LoF Workshop 1: Introduction to Stubbers (North Ockendon)
Early History

• The estate at Stubbers is first mentioned in 1334 and was the named after a yeoman farmer who lived here in 1438-63

• In the 16th century the house and walled gardens were developed by the Coys family, (who bought it for £320 in 1563)

• In the early 17th century it was the home of the naturalist William Coys, who ran the gardens almost as a botanic garden, with many new species.

• In the 18th century avenues, lawns and a detached kitchen garden with a crinkle-crankle wall were created. The crinkle-crankle wall still survives

• There was a dovecote and an ice house
'Chapman and André
Map of Essex 1777:
Stubbers
'Chapman and André
Map of Essex 1777:
Stubbers
(north up!)

What can we see?
LOOKING AT YOUR HANDOUT:

what landscape features can you see marked on here?
Humphry Repton

• The changes at the site were carried out by Repton, who created a ‘Red Book’ for Stubbers in c1796 outlining his plans and using some of his trademark ‘before and after ‘ images.

• This Red Book is now held at the University of Essex!

• We ‘met’ Repton in the morning session on ‘Garden History in 30 minutes’.

• His style was one of comfort and convenience for those with medium or smaller estates.
• Work carried out as part of Repton’s suggestions for Stubbers included:
  • A Pavilion to ‘close the vista’ from the house;
  • Addition of Greek statues and urns to the gardens;
  • A ha-ha;
  • The main road moved away from the house;
  • Removal of the walled gardens remaining from William Coys period (one of the 18th century walls still survives)
• The Red Book also mentioned a Lime Tree Walk which was retained into the 1950s.
Later History

• In 1947 Essex Education Committee established a youth campsite and Adventure Centre at the estate

• 1955 The house was demolished and the Lime Tree Walk (dating to Coy’s period) felled.

• A pond was enlarged/created for a canoeing lake

• In 1972-82 excavations of the site of the Repton garden and Pavilion was carried out and the foundations recovered.

• Gravel extraction has resulted in two large lakes which people often confuse with the original lakes!
What are the ‘threats’ to this site?
What could be recorded and surveyed?
How would that help?