951 sales brochure describes them as in total covering just under 19 acres. These areas still exist today although recent aerial photographs show that extraction has taken place in the southern part of Firs Wood. The layout of woodland and pasture as seen on current maps and aerial views is very similar to that on the 1st edition OS map of 1882.

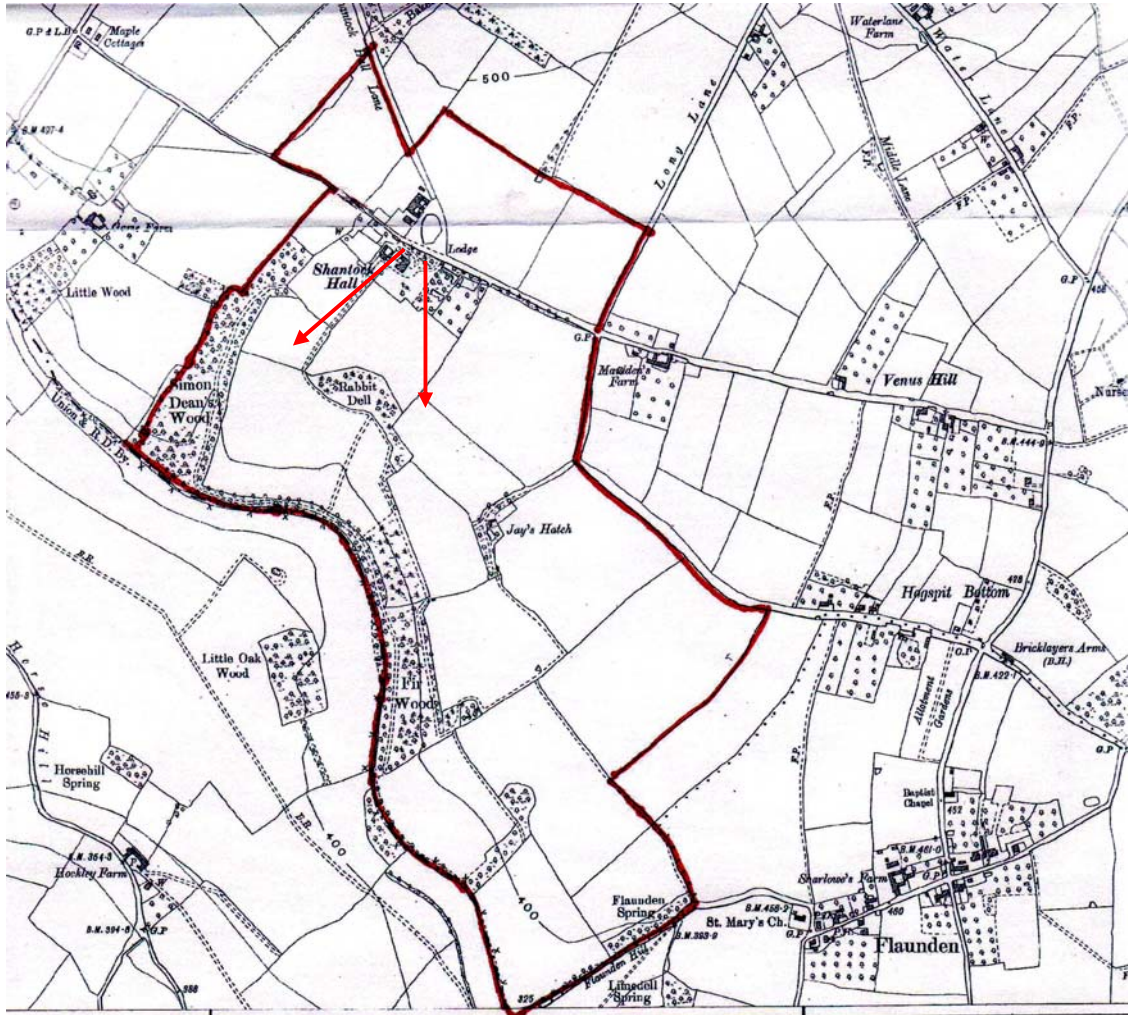
<b>People Associated with the site:</b>
<b>Residents:</b> Sir Gordon Cunard and other members of the Cunard family
<b>Assessment of Significance:</b> A small gentry estate on the edge of Bovington village with views into Buckinghamshire. The field layout and field names remain the same as on the Tithe Map of 1838.
<b>Principal Uses:</b> House multiple residential, Farm horticulture/nursery
<b>Public Access/Rights of Way:</b> None. Shantock Lane runs along the northern perimeter of the site.
<b>Designations:</b> Green Belt
<b>Visited:</b> Hertfordshire Gardens Trust July 2009

**Shantock  
Hall  
Estate  
Tithe Map  
1838**



**Key**

- 777 Orchard
- 779/780 Garden (17/28 perches)
- 781 Farmhouse and Offices (17/28 perches)
- 782 Residence and Grounds (1 acre, 1 rood, 3 perch)
- 783/784 Orchard (3 acres, 1 rood, 35 perches)
- 785 Meadow
- 788 Yew Tree - Arable
- 789 Great Field - Arable
- 801 Little Simons Dean - Arable
- 818 Great Home Field



Ordnance Survey 1925. Sheet XXXVIII.NW Scale 6":1 mile