



**Beckford's Tower & Lansdown Cemetery, Bath:
A report assessing the significance of a heritage landscape
Legislative Framework, AR0149**

*Submitted by 179432125 towards the degree of Master of Science
in the Conservation of Historic Buildings at the University of Bath.*

Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering.
Session 2017-18.

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Cover photo of Beckford's Tower by the author. 25 March, 2018.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to assess the significance of Beckford's Tower, Lansdown Cemetery, and the associated surrounding landscape in response to a potential upcoming planning proposal set forth by the Bath Preservation Trust (BPT).

Assessment of the significance of this nationally important historic building and garden landscape is in keeping with the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) requirements for protecting and enhancing the natural environment and conserving heritage assets.¹

Due to the early stages of the proposal, it is unclear to the BPT at the publication of this report if an application for planning permission from the Local Authority, Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES), will be required. The BPT will consult Historic England once a clear proposal of works is developed, due to designations of features within the site.

The author would like to thank the BPT organization and employees, particularly Dr. Amy Frost and Courtney Fleming, for resources provided.

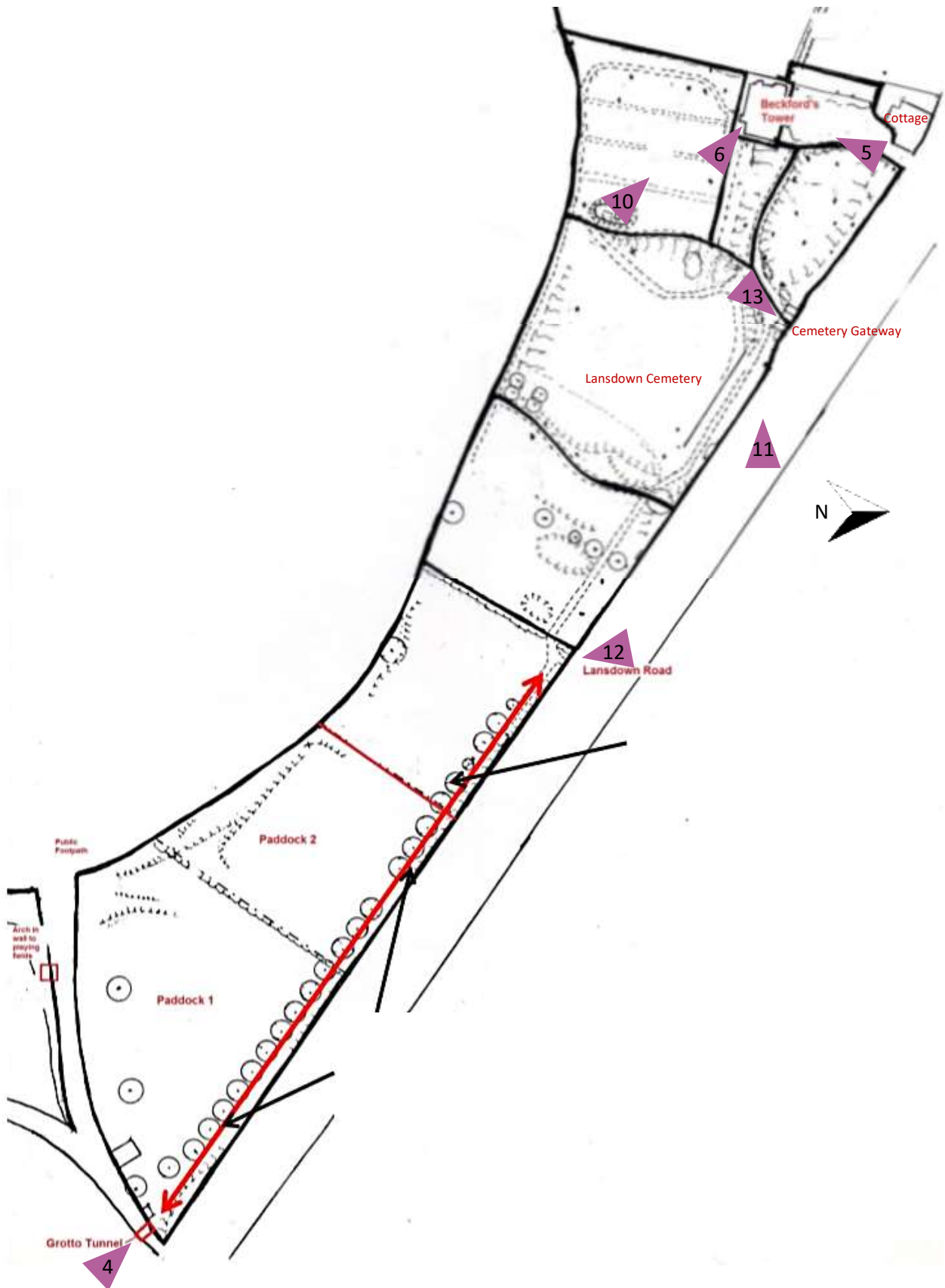
¹ NPPF (2012), Sections 11 & 12.

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Map of Figures

The direction and location of views corresponding to figures referenced in this report are shown below (Figure A).



Proposed Development

The site of proposed development is shown in Figure 1. The site is enclosed on all sides by a stone masonry boundary wall in various states of repair. This site is part of a historically larger landscape developed by William Beckford, spanning approximately a mile from No. 20 Lansdown Crescent to the site of Beckford's Tower along Lansdown Road (Figure 2).

The BPT is in the process of developing plans with the primary aim of strengthening the connection between Beckford's Tower and the surrounding landscape setting.

Proposed Works:

- Reopen and maintain the historic grotto tunnel southeast Beckford's Tower.
- Reinststate Beckford's footpath leading from the tunnel towards the Tower by maintaining vegetation and fencing the path off from the land currently used as a pasture.
- Enhance the landscape between the grotto and the Tower by following historic precedent.

The grotto entrance, currently closed and obscured from view, can be approached via a public footpath south of Lansdown Road. Within the site, Beckford's footpath (accessed through the grotto) is bordered to the north by the masonry boundary wall, and to the south by a row of evenly spaced lime trees. These trees are believed to have been planted during the development of the landscape by Beckford, between 1822 and 1844. The currently unmaintained footpath connects to public pathways through Lansdown Cemetery which lead to Beckford's Tower, but is on parcels used as pasture by private landholders not affiliated with the BPT (reference Figure 1).

The BPT has yet to develop more specific plans for development of the landscape.

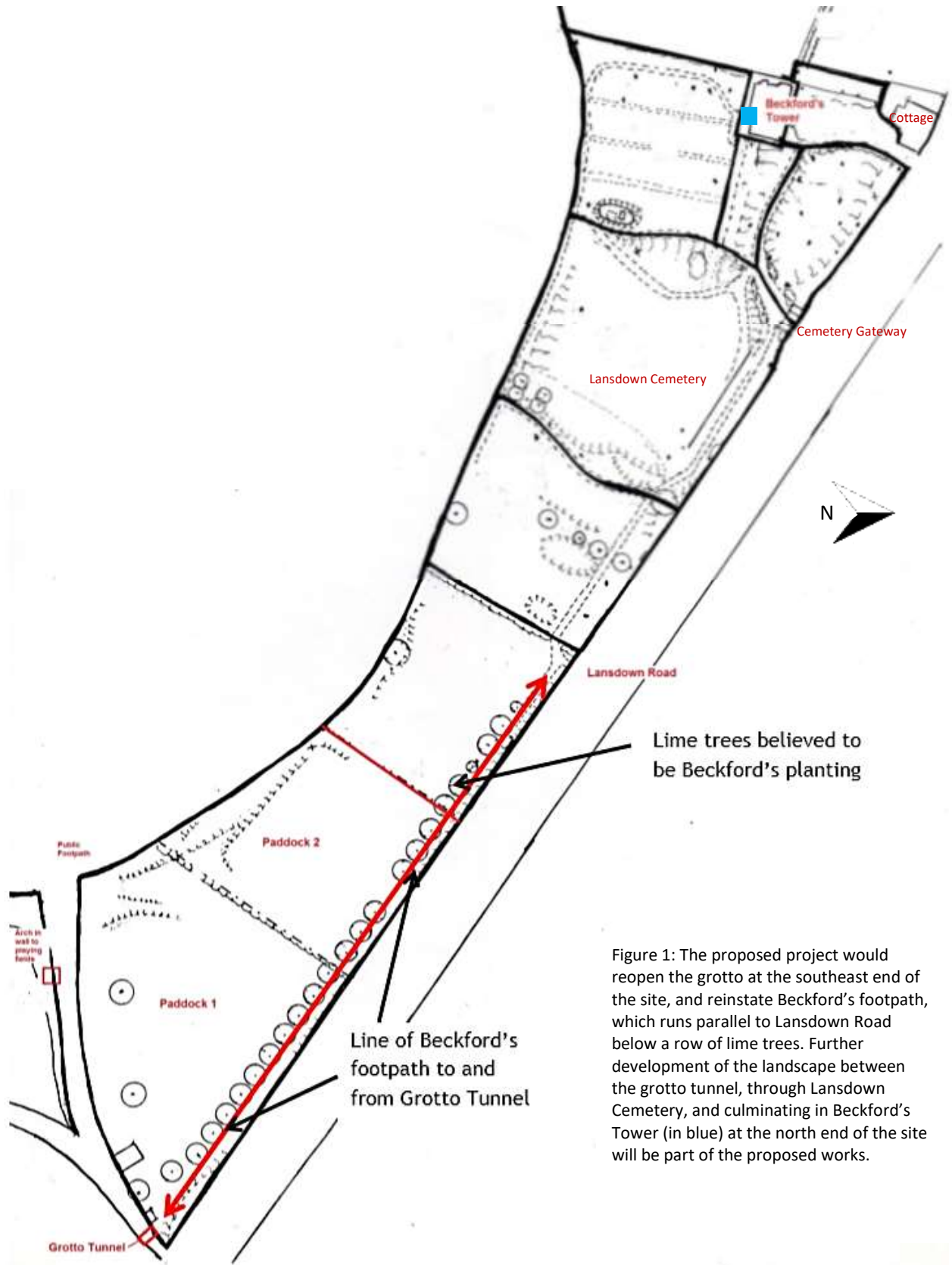


Figure 1: The proposed project would reopen the grotto at the southeast end of the site, and reinstate Beckford's footpath, which runs parallel to Lansdown Road below a row of lime trees. Further development of the landscape between the grotto tunnel, through Lansdown Cemetery, and culminating in Beckford's Tower (in blue) at the north end of the site will be part of the proposed works.

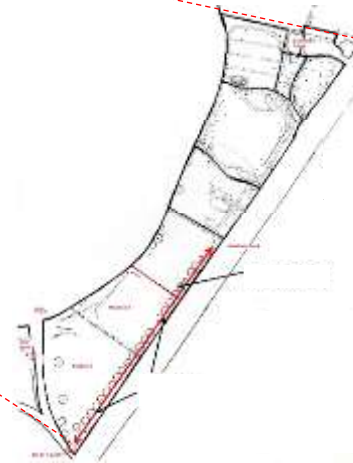
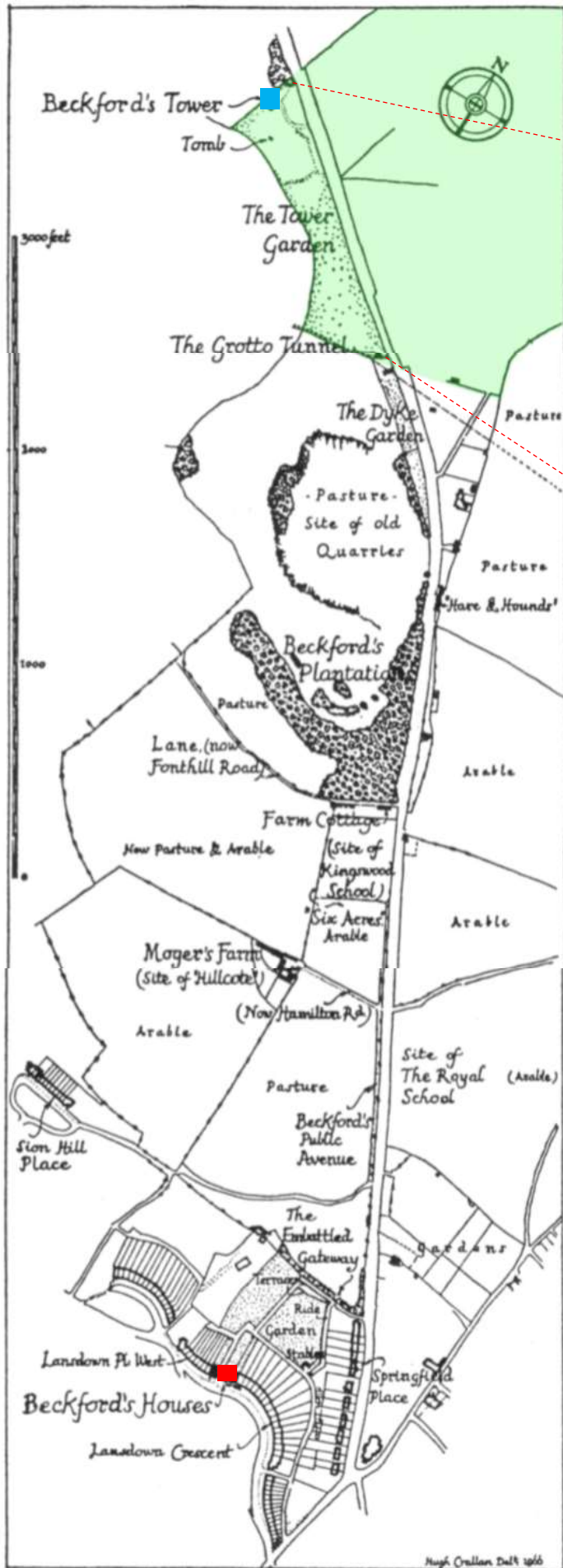


Figure 2: Map of the extent of Beckford's Ride, including historic landscape layout (1966). The inset image shows the site of proposed development as it relates to Beckford's landholding between his residence at No. 20 Lansdown Crescent (shown in red) and Beckford's Tower (in blue).

History & Development

Renowned British connoisseur, author, and eccentric William Beckford (1760 – 1844) was a man of great inherited wealth before moving to Bath in 1822. At the time his previous home and architectural achievement, Fonthill Abbey, was already well-known in its own right. After spending much of his fortune on construction at Fonthill, and poor returns on his land in the West Indies, Beckford sought Bath as a retreat. After purchasing a residence at No. 20 Lansdown Crescent, Beckford employed local architect Henry Edmund Goodridge (1794 – 1864), a young and impressionable designer, and the two collaborated on work at both Lansdown Crescent, and on the development of a private landscape ascending to the current site of Beckford's Tower on Lansdown Road.

The thoroughfare of Lansdown Road closely follows historic trackways which traversed the Down, and may even have been used by Romans. Beginning in Saxon times, Lansdown was used as a common for grazing livestock. Beckford's plot of land on the south side of Lansdown Road, acquired in successive tracts through purchase and lease agreements, was an ancient sleight², possibly dating from 1296.³ Beckford claimed to have descended from Saxon kings, and this may have been a reason he was drawn to the development of this particular site.⁴ Before intervention by Beckford and his gardener James Vincent, whom he brought from Fonthill Abbey, the land was a combination of pasture, arable cropland, and stone quarries (Figure 3).⁵



Figure 3: Ordnance Survey map of Bath, c. 1810-1815, showing Lansdown Road and the landscape developed as Beckford's Ride north of Sion Hill.

² A Saxon term for a plot of land used as summer pasture for livestock, in this case for sheep.

³ "The Ensleigh MOD Site on Lansdown," p. 1.

⁴ Lewis Bath Guide (1891), p. 106. Themes of Saxon traditions are reoccurring throughout Beckford's life.

⁵ Parks & Gardens UK, webpage.

Beckford's Ride (1822 – 44)

At the height of development, Beckford's land was a series of architectural and landscape features stretching approximately one mile. The garden, known as Beckford's Ride (or Beckford's Walk), was built as a sequence, transitioning from urban and clearly intentional to picturesque and seemingly wild as it ascended the hill. Beckford referred to his garden as a "forbidden paradise," and was heavily influenced by Italian *giardino segreto* design which provided the owner with privacy and seclusion.⁶ The Ride featured a kitchen garden, viewpoints, follies and other built features, serpentine and terraced paths, plantations, a quarry garden, and many specimens of English and exotic plants. As the path neared the Tower there was a brief descent into a grotto tunnel next to Lansdown Road to avoid a public footpath crossing (Figure 4). The grotto is now obscured by vegetation, and the entrance is closed to users.

Beckford's Ride was listed Grade II in the English Heritage Provisional Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.⁷ The Ride no longer exists in its complete form, but some individual features remain under various ownerships and in various states of repair.



Figure 4: The currently obscured grotto tunnel in Beckford's Garden sits southeast of the cemetery along Lansdown Road (drawing from 1844).

⁶ Hücking (2011), p. 470.

⁷ Millington, p. 20.

Beckford's Tower (1825 – 27)

Beckford's Tower was designed as an observatory, and the terminating feature of the Beckford's Ride landscape garden. The architect is Goodridge, although the design was likely heavily influenced by Beckford himself. Beckford was inspired by Tuscan campaniles and other similar designs he saw while traveling through Europe, namely the Tower of the Winds, and the Chorgic Monument of Lysicrates, both in Athens.⁸ The building is Greco-Roman, being a combination of a Neo-Greek tower seated in an Italianate base.⁹ Made of ashlar limestone quarried near to the site, the asymmetrical massing of the building consists of the base formed by a single story room to the east and a two story tall central block, and the tower connected to the structure at the north corner (Figure 5).

The exterior of the base of the building is characterized by the irregular layout, and rounded arch windows which punctuate an otherwise plain façade. Each block is crowned with a solid parapet interrupted by sections of rounded arch balustrade openings. A flat roof balcony on the central block features a triumphal-style arch on the east end (Figure 6). The main entrance to the Tower is on the northeast elevation through a three arched loggia-style porch, continuing the theme of rounded arches in the building.



Figure 5 (left): An engraving of Beckford's Tower, viewed from the northeast, illustrates the overall massing scheme of the building. The base is formed of a single story room (left) and a central double story section. The tower is connected to the base at the north corner (right).

Figure 6: The blocks which form the base of the building each features a flat roof surrounded by a parapet. The central block is topped by a balcony with triumphal arch.

⁸ The Landmark Trust, p. 2.

⁹ Forsyth (2003), p. 271.

The square Tower rises 154 feet over the landscape, presenting a commanding view of the countryside beyond Bath. It is said that on a clear day Beckford could view Fonthill Abbey from the Belvidere. The Belvidere is punctuated by twelve evenly-spaced rounded arch windows, three on each side. The stonework of the Belvidere and above is more detailed than the base of the building, and features ornate motifs and cornices. The tower is accessible via an internal cantilevered stone spiral staircase. Crowning the tower sits an ornate gilded cast iron cupola.

The internal layout of the Tower has undergone changes since use by Beckford. Originally, the ground floor featured a bedroom, kitchen, and the Scarlet Drawing Room (Figure 7). The drawing room housed some of Beckford's collectibles, and looked directly into the garden and over part of what is now Lansdown Cemetery. After Beckford's death, the ground story operated as a mortuary Chapel for the Cemetery. The floor is now a rental flat operated by The Landmark Trust (Figure 8).

The first story was, similarly, the Crimson Drawing Room (Figure 9). The Crimson Room was also ornately decorated and featured many fine pieces of art, objects, and furniture. This room included a doorway into Beckford's beloved library spaces at the Tower. Currently, the first storey space is home to the Beckford Tower Museum.

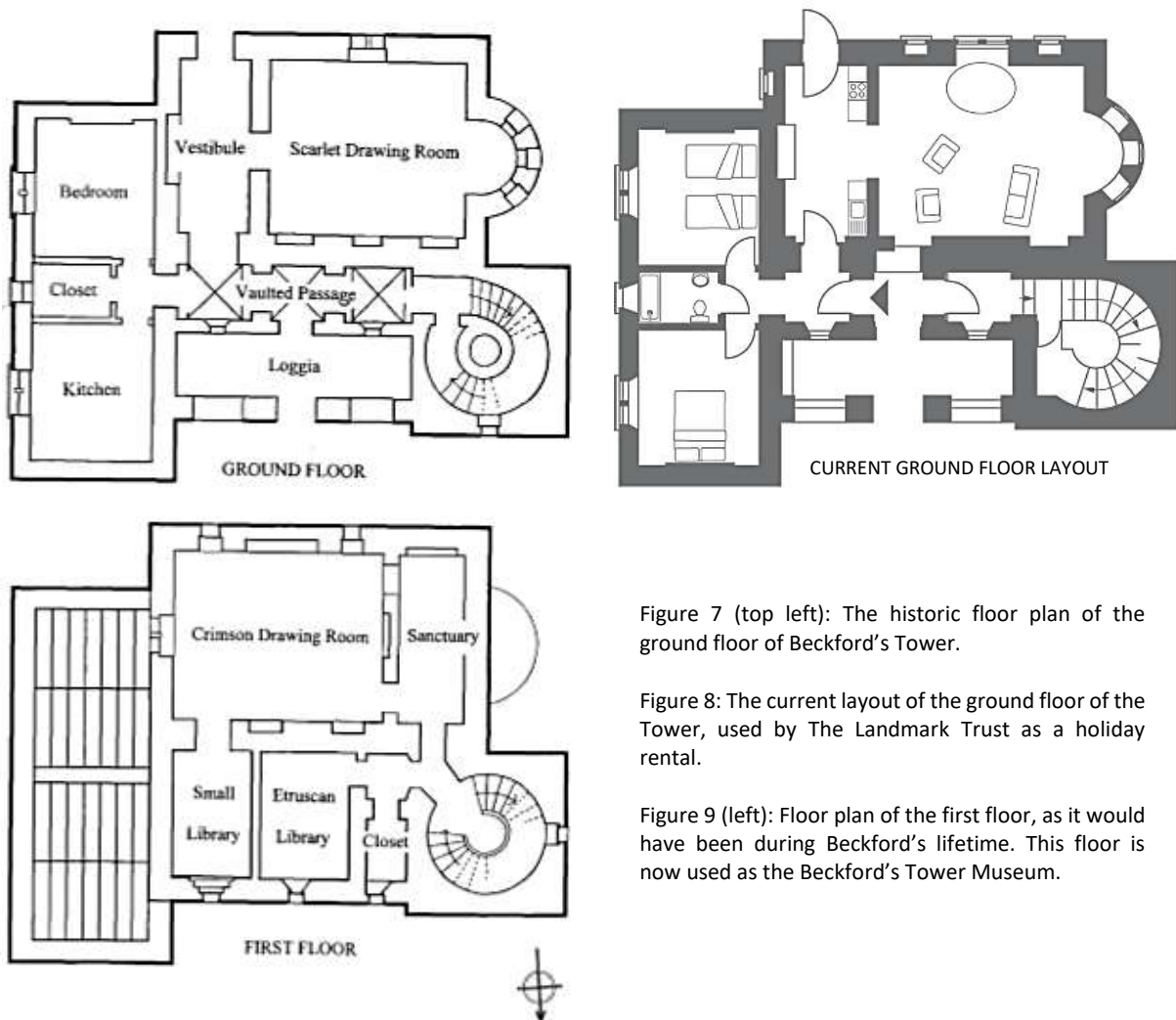


Figure 7 (top left): The historic floor plan of the ground floor of Beckford's Tower.

Figure 8: The current layout of the ground floor of the Tower, used by The Landmark Trust as a holiday rental.

Figure 9 (left): Floor plan of the first floor, as it would have been during Beckford's lifetime. This floor is now used as the Beckford's Tower Museum.

The final publically accessible internal space of the Tower is the Belvidere viewing room. Beckford would have had access to a higher platform, just below the cupola which crowns the structure, now closed to visitors.

The immediate site of the Tower features an early 18th century cottage, designed by Goodridge. The residence was used by Beckford's gardener before use by successive cemetery groundskeepers. The building now functions as a private residence. Obvious associations between the development of the Tower and the Cemetery and this building have been all but lost.

Lansdown Cemetery (1848 – present)

After Beckford's death, the Tower and surrounding land was sold to a developer by Beckford's daughter, the Duchess of Hamilton. When the Duchess learned of development plans to make the Tower and land into a beer garden she re-purchased the property. She subsequently donated the site to the Rector of Walcot as a cemetery on the condition that her father's tomb be relocated from Bath Abbey Cemetery, along with accompanying cast iron railings and piers designed by Goodridge. Lansdown Cemetery was consecrated in 1848. The Tower was at this time converted to a mortuary chapel (Figure 10). Beckford referred in letters written to his daughter to building "une chapelle mortuaire," and was preoccupied throughout his life with his own death and burial.¹⁰ There is speculation that Beckford originally intended the Tower to be his mausoleum and final resting place. After the death of the Duchess of Hamilton in 1859, maintenance of the cemetery became intermittent.¹¹ The grounds of the cemetery have been cared for by the Bath & North East Somerset Council since 1992.¹²



Figure 10: Beckford's Tower as a mortuary chapel, within Lansdown Cemetery, 1880's.

¹⁰ Hughes (1999), p. 5.

¹¹ Hughes (1999), p. 49.

¹² Bath & North East Somerset Council, "Lansdown Cemetery" webpage.

The Cemetery is bordered on all sides by a boundary wall. This boundary wall is part of Beckford's original garden design, but has undergone repairs and changes since its original construction (Figures 11 & 12). The main entrance to the Cemetery grounds is through a gateway designed by Goodridge (Figure 13). The gate is east of the Tower, along Lansdown Road. The thick stone entrance is Romanesque in appearance, featuring a central rounded arch walkway, and an additional small passageway on either side. A raised rectangular feature with a central arch, similar to a small bell tower, sits atop the gate. Decorative iron gates, designed to match the iron railings which sit on either side of the gateway, guard the entrance. The original iron railings were brought with Beckford's sarcophagus when he was reburied. Much of the original ironwork was salvaged and melted down during WWII. The current railings are replicas, except for two curved quadrant sections.



Figure 11 (left): The original boundary wall (engraving c. 1886), which borders the north edge of Lansdown Cemetery, along Lansdown Road, was taller than the current iteration.

Figure 12: The current stone boundary wall is not as elaborate or fine as the original, and is in need of repairs.



Figure 13: East of Beckford's Tower, the Lansdown Cemetery entrance gates, piers, and walls designed by Goodridge are listed Grade II*.

Current Site

In 1847, a portion of Beckford's garden was sold to the Kingswood School for development.¹³ Soon after, several "retreat" style residences in and around Beckford's Ride were established, the first of which was constructed in 1851.¹⁴ By 1902, Beckford's property was thoroughly subdivided between several landholders (Figure 14). Subsequent development of the landscape erased many features of Beckford's work. In 1918, a visitor described the site and setting of Beckford's Tower as being in a state of "piteous abandonment."¹⁵ In 1931 a fire ravaged the Tower, and it was not until 1972 when the Tower was sold to private owners that extensive repair and remodeling was carried out in efforts to save the building. Beckford's Tower Trust (BTT) was created in January of 1977, and in 1993 the Bath Preservation Trust became the sole trustee of the BTT. Together, the Trusts have worked to conserve the Tower and Cemetery, and highlight the significance of the site and landscape.

The current site is divided into three sections: the grounds immediately southwest of the Tower, a central sunken area, and land covering the southeast half of the site currently used as pasture. Visitors can walk through and around the cemetery, but the pasture space is accessible only to private landholders. Figure 15 is an aerial view showing the current layout of the Tower, Cemetery, and surrounding landscape. The north side of Lansdown Road, across from the site, is currently under heavy development.



Figure 14: 1902 Ordnance Survey map of Lansdown Road showing plots of land subdividing Beckford's Ride. The current site is shown in yellow.

¹³ Debois Landscape Survey Group (1994), Chapter 2.

¹⁴ "The Enleigh MOD Site on Lansdown," p. 4.

¹⁵ Millington, p. 9.

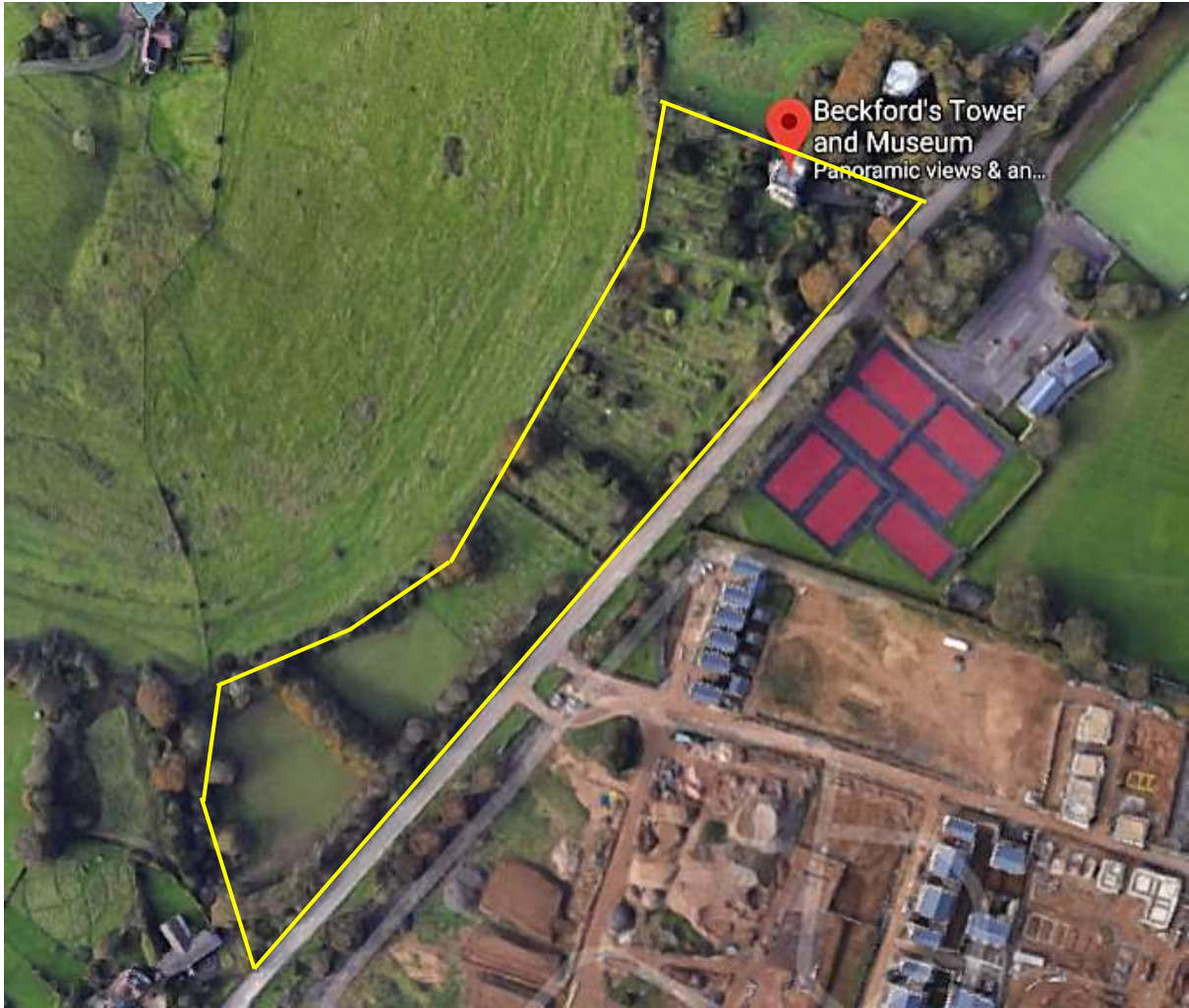


Figure 15: Modern aerial view of the site (in yellow). Adjacent to the site, across Lansdown Road, are sports fields belonging to the Kingswood School and a current housing development project (MOD Ensleigh).

Statement of Significance

The significance of Beckford's Tower, Lansdown Cemetery, and the surrounding landscape are exhibited, in part, through international, national, and local designations and inclusions. The primary period of significance of the Tower is 1822-1844, from Beckford's move to Bath until his death. The period of significance of the Cemetery can be dated from 1848-1859, from consecration to the date maintenance of the site began to decline.¹⁶ The relationship between the site, landscape, and city of Bath contributes to the significance of developments and features associated with Beckford.

Beckford's Tower

Evidential Value:

Beckford is considered to be the most renowned resident of Lansdown Crescent.¹⁷ Although a recluse, Beckford became a beloved and well-revered citizen of Bath. The Tower and related historical documents are evidence of Beckford's heavy influence on the landscape, and the work of his architect Goodridge who designed extensively throughout Bath, Somerset, and Wiltshire. Additionally, Beckford's land ownership prevented Bath from expanding northwest past Sion Hill, evidence of which can be seen in the current pattern of development.¹⁸

Historical Value:

There is intrinsic value in the Tower as a historic feature of the landscape, which remains relatively unchanged despite a period of decline. The Tower is individually listed Grade I, and the site and setting include several significant designated and non-designated curtilage structures. Beckford's Tower is documented by several notable authors including Nikolaus Pevsner and J. Mordaunt Crook as being architecturally significant.¹⁹

Aesthetic Value:

The severe and monumental exterior of the Tower is suited to its site in the surrounding unkempt cemetery. The architecturally unique structure is visually appealing and pleasing, taking inspiration from Neo-Classical and Italianate designs inspired by ancient temples. This design was one of the first uses of the picturesque style in post-Georgian Bath, departing from the well-known aesthetic of the city center.²⁰ The crowning gilded lantern expresses the opulence of the historic owner.

Communal Value:

The Tower is a destination in the Lansdown landscape. It is visible along the thoroughfare of Lansdown Road, and is publically accessible through the museum operated by the Bath Preservation Trust (for a small fee during open times and season). The Landmark Trust operates a holiday let on the first floor year-round.

¹⁶ Hughes (1999), p. 49.

¹⁷ Forsyth (2003), p. 172.

¹⁸ Elliott & Menneer (2004), p. 194.

¹⁹ Beckford's Tower Trust (2015), p. 3.

²⁰ The Landmark Trust, p.1.

Lansdown Cemetery

Evidential Value:

Burial of both Beckford and Goodridge in Lansdown Cemetery strengthens the connection of these historically important figures to the site. The Cemetery was important during the Victorian period as a burial place for Bath's notable residents, including Sir William Holburne.²¹

Historical Value:

The Cemetery is a good example of Victorian garden cemetery design. The Cemetery and Tower contribute to the site being listed a Grade II Park & Garden. Within the boundary of the cemetery and setting are features of national historical importance, including Beckford's Tower and related curtilage structures. Goodridge's entrance gates, piers, and walls of the Cemetery are listed Grade II*.

Aesthetic Value:

The once manicured cemetery with meandering paths and selected views has fallen into picturesque decay. The visual state of the cemetery is attributed to irregular maintenance regimes, which pose a threat to the long term sustainability of the site.

Communal Value:

Lansdown Cemetery is open to the public, and accessible year round.

Surrounding Landscape:

- World Heritage City of Bath, as identified by UNESCO.
- Bath Conservation Area.
- Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- Bath & Bristol Green Belt.
- It is important to recognize the known historic extent of development of Beckford's garden, a "progression unique in landscape architecture."²²

Additional significant features associated with the site:

- Lansdown Crescent Nos. 1-20 (Grade I).
- Archway, Lansdown Crescent (Grade I).
- Beckford's Gate (Grade II) – also known as the "Embattled Gateway".
- Walls enclosing Nursery Gardens (N & E sides) (Grade II).
- Kitchen Garden (now Dixon Gardens, unlisted).
- Beckford's Grotto (closed, unlisted).
- Cottage once inhabited by Beckford's gardener, James Vincent (Fonthill Abbey), and successive cemetery groundskeepers (privately owned, unlisted).
- Small Islamic-style pavilion in garden behind Lansdown Crescent, thought to be the work of Beckford (privately owned, unlisted).²³

²¹ Millington, p. 14.

²² Beckford's Tower Trust (2015), p. 1 quoting N. Jackson, *Nineteenth Century Bath Architects and Architecture* (1991).

²³ Forsyth (2003), p. 172.

Impact of Proposed Works

The primary objective of proposed works is to enhance the site and setting of Beckford's Tower through repair and reuse of the grotto tunnel, and reinstatement of Beckford-era planting schemes. The project aims to strengthen the association between William Beckford and the surrounding landscape, and further the story of Beckford's legacy in Bath. Impacts of potential proposed plans are overall positive, but will also produce some challenges to future care and interpretation of the site. Challenging impacts on significant features of the site are listed below. Impacts cannot be viewed in isolation, and can generally be applied to the site as a whole. Positive impacts will be addressed in the *Justification of Works* section of this report.

Challenging Impacts on Beckford's Tower:

- Extended landscape will challenge the Beckford's Tower Museum staff, volunteers, and resources to allow the site to operate. Grotto tunnel will need to be opened and closed according to museum operating hours.
- The BPT and museum must provide engagement and education materials in order to draw attention to the feature and extended site.
- Development of the project and schemes will draw on the resources (time, money, expertise, etc.) of the BPT and other stakeholder parties.

Challenging Impacts on Lansdown Cemetery:

- The potential impact of increased foot traffic on the site could pose a threat to gravesites, ecology, plantings, and landscape capacity.

Challenging Impacts on Surrounding Landscape:

- Development and landscaping will strive to meet standards for accessibility in order to appeal to a broad user group.
- Need will arise to designate a party (or parties) as responsible for maintenance of the grotto and newly opened landscape leading to the Tower.
- There is the potential of vandalism of grotto, boundary wall, or other features of the landscape.
- The BPT will need to negotiate use of the grotto and pathway with private pasture landholders.

Specific proposals will need to be developed in order to determine the full impact of works on the significance of Beckford's Tower, Lansdown Cemetery, and the surrounding historic landscape. The scope of the project will be driven by the message and period of significance the Trusts choose to communicate and highlight through reinstatement of features of the Beckford's Ride.

Justification of Works

In order for the proposed project to be considered successful, positive impacts of work must outweigh, or mitigate, challenging impacts. Proposed works have the high potential for increased public benefit and strengthened significance of the site and related features. The justifications listed with particular features of the site must be understood as benefitting the significance of the site as a whole.

Positive Impacts of Proposal on Beckford's Tower:

- Benefits significance of Beckford's Tower by strengthening connection between the building and the site.
- Creates further educational opportunities for visitors at the site.
- Expands upon the legacy and story of Beckford and Goodridge, and their connection with the city of Bath.
- Avoids harmful or invasive physical changes to the significant structure.

Positive Impacts of Proposal on Lansdown Cemetery:

- Encourages maintenance of burials and pathways in Lansdown Cemetery due to increased visitor attendance and publicity.
- Avoids impacting significant features, existing gravesites, and cemetery landscape pattern.

Positive Impacts of Proposal on Surrounding Landscape:

- Encourages regular maintenance of the whole site.
- Supports use of species and planting schemes following known Beckford layouts, and designs appropriate to the period of significance.
- Uses currently underutilized section of land south of boundary wall, linking grotto to the Cemetery grounds.
- Strives to conserve the grotto feature and the historic row of lime trees thought to have been planted by Beckford through maintenance and landscaping efforts.
- Increases interest in landscape through public awareness of project.
- Enriches national importance and historic significance of World Heritage City of Bath.
- Enhances Bath & Bristol Green Belt, Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Bath Conservation Area, and local ecology and biodiversity through plantings.

Mitigation

Challenging impacts of proposed works can be mitigated through careful understanding of both the historic landscape and modern site. Mitigation tactics to support the success of proposed works are listed below.

Tactics:

- Respect existing historic fabric known to be the work of Beckford.
- Use plants and cultivars known to have been used by Beckford wherever possible.²⁴
- Highlight and follow original design intentions where possible.
- When historic precedent is uncertain or unknown look to related examples of the same time period to educate decisions.
- Apply to amend Historic England listings to include the grotto and known original plantings to ensure future protection of the landscape and associated features.
- Respect the current standing and layout of the landscape as a cemetery.
- Develop and provide informational and promotional materials to keep the public informed on the scope and intents of the project.
- Incorporate accessible facilities to allow more visitors to enjoy the site.
- Develop a regular landscape maintenance regime, in partnership with the B&NES Council.
- Ensure success through one or more secure funding sources.

Conclusion

William Beckford is best known for his building of an immense home at Fonthill Abbey, of which little remains intact. Evidence of Beckford's most impressive legacy, however, can be seen in Bath. Beckford's Tower expresses the historic owner's lavish, reclusive lifestyle and interest in exotic collectibles and designs. The now associated Lansdown Cemetery pays homage to Beckford's love of gardens, and fascination with death. Despite these nationally significant features, little information is readily presented to the public concerning the historic extent of Beckford's development of the landscape. This exciting history can be further explored and celebrated through opening the grotto tunnel, and clearing Beckford's footpath between the grotto and the Cemetery. These proposed works strive to expand upon existing landscape features, and encourage use and understanding of this important landscape. Increasing awareness and use of the site will be beneficial to not only the Beckford Tower Trust and Bath Preservation Trust, but also to visitors, the significance of the site, and Bath as a World Heritage City.

This document should be revised accordingly once specific proposals are developed.

²⁴ Reference Debois Landscape Survey Group (1993), p. 6, for list of plants used in the planting of Great Dell, Royal Victoria Park, Bath (c. 1830) developed at approximately the same time as Beckford's Ride.

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Appendix A: Timeline of Beckford's Tower & Lansdown Cemetery

1822: William Beckford leaves Fonthill Abbey and moves to Bath.

- Beckford begins consultation with Goodridge for erection of a tower.

1823: Beckford begins development plans for Ride and Tower.

1825: Beckford completes purchase and lease holding of land spanning from No. 20 Lansdown Crescent to site of Tower.

- Purchases kitchen garden (already developed) directly behind residence at No. 20.

1825-7: Period of construction of Beckford's Tower, using locally quarried limestone.

1830s: Great Dell at Royal Victoria Park, Bath, laid out possibly with consultation from Beckford based on his own garden work.

1837: Beckford writes a letter to suggest he has just completed work on the Ride.

1842: Beckford designed his own granite sarcophagus and had it placed at the base of the Tower.

1844: Beckford dies at his Tower. His body is buried at Bath Abbey Cemetery, Lyncombe Vale.

1847: Beckford's daughter, the Duchess of Hamilton, sells Beckford's Tower and surrounding land to a developer.

- Six Acres field, originally part of Beckford's Ride, sold to Kingswood School.

1848: Duchess of Hamilton buys back site to avoid plan for conversion into a beer garden, donates land to Rector of Walcot for use as a cemetery.

- Lansdown Cemetery consecrated and Beckford's tomb moved to current location.
- Beckford's Tower converted to mortuary chapel.

1851: First "retreat" villa built on land of Ride.

- Section of cast iron railings designed by Goodridge for Beckford's tomb shown at Great Exhibition, London.

1859: Duchess of Hamilton, dies.

- Care of cemetery grounds becomes intermittent.

1864: Goodridge dies, buried in Lansdown Cemetery near Beckford.

1918: Tower and grounds noted to be in "piteous abandonment".

1931: Tower gutted by fire.

1954: Tower closed and considered dangerous.

1970: Tower ceases use as a mortuary chapel.

1972: Land transferred as freehold for use as private dwelling.

- Launch of Beckford's Tower Restoration Fund.

1972-1977: Restoration works carried out at Tower.

1977: Beckford's Tower Trust (BTT) created 21 January.

1985: Beckford's Ride listed Grade II in English Heritage Provisional Register of Parks & Gardens.

1992: Maintenance of Lansdown Cemetery transferred to Bath & North East Somerset Council.

1993: Bath Preservation Trust (BPT) becomes sole trustee of BTT.

1997: Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) grant of £462,500 to Beckford's Tower & Museum.

- Restoration of Tower, lantern, and Belvedere. Re-gilding of lantern, refurbishment of museum on first floor.
- Work done in Lansdown Cemetery to clear paths and follow original lines of graves.

1999: Landmark Trust granted 60-year long-term tenancy of ground floor of Tower.

- Goodridge-designed gateway repaired and cleaned to re-establish gate as principle entrance to cemetery and Tower.

2000: Iron railings, designed by Goodridge, replaced after removal during WWII.

2010: BTT receives HLF grant of £27,700 for the 250th Anniversary of the Tower.

Present: BPT in process of developing plans to repair and enhance features and landscape associated with Beckford.