

A

Appendices

Appendix 1:

Historic England Listings for Kearsney Parks

A Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, Historic England

Russell Gardens – part of the Kearsney Court entry

Name: KEARSNEY COURT

Grade: II

Description

The landscape around Kearsney Court, laid out about 1900, was one of the first independent commissions by Thomas Mawson, the leading landscape designer of the early C20. It was designed to provide an appropriate setting - almost a park in miniature with ambitious terraced gardens, wider park-like grounds, a kitchen garden and appurtenances like stables and lodges - for a manufacturer's new residence in the countryside just outside Dover. Clearly Mawson himself viewed the commission as a success, including several plates of the landscape in his *The Art & Craft of Garden Making*.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT Kearsney Court was planned in 1899 for Alfred Leney, a brewer and drinks manufacturer. The site chosen was on rising ground above the hamlet of Kearsney, the northern half of which was occupied by Palmtree Hill Plantation and the lower open ground. However, the project was soon sold on to Edward Percy Barlow, the owner of Wiggins Teape, a paper manufacturer. The house was completed about 1900, and at about the same time - the Canal Pond summerhouses were still under construction in 1902 (*Builders Formal and Architectural Record* 1902, 371) - the grounds were laid out by Thomas Mawson (1861-1933), perhaps the leading, and certainly the most prolific, landscape designer of his day. This was probably one of Mawson's earliest independent commissions, and it was probably an erroneous attribution, a decade later by the *Gardeners' Chronicle* (28 June 1913, 438), to Messrs. Mawson Bros. of Windermere, the family firm he had recently broken away from. Several set-piece photographs of Kearsney were included in Mawson's main account of his life's work, *The Art & Craft of Garden Making* which appeared in five editions between 1900 and 1926. On Barlow's death in 1912 the property passed to Mr. Johnstone, a London newspaper man, and was later a

nursing home and, in the Second World War, a military hospital. About 1950 the whole estate was bought by a development company; the main house was split into seven residential freeholds, and later several new houses were erected off the main drive. Part of the grounds (including the lowest third of the formal gardens) was acquired by the local authority for a park (now known as Russell Gardens), but overall the essential character of the site remains unaltered.

DESCRIPTION LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Kearsney Court stands in above the hamlet of Kearsney in Temple Ewell, on the north-west fringe of Dover. The site, as here designated, occupies a site running uphill to the north from a valley-bottom stream, its northern half steeply so. The boundaries of the site follow the B2060 Alkham Road to the south; fence lines running through the steeply sloping woodland to the north of the house; and to the west again a fence line. From the house, close to the north edge of the site, there are views of about 2km across the valley, originally to farmland but now to secondary woodland. The setting remains fairly rural, certainly that is the sense within the grounds, although there has been some piecemeal development around and within the edge of the site. The last comprises six detached houses built off the south side of the drive to the west of South Lodge in the mid-late C20. They are excluded from the designated area.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The grounds are entered from an entrance at their eastern extremity. This is marked by two pairs of sturdy, square-sectioned 2.5m high brick and tile gate posts with concrete half-ball tops incised to resemble ashlar. The piers define the main vehicular access (the gates across which are lost) and pedestrian wicket gates to either side. The wickets have identical white-painted wooden gates, either those shown in a c.1907 photo (Mawson 1907) or close copies. Behind, a pair of identical two-storey, L-plan lodges, North Lodge and South Lodge, of about 1900 face each other across the start of the drive. These are two-storey L-plan buildings in a simple Arts and Crafts style each with a large bay window projecting, toll house-style, towards the drive. From here the drive curves upwards for 150m before levelling out and straightening for the final 80m approach to the house. The drive now stops short of the house at a row of C20 garages (not of historic interest) and a parking area. Originally it continued to a porte cochere (removed) on the north side of the house. **PRINCIPAL BUILDING**

Kearsney Court (not listed) is aligned east-west close to the northern boundary of its grounds, which fall steeply away to the south. The original plans, which were for a rather severe gothic house, were amended and softened by a local firm of architects, Worsfold and Hayward of Dover. It comprises an irregular, two-storey, 50m-long building. On the main south front three short gabled wings project forward at either end of the main house and at the centre; west of the west gable is the former service wing. Architectural detailing includes full-height bay windows to the central and eastern gabled wings, and a balcony supported on wooden pillars between the central and western wings. The latter has a large ground-floor bay window. At the north-east corner of the house is a three-storey turret with an elaborate conical roof with dormer windows from an observation room. Internally the house was well-appointed with good quality carpentry and fittings. Inevitably various alterations were made when the house was subdivided c.1950 but its external appearance and essential character remains little altered.

150m east of the house is its former stables, built c.1900 and converted in the C20 to The Gables, a substantial two-storey ashlar and flint house with decorative timber-framed gable.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS Mawson's plan for the gardens and grounds was apparently executed as intended, and comprises a series of formal terraces dropping steeply away from the house to a lower pleasure ground with a large formal Canal Pond. The grounds are arranged about a central axis aligned on the balcony between the central and western gabled wings of the house.

A narrow terrace runs along the south front of the house, now mainly of grass and partly subdivided by hedges planted since the house was split up c.1950. The terrace is bounded by a balcony of arcaded brickwork, topped with half-round bricks in which are set short iron rods supporting a chain. The rods and chains do not appear on early photos of the gardens (e.g. Mawson 1907) and were presumably introduced in the C20 as a safety feature. From the centre of the terrace angles flights of stairs lead left and right down to the next terrace, with a seating alcove between them. The wall which supports the uppermost terrace stands some 3m tall, and is broken into bays by buttresses. Originally both it and the other terrace walls were planted with pear trees grafted on to quince stock (*Gardeners' Chronicle* 28 June 1913, 438). At either end bastion-like sections with angle buttresses project slightly forward. As

part of the subdivision of the property c.1950 additional access was provided between the uppermost terrace and the next by means of two steel fire escape-like stairs, one either side of the main flight of stairs. The second terrace is again narrow, and was fronted by white-painted wooden rails and balusters (both missing) set between brick buttress piers rising from the terrace wall. From this terrace the main flights of stairs angle back to the third terrace which is broad, grassed, fronted by a golden yew hedge and with clipped yew balls against the brick terrace wall behind. The central path leads via steps to the fourth terrace, to the rear of which is a shallow-ramped flower bed and to the front stubby brick piers with stone ball cappings linked by chains. This terrace overlooks one of the centrepieces of the garden, the Bastion, a semi-circular garden with central pool again supported to the front by a substantial 2m high brick wall. The interior of the Bastion is now lawned, although the lines of its original gravel paths and flower beds can still be clearly made out.

The view from the Bastion south is now lost, as tall secondary woodland has been allowed to grow up immediately beyond along what, since 1950, has been the boundary between the grounds of Kearsney Court and the Russell Gardens public park which now occupies the lower southern part of the pleasure grounds. The axial steps lead first to a rectangular formal pool (now dry and somewhat dilapidated) set between fenced grass tennis courts. These occupy an area intended by Mawson to be divided between tennis courts and slightly larger croquet lawns. South of the tennis courts is one of the main features of the grounds, a long, formal canal, the Canal Pond, made by Mawson along the swampy ground of a stream bed. Measuring 160m long from east to west and 15m wide and with an expanded circular central section, the Pond is closed at either end by ornamental covered bridges (or summerhouses; early C20 accounts vary in their terminology), Arts and Crafts interpretations of Palladian antecedents. That to the west carries the stream into the Pond via a 'chute', a shallow flight of semi-circular steps. At the centre of the south side of the Pond is a boathouse of identical character comprising a summerhouse with white-painted pillars to the front and a hipped tile roof over a simple brick basement with arched boat entrance to the front. East of the Canal Pond was what in 1902 was described as a bog and rock garden (Builders Formal and Architectural Record 1902, 371).

West of the tennis courts is a children's playground with apparatus and a brick public lavatory of the mid C20, while immediately south-west of the courts is a shelter, rebuilt in the late C20 as a pergola-like structure with brick piers.

To either side of the tennis courts and the Canal Pond are informal lawns and paths with, especially in the western half of the grounds, mature specimen trees presumably mainly introduced c.1900.

KITCHEN GARDEN Mawson's design included a substantial walled kitchen garden, located on south-facing ground to the south-east of the house and aligned on it and its gardens. Measuring 90m east-west by 40m it is surrounded by tall, well-detailed, brick walls with angle buttresses with an ornamental entrance with double wooden doors under a pedimented arch in the west wall. The garden was divided into four, with an ornamental water tank at the centre. At the east end of the garden there were extensive glasshouses including vinery, peach house and heated pits; the Gardeners' Chronicle in 1913 recorded that previously (suggesting that Mawson's scheme was already being simplified) 8,000 bedding plants were raised each year including 3,000 Perlargoniums. Against the inner face of the east wall is a modest gardener's cottage or bothy. Presumably when the house was subdivided the kitchen garden lost its original function and became the private garden of the former gardener's cottage, which it remains in 2006. The head gardener's house of c.1900, a single-storey part flint-walled house with a timber-framed gable and red tile roof (originally The Bungalow, now Courtland Cottage), stands 50m north-east of the cottage.

Selected Sources

Builders Formal and Architectural Record (1902), 371 T.H. Mawson, The Art & Craft of Garden Making (1907 edn) Architectural Review (August 1910), 71-2 Gardeners' Chronicle (28 June 1913), 438 G. Jellicoe et al, The Oxford Companion to Gardens (1991), sv Mawson, Thomas Hayton Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, sv Mawson, Thomas Hayton

Maps

OS 6" to 1 mile: 1st edition, published 1867; 2nd edition 1899; 3rd edition 1908; 4th edition 1938 Site plan published in Mawson 1907

Description written: November 2006

B Listed Buildings

1 Three Ornamental Pavilions On The Canal Pond, Kearsney Court

Entry Number: 1391958

Grade: II

Description

Two bridge-pavilions and a boathouse-pavilion of c1900 by Thomas

Mawson. Brick, with red tile roofs.

DESCRIPTION: The three garden buildings, two bridge-pavilions and a boathouse-pavilion, stand on the long Canal Pond which runs east-west at the southern extremity of Kearsney's original grounds, and now Russell Gardens. The bridge-pavilions stand at either end of the canal, providing access across it and acting as eye-catchers. That to the west end of the canal comprises a low, red brick bridge with a level parapet with a small, low, arch to the centre with a semi-circular, stepped, cascade carrying the stream into the Canal Pond. Rising above the centre of the bridge is a pavilion with a hipped, red-tile, roof supported on brick piers with tapering, square-sectioned, columns forming an arcade. A balustrade is supported on brick columns and squat balusters. Chains drape off either side of the pavilion to the sides, a simplification of Mawson's original design which had a brick-columned pergola flanking either side of the pavilion. The east bridge-pavilion is effectively identical, although without the cascade steps. The boathouse-pavilion stands centrally on the south side of the Canal Pond, at the bottom of the main north-south axis of the garden. It is a truncated version of the bridge-pavilions with just a pair of columns in place of an arcade and an almost pyramidal hipped red-tile roof. To either side are low, scooped, flanking walls.

HISTORY: Kearsney Court, which stands in Temple Ewell on the north-west fringe of Dover, was planned in 1899 for Alfred Leney, a brewer and drinks manufacturer. However, the project was soon sold on to Edward Percy Barlow, the owner of Wiggins Teape, a paper manufacturer. The original plans which were for a rather severe gothic house were amended and softened by a local firm of architects, Worsfold and Hayward of Dover. The house was completed about 1900, and at about the same time the grounds were laid out by Thomas Mawson (1861-1933), perhaps the leading, and certainly the most prolific, landscape designer of his day. Several set-piece photographs of Kearsney and its garden buildings, all designed as far as is known by Thomas Mawson, were included in his main account of his life's work, The Art & Craft of Garden Making which appeared in five editions between 1900 and 1926. On Barlow's death in 1912 the property passed to Mr Johnstone, a London newspaper man, and was later a nursing home and in the Second World War a military hospital. About 1950 the whole estate was bought by a development company; the main house was split into seven residential freeholds, and later several new houses were erected off the main drive. Part of the grounds (including the lowest third of the formal gardens where the three buildings in question stand) was acquired by the local authority for a

park, now known as Russell Gardens.

SOURCES: Builders Form and Architectural Record (1902), 371; TH Mawson, *The Art & Craft of Garden Making* (1907 edn); *Architectural Review* (August 1910), 71-2; *Gardeners' Chronicle* (28 June 1913), 438; G Jellicoe et al, *The Oxford Companion to Gardens* (1991), sv Mawson, Thomas Hayton; *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, sv Mawson, Thomas Hayton. SUMMARY OF IMPORTANCE: Kearsney Court, on the north-west fringe of Dover, was planned in 1899 for Alfred Leney, a brewer and drinks manufacturer. Its grounds were laid out by Thomas Mawson (1861-1933), perhaps the leading, and certainly the most prolific, landscape designer of his day. The main elements were formal, comprising a series of terraces falling away from the house to a lower area whose main feature was a long, formal, Canal Pond. The near-identical, high-quality, bridge-pavilions designed by Thomas Mawson stand at either end of the canal, providing access across it and acting as eye-catchers, while at its centre, at the end of the main axial view down the garden, is a matching boathouse-pavilion. Several set-piece photographs of Kearnsey and its garden buildings were included in Mawson's main account of his life's work, 'The Art & Craft of Garden Making' which appeared in five editions between 1900 and 1926, underlining its importance, and the landscape is included on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens (2007).

Selected Sources

Books and journals

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography: Mawson, Thomas Hayton, (2004)

Jellicoe, G, *The Oxford Companion to Gardens*, (1991)

Mawson, T H , *The Art and Craft of Garden Making*, (1907)

'*Architectural Review*' in August, (1910), 71-72

'*Gardeners Chronicle*' in 28 June, (1913), 438

2 Bridge In The Grounds Of Kearsney Abbey

Entry Number: 1069502

Grade: II

Description

An early C19 ornamental bridge over the lake. Rusticated brown brick arch flanked by pilasters with parapet above, the portion between the arch and the parapet faced with flints. Above the parapet are ornamental wrought iron railings.

3 Ruin In Grounds Of Kearsney Abbey

Entry Number: 1138982

Grade: II

Description

Ornamental mock ruin created when the grounds of the house were laid out in the early C19 but containing some old stones, one dated 1609. It is built across the stream which feeds the lake and may have stood on the site of a mill. It contains 2 pointed window openings of chamfered stones which are probably Mediaeval.

4 Kearsney Abbey

Entry Number: 1139005

Grade: II

Description

1821. Built by J M Fector. Part of the mansion has been demolished and this is the only remaining wing. Early C19 Gothic, formerly a baronial hall. 1 storey rendered with painted front elevation. Roof has a slated belvedere. Crenellated parapet. Buttresses. 4 long mullioned and t+ansoraed windows with hood moulding over.

List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

5 Arches across river

Entry Number: 1139449

Grade: II

Description

C19. 1 span. 4 brick piers and coping. Faced with flints.

6 Part Of Wall And Gatepiers To Kearsney Abbey

Entry Number: 1343824

Grade: II

Largely C19 but it incorporates fragments of Mediaeval masonry. About 10 ft high of flint and yellow brick. Brick coping in places. Some of the upper courses are of reused masonry. There is a brick ogee arch set in a Tudor arch. 2 brick gatepiers with ball finials.

7 Wall At The End Of The Lake In The Grounds Of Kearsney Abbey

Entry Number: 1343825

Grade: II

Castellated red brick wall forming an "eyecatcher" at the end of the lake above the waterfall Early C19 of 5 spans. On one side there are 4 stock brick piers with 4 stock brick arches above. Part of a crenellated parapet. is visible. The other side is faced with flints, Attached to the bridge are cast iron sluice gates in working order.

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Appendix 2: Chronology

Kearsney Court

The site history prior to construction of the house and garden is not relevant to development of the site in its present form except to note the likely attraction in its natural land form to the purchasers.

Date		Reference
1862-75	Study area comprised an open paddock surrounded by a row of trees on a steep slope overlooking Kearsney Abbey; scattered park trees; river winding through the bottom (south of the slope) flanked by two rows of mature trees, one against the road; sheltered above to the north by Palmtree Hill Plantation. Contiguous with Bushy Rough House villa grounds to the west, Kearsney Court Farm to the east, and south of the road the elaborate Kearsney Abbey grounds.	Ordnance Survey.
1896	Kearsney Court defined as a separate plot from the parent Kearsney Abbey estate (formerly known as Kearsney Court).	KGT Report
1897-1900	Similar layout to 1860s.	Ordnance Survey.
1899	Site acquired and development started by Alfred Leney on a Gothic house to designs by Worsfold & Hayward dated 17 November. He was a brewer and drinks manufacturer.	KGT Report Plans (private collection).
c.1900	Leney sold the property to Edward Barlow of Wiggins Teape paper company; house modified to more Arts and Crafts style, largely based on the 1899 design.	KGT Report
1901	October. Thomas Mawson provides design plan for garden for Mr Barlow. A complex design with expensive features including much terracing and large water body (canal) with colonnaded pavilions at either end reminiscent of mid-C19 Birkenhead Park boathouse and C18 Audley End/ Scampston Palladian bridges. Comparable with Wood, Devon which he had recently designed, probably a little less complex.	Plan (private collection)
1901	December. Worsfold & Hayward designs for	Plans (private

	lodges.	collection).
1902	Canal Pond summerhouses under construction.	<i>Builders Formal and Architectural Record 1902, 371</i>
1902-03	Family photographs of grounds. Planting in garden immature, but sheltered by mature trees of Plantation above to north and belt alongside road to the south.	Private collection
1906-07	The first detailed plan of the garden as laid out. Mawson's design was largely executed, except for minor details. Contemporary with family photographs of the garden.	Ordnance Survey
1907	Young yew trees planted around lawns towards bottom of slope. Wall climbers starting to soften the brick terraces. Bastion garden laid out in intricate pattern of semi-circles. Strong belt of mature trees alongside road screening from landscape beyond.	Family photographs. Private collection
1912	23 June, d. Barlow.	
1912	Sales particulars, including description and photos. Mature yew hedges around lawns flanking tennis courts. Young fruit trees on slope above. Garden at its zenith? Describes 'a lovely and bracing position on a southern slope, some 200 ft above sea level. Commanding panoramic views of vast extent and beauty'. Gardens by eminent landscape gardener, Mr Mawson, arranged most effectively in a series of terraces and flights of steps leading to semi-circular formal garden. Lawns for croquet and three sets of tennis. Rose garden hedged with yew. Lily Pool. Large ornamental lake and stream with cascades and pergola bridges. Walled vegetable and fruit garden. Ranges of glasshouses. Orchards and grassland; lovely beechwood nearly 8 acres.	Sales particulars, sale 24 th September.

	'Pretty carriage drive' 300 yards long, ornamental gates, massive red brick piers with terra cotta caps; pair of Picturesque lodges; stately porte cochere to entrance of house, loggia on south front, conservatory, detached stables, coach /motor house. Further lodge for stabling. In all nearly 24 ½ acres.	
c.1912	Bought by Mr Johnstone, newspaper man of London, as a nursing home.	KGT
1913	Striking photo looking up hillside. Planting described included terraces enclosing lawns with borders of hardy herbaceous flower, walls planted with Pear trees, grafted on the quince stock. Also a 'pretty bastion garden surrounded by a hedge of golden yew, in which are flower beds and borders'. Gardener, Mr WG Sherlock noted 8,000 bedding plants formerly raised for the gardens including 3,000 pelargoniums. Croquet and tennis grounds approached by a path bordered on one side by lavender hedge, and on the other by sweet briars. Rose garden enclosed by yew hedge. Kitchen garden in four squares inc 70 vars of apples. Central pool spanned by rose pergola. Vineries, peach houses, plant stove, several greenhouses, heated pits and frames.	<i>Gardeners' Chronicle</i> 28 June, p. 438 & plate opp. 444.
1920s	Bastion garden layout simplified with loss of flower beds in semicircle, but still retained character.	Photographs. Private collection
1920s	7 gardeners employed. Much hedge cutting including golden and green yew, privet. Arboretum by the Tea House replaced the maze. Tomb in woods west of house to Coco a dog belonging to Mrs Johnstone.	Recollections of Mr ??.
1926	In the final edition of his seminal work Mawson viewed the commission as a success, as he included a number of plates of the site. It was designed to provide an appropriate setting for the house, exploiting the dramatic sloping site with a	Mawson, <i>Art & Craft of Garden Making</i> , 5 th edn.

	series of formal terraces and a canal, the whole with associated park-like grounds, a kitchen garden, subsidiary stables and lodges appropriate for a manufacturer's new residence in the countryside.	
c.1930	Garden largely unchanged.	Aerial photograph Plate 1, Report, Canterbury Archaeological Trust Apr 2015
1937-39	Very similar layout to 1906. Hardly altered.	Ordnance Survey
1940	AP shows layout of grounds still well maintained and intact.	Google Earth
World War II	House used as a military hospital.	KGT Report
1945	Dover Corporation acquires southern section for use as a public park (Russell Gardens).	KGT Report
1948	February. Conversion scheme to individual residences, Amos & Dawton, Canterbury.	Plans. Private collection
c.1950	House sold into 7 residences, with northern section of gardens.	KGT Report
1950s	Close-up aerial photograph of house and immediate environs. 7 narrow fenced enclosures on terrace south of house represent newly divided gardens of residents.	Fotoflite AP

Kearsney Abbey

Date		Reference
1769	The site of Cas-ney Court shown (later known as Kearsney Court Farm) and the adjacent Kearsney Pond. Nothing to the south on the site of the later Abbey.	Andrews, Dury Map of Kent.
1788	Thomas Biggs bought the Kearsney Court estate (the present Kearsney Abbey estate).	KGT Report
1790	Peter Fector (1723-1814) the owner of the Minet and Fector bank in Dover purchased the Kearsney estate of 4500 ha (11,000 acres) from the Lord of the Manor (probably Thomas Biggs) in 1790.	KGT Report
1799		Hasted County History
1801		OSD Sh. ??
1801		Mudge Map of Kent
1820-21	Peter Fector's son John Minet Fector (1754-1822) built a new house in the gothic style south of the Manor house and called it Kearsney Abbey, although it had no religious connections. John Minet Fector also purchased the 1587 town mill and rebuilt it to the west of the Abbey to pump water to the house.	KGT Report
c.1820	Picturesque landscape that forms the basis of the current landscape laid out.	KGT Report
1822	d. John Minet Fector s. John Minet Fector (1812-1868), MP for Dover, resided in the Abbey.	River Tithe Map 1836-1841
1844	Extensive pleasure grounds on the south side of the house, the river Dour dammed to create a lake with an ornate bridge crossing it at its centre with islands on either side. Shrubberies south of the lake and on one of the islands, a walled kitchen garden and hothouses. John Minet Fector was also responsible for the mock ruins to	River parish Tithe Map and Enclosure Award.

	the west of the Abbey which were created using old stones from Dover built across the stream which feeds the lake. A castellated red brick wall was built as an 'eyecatcher' over the waterfall at the east end of the lake.	
1844-46	sale of the estate by John Fector; bought by E .C. Jones	Sencicle
1862	By now the estate sold to Joseph George Churchward, a journalist who came to Dover when he won the contract to convey mails between Dover and Calais in 1853. He was one of the town's largest employers; his interests included politics and running local newspapers. He allowed the grounds 'to be used for fetes, rifle reviews and picnics on application'.	Kelly, 1866
1862-75	Study area comprises informal pleasure grounds around the house, bounded by the Abbey Lake to the south, beyond this a park with avenues, further parkland to the west of the road (later Kearsney Court) with belt, specimen trees and river, to south-east a rectangular kitchen garden enclosed by the lake to the north, park to west and south, and churchyard to south-east. The gardens are more elaborate than as shown on the Tithe map. The island on the west side of the lake divided into two with a fountain in between; fountain on one of the islands. Avenues of trees run south from the lake up towards Coxhill Mount. On the north bank of the east lake a row of trees planted and a large aviary on lawn between the house and lake.	Ordnance Survey
c. 1878	Churchward was elected Mayor in 1867 and his family lived in the Abbey until he sold it to the Marquess of Ely around now. Churchward continued to live in the Manor, thus separating ownership of the Abbey and the Manor house for the first time.	Kelly 1878

1897-1900	Little alteration to grounds since 1870s OS.	Ordnance Survey
1898	Kearsney Manor and land on the north side of Alkham Road sold by Churchward to Alfred Leney (1837-1900) a member of the Dover brewing family in 1898. Leney modernised the Manor but also had plans drawn up to build a new house, Kearsney Court on land west of the Abbey across the Alkham Road.	KGT Report
c. 1899	Property sold to Charles Curtis Esq. JP (1824-1905) by which time the estate was reduced to 90 acres (36 ha). He made his money through gun powder manufacture and was a JP.	KGT
1900	d. Churchward after moving to London	KGT Report
1900	Curtis family gave the piece of land east of the kitchen garden to St Peters church to enlarge the churchyard and the oak reredos in the Church was given in their memory in 1914.	Booklet on St Peter and St Paul River, Peter Bowers undated
1905	d. Curtis	death notice <i>The Dover Express</i> May 5 th
1906-07	Little alteration to grounds since 1870s OS except Kearsney Court completed on the park west of Alkham Road.	Ordnance Survey
1907	Pleasure grounds on the south side of the Abbey had wide sweeping lawns, an orange house and a boat house (which is also evident on the OS edition of 1897). Land south of the lake was parkland with two avenues of well grown trees	Sale Particulars

	converging towards the lake. A walled, 1ha (2.5 acre) fruit and kitchen garden had a pretty gabled and half-timbered head gardener's cottage.	
1907	Sold to Mrs. Randolph Steadman.	Kelly
c.1918	sold to Mayo Collier Esq. when the estate was further reduced to 23 acres (9 ha). A marble stone commemorates the family beside one of the canals by the lake.	Kelly
1930	Collier put the property up for sale in 1930 and the sale documents (Dover Library) describe the grounds much as they were in 1907. Although the 1930s sale offered the Abbey and its grounds divided into 5 lots, the OS editions between 1930 and 1952 show very little change to the gardens so it is probable that the Abbey and its gardens remained in single ownership.	Sale map & particulars
1938	Kearsney Abbey described as 'unoccupied'.	Kelly
World War II	The building and land requisitioned by the War Department for the Head-Quarters of Number 2 Searchlight Regiment	KGT Report
1945	Purchased by Dover Corporation. Becomes public park	KGT Report
1951	Open air theatre built to celebrate the Festival of Britain in 1951 (for a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream).	KGT Report
1959	Mansion largely demolished leaving only the west wing (formerly the billiard room) standing which was converted to the park café	KGT Report
1960	Kitchen garden used as market garden.	Google Earth