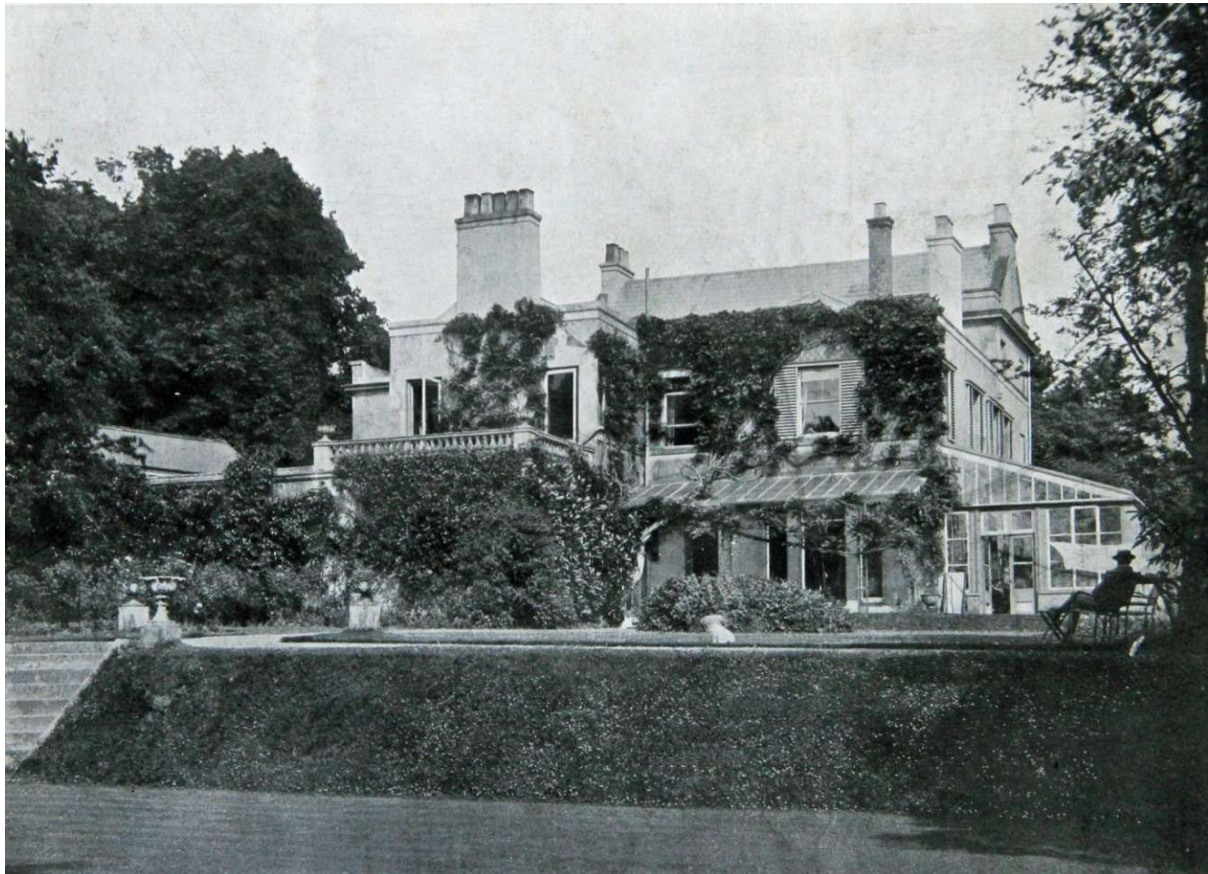


Heritage Statement for Meller House, Bishopstoke

Bishopstoke is a village and civil parish in the Eastleigh district of Hampshire, England. It is recorded as "Stoke" as early as 948 AD when King Eadred granted land there to a thegn called Aelfric. Stoke later came into the possession of the Bishops of Winchester, giving rise to the modern name. Meller House, located on Church Road in west Bishopstoke, was originally a walled garden for 'Spring Grove'; a historic location with various connections to the area's past, including its relationship with the London and Southwestern Railway. The area was developed to house railway workers, and road names in Bishopstoke reflect this connection.

Spring Grove was a large Victorian house, built before 1870 with a large walled garden in a terraced format, with the lowest part of the garden sitting between Church Road and Oakbank Road. This was surrounded by a high brick wall, built using old British bond brickwork, leaving a distinctive pattern that can be seen along the Church Road side of the current wall. Although Spring Grove was later demolished in the 1940s, the brick wall is what remains of the original Victorian infrastructure.



The lower walled garden can be seen in this Ordnance Survey published in 1872, surveyed between 1867 to 1868. (left) and in this Ordnance Survey map published in 1909 with a greenhouse (right). It surrounded the area labelled '89 1.233'.

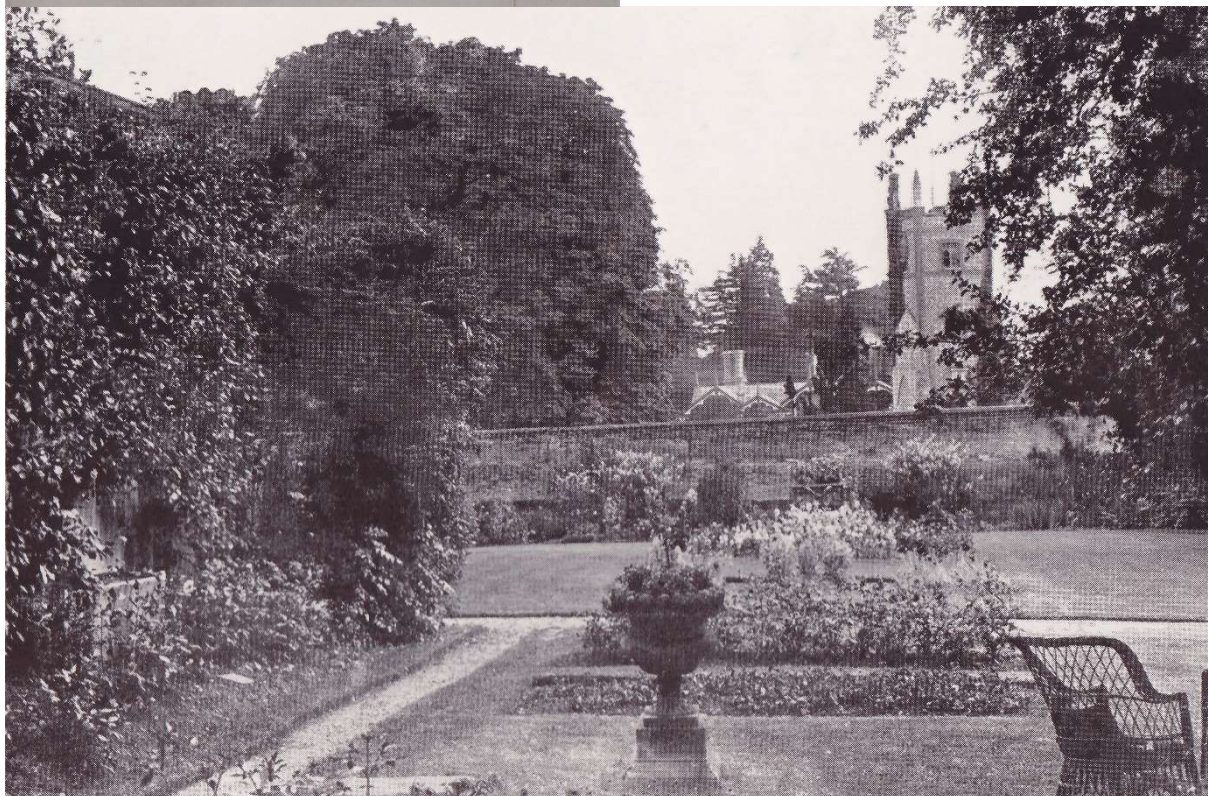


This picture was taken from 'Spring Grove' in 1908, showing the high brick wall that enclosed the property grounds. This separated Spring Grove from the road that led to Oakbank, and the church yard in which the 1825 St. Mary's Church resided. Although much of this wall is no longer present, the lower left corner of the image shows the part of the wall which remains.



In 1936, Oakbank and (later) Spring Grove was purchased by Frank Dibben.

Oakbank and the gardens of Spring Grove were purchased by Dr Mellor and his wife in 1951. They sold the old Spring Grove House site in 1961 to be developed into what is now know as Church Close. The gardens of Spring Grove were integrated with those of Oakbank. The photograph below shows a similar view to the 1908 photograph, in which the high wall, separating the property from Oakbank Road, and the old church can be seen.



Appendix A

On the 24th of September 1974, the Duke of Gloucester, on behalf of the Hampshire Old People's Housing Society opened Mellor House, a 19 flat retirement complex in what had been part of the garden of Oakgrove, the land being provided due to the generosity of Mrs Mellor and named in memory of her husband.



As can be seen in this image from 1974, the Oakbank road frontage was changed to incorporate a 90 degree corner instead of the curved bend that was seen in the original wall. However, the wall uses reclaimed bricks from the original Victorian wall for the frontage, with the original Old English bond brickwork existing along the Church Road side. What can also be seen, when comparing this image with the parade photo below, is that the pavement has been raised or that the wall has been lowered (or both).



There are two Grade II listed buildings within one hundred metres of Meller House. Itchen House (List entry number 1281447), to the south, and The Old Rectory (List entry number 1203917), to the north. Both listed buildings are roughly 70 metres away, separated by a road and are tree screened. There is no relation between Meller House and these buildings, and any changes to Meller House will not affect the listed buildings in the area. It is not possible to see Meller House from The Old Rectory, and Itchen House has an obstructed view due to the aforementioned tree screening. There is also a large grass bank between Meller House and Itchen House, further obstructing the view of the property.

Regarding Meller House as a 'county site of archaeological importance'; we have spoken to County Archaeologist David Hopkins to provide details on this. He identified an area south of our site that could be considered of 'archaeologically important' but suggested that work outside of this would only need to be considered if it were a major development. As the net-gain of dwellings in this scheme is 9, it cannot be labelled a major development. The area south of the site in question can be seen in the images below:



This area represents the original church site, the mill and the Manor House, which indicate the position of the medieval centre of Bishopstoke. However, the area closest to our site is described in 'Bishopstoke Historic Rural Settlement Publication' as a buffer zone north of the former church yard. Furthermore, the grounds in Meller House boundary were part of the terraced garden of Spring Grove. David Hopkins has suggested, if there was anything of archaeological significance in these grounds, that it would have been lost during the terracing of the Spring Grove Garden when the land was originally developed. Archaeological data is further likely to have been lost in 1974 when Meller House was built.

In addition to this, when 'Rosebank', the property neighbouring to the west of Meller House, was built, an archaeological survey was conducted and yielded nothing of significance. This land was less recently disturbed than that found at Meller House, and it is therefore fair to suggest that, if archaeological data did not survive at the Rosebank site, there is less of a chance of any surviving archaeological significance at Meller House.

Regardless of any remaining archaeological data in the property boundary, no matter how exceedingly unlikely it is, the scheme does not include any groundwork that would affect anything of archaeological significance.