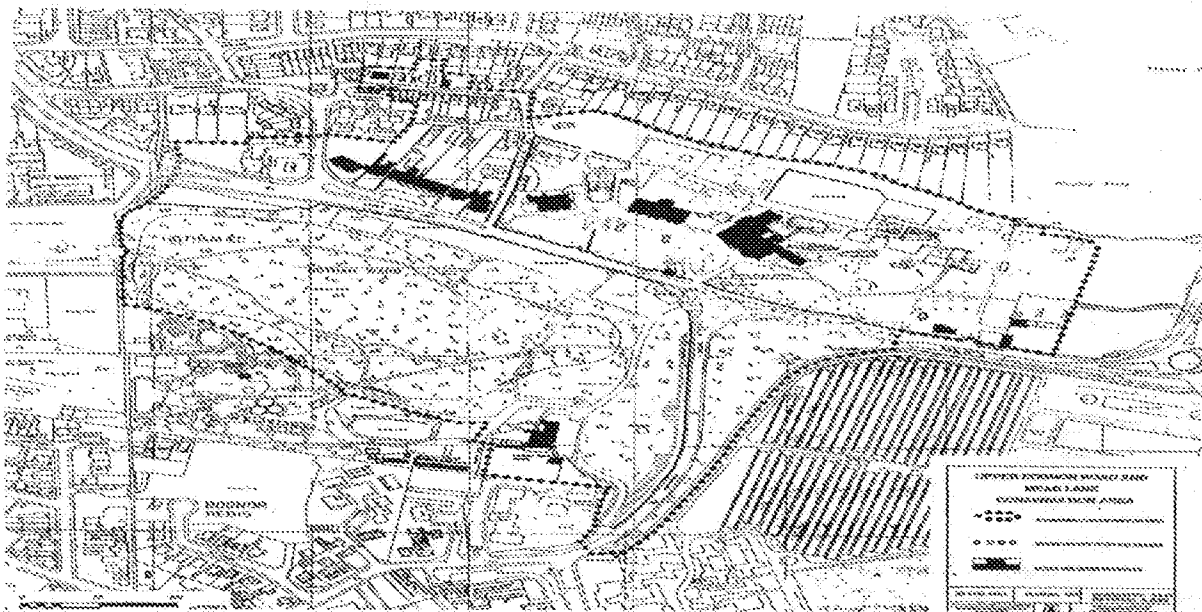


University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus The Serpentine Wall

At the end of the eighteenth century, Bognor then a small coastal village captured the imagination of Sir Richard Hotham who tried to develop the area as a seaside resort that would attract royal visitors. The town did not obtain the Regis status until 1929. To-day Bognor Regis although an area designated for regeneration, is still a destination for holiday makers.

The earliest inhabitants of this area appear to have settled in the adjoining parish of Felpham where Bronze Age and Roman settlements have been found. Bognor as a community was first recorded in an Anglo Saxon charter as Bucgan Ora. Bucga was a female Saxon Chieftain, Ora means a landing place. Coastal erosion in this area has been recorded since the middle ages and ancient sea defences had been erected near to Felpham Bridge.

Bognor Regis is often, in advertising, described an oceanic climate. Published figures do show that the town has many hours of sunshine per year. The University of Chichester's Bognor Regis campus is situated within a Conservation Area less than a mile north of the Esplanade. The campus measures approximately 10.35 hectares (25.58 acres).



Extract of the Arun District Council's Conservation Area Map circa 2009
University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number EP/RM/ZZZ/2009/239

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus The Serpentine Wall

The South Bersted Tithe Map and Apportionment document of 1842 shows that some of the houses had stables or coach houses but all had private gardens.



Extract of the Tithe Map of 1842 showing Hothampton Crescent and Upper Bognor Road
University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number EP/RM/ZZZ/2007/194

The properties owned or occupied by Lord George Lennox (Tithe Map Plot numbers 492-493 St Michael's House), included hot houses. A variety of fruit and vegetables appear to have been grown in the grounds and it was for this purpose that the 'Crinkle Crankle' or Serpentine wall that still stands on the campus grounds was used for. In 1992 this structure was described by West Sussex County Council's Planning Officer as 'unique in Sussex'.

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus The Serpentine Wall



Photograph of the Serpentine, 'Crinkle Crankle wall' 2008
University of Chichester Photographer A Worsfold

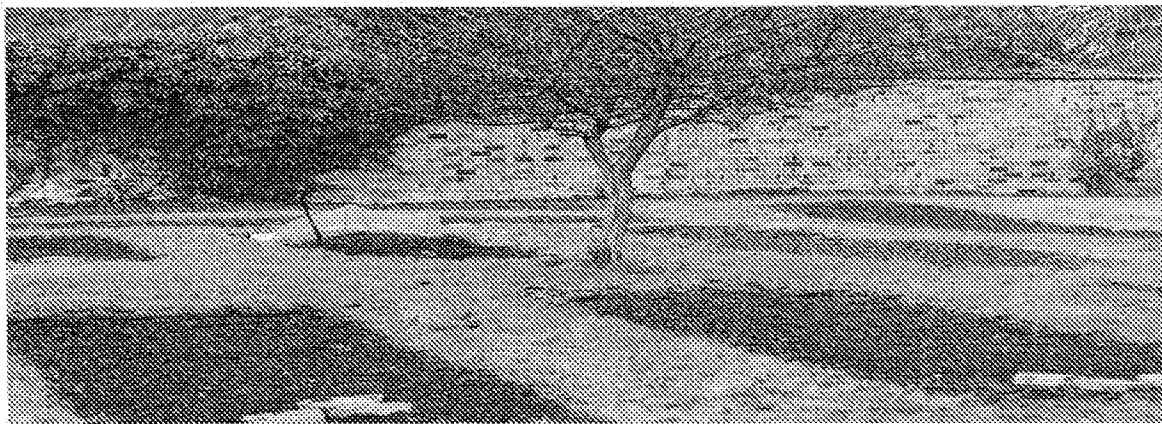
The Rat Trap Bonded, Serpentine Wall sometimes called a 'Crinkle Crankle' Wall, is located within Bognor Regis's Mead Lane Conservation Area. It was built around 1823, although local oral history maintains that the wall was built by Napoleonic Prisoners of War. These wars were fought from 1803 to 1815, however, it was more likely that it was erected on the instructions of the gardening enthusiast Earl Arran, the occupier of St Michael's House and constructed by Henry Silverlock of Chichester. Silverlock F.H.S. patented a design for a wall in 1820. In the patent the wall was described as a 'hollow wall'.

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus

The Serpentine Wall

In March 1820 Silverlock described his hollow wall “... erected for the Earl of Arran at Bognor ...” and illustrated his design which was published by the Horticultural Society of London in 1822.¹ This wall was probably erected near the Serpentine Wall. The Horticultural Society’s *Gardener’s Magazine* of 1828 noted that the grounds were producing cucumbers and by 1836 grapes. Other sources cite fruit and vegetables, soft tender fruits including peaches and apricots and later pineapples, growing on the site.

The Serpentine wall is an important feature in the local townscape, and has become a key feature in the University’s legacy which is all the more evident since the addition of the Tech Park, a development that forms part of the regeneration initiatives for the Southern Coastal Strip. The restored wall will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of this particular part of the landscape of Bognor Regis it will reinforce a sense of place for the community, contribute to the sense of inheritance, enhance the aesthetic appreciation of the landscape and will demonstrate clearly that heritage can be incorporated and be complementary to the contemporary, above all the wall is a distinctive structure preserved for future generations to enjoy.



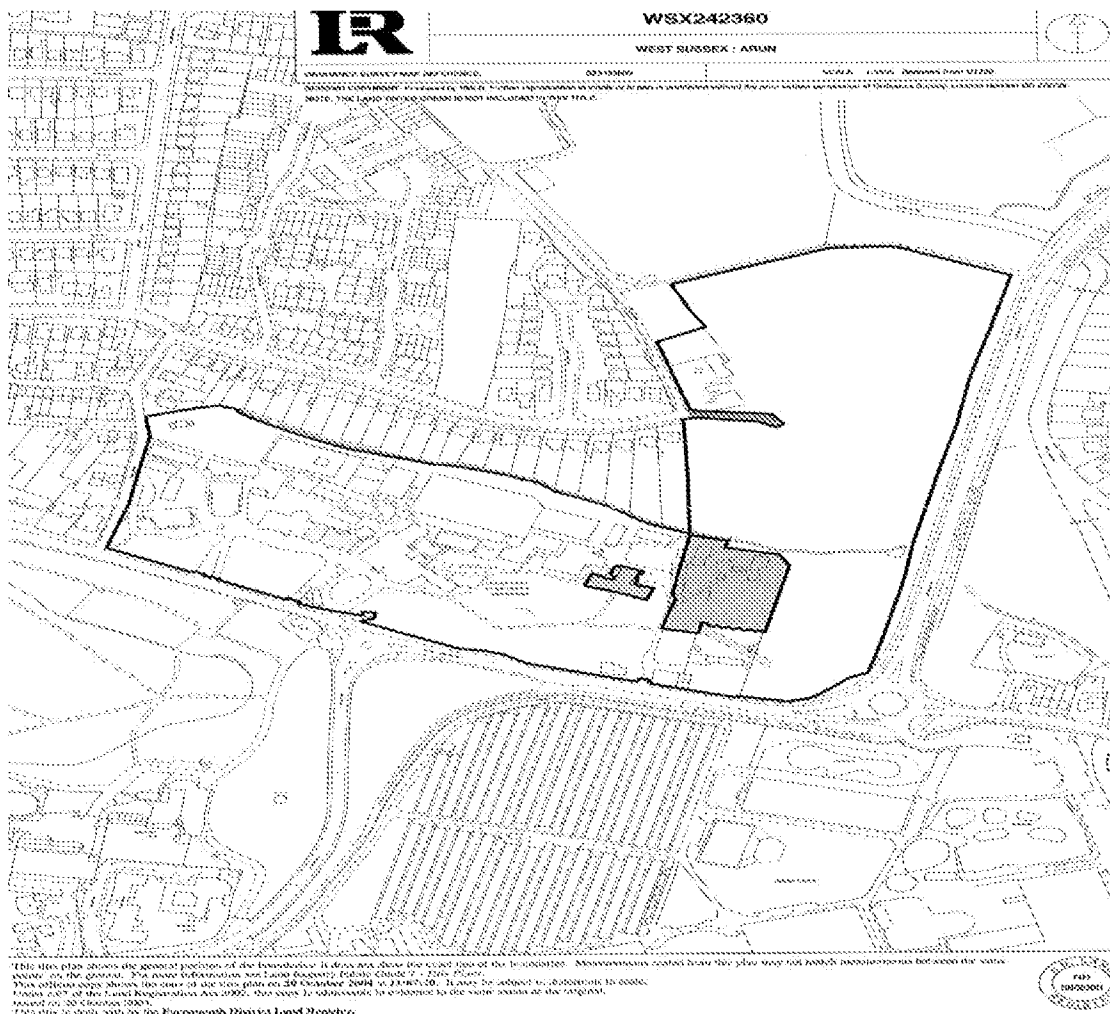
Student and Staff allotments sited near the Serpentine Wall
University of Chichester Photographer A Worsfold 2013
Note the wall, possibly the one constructed by Henry Silverlock in circa 1820

1

<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=eEMyv8PtaIUC&pg=PA245&lpg=PA245&dq=henry+silverlock+chichester+lord+arran> accessed 31 January 2017

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus The Serpentine Wall

The original houses, along with their boundary walls, some of which are flint and some are rat trap bonded walls, were constructed around 1790. The walls (including the Serpentine Wall) originally acted as boundary markers and garden walls. The houses were surrounded by fields, meads, meadows, pasture and an orchard, an environment that would have aided the naturalist Mr Alfred Lloyd, who lived in the Dome House from 1881-1924. He designed his garden with plants and flowers that were especially attractive to butterflies. To-day the fields owned by the university are used for sports and recreation purposes, as well as being the site of the new Tech Park building but much of the land adjoining the northern boundary was developed in the 1930's for housing.



Scan of Land Registry Map of Bognor Regis Campus
20 October 2004

University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number EP/RM/ZZZ/2009/25

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus The Serpentine Wall

To the west of the Serpentine Wall site, the Dome was listed as a Grade One Building on 22 July 1949, Mordington House on 22 April 1971 as a Grade Two Building and St Michael's House listed on 22 July 1949, as a Grade Two Building. Five other Grade Two listed buildings situated on the campus were all listed on 7 November 1975.² Each listing mentions the other buildings on the campus and notes "... Nos 41 to 57 (Upper Bognor Road) No 55A, Nos 65 to 71 (odd) and all the walls form a group..." therefore the majority of boundary and garden walls are also listed.



The Dome's rear garden 1947 University of Chichester Archive
Note the Rear Garden Boundary Wall

² www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk accessed 30/09/2011,