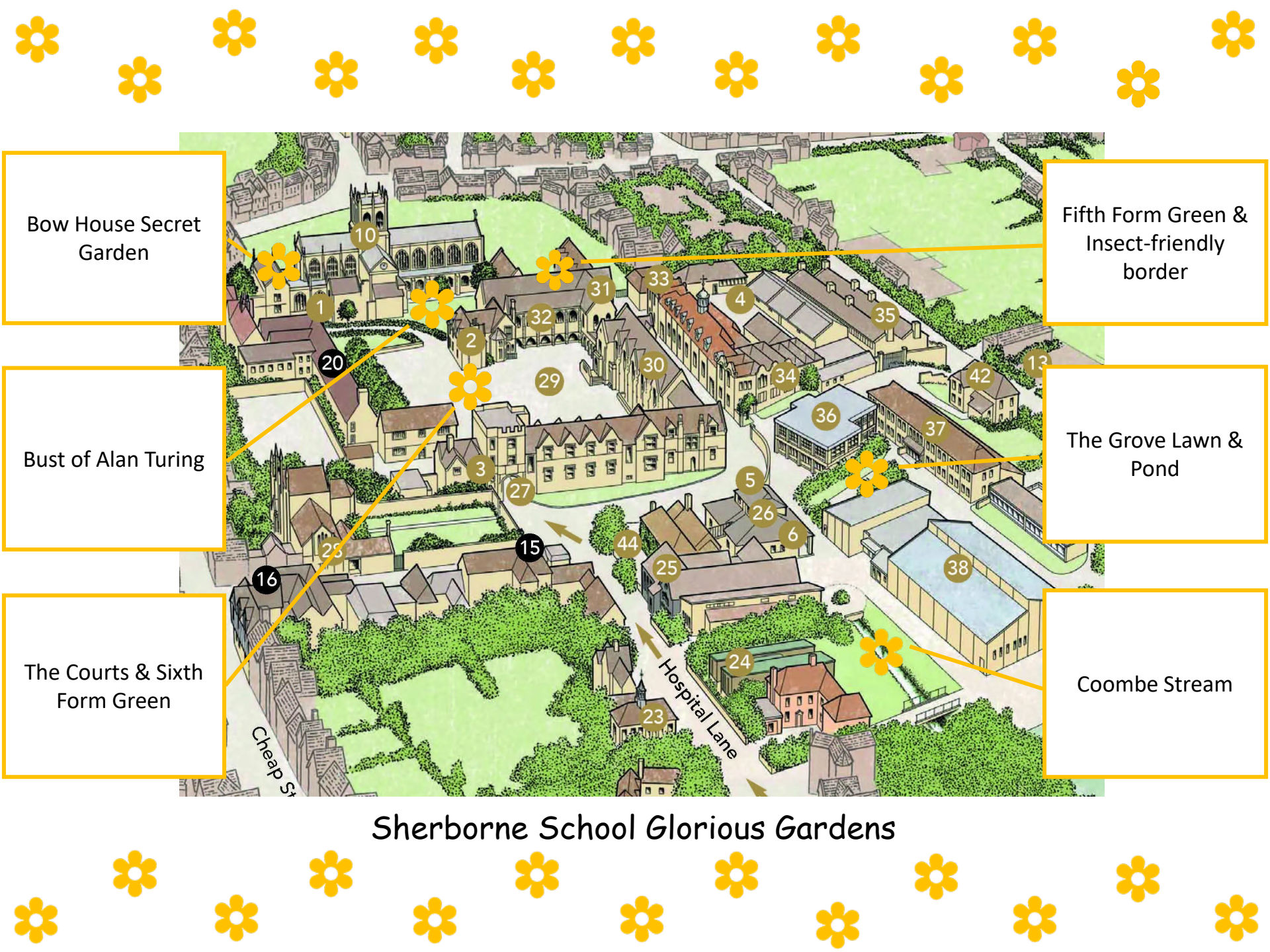




Bow House Secret Garden

Bust of Alan Turing

The Courts & Sixth Form Green

Fifth Form Green & Insect-friendly border

The Grove Lawn & Pond

Coombe Stream

Sherborne School Glorious Gardens

The Courts & Sixth Form Green	Bust of Alan Turing	Bow House Secret Garden	Fifth Form Green & Insect-Friendly border	The Grove Lawn & Pond	Coombe Stream
History/background: The gravelled area known as the Courts was created in the 1850s when Lord Digby granted the former monastic buildings and grounds to the School. On 30 September 1940, six bombs landed in the Courts, but thankfully no pupils were injured. During the summer months, the Courts resound to the screech of swifts as they swoop overhead catching insects. The lawned area to the east of the Courts is the Sixth Form Green. Formerly the site of the Prior's House and later a workhouse, the lawn was created in 1860 beside the newly built School House, the School's first purpose-built boarding house. At one time use of the lawn was a privilege allowed only to boys in the Sixth Form, but today it can be used by anyone.	History/background: The bronze bust of Alan Turing OBE, PhD, FRS (1912-1954) by David Williams-Ellis was unveiled in 2021 by Alan Turing's nephew. Alan Turing was a pupil at the School from 1926 to 1931 and today is best-known for helping decipher the German Enigma code and as one of the founders of computer science and AI. Located on the north side of Sherborne Abbey, this area was the site of the cloister (14th century) of the Benedictine monastery, linking the Chapter House with the scriptorium and dormitory. Against the north alley of the cloister stood the Conduit House (c.1520) which in 1553 was moved to the Parade in Cheap Street. In the autumn squirrels busily collect walnuts from the tree on the opposite lawn.	History/background: This hidden garden was at one time a playground. For over 300 years the gateway in the south wall alongside Church Lane was the main entrance to the School. On the north side of the garden is the Old Schoolroom (1606) where all pupils were taught until 1670. On the east is Bow House (11th century), now a staff Common Room but originally part of the East Gatehouse of the monastery and later the Sun Inn. On the west is Sherborne Abbey, the east end of which was from 1560 to 1860 home to the Headmaster. In 1921 the Abbey's Lady Chapel was restored and extended into the former playground. The False Acacia tree (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>) produces clusters of fragrant white flowers in the spring which attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies.	History/background: Accessed through the Victorian cloisters (1879), this courtyard was formed in 1871 when the classrooms on the west side were built. Once home to the Fifth Form, the building is now the English Department. The wall on the south side of the courtyard is all that remains of All Hallows church (14th century), once the town's parish church. On the north and east of the courtyard are former monastic buildings which are now home to the School library and chapel. The wildflower border, which includes lavender, yellow rattle, hollyhocks, ox-eye daisy, common knapweed, buddleia, cat mint, daphne and geranium, attracts insects and in turn swifts that nest under the stone rooftiles of the surrounding buildings.	History/background: Once part of School House vegetable garden, this lawned area was developed following the completion in 1989 of The Grove, home of the modern languages department. The lawn is bounded on the south by the Turing Laboratories (1957, 1966) and on the north by the Sports Centre (1976, 2023). Nest boxes on the Turing Laboratories attract blue tits and the pond is home to dragonflies, mayflies, water beetles, newts, frogs, and sometimes ducks! Specimen trees in this area include a handkerchief tree (<i>Davidia involucrate</i>), a Judas tree (<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>), an Indian Bean tree (<i>catalpa bignonioides</i>), a strawberry tree (<i>Arbutus unedo</i>), and a Wollemi Pine (<i>Wollemia nobilis</i>).	History/background: The Coombe stream gave Sherborne its name - Scirburna', meaning clear stream. Water from the Coombe stream was used by the monks to supply their fishponds, to power their mill and to flush out their latrines! Today, after leaving the School grounds, the Coombe stream is channeled underground to the River Yeo in the south. On the west bank of the stream is the School Sports Centre (1976, 2023). On the east bank are the School Dining Hall (1923, 1986), the Music School (2010) and Abbot's Acre (1950). The banks of the stream are planted with Common Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>), Weeping Willow (<i>Salix babylonica</i>), a Holm Oak (<i>Quercus ilex</i>), and a Lombardy Poplar (<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>).
What to look out for: ➤ The Gatetower (1923) at the entrance to the Courts features on the north side the Tudor Royal Arms of the School's founder King Edward VI and on the south side the initials of Headmaster Nowell Smith, the coat of arms of Chair of Governors J.R.P. Goodden, and the initials of its architect Reginald Blomfield. ➤ The Medlycott Building (1955) to the north of the Sixth Form Green is home to the History Department. Named in honour of Chair of Governors Sir Hubert Medlycott, the building was designed by a former pupil and because of post-war shortage of Hamstone built using Cotswold stone.	What to look out for: ➤ Traces of the former Benedictine monastery buildings are still visible. Around the south and west walls of the adjoining buildings are traces of the cloister arches. Below the clock on the north face of the Abbey tower can be seen the roof pitch of the monks' dormitory together with the blocked doorway which gave them access to the Abbey for night services. ➤ The armillary sundial was presented in 2004 as a leaving gift by the parents of three School House boys. Aligned to point true north, the central arrow or gnomon casts a shadow on the hour marker inside the equatorial ring.	What to look out for: ➤ The 'Headmaster's Eye' is the name given to the oval window in the east wall of the Abbey. Formerly part of the Headmaster's house, through this window he kept watch over the school playground outside. ➤ Above the entrance to the Old School Room are the Royal Tudor Coat of Arms of the School's founder King Edward VI and also a chronogram (literally 'time writing') in the form of a Latin verse. The red letters in the chronogram when read as Roman numerals can be added together to give both the date of the foundation of the School (1550) and of the restoration of the building (1660).	What to look out for: ➤ At the south end of the east range of buildings a wall plaque records the discovery on this spot of the remains of the 11th century Anglo-Saxon Cathedral Church. ➤ The narrow gap between the south end of the east range of buildings and the wall was the site of a side altar of All Hallows church. The chapel was devoted to Our Lady of Northern, a local saint to whom Sherborne women made bequests of rings and ribbons. ➤ The ground floor windows in the north range of buildings may look ancient but were only inserted in the 1850s and are facsimiles of windows at Boxgrove Priory.	What to look out for: ➤ The horizontal sundial (known as an analemmatic sundial) was created by the School's Works Department to celebrate the millennium. By standing on the appropriate month your shadow will be cast on the hour markers positioned on the elliptical dial. ➤ The Turing Laboratories were named in 1966 to commemorate Alan Turing OBE, PhD, FRS (1912-1954), making it the first building in the world named in Alan Turing's honour. ➤ Why not take a break and visit The Hub for some light refreshment?	What to look out for: ➤ The Music School (2010) includes a 120-seat recital hall, a recording suite, studios and classrooms. ➤ From the lawn to the north of the Music School can be seen two of the School's former Music Schools – to the east on the opposite side of Hospital Lane is the School's first purpose-built Music School (1926), now the Drama School, and to the north is Abbot's Acre (1950) which was used by the Music Department until 2010. ➤ Listen for the sound of the Coombe stream running underground at the junction of Finger Lane and Abbey Road.