

Beginning your research on a historical park, garden or landscape



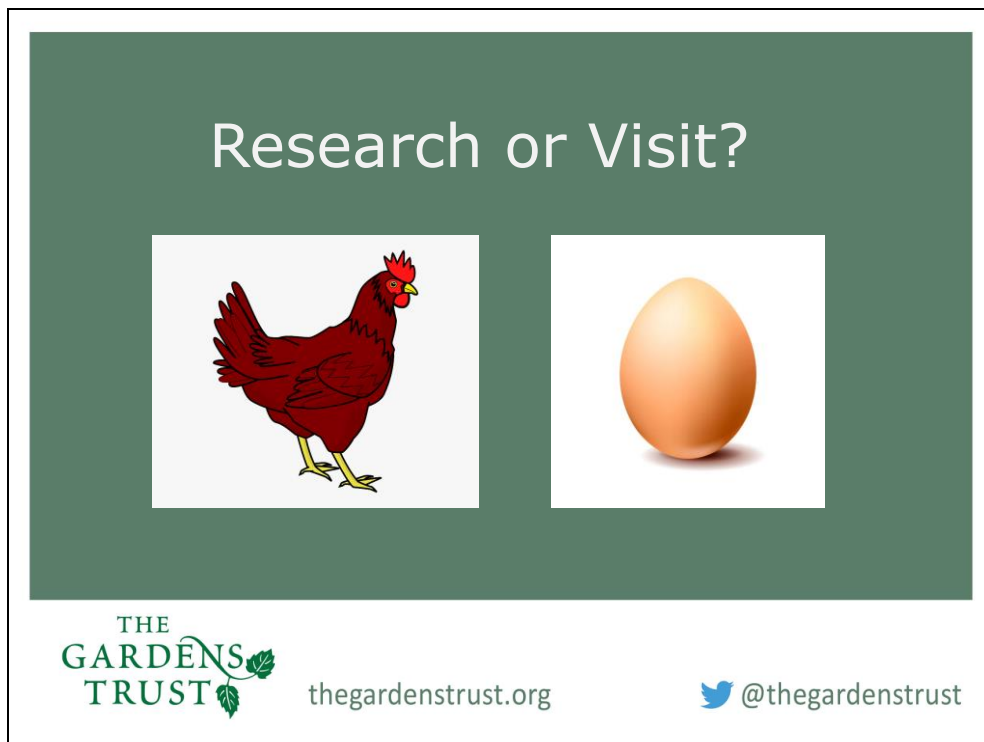
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Today, I am going to be looking at how to start your research into a historical garden, local park or another type of designed landscape.

It can be a bit daunting to know where to begin but hopefully by the end of this presentation you will have a good idea of where to look for information, what types of sources you can use and what you need to know if you want to visit an archive centre.

I am going to be covering a lot of ground and mentioning lots of websites, but don't feel you have to try and write everything down because all the information will be available on the talk's transcript in the Resource Hub on the GT's website.



What do you do first? It is a bit of a chicken and egg situation – do you visit the site, explore it thoroughly, take notes and photographs to fully appreciate what's there on the ground and what heritage assets survive? Or, do you beaver away online and in the local archives and then go armed with maps and documents on your first visit. If you already know your site well, then the answer is easy, or it could be that you will never gain access to the site you are interested in.

You might be raring to find out all you can about your particular park or garden but the fact that you are so interested in it, may mean that someone else has also been interested in the past. You don't want to spend hours and days of research only to find that someone has already done it before.

How can we find out what is already known about a site? One obvious answer is to visit your county's record office, a local archive centre or a museum collection, but currently, with all the COVID-related closures, this is not possible. Fortunately, today, there are so many sources we can search online which will not only give us a wealth of knowledge, but we can search them from the comfort of our own home.

Where do I look for what is already known?

Historic England's: National Heritage List for England
(NHLE)

Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service:
Cadw

Historic Environment Scotland:
Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Archive:
Heritage Gardens Inventory

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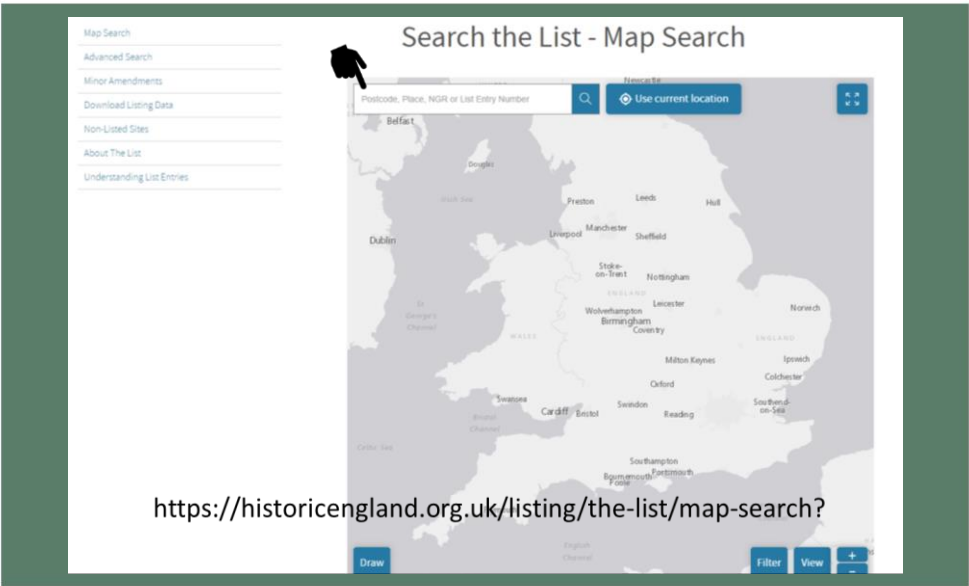
The question to ask first: is my site important enough to be on the National Register of Parks and Gardens? Held by Historic England and often referred to as the NHLE or the Register – I will show you a quick way to find out in a moment.

If your site is in Wales, you need to look at the Cadw website
(<https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/cof-cymru/search-cadw-records>)



For Scottish sites you can look on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes
(<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/gardens-and-designed-landscapes/>)

For sites in Northern Ireland you can consult the inventory of heritage gardens:
(<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/historic-parks-gardens-and-demesnes>)

Slide 4



<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/map-search?>

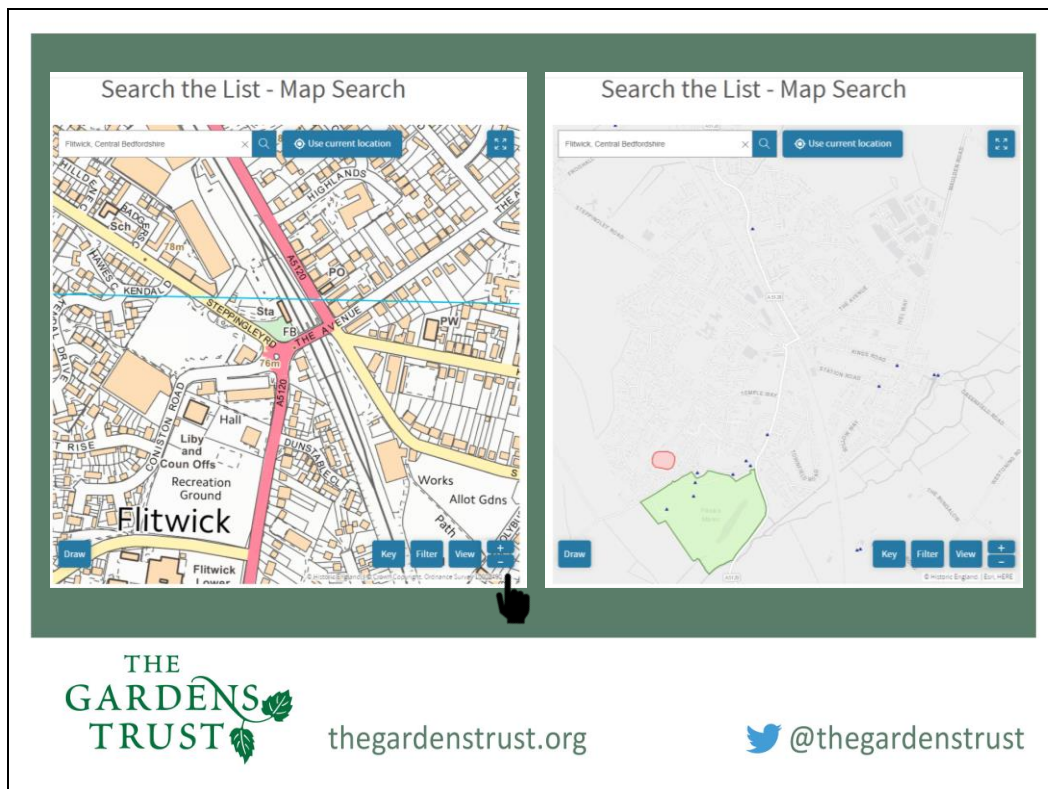
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Let's go back to searching the National Heritage List for England and if you Google 'Historic England Map Search' you should get to an option to 'Search the List – Map Search' or alternatively you can follow this link: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/map-search?> Either method will take you straight to this map.

To find your site, you type in the nearest village or town (or a postcode) into the search box indicated and up will come a list of suggestions – which hopefully will contain the location you want and will take you right into the heart of that settlement on a large-scale map.

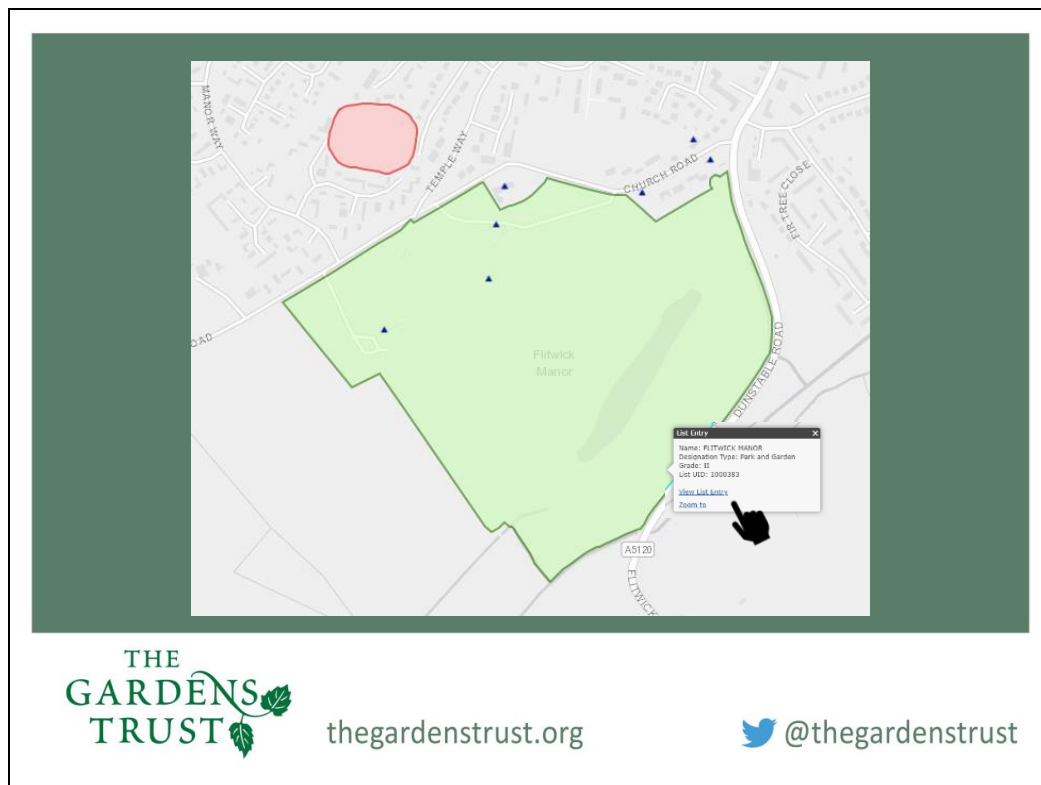
As an example, I am going to look for Flitwick Manor Park in Bedfordshire, so I will type Flitwick into the search box at the top.

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The screen zooms into the heart of Flitwick and The Avenue bridge over the railway. This looks exactly like a normal OS map with no extra detail. I know that my site is south-west of the town centre and so I use the – button to pull out and the map changes its appearance to look like this.

Immediately, I can see the green shaded area which tells me that this is a Registered Park or Garden on the NHLE. Let's enlarge the second map to look at the information we have.



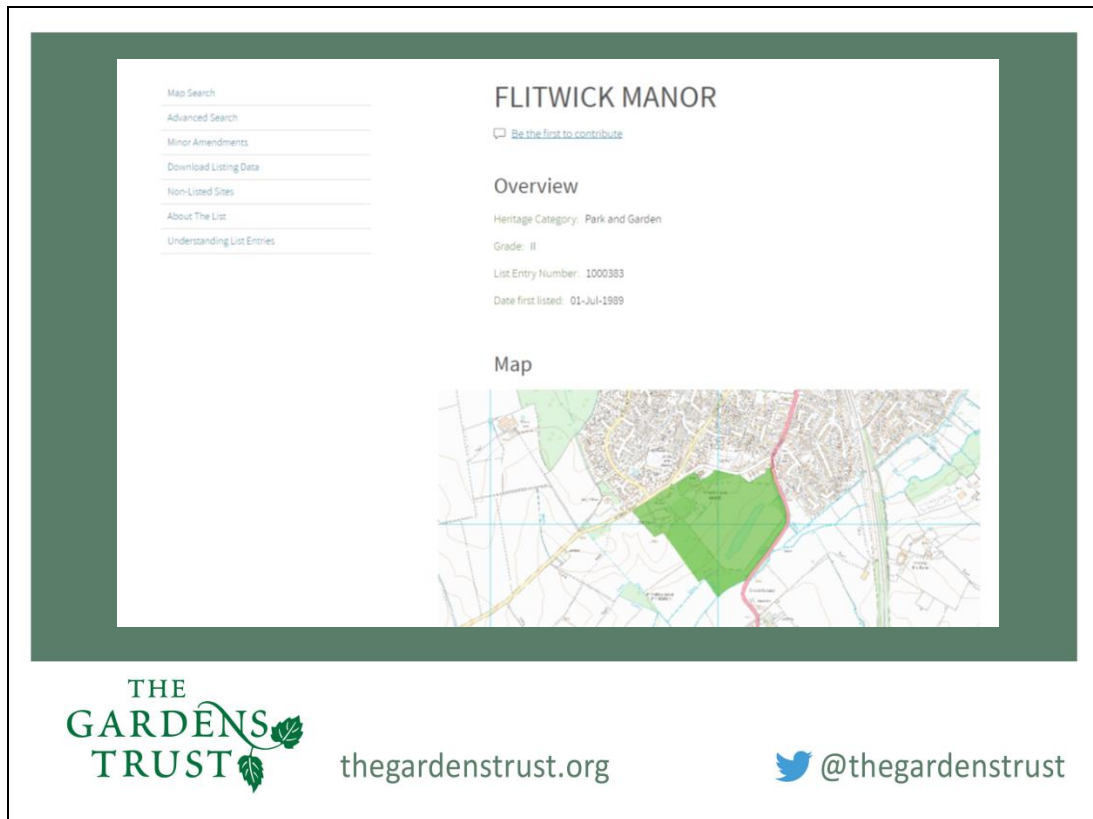
You can now see clearly the boundaries of the park and how the registered area fits into the surrounding roads. There are blue triangles, which are listed buildings and a circular red area which denotes a scheduled monument.

If I left click anywhere in the green area, this information box comes up telling me the official name of the park – Flitwick Manor - and it is designated as Grade II on the NHLE register with a UID number of 1000383. It is important to make sure you use the official name in any searches because there are many parks and gardens with similar names on the register. Like racehorses, they all have a unique name, as well as their UID.

By left clicking on the blue triangles in the green shaded area we can find out more about the listed buildings, from left to right they mark the position of Grade II Old Farmhouse, Grade II Grotto Bridge and the Grade II* Flitwick Manor itself. The blue triangle just north of the manor house is the Medieval parish church. The red-shaded area is called The Mount and is a motte and bailey earthwork. These items may or may not have a connection with the park, but it is worth noting them down.

Back to the Flitwick Manor information box and we can see a link to 'view list entry' and this takes us to the following page.

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The screenshot displays the NHLE entry for Flitwick Manor. On the left, a sidebar contains links: Map Search, Advanced Search, Minor Amendments, Download Listing Data, Non-Listed Sites, About The List, and Understanding List Entries. The main content area is titled 'FLITWICK MANOR' and includes a link to 'Be the first to contribute'. Below this is an 'Overview' section with the following details: Heritage Category: Park and Garden, Grade: II, List Entry Number: 1000383, and Date first listed: 01-Jul-1989. A 'Map' section follows, showing a detailed OS map of the site. At the bottom of the slide, the logo for 'THE GARDENS TRUST' is displayed, along with the website 'thegardenstrust.org' and the Twitter handle '@thegardenstrust'.

Map Search
Advanced Search
Minor Amendments
Download Listing Data
Non-Listed Sites
About The List
Understanding List Entries

FLITWICK MANOR

[Be the first to contribute](#)

Overview

Heritage Category: Park and Garden
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1000383
Date first listed: 01-Jul-1989

Map

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If, in the past, you have looked at any list entry on the NHLE this format will look familiar. All entries start with an Overview telling us the Heritage Category, in this case it's a Park or Garden (opposed to a listed building, scheduled monument, battlefield or shipwreck) it is Grade II, its UID number and when it was first placed on the register – here: July 1989.

Underneath is a more detailed OS map showing the registered area.

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Location

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

District: Central Bedfordshire (Unitary Authority)
Parish: Flitwick

District: Central Bedfordshire (Unitary Authority)
Parish: Westoning

National Grid Reference: TL 02961 33974

Details

Late C18 and early C19 pleasure grounds and park, praised by J C Loudon, the setting for a small country house.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Edward Biofeld purchased the manor in 1632 from the Crown and built the C17 manor house. The estate passed by inheritance and marriage through the Rhodes family in 1669, and then the Delis in 1735. The early C18 estate consisted of The Elms, a plantation to the west of the house, with a kitchen garden and orchard to the south, beyond which were Warren Close and Little Warren Close, and further south, beyond a ditch, Church End Mead which led down to The Flit.

Anne Fisher inherited the house on a marriage settlement with George Hesse and following his death she married George Brooks in 1783. Brooks was responsible for various late C18 improvements. John Thomas Brooks (1794-1858) inherited in 1817 and carried out extensive improvements to the estate. The pleasure grounds were praised by Loudon in the 1820s and 1830s, especially the high level of maintenance, the treatment of the wider estate as a ferme.

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The next section describes the District and Parish that the park is in and, as is often the case, this park occupies land in more than one parish.

The 12-figure national grid reference is also listed.

At the top of the Details section is a brief summary of what is special about this park to qualify it for national designation.

Next, comes a much more detailed description of the historic development of the park right up the current day – or at least as it was at the time of listing.

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1830s, especially the high level of maintenance, the treatment of the wider estate as a ferme ornée and the exemplary arboretum, planted in a 'Natural Arrangement' (Loudon 1838). The property remained in the Brooks family until 1932 and was occupied by the Lyall family until the late 1950s. The house is now an hotel and much of the land to the north of the site is now under modern housing.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Flitwick Manor, 22ha, is located at the southern end of Flitwick, a small town in mid Bedfordshire, c 16km south of Bedford and 3.5km east of the M1. It is bounded by Church Road to the north, Westoning Road (A5120) to the south and east, and open farmland to the west. Shelter belts and plantations screen the boundaries to the west, north and south. The ground slopes gently from north-west to south-east.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The main approach to Flitwick Manor is from the east, along an C18 lime avenue. This approach runs from Church Road, at the southern end of Flitwick, directly to the east front of the house. Further approaches from the south and north are no longer used. The northern approach from Church Road was served by Upper Lodge and the southern approach from Westoning Road was marked by the Lower Lodge, both built in 1831 but no longer extant.

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The next section is the Description, starting off with the site's physical location, boundaries and aspect.

The Entrances and Approaches section covers not only those used today but describes those that have been there in the past.



PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The manor house (listed grade II*) is located in the northern portion of the site and was built in the early C17, reworked c 1736, extended late C18 and at various dates in the C19, then to some extent reworked again in 1936 by Sir Albert Richardson. The Manor consists of a red-brick 'E' block of c 1736, encasing the C17 structure, and with later additions mostly in red brick.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS To the west of the Manor is a walled garden marked as a courtyard on the late C18 and early C19 maps. Pleasure grounds lie to the south of the Manor, occupying the site of a C17 or early C18 kitchen garden which was removed in the C19. To the west of the pleasure grounds and 50m south-west of the Manor is an C18 grotto bridge (listed grade II), constructed of clinker trimmed with red brick. The top of the bridge is grass and the west face is gothic, the east face classical. An archway room underneath is decorated with simple pebblework, with a pebble floor. The Grotto links the pleasure grounds with a plantation, marked on an estate plan of 1717 as The Elms and known by the end of the C18 as The Grove.

To the east of the Manor is the main entrance and the C18 lime avenue approach from Flitwick. The parish church of St Peter and St Paul (listed grade I) stands c 50m north-east of the Manor, immediately outside the area here registered. The northern boundary of the estate ran between the Manor and the church until 1829, when it was diverted to the north of the church. The line of the old road is still visible.

PARK The 17ha park lies to the south-east of the Manor, the land falling gently towards the lake, Flit Water, and a shelter belt which screens the A5120 beyond. The existing layout, boundaries and planting of the park remain largely as it was laid out by George Brooks in the late C18, and J T Brooks in the early C19.

Down the western side of the park is the Arboretum, planted from 1819 when the strip of land known as The Five Acres was purchased. The western boundary was moved to the western side of the Arboretum and the southern drive, which is no longer used, led through the Arboretum along the pre-1819 boundary. Much of the C19 planting in the Arboretum survives.

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If there is a principal building associated with the park and garden, it will be briefly described before we come to the section, we are most interested in – Gardens and Pleasure Grounds followed by Park description. These last two sections may contain information about any listed buildings the registered area contains as well as those nearby that are considered part of the garden's Setting – in this example the Church is just outside the boundary but has an important visual impact and The Mount earthworks to the north-west, was once part of the parkland and gardens. The history and changes made to the garden over time are included, as well as what is there today in the way of tree planting, garden features and grassland.

Some listing descriptions have had subsequent information added and this one was added to in 1998/99.


At the end, is a list of Resources the listing entry has made use of – they could be useful for us to know, so you might make a note of them.

If the park or garden, you are interested in, is on Historic England's Register – then you are off to a flying start but don't assume there is nothing more to find out – there very often is.



Other places to look for previous research

- Parks and Gardens UK (PGUK)
- County Gardens Trusts
- Friends Groups

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If your park or garden is not registered, there are other places you might discover the research from other people.

The Parks and Gardens UK website (<https://www.parksandgardens.org/>) is the best online archive dedicated to parks and gardens and is run from Hestercombe in Somerset. We hope to be hearing more about Parks and Gardens UK in one of our future webinars. PGUK holds information about designated sites on the register and information for many non-designated sites too. It is worth checking to see if someone has submitted their research summary, although some gardens are listed with very few facts other than their location and a short sentence describing what type of garden they are.

Your chosen site might have been researched by the local county garden trust (CGT) – several of the CGTs have formed inventories of gardens and these may be available on their websites or by making an enquiry. If you can't see any evidence of their research maybe get in contact and tell them where you interested in looking at – they may be able to give you helpful information or contact details.

Lastly, many parks, and some privately-owned gardens, have supporters or friends' groups. Friends' groups fulfil several different roles, but some may have a dossier of historical information and anecdotal evidence that they have collected.



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Another mine of online information can be found on the Heritage Gateway website – an immense database that aspires to draw together all the logged bits of research – from results of archaeological digs to entries on PGUK. This can be a bit daunting to navigate but it's worth it - <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

This is the home page for the Heritage Gateway website, and I will show you a quick example of how to search it.

Staying in Bedfordshire, this time I want to find out about the garden features at Wrest Park, north of Luton. By clicking on the link titled 'more detailed search' you will be taken to a map of the UK.

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Above the map is a box which says, 'find on map' and in there I have put Wrest Park and clicked 'Find', a new panel appears underneath, often with a short list, and then I have clicked to confirm Wrest Park, Central Beds.

The purple box shows the 1 km square around the site, but you can ask for a greater distance to search if you need it.

Bottom right is a Search button, which take you to the following page . . .

The screenshot displays the Heritage Gateway website interface. On the left, a sidebar contains navigation links like 'SELECT', 'Your request was sent to 17 resources', and 'Total Results: 253'. The main content area shows a search summary for 'Wrest Park' with 253 results. It lists various databases and their respective record counts:

- Statutory Data:**
 - The National Heritage List for England: 59 results
 - National Designation Decisions:
 - Designation Decision Records (De-listed entries): No records matched your search
 - Designation Decision Records (Non-designated entries): No records matched your search
 - Non-Statutory National Data:
 - Historic Milestone Society Database: No records matched your search
 - Historic England research records: No records matched your search
 - National Trust HBSMR: No records matched your search
 - Parks and Gardens UK: 1 results
 - PMSA: An error occurred
 - NMR Excavation Index: 21 results
 - Church Heritage Record: No records matched your search
 - Local Records:**
 - The Historic Environment Record for Bedfordshire: 172 results
 - Durham Historic Environment Record: No records matched your search
 - Gloucestershire County Council: Historic Environment Record: No records matched your search
 - Hertfordshire HER & St Albans UAG: No records matched your search
 - Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record: No records matched your search
 - Northumberland Historic Environment Record: No records matched your search

On the right, a map view shows the location of 'Wrest Park' in Bedfordshire. The map includes a legend with symbols for:

- Listed Building (NHLE)
- EH PastScape
- Local HER record points
- Local HER record polygons
- National Trust HBSMR
- Scheduled Monument (centre point)
- Registered Park/Garden (centre point)
- Registered Battlefield (centre point)
- Protected Wreck Site (centre point)
- World Heritage Site

At the bottom of the slide, the logo for 'THE GARDENS TRUST' is displayed, along with the website 'thegardenstrust.org' and the Twitter handle '@thegardenstrust'.

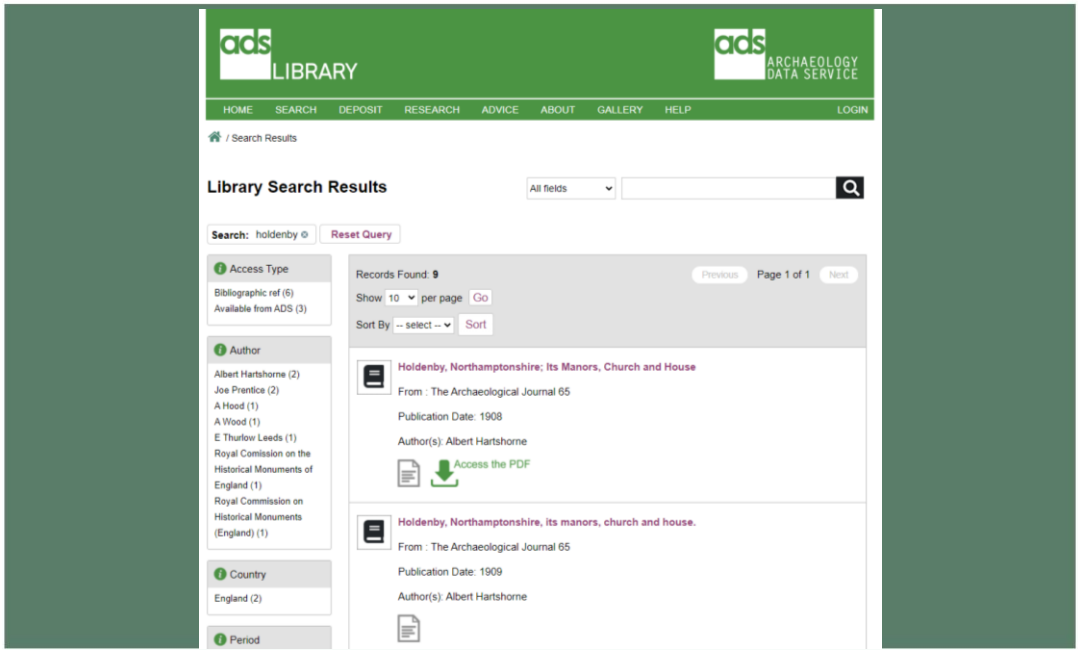
You can see, on the left, we are now looking at a summary of results in a list, but you do have the option to look at the results on a map, here on the right, which may be more of use to you. The map has the familiar blue triangles for listed buildings, but it also has orange circles which mark small sites on the local Historic Environment Record (HER) in this case Bedfordshire's HER. The larger orange shapes, or polygons as they are usually referred to, are the bigger features the HER contains.

Going back to the Summary Results list on the left, you can look down to see which databases contain information about Wrest Park, from the Statutory Data at the top (that's items on the NHLE) underneath in green, are National Designations Decisions – where a site might have had a designation, but it has been subsequently removed or where a non-designated site has been considered for designation but has been unsuccessful.

In mauve, is the Non-Statutory National Data list of other databases which have been linked to the Heritage Gateway – it's probably unlikely you'll want anything from the Historic Milestone Society, but you may want to look at HE's research records or the National Monument's Excavation Index. There is also a link to the relevant page on the Parks and Gardens UK website.

The bottom section lists all the Local HER records and you might be able to make out that HER for Bedfordshire has 172 records (these will be the orange circles and polygons on the map on the right).

In the future, Heritage Gateway might be superseded by the new 2020 version of OASIS, which has been the database used by archaeologists and Historic Environment Officers for some years. We have only just begun to work our way through the new OASIS site and when we are comfortable with it, we will endeavour to put together some training for volunteers. You need to register to enter material or search the OASIS database and its approach is more academic than Parks and Gardens UK



The screenshot shows the ADS Archaeology Library search results page. The header includes the ADS logo and navigation links: HOME, SEARCH, DEPOSIT, RESEARCH, ADVICE, ABOUT, GALLERY, HELP, and LOGIN. The search results are for the query 'Holdenby'. The left sidebar shows filters for Access Type (Bibliographic ref (6), Available from ADS (3)), Author (Albert Hartshorne (2), Joe Prentice (2), A Hood (1), A Wood (1), E Thurlow Leeds (1), Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (1), Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) (1)), Country (England (2)), and Period. The main results area shows 9 records found. The first result is 'Holdenby, Northamptonshire; its Manors, Church and House' from 'The Archaeological Journal' 65, published in 1908, by Albert Hartshorne. A link to 'Access the PDF' is provided. The second result is 'Holdenby, Northamptonshire, its manors, church and house.' from 'The Archaeological Journal' 65, published in 1909, by Albert Hartshorne.

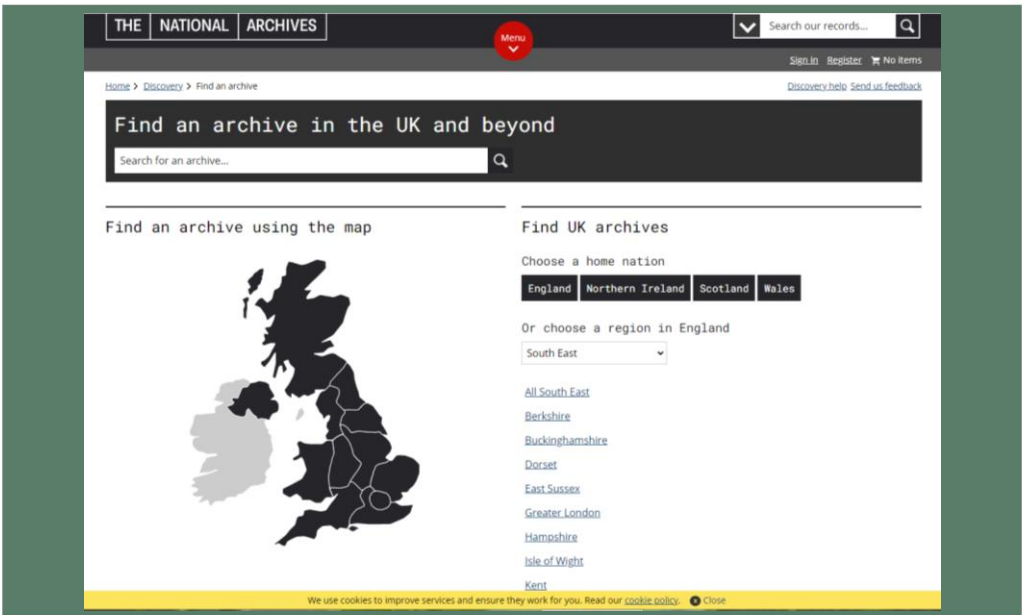
<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/search/searchResults.xhtml>

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To end this section on databases, here are a couple more places you can search for previous work carried out by other people.

The first is this one – the ADS Archaeology Library, based in York, which is free to search and may throw up information about your site – investigation records and other grey literature that may exist.

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/search/searchResults.xhtml>



The screenshot shows the 'Find an archive in the UK and beyond' page on The National Archives website. The page has a dark header with 'THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES' and a search bar. Below the header, there's a section titled 'Find an archive in the UK and beyond' with a search bar. To the left, there's a map of the UK with the text 'Find an archive using the map'. To the right, there's a section titled 'Find UK archives' with a dropdown menu for 'Choose a home nation' (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales) and a dropdown menu for 'Or choose a region in England' (South East). Below the region dropdown, there's a list of regions: All South East, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Dorset, East Sussex, Greater London, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, and Kent. At the bottom of the page, there's a yellow banner with a cookie policy notice.

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<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/find-an-archive>

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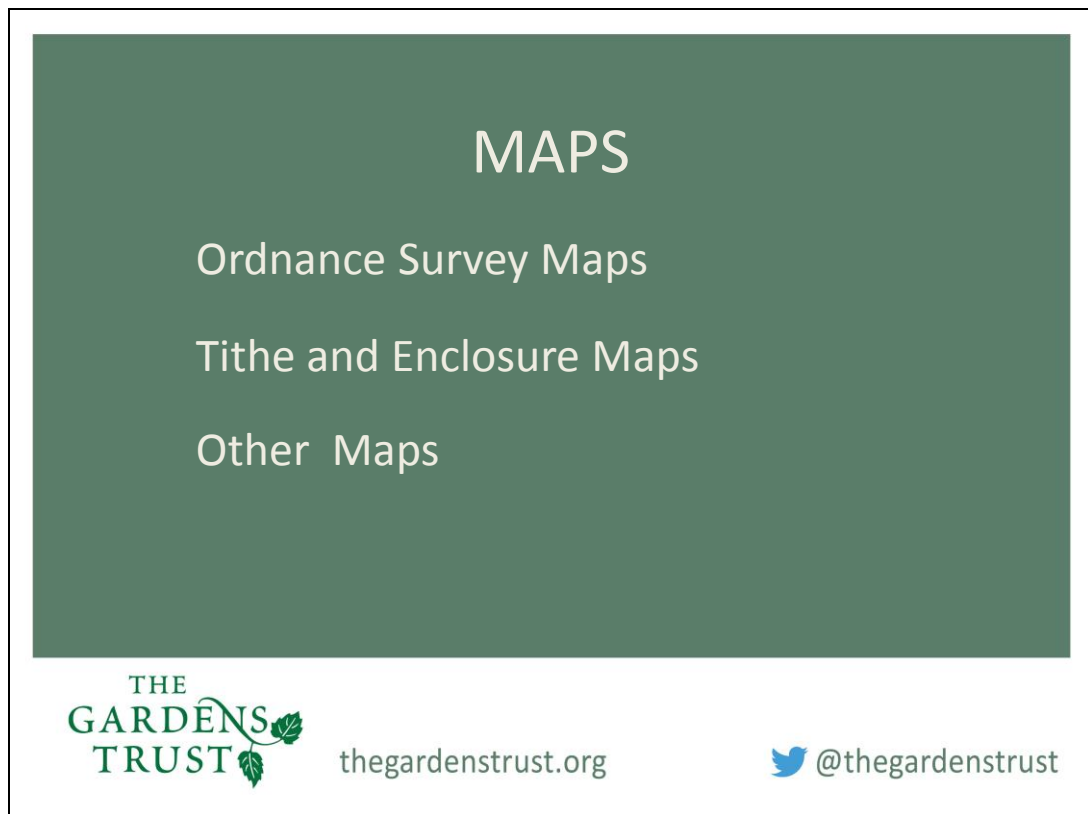
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If you have dabbled in genealogy you will probably have come across The National Archives.

There are literally thousands of smaller archives and collections listed on here. You will need to narrow down the country at the top, followed by the region and county or you can use the advanced search facility and enter in the name of the site you are looking for. Up will come a list of items and which archive you can find them in.



The good news currently is that because access in person to the Kew site is not possible, you can currently download digital records such as wills and military records for free:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/find-an-archive>



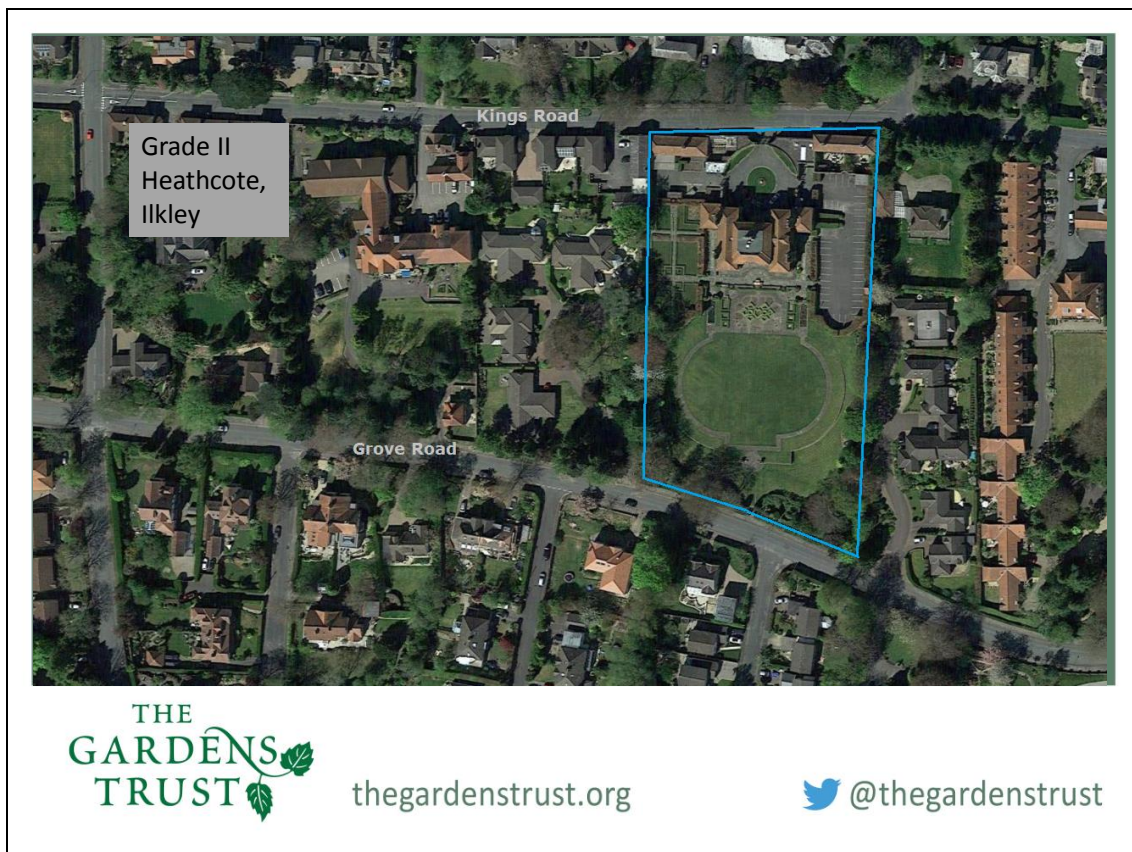
MAPS

- Ordnance Survey Maps
- Tithe and Enclosure Maps
- Other Maps

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Once you have established a little bit of information and you know the boundaries of your park or garden then you can start to look at map evidence.

I will talk about the Ordnance Survey maps first - where to find them and how to interrogate them for information. Then briefly we can look at tithe maps and enclosure maps before going on to the older hand-drawn maps you might come across.



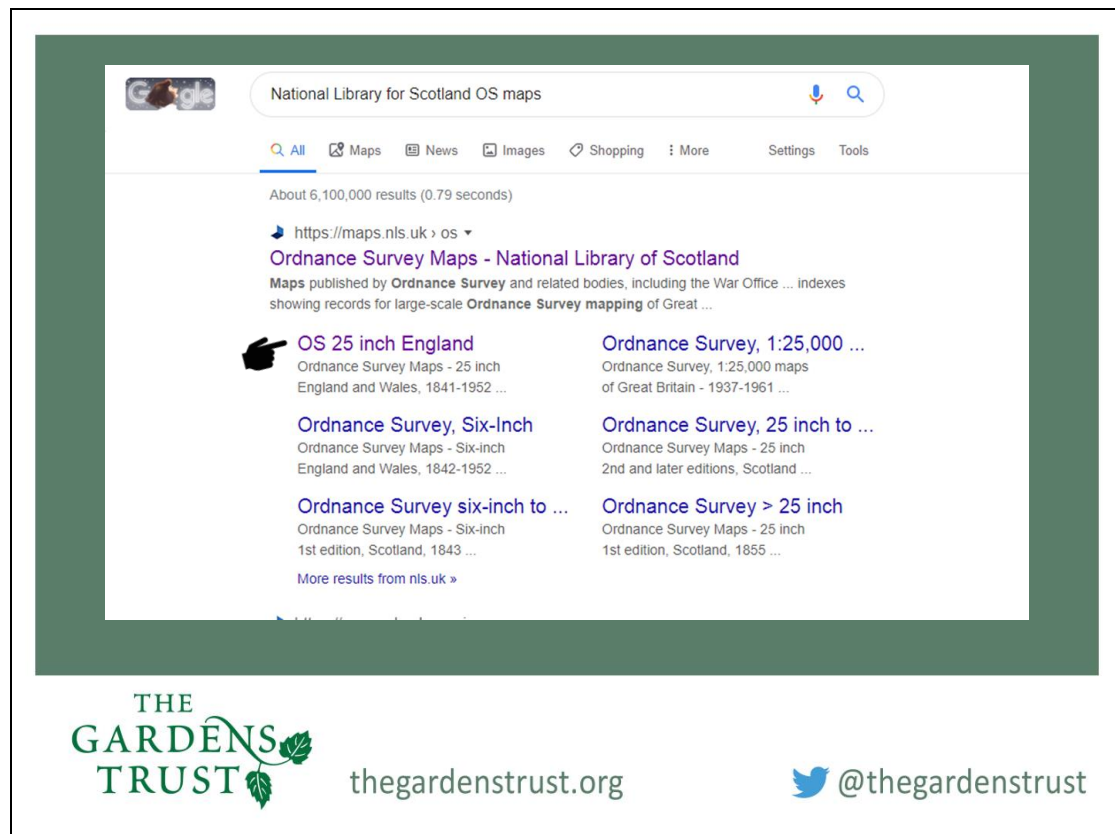
You will all be familiar with Google Earth and what an amazing tool it is for appreciating the shape and orientation of gardens, and how they fit into their surrounding roads and neighbourhoods. If you are unfamiliar with the area, after studying your site on here, finding it on maps becomes much easier.

Google Earth also comes in useful if you are surveying gardens to draw up plans. If your measurements are producing a different shape on paper to the one you see on site, a quick check on an aerial shot like this, might confirm if your measurements are correct or not. For very recent history research, Google Earth Pro has a time search facility which allows you to travel back over the past 20-years' worth of Google images.

As you can see here, I have moved my search area north to West Yorkshire, for my OS map search example.

This is an aerial shot of Heathcote, on west side of Ilkley and, according to its entry on the NHLE Register, it is a Grade II garden designed by Edwin Lutyens and planted by Gertrude Jekyll between 1906 and 1911. Lutyens also designed the Grade II* listed house in a Neoclassical style. Heathcote house was used as offices between 1958 and 2011 and has recently been converted back into an 8-bedroom residence.

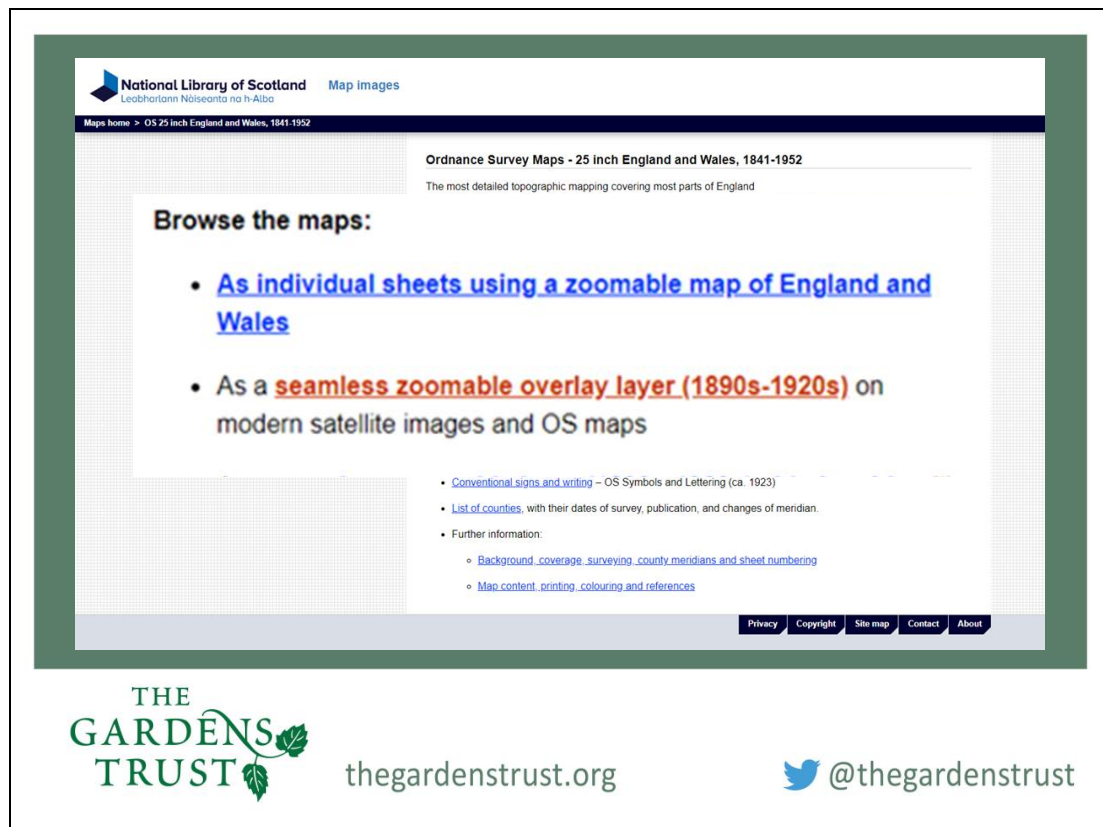
I'm now going to look for early OS maps of Heathcote . . .



For large-scale Ordnance Survey maps, from the first editions published in the 1880s to further 20th century editions and revisions, we can use the marvellous National Library for Scotland website. (<https://maps.nls.uk>os>)

You can see different scale editions listed here, but for garden historians it is the 25-inch series that we work with the most. They show gardens in such detail, from paths and terraces to tree plantings and greenhouses.

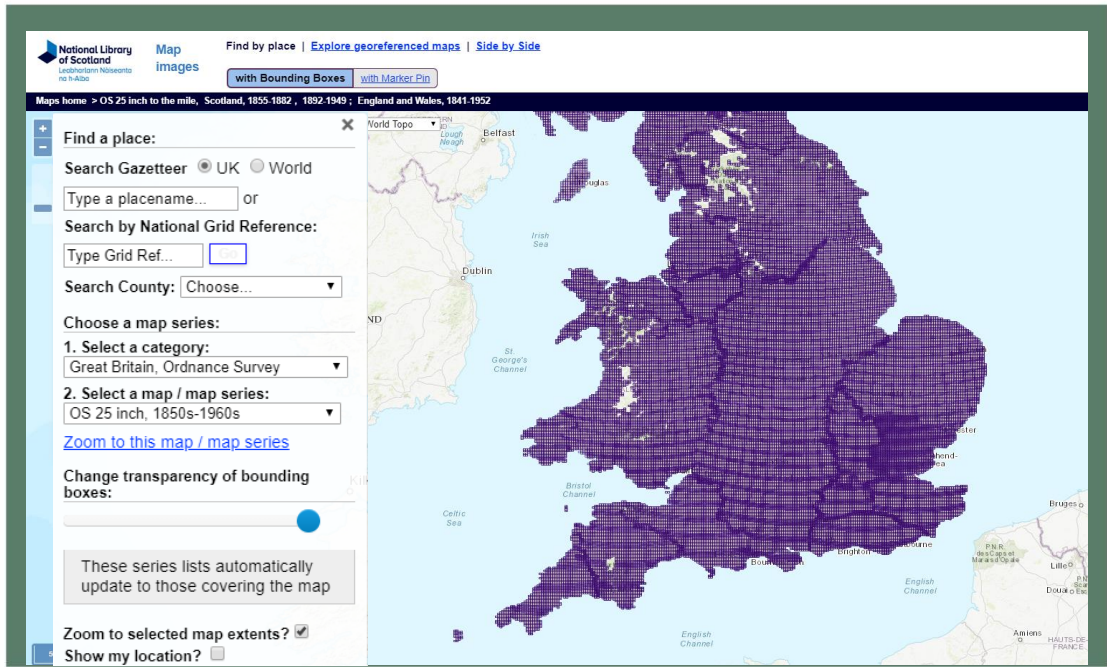
Not yet shown on this website, are the larger scale 1:10,000 maps. These show smaller individual features such as urns, seats and rockeries, but were only commissioned by some towns and cities. You are very lucky indeed if your park or garden falls onto one of these maps.



Clicking onto 'OS 25-inch England' brings us to this page where we have two main options – I have enlarged them so you can see them more clearly.

As you can see the second option is a 'seamless zoomable overlay layer' which will cover the area you're interested in with a mix of different aged maps depending on what the library has available. This option is very useful for larger sites where you want to plot the whole area the site covers, and it falls across the joins in between individual map sheets.

Today, I'm going to take you through the first option and look at an individual sheet because the Heathcote site is wholly contained within it.



The screenshot shows the National Library of Scotland's 'Map Images' interface. The main map displays Great Britain with a grid of purple bounding boxes, indicating the areas covered by historical maps. The left sidebar provides search options:

- Find a place:** Search Gazetteer (UK/World), Type a placename..., or Search by National Grid Reference (Type Grid Ref...).
- Search County:** Choose...
- Choose a map series:**
 - 1. Select a category: Great Britain, Ordnance Survey
 - 2. Select a map / map series: OS 25 inch, 1850s-1960s
- Zoom to this map / map series** (link)
- Change transparency of bounding boxes:** (slider)
- These series lists automatically update to those covering the map**
- Zoom to selected map extents?** (checked)
- Show my location?** (unchecked)

At the bottom of the slide, the logo for **THE GARDENS TRUST** is displayed, along with the website thegardenstrust.org and the Twitter handle [@thegardenstrust](https://twitter.com/thegardenstrust).

You are taken to a page which shows you the map coverage of the whole of Wales, England and Scotland but you may be able to see that some areas are not coloured purple – this means that there are not any maps covering these areas – yet. Keep checking though, the Scottish Library uploads new maps all the time.

Use the panel on the left to search for the map you want. You can search by county (drop down list) or you can enter a place name – for example, the nearest village.

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The screenshot shows the National Library of Scotland's 'Map Images' website. The main map area displays a historical map of Ilkley, Yorkshire, with a blue box highlighting a specific area. The interface includes a search bar, filters for map series and date range, and a results panel on the right. The results panel shows four map versions available for the selected area, published in 1891, 1909, 1921, and 1935. The map is titled 'Yorkshire CLXXXVI.2' and is part of the 'Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to the mile' series.

Results - 4 maps: (1889 - 1934)

[Yorkshire CLXXXVI.2](#)
Series: Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to the mile
Surveyed: 1889
Published: 1891

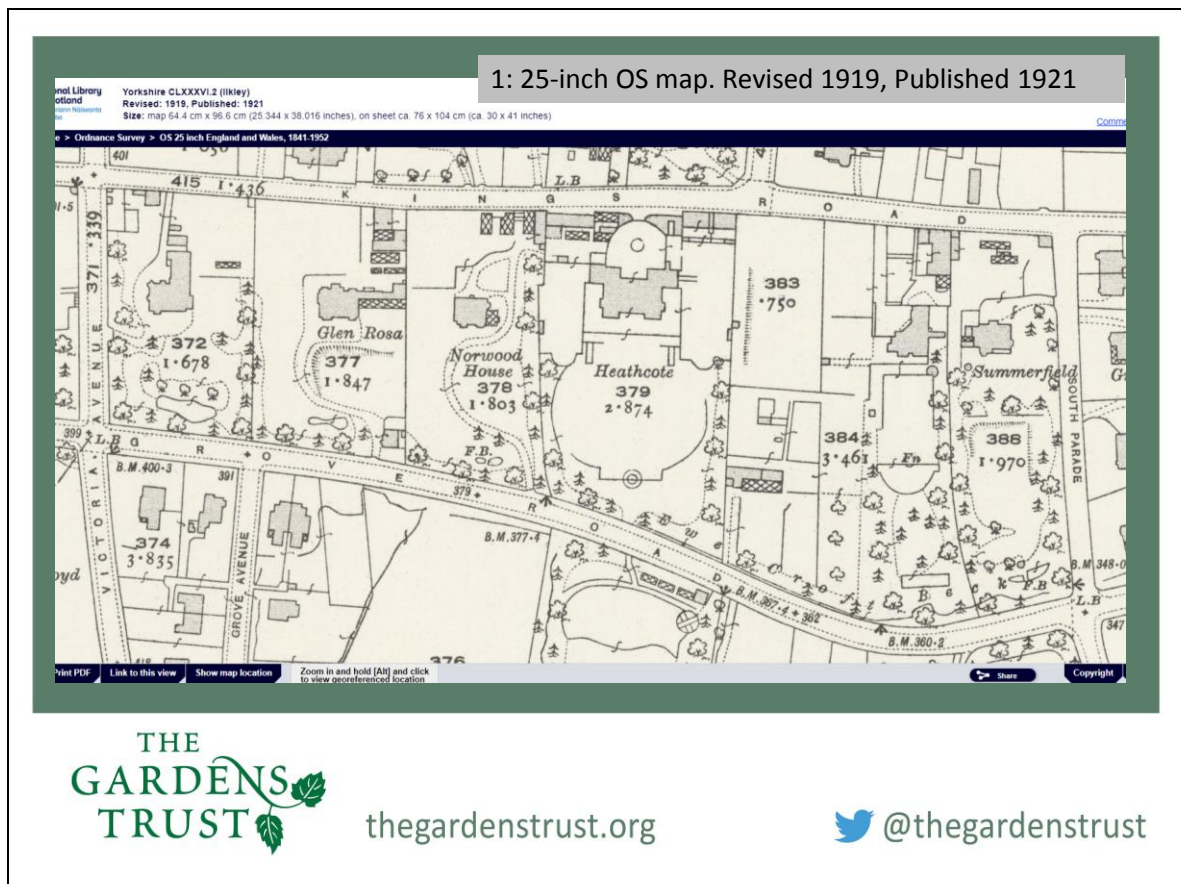
[Yorkshire CLXXXVI.2](#)
Series: Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to the mile
Revised: 1906 to 1907
Published: 1909

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I put Ilkley into the box marked 'placename' and I was taken to this page. I have clicked onto the map sheet I think my site is in, and as you can see it now has a blue box around it.

I see in the panel on the right, there are 4 different map versions available, published in 1891, 1909, 1921 and 1935. I would need to scroll down to see the last two.

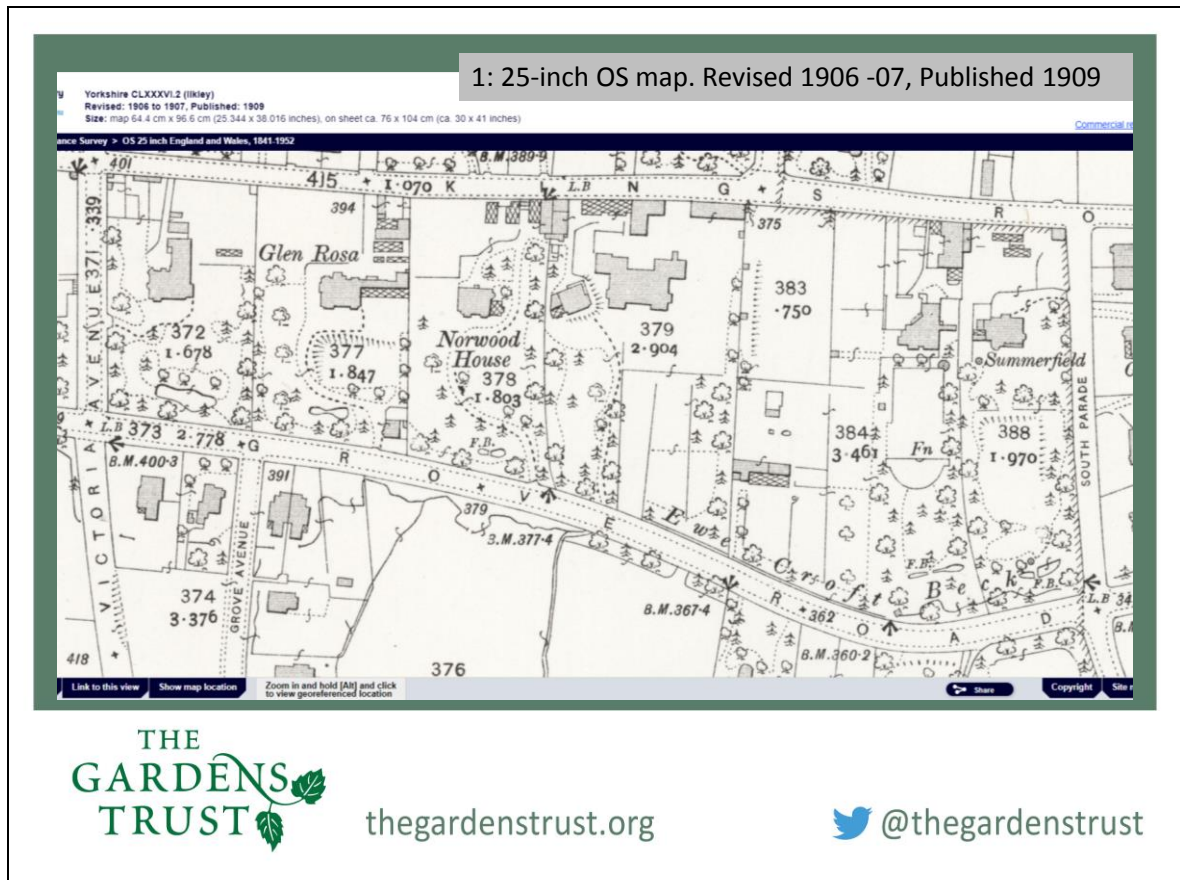
As Lutyens built Heathcote house and garden between 1906 and 1911, I decide to look at the 1921 sheet first.



On the 1921 map we can see Heathcote running from Kings Road to the north to Grove Road to the south and it is the fourth parcel of land along from Victoria Avenue to the west.

The map shows us the way Lutyens divided up the garden at the rear of his new house, with terraces on either side and a circular lawn with a belt of trees screening out the next-door neighbours. There looks like a circular pool on the south side of the lawn and an opening in the trees on the southern boundary – possibly another entrance or is it framing a view of the hills to the south? Three glasshouses are shown with ancillary buildings to the north of the house along with a turning circle. Many of these features were still recognisable today on the aerial photograph.

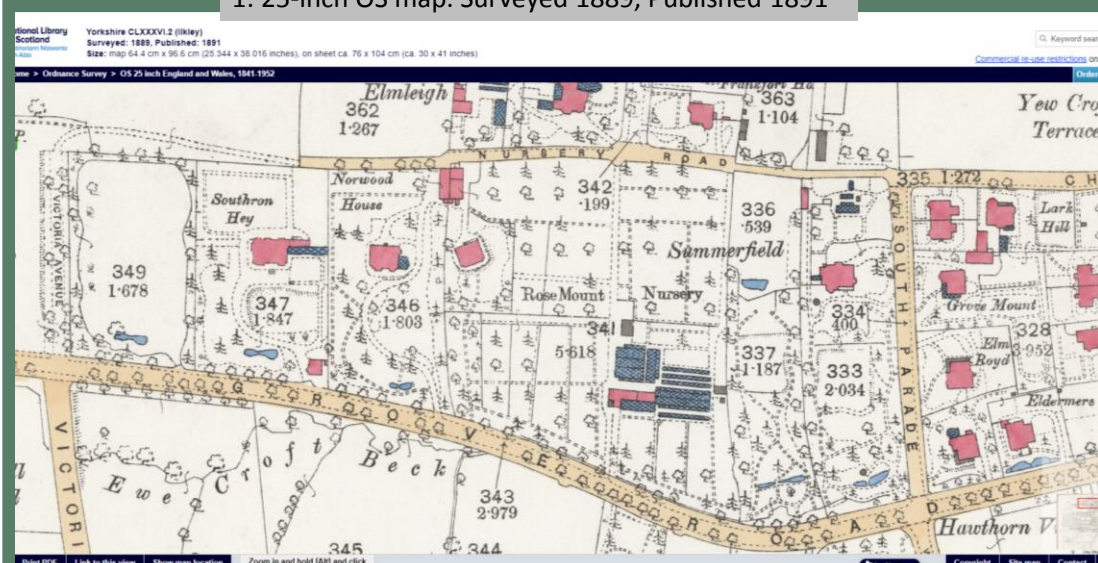
However, what was this garden built on – a greenfield site or was there an earlier garden? To find out, I would go back to the list of maps available and select . . .



... the 1909 map – the Lutyens' house was already built and surveyed by the OS but the ancillary buildings are different and there is only one larger glasshouse shown. At an angle to Lutyens's house is another building, with a small glasshouse attached, and its own path or drive running south to Grove Road, through a small belt of trees. There is no sign yet of Lutyens' terraces or circular lawn, this area was divided into smaller parcels of land. The recognisable shape of Heathcote gardens today is in place by 1909.

We can go back further in time to the 1891 map.

1: 25-inch OS map. Surveyed 1889, Published 1891



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The familiar shape of Heathcote garden is now not very easy to distinguish and the whole site along with the land to the east is marked as a nursery with extensive glasshouses, rectangular plots and fairly evenly spaced trees – was it a tree nursery or possibly an orchard? The building at an angle to Lutyens's new house, on the last map, is the main dwelling on this side and the site is called Rose Mount. It would be interesting to find out more about these nurseries - what they grew and who their clients were.

There is an 1847 map, available to buy online, which shows this area was laid down to fields then. The building of the Ilkley terminus station in 1865 may have had a direct effect on the land use here, the development of the nurseries and the subsequent building of the villa residences.

As you have seen, you can glean a lot of information from studying the OS maps and I expect many of you are already map enthusiasts.



<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw/>

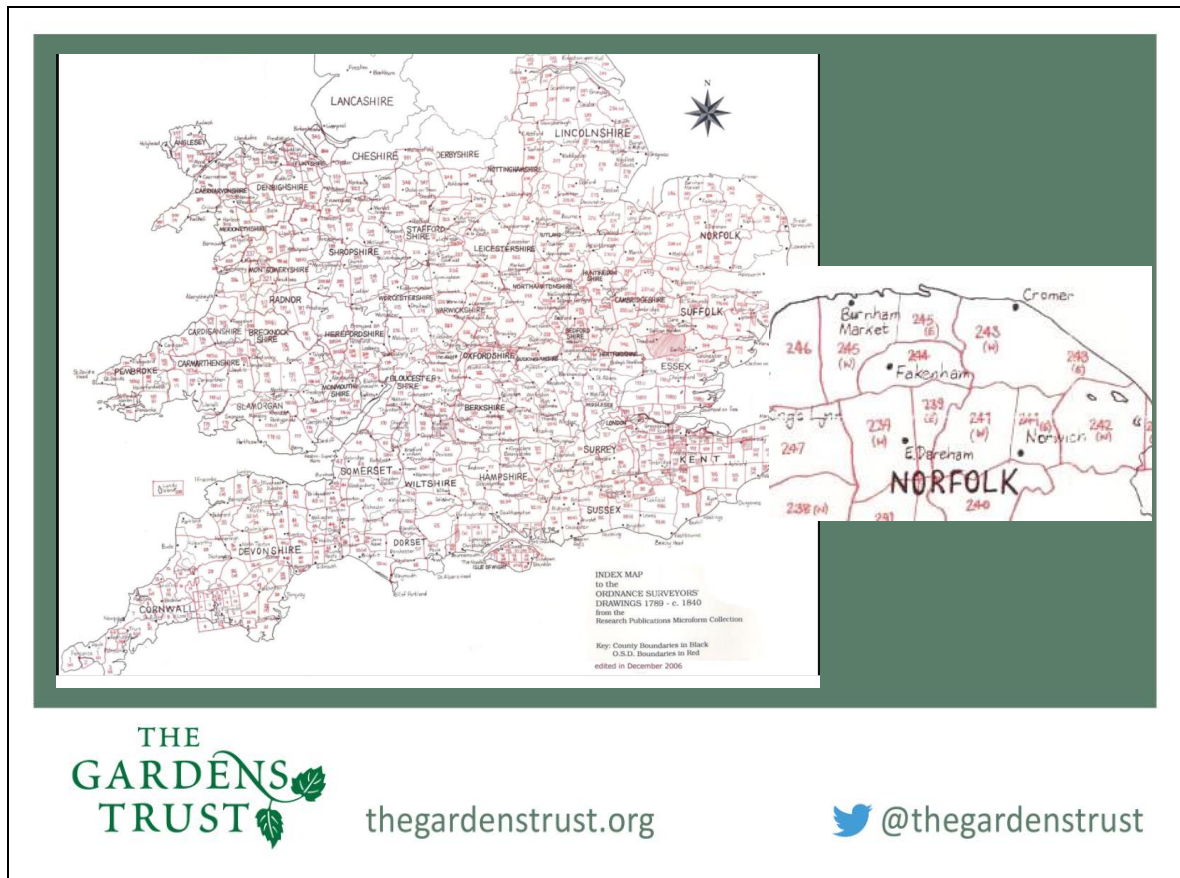
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The threat of war and invasion during the 1780s to 1840s prompted the government to commission a detailed survey from the newly established Ordnance Survey. Not too surprisingly Kent was the earliest county to be surveyed followed by a rolling programme of surveys from the coastal counties, inwards.

If you want to study the original OS survey drawings – a significant number of these are viewable on the British Library website:
<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw/> It is interesting to compare these drawings with the 1880s First Edition OS maps because several decades of change could have taken place in the interim period.

A search using 'British Library OS Drawings' should take you to this page which is your portal to the 351 OS drawings the British Library hold. The drawings cover Wales and most of England, up to a line from the Humber to Merseyside.

To find out if your area of interest is among the drawings, you can check the Static Index using the link in the mauve box.



This page shows all the survey areas with their allotted number and one major settlement. This settlement will give the drawing its name when you look through the alphabetical list drawings.

To show you an example of one of the surveys I am going to use a part of the country I know well, Norfolk, and the sheet I am interested in, is number 244 Fakenham, in North Norfolk.



The screenshot shows the British Library website's 'Ordnance Survey drawings' exhibition page. The page features a navigation bar with links to 'Online Gallery Home', 'Virtual books', 'Online exhibitions', 'Highlights tour', and 'Personal'. The main content area includes a section titled 'Ordnance Survey drawings' with a description of the original large-scale drawings made for the famous one-inch-to-the-mile maps. Below this is a section for 'Peter Barber Head of Map Collections', which includes a photo of Peter Barber and a description of the collection. A hand cursor points to the link 'See all of the items in this exhibition' under the 'Curator's choice' section. The 'Curator's choice' section lists three items: 'Lands End, Mount's Bay, Cornwall', 'Hampstead', and 'Caernarvon', each with a small image and a brief description.

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I have returned to the OS Survey Drawings Home Page and clicked on 'See all the items in this exhibition' and then went I through the drawings listed to find the Fakenham drawing.

The screenshot shows the British Library Online Gallery interface. At the top, the 'BRITISH LIBRARY' logo is on the left, and 'ONLINE GALLERY' with the tagline 'See 30,000 items from our collection' is in the center. A search bar is on the right. Below the header, a navigation menu includes 'Online Gallery Home', 'Virtual books', 'Online exhibitions', 'Highlights tour', and 'Personal galleries'. The breadcrumb trail reads: 'bl.uk > Online Gallery Home > Online exhibitions > Ordnance Survey drawings > Fakenham 11'.

The main content area is titled 'Fakenham' and features a map image. To the right of the image, the following details are listed:

- Draughtsman: Metcalf, Edward B.
- Medium: Pen and ink on paper
- Date: 1815
- Interactive zoomable image (needs Flash)
- Full size printable image
- Less metadata
- Shelfmark: OSD 244
- Item number: 11
- Length: 40
- Width: 22
- Genre: Map
- Map scale ratio: 2 " 1 Mile (1 : 31680)

Below the image, a descriptive paragraph states: 'This plan covers north-west Norfolk, an area characterised by arable and grassland interspersed with mixed woodland. Rainham Park at lower right and Melton Park in the centre are good examples of 18th-century formal gardens. Isolated villages and dispersed farms represent the dominant settlement pattern in an area made up of large private estates.'

At the bottom of the main content area, there is a section for 'Your notes: tell us more about this item' with links for 'Terms and conditions', 'Report a concern', 'What is this?', and 'Add a note'.

On the right side of the page, there are several sidebar sections:

- Favourites**: 'What is this? You must log in to see your favourites.'
- Personal galleries**: 'What is this? You must log in to create and edit galleries. See all user galleries.'
- My tags for item**: 'What is this? You must log in to add and delete tags.'
- Recent tags for item**: 'Report a concern.'
- Elsewhere on our websites**: 'What's On Exhibitions, live events and downloads'.

At the bottom of the slide, the 'THE GARDENS TRUST' logo is on the left, the website 'thegardenstrust.org' is in the center, and the Twitter handle '@thegardenstrust' is on the right.

The Fakenham page is typical of all the survey entries and I can read here that Edward Metcalf was the draughtsman, he worked in pen and ink on paper, and the survey drawing was completed in 1815. The scale is 2 inches to the mile and its British Library shelf mark (reference number) is OSD 244. That last piece of information you will need if you want to order a high-resolution digital file from the British Library.

Your computer may be set up to run the 'Interactive zoomable image' – my Flash player wasn't cooperating, so I looked at the 'Full size printable image' instead . . .



OSD 244 Fakenham Survey Drawing

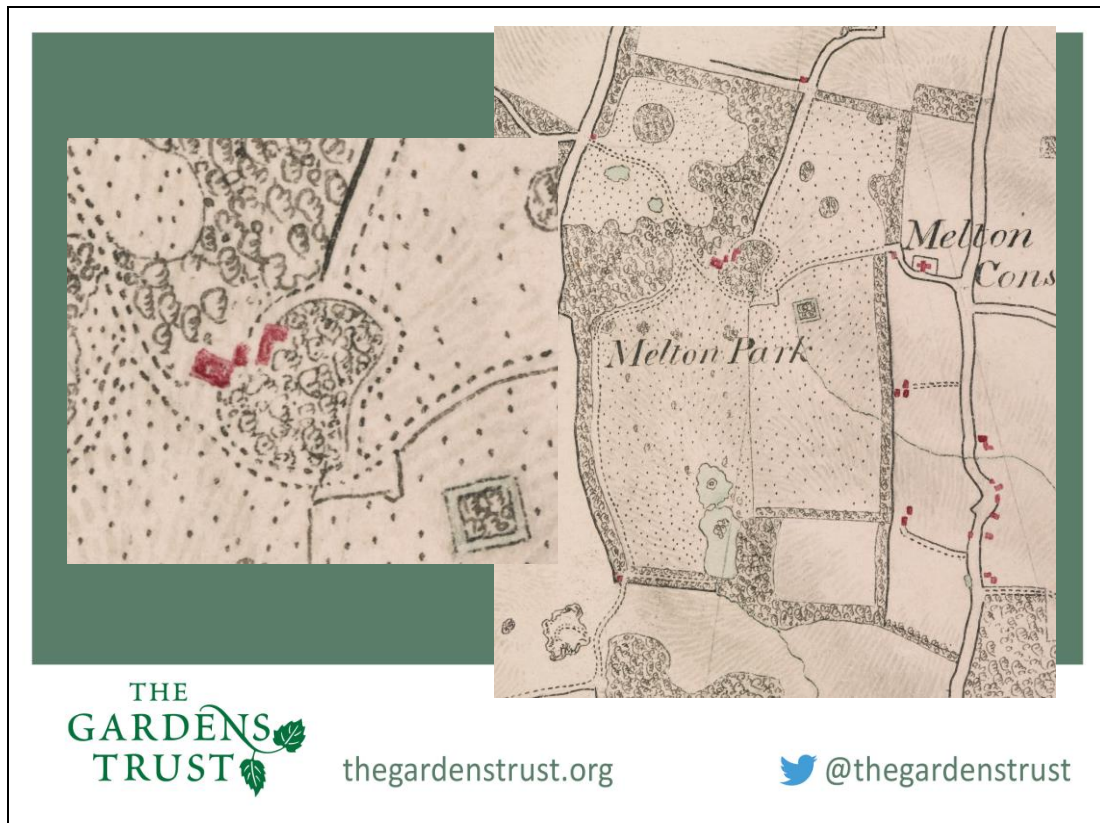


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These survey drawings are amazing and although the detail is not as fine as the later OS maps you can pick up quite a lot of information. The map is shaded to show the contours and bodies of water, blocks of tree planting and the network of roads and tracks can be seen.

The landscape park that Norfolk Gardens Trust was interested in, for their Capability Brown project, was Melton Constable Park (ringed in yellow) and for their publication, they wanted to include a detail of this survey drawing showing the park. I can show you what the drawing looks like, up close, because they purchased a digital file from the British Library.

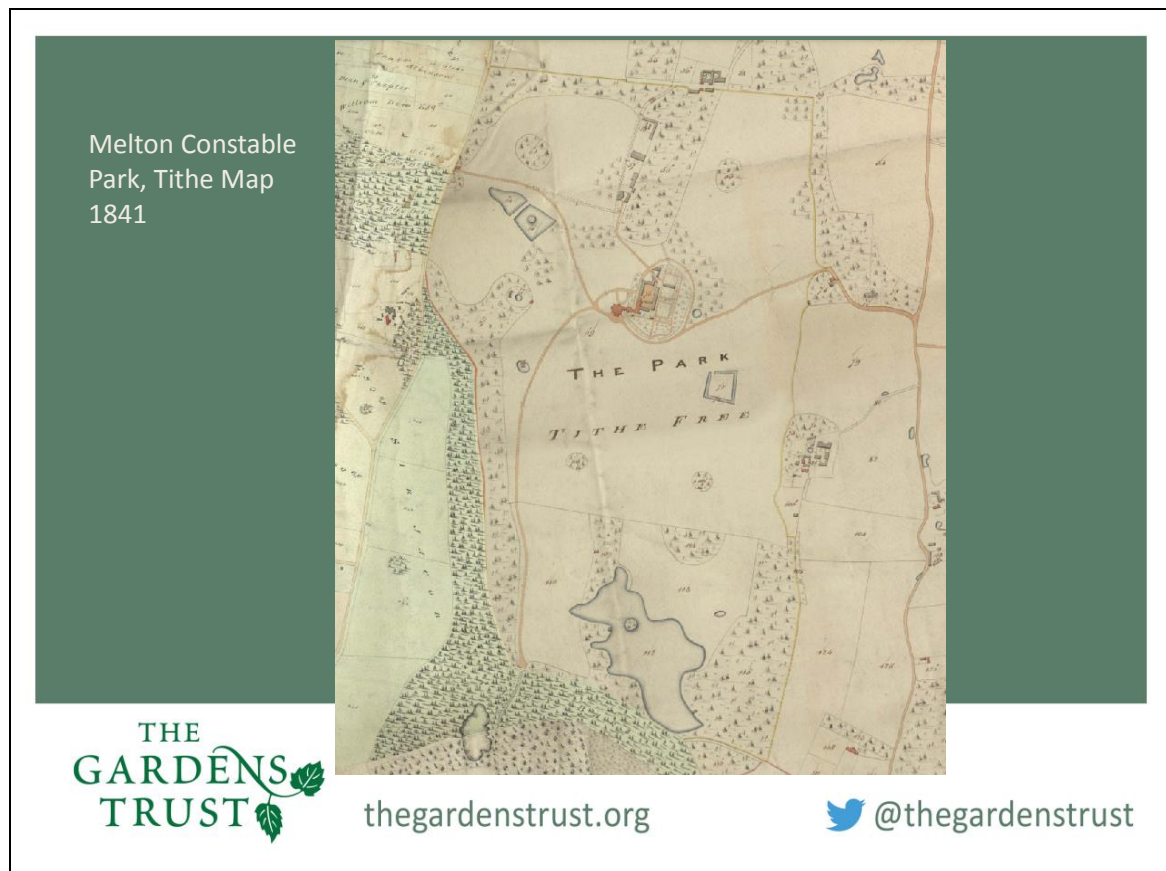


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As you can see, all buildings are shown in red, grassland is indicated with dots, trees with a fairly uniform tree motif, and the drives and tracks are clearly marked. Capability Brown's lake in the south of the park is shown in two sections with an island in each. This map was drawn up only 60 years after Brown drew his plan and his team of workers made their changes. By the time the 1880s OS maps were produced the park's boundaries had been enlarged again and so these drawings are an important record of Brown's improvements because sadly, his plan for Melton Constable doesn't appear to have survived.

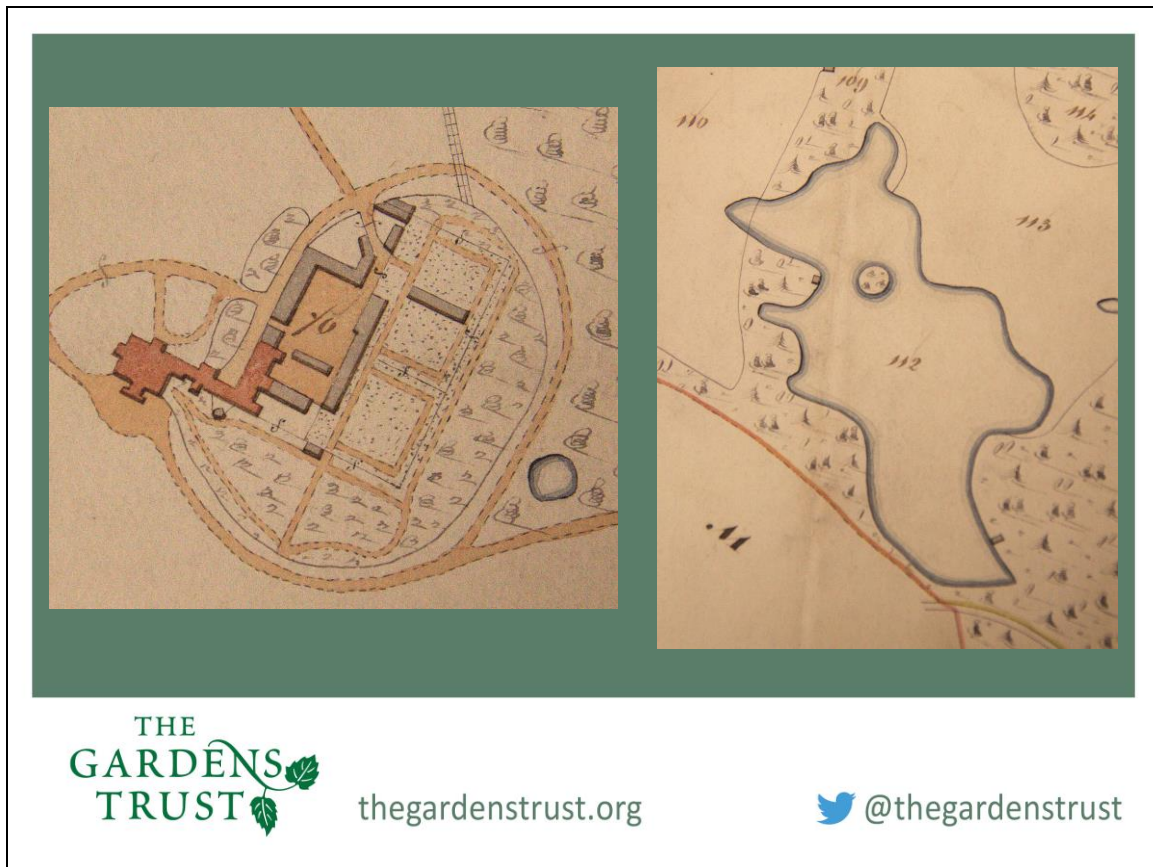


Moving on now to Tithe maps, which date towards the middle of the 18th century.

Before 1836, tithes were paid to the church in 'produce from the land' (crops, animals, timber, fish etc.) The 1836 Act for the Commutation of Tithes in England and Wales meant that parishes were responsible for working out the monetary value each householder was due to pay. Therefore, Parish Tithe maps were drawn up to determine the amount of rent payable from each parcel of land, whether it held the dwelling, other buildings or just the land itself.

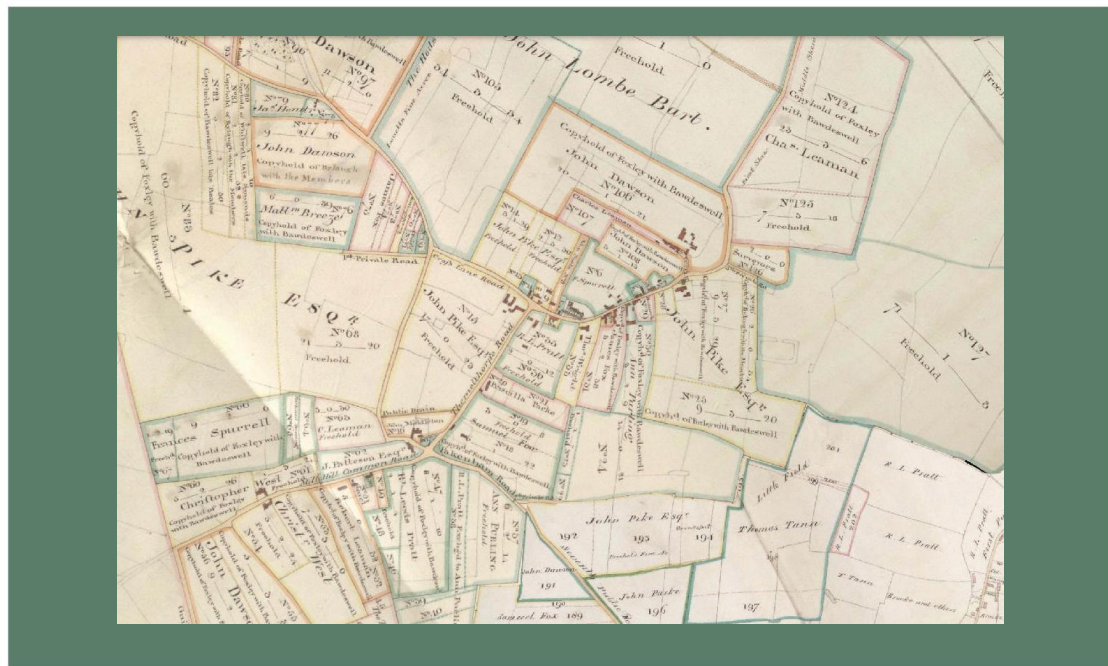
If you are fortunate to be researching a site in a county where the tithe maps have been digitised, then there is a good chance they are available online.

This is the Melton Constable Tithe Map of 1841 which is available on the Norfolk Historic Maps website and as you can see it is more detailed than the earlier OS survey drawing, we just looked at.

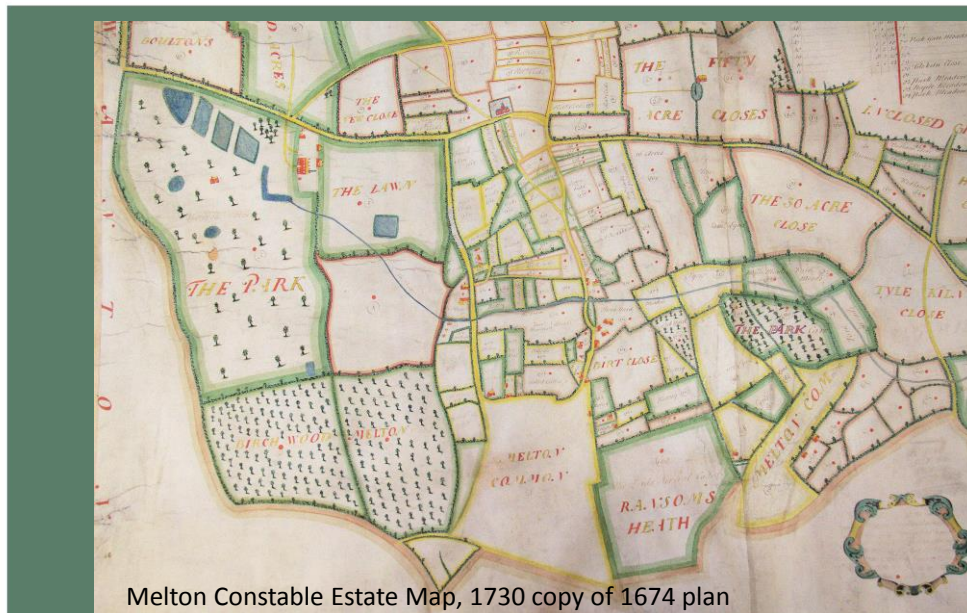


Zooming in on the tithe map to show the area around the Hall, you can clearly see the layout of the pleasure grounds to the east which encircle the new kitchen garden that Brown built. The pleasure grounds are still enclosed by Brown's *ha ha* and Brown's lake is shown as an irregular organic shape with one island and a small boathouse on the western shore. There are numbers in the parcels of land and the lake itself. These correspond with those on the accompanying apportionment document. To look through this document you will most likely need to visit your local records office. It will tell you who owned that parcel of land, who was occupying it or using it (if it wasn't the owner), the size of the parcel in acres, rods and perches and how much tithe payment was due.

Tithes remained payable on farmland until the 1930s.



Slightly earlier than Tithe maps are the Enclosure Maps from the early-19th century. Enclosure maps were instruments of land reorganisation which both reflected and consolidated the power of those who commissioned the maps. This is the 1815 Enclosure Map for Foxley, a couple of miles away from the tithe map we just looked at. At this time, the old strip fields were still very much in evidence, and each parcel of land contains its owner's name and title.



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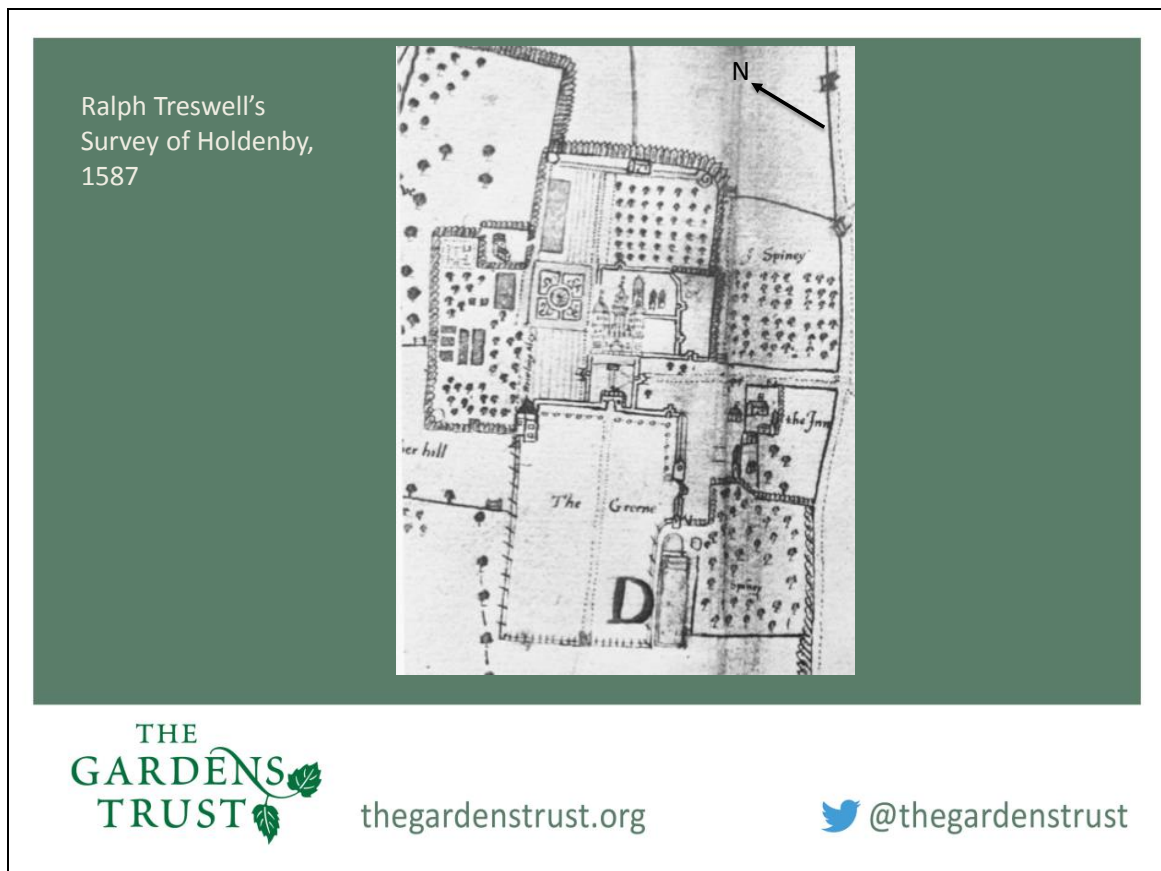
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We will now take a brief look at earlier maps that you might come across. Always ask yourself, who commissioned the map or drew it and for what purpose? More often or not the map, whether it is a big estate plan, or a smaller sketch map, it was drawn up to identify the size and features of the owner's property. Early maps can have been surveyed with a good degree of accuracy, but they can be way off beam, and it is not always possible to overlay them on an OS map, but studying the relationships between the houses, the church, waterways and the road network can give you a good idea of how they compare with modern maps and the lie of the land.

Some of these earlier maps will have been digitised and placed online, but a great number will only be available by visiting county record offices or possibly other archives who might hold originals or copies.

Early maps may still exist at their original property, particularly if the same family has lived there for centuries. It's amazing what comes out of cupboards and attics if you can arrange a visit.

This plan is a 1730 copy of a 1674 estate map for Melton Constable, which is now held in Norfolk Record Office. The amount of detail it shows indicates it is probably a faithful copy of the original. Names such as 30-acre Close, Ransome's Heath, Birchwood Melton and Tyle Kiln Close tell us a lot about the geology and land use. Interestingly, two areas on this map are described as Park – which indicates two deer parks, maybe the smaller one on the right was the older of the two?



Here is an even earlier, delightful plan of 1587 at Holdenby in Northamptonshire. The Hatton family were mover and shakers in Elizabeth's court with Christopher Hatton rising to the rank of Lord Chancellor. He saw the completion of a grand home with an equally grand landscape and gardens around it.

As is usual, the house itself is lying on its back so you can see one of its main elevations and other smaller buildings are shown too. There is so much information on this map from the paling fence that ran around the formal gardens (to keep the deer out) to trees in straight lines indicating an orchard. There are garden paths and several round features, which may be viewing mounds, including a snail mound in the top right corner. There are walled courts with ornate gateways – some of which still survive – garden buildings (maybe the tower-like feature was a banqueting house) and a formal parterre to the west flanked by extensive terraces on the hillside.

Even on more modest sites, early maps and sketch plans can tell you a lot about the status and purse of the owner, how they used the land around their home and if they were following the garden fashions of the period.

There is so much we can learn from maps, from the detailed large-scale OS maps to the quick amateur sketch maps drawn by someone for a specific purpose.



Other pictorial sources come under these categories and, probably, everyone's first thought when looking for images is to Google their site using the Images tab and see what comes up. Many useful images have been found this way, so I'm not knocking it! If you are aiming to use these images for a publication or a website, just because they are publicly available on the internet is not permission enough to use them and tracking down the owner can be incredibly difficult.

There is now a wealth of searchable image archives and collections online, so let's have a look at some of the most popular . . .

UK Online Image Archives

British Library: <https://imagesonline.bl.uk/>


Bridgman Images: <https://www.bridgemanimages.co.uk/en/>

Historic England: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/>


National Trust: <http://www.nationaltrustimages.org.uk/>

National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/photography>

Francis Frith: <https://www.francisfrith.com/uk/search>



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These sites are all free to search and you can view low resolution images but if you want to purchase digital files of an image, they can get quite expensive. If an image is for your own use or for a non-profit making purpose, it is worth asking if there is a discount to the prices quoted.

British Library (<https://imagesonline.bl.uk/>)
Bridgman Images (<https://www.bridgemanimages.co.uk/en/>)
Historic England (<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/>)
National Trust (<http://www.nationaltrustimages.org.uk/>)
National Archives (<https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/photography>)
Francis Frith is (<https://www.francisfrith.com/uk/search>)

There are quite likely to be image collections in your locality – try the county record office, local heritage societies, interest groups or local press archives.

US Online Image Archives

Huntingdon Library: <https://hdl.huntington.org/>

Granger Historical Picture Library: <https://www.granger.com/>

Avery Library: <https://library.columbia.edu/libraries/avery.html>

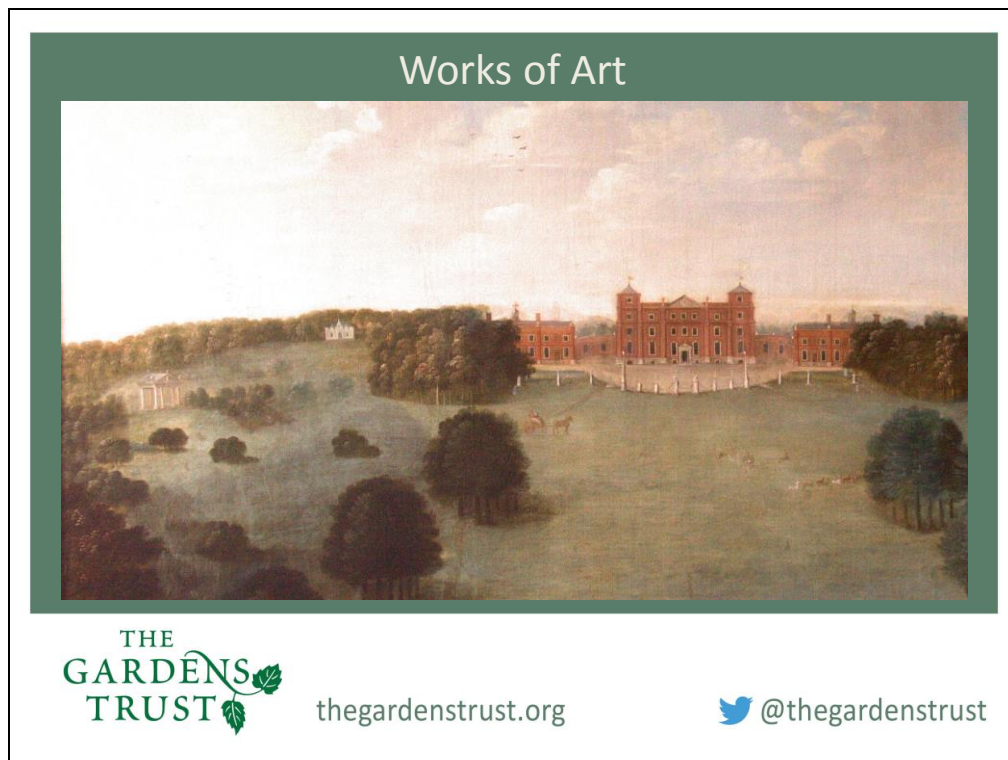
University of Florida: <https://maps.uflib.ufl.edu/>



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We do not have to confine our search for images to the UK, many universities and fine arts collections have purchased, or been given, UK material. These are four in the United States that I have used in the past but there will be many more I am sure. Some, I have had to contact directly to obtain the image files for the pictures I have found on their websites and for others I have been able to download directly high-resolution images. The US sites are often very generous in allowing you to use their images for free, with the appropriate accreditation. However, if the material you are interested in has not been photographed and digitised then you may have to pay quite a lot and then wait several months to see your files produced.



It is wonderful if you find out that paintings and drawings exist for the park or garden you are interested in, and even better if you can see them in person.

With any painting or sketch, you should always allow for some artistic licence, but they can be an accurate record of what the landscape was like, even if they have been executed by an amateur hand. A fine, commissioned painting to hang on a country house wall is not likely to show negative aspects of the landscape but more to demonstrate the good taste and status of the owners.

Here is an example, this is Langley Park in Norfolk, now home to a boarding school, and this is a detail of a painting made around 1750 which depicts the south front of the hall and the deer park. The artist is unknown, and it is one of a pair of large oil paintings. I've zoomed in on the image so you can see the sweep of gravel in front of the house edged by white posts or bollards. On the left, in the parkland, you can see a temple and a summerhouse. Due to the size and finished nature of the paintings it is tempting to think that this was exactly how the landscape looked in 1750. The white posts appear again in an earlier painting by John Wootton so it would seem that they did exist. However, there is absolutely no evidence for the temple or summerhouse in another image or plan or even on the ground. We cannot say they were not there; we just can't prove it. Buildings like these could be made of timber and painted, and therefore did not last long or leave foundations. Equally, they could have been dismantled and moved, or sold, or are these paintings a proposal of changes that could be made (marketing tool) or have they been popped in by the artist just to create a good picture?

Until you can find corroborating evidence – you have to keep an open mind!



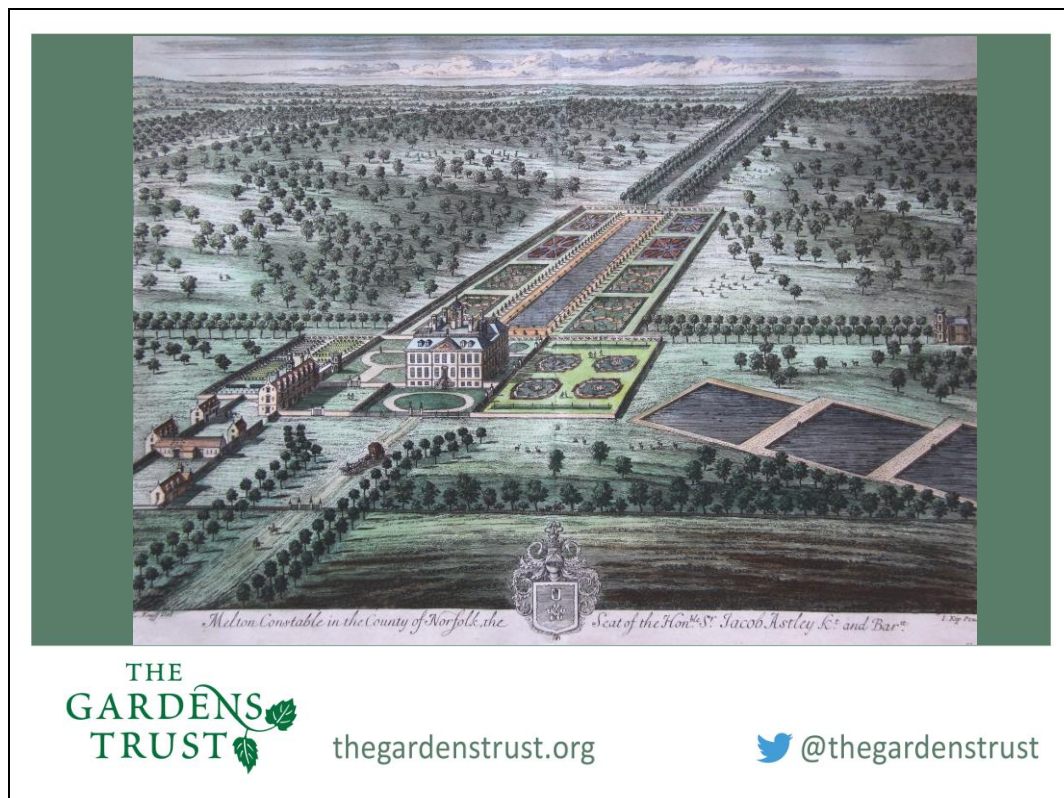
Here is another painting – this time a watercolour by the father and son team of John and Lewis Kennedy in their 1813 Green Book for Pentillie, in Cornwall. The Kennedy's were contemporaries of Humphry Repton and were probably inspired by Repton's Red Books to draw up their own versions for clients, bound in green leather. Unlike the last painting, we definitely know that these images were the Kennedy's proposals for 'improving' the grounds at Pentillie. Therefore, we do not know if ephemeral features like this proposed thornery and root house were carried out, as they are unlikely to have survived into the 21st century. Further research into family accounts, letters or other contemporary writings might find the mention of a root house and confirm that it was indeed built, then this painting would suggest a likely location.



Artwork by amateurs can be very useful too. Returning to Bedfordshire, this is a watercolour of Flitwick Manor - the view from its deer park. We can see that this image has not been painted by a professional artist as the sense of scale and distance is not at all convincing! It was painted by the Manor's owner, Mr John Brookes in 1838 and shows his house at the top of the hill, with a small herd of deer and a man in a tiny boat, on the lake in the foreground. There is a leaning evergreen tree in front of the house (it is a Cedar, and is still there today) and a belt of mature trees in the background framing what looks like a ruin.

Normally, we would be looking for other first-hand sources to corroborate what we can see here, but Mr Brookes was not only passionate about his gardens, but he liked to share his grounds with visitors and was a remarkable record keeper. This painting is the frontispiece for his handwritten 'Garden Notebook for Flitwick Manor' which not only contains a detailed, numbered plan of his grounds with a helpful list of all the numbered features. He has included numerous sketches of the many garden buildings, statues, rockwork etc accompanied by written descriptions. What is more, the plan has coloured routes around his property with suggestions for which route you should take for the time of year and what plants and trees you will encounter. As we saw on the NHLE list entry for Flitwick Manor, only the grotto bridge has survived – without John Brookes' notebook we would have very little knowledge of the remarkable garden he was so proud of.

Sadly, most gardens did not have such a fine record keeper and this notebook is a garden historian's dream.



We can study engravings in the same way as paintings – here we see Melton Constable again. This large engraving is by Jan Kip and Leonard Knyff for their book *Britannia Illustrata* (1707). A grand formal layout is shown to the south of the new house which was completed just before 1700. There is no evidence of this design on the ground today, apart from rounder versions of the square ponds on the right and the small building with a tower on the extreme right – however, both these features pre-date this engraving. Were Kip and Knyff presenting this as a design proposal or had the owner, Jacob Astley, described to them his grand plans for his grounds? Maybe it was laid out, but mid-18th century engravings show the parkland running right up to the walls of the house. At this point in time we cannot say if this elaborate garden existed or not.

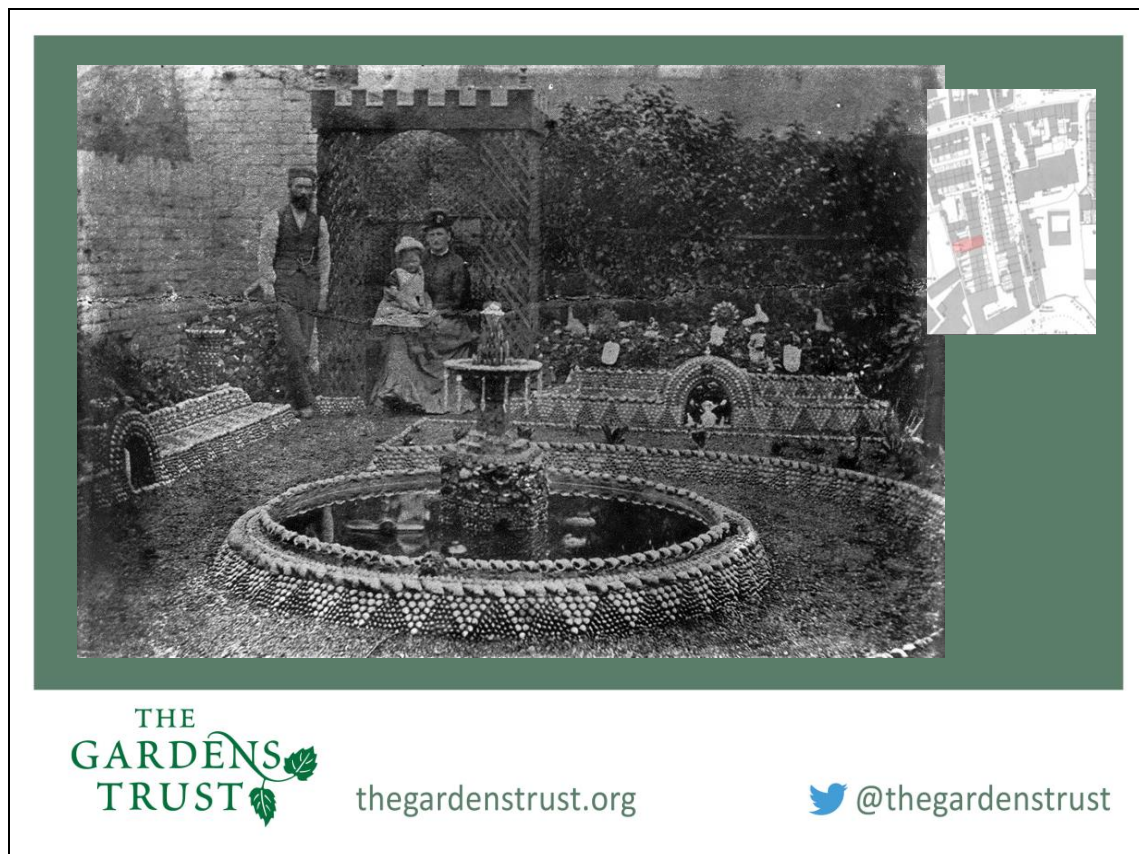
Look out for engravings from books, which often come up for sale online and can be relatively inexpensive compared to buying image files from digital archives.



From the mid-19th century onwards, photography becomes an important recording method. Photographs were taken for private family albums, publications, advertisements, sales particulars and postcards. Sometimes the garden is the central focus and other times it appears in the background of group portraits or special events.

This photograph appeared on Twitter recently – it is a mowing team at Burlingham Hall near Norwich, and apart from the horse-drawn mower it shows the *ha ha* wall in the foreground and the formally planted beds on the terrace in front of the house. The local gardener's association tweeted this photocopy, hoping someone might know where the original photo is. It was an opportunity to get in touch and share knowledge. Social media can be a very quick way of identifying parks and gardens too – often in a matter of minutes. Don't keep your images to yourself, if you have permission to share them it's worth posting them in local interest groups on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. You are likely to receive lots of anecdotal evidence and maybe someone will have new material to share back?

The advent of photography and increasingly affordable cameras led to more modest gardens being recorded . . .



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This has got to be up there amongst my favourite Norfolk Victorian photographs. Taken in the early 1870s it shows a couple and their son, sitting in this amazing shell garden at the back of their small, terraced house in Norwich. It is a rare photograph of a backyard garden, in a city slum area, made from whatever materials they could get hold of - in this case, a variety of shells obtained from the fishmonger's shop around the corner. According to their descendants, it was a well-known garden and they welcomed visitors from quite a distance.

It is so fortunate that this photo survives, because this whole area was badly devastated in the 1912 August floods and the shell garden was completely washed away overnight.

EPW061316 ENGLAND (1939). Woburn Abbey and Woburn Park, Woburn, 1939. This image has been produced from a copy-negative.

< Previous (EPW036305)

Q Back to Search Results



www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EPW061316

© Historic England

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Buy

Zoom In

Zoom Out

Add to Profile



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We have already looked at aerial photography, using Google Earth, for 21st century images but of course aerial photography has been around a lot longer. Your county record office may hold collections taken for military surveys in the 1940s and 50s and there may even be a dedicated section on their website.

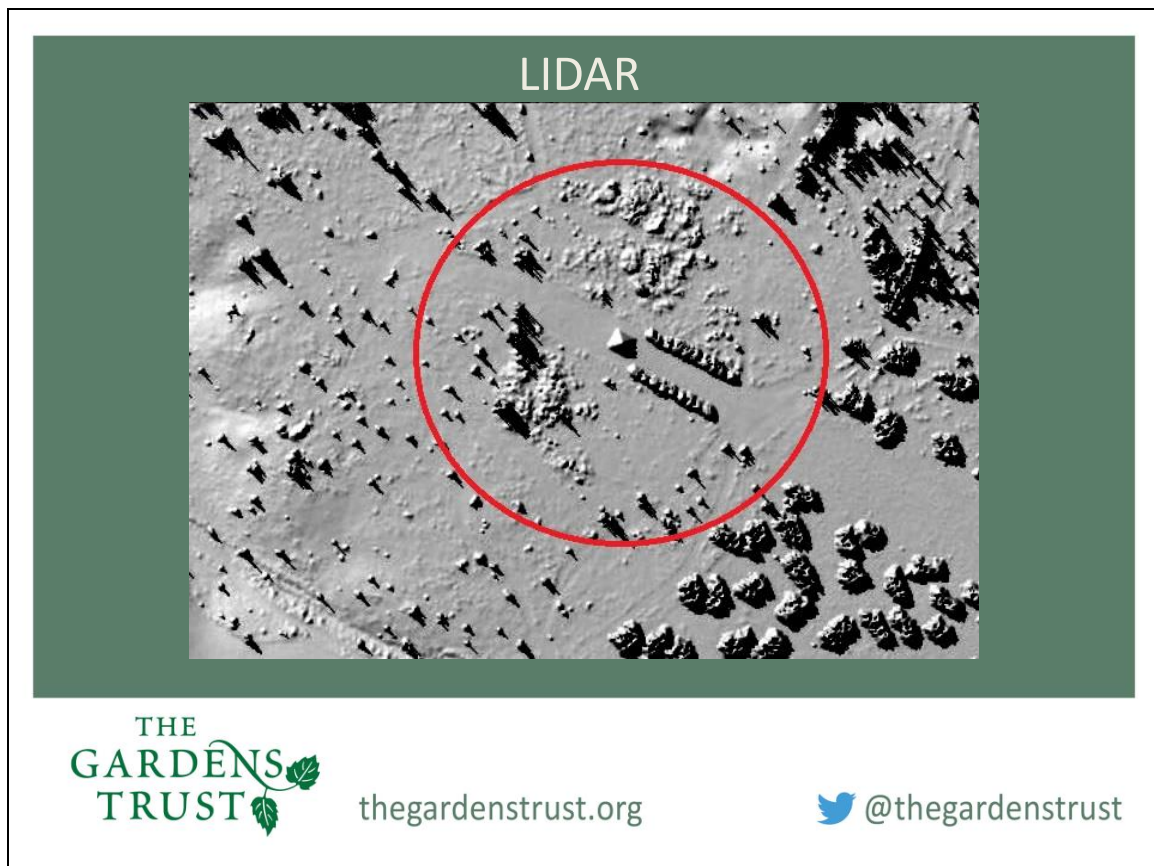
This is an example from the Britain from the Air website: www.britainfromabove.org.uk and is a resource run by Historic England that makes available a large collection of old aerial photos – this photo was taken over Woburn Park, Bedfordshire, in 1939.



Charles Barry's 1850s garden at Gawthorpe Hall NT, Lancashire,

Very hot, dry summers and the increasing number of drone operators as seen the growing number of aerial surveys looking for searches for parch marks such as these at Gawthorpe Hall in Lancashire. This garden layout from the 1850s disappeared after the Second World War but its design re-appears every so often when the weather conditions are right. The lighter coloured turf indicating compacted pathway material beneath the mown grass.

Your local archaeological unit or society may have collections of aerial photographs commissioned for surveying large sites.



Technology is developing all the time and the whole of the country is steadily being mapped by LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging). The LIDAR surveys started by mapping the coastlines and river valleys, seen as areas prone to rapid change, but more and more areas are being covered each year. I'm not going to dwell further on how LIDAR works as that, we hope, is another subject for another time, but it has the potential to show landscapes off in a whole new light.

Here's a LIDAR image of Blickling Park, Norfolk, you can hopefully just make out the 18th century pyramid mausoleum in the centre, with an avenue of trees leading away from it to the right. The red circle indicates the presence of a very faint circle that can be seen by studying the LIDAR image. This has prompted much scratching of heads because nothing like this is visible on the ground. Was it constructed around the pyramid or was the pyramid built in the middle of something that was there before?

Primary and Secondary Sources

Primary: Letters, accounts books, wills, contracts, travel diaries, maps, paintings, drawings, engravings, photographs, sales particulars, old films, period books, journals and magazines.

Secondary: Books, reimagined images, blogs and modern: film dramas, magazines and artwork



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Here is a quick resume about what we mean when we talk about primary and secondary sources for evidence.

Primary Sources are anything that was written or created at the point of history you are studying. Yes, they can show bias, either conscious or subconscious, by the person who has written or created the source. But often they are faithful records of events, transactions, or activities of their time.

Secondary sources are everything else which has been written or created subsequent to the period of history and has been reinterpreted by a third party.

We have already looked at several categories of Primary Sources but others include the following:

Accounts Books



<https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/libraries-at-rhs/collections/library-online/capability-brown-account-book>



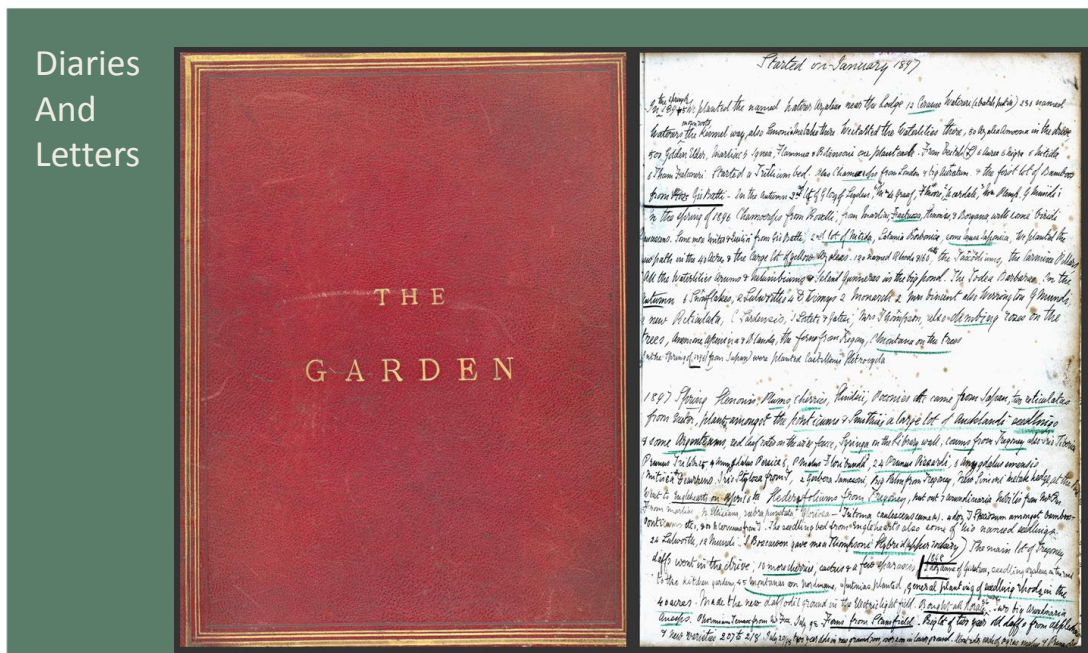
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Accounts books and other estate papers, although the handwriting can be hard to decipher. They are likely to itemise exactly how much money was spent buying a certain number of trees on a certain date, or how many men were required to dig a particular pond. From that information you can extrapolate what existed and when it was created. Unless the accounts books are still with the same family, they are likely to be held in your county record office.

This accounts book belonged to Capability Brown and the RHS have digitised it and made it available online. Each page is given over to one of Brown's clients and every time he or the workmen complete a task, the list and the amount due is updated. A very useful document indeed because it tells us where he worked, who commissioned him, what he changes he made to the landscape and how much he was paid. If another of his accounts book is found who knows what new Brown sites, we might learn about?

Diaries And Letters




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Diaries and letters are also invaluable, again, if you can unpick the handwriting. You might find, for example, the 18th century lady of the house writing to her sister and describing her day spent in her garden or reporting the work that has been carried out on a new garden area or building.

This image relates to Caerhays in Cornwall from <https://thediary.caerhays.co.uk/>: The leather-bound book entitled 'The Garden' belonged to Mr J. C. Williams and has a page for each day of the year. It initially records his work in daffodil hybridisation and, after 1902, it records the arrival of vast numbers of new plants from China which were totally unknown in Western Europe. These were collected by the great plant hunters, Ernest Wilson and George Forrest, for whom Mr Williams sponsored their various Chinese expeditions up to 1932.'



Sales Particulars

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From the early-19th century onwards, sales and auction particulars become common at the point when a property changed hands. Their descriptions include details of the main dwelling, ancillary buildings, the extent of the grounds and what they are being used for, as well as information about the gardens and glasshouses. For many, the description is accompanied by plans and illustrations, showing the extent of the property and land use.



Books written in the past can be useful too, although beware of writers showing bias because they did or didn't get on with the owners (some accounts can be quite scathing) or there's been a bit of embellishment because they wanted to sell their book!

The Victorians loved travelling and there are lots of books detailing their journeys and what they saw – these can be very informative. This book from the 1890s, for example, includes a visit to Penshurst, a famous Kent garden, and talks about the trees there which helps us to picture the garden at the time.

Depending on how many copies were published and how rare they are you may be able to borrow books from your library service, or they may be read a reference section in your county record office or local studies centre. The RHS Lindley library lends out books - unless they are in their archive section, in which case you would need to book an appointment to go and read them in their Research Room.

Many older books are now available online as e-Books. If you search for the title and the site you want, Google might show you the relevant part of the book you are interested in.

If you are a member of a university or another educational establishment you will have access to JSTOR, with its huge access to all sorts of literature. If you are not a member – can you think of someone who is, and could they look up the material for you?

It is also worth having a look on eBay or Abebooks for a 'readers copy' of the title you're after. A 'readers copy' is booksellers' speak for a very poor conditioned copy with very little value!



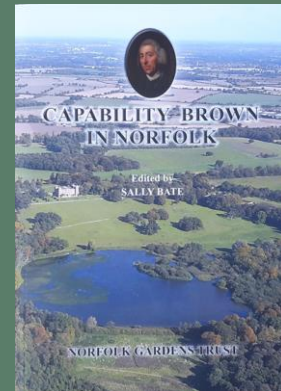
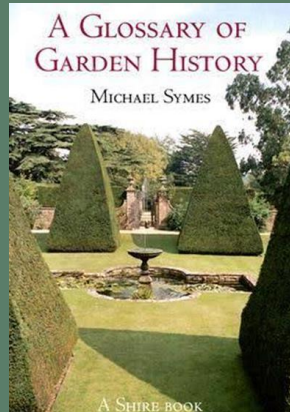
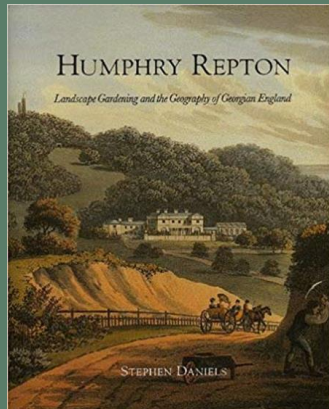
Contemporary magazine and newspaper articles are also great for descriptions of gardens and you might be surprised to hear that the Country Life magazine is a very well-used resource for garden historians – as a 20th century UK publication chronicling affairs of interest to the upper class, Country Life has significant coverage of gardens; art history and architecture and many local archives may have many editions or all the full run from 1897-2005. This garden feature is in the March 31st, 1900 edition and is Blaise Castle in Gloucestershire.

The British Newspaper Library online offers an immense back catalogue of newspapers, and you can find all kinds of descriptions of gardens in there – there's a fee to search the archive but you can pay for short bursts of time, so in order to save money be as organised in advance as you can. <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

The Gardeners Chronicle is also very useful – it was a British weekly horticultural periodical which ran for nearly 150 years. It was founded in 1841 by the horticulturists: Joseph Paxton, Charles Wentworth and John Lindley and the printer William Bradbury. It originally took the form of a traditional newspaper, with both national and foreign news. Among the vast number of subjects covered there is a lot of material sent in by head gardeners, nurserymen, plant breeders and keen garden owners, covering every conceivable aspect of horticulture. There are lots of descriptions or passing mentions of specific gardens in it, your garden of interest might be there. The adverts are wonderful to study too!
(<https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/serial?id=gardenerchron>)

Searching these sources is made much easier if you have the date, or at least the year, of an article. It can be a long and fruitless search if you have to wade through too many editions in the hope of finding anything.

Secondary Sources: **Books**, reimagined images, blogs and modern: film dramas, magazines and artwork



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Briefly on secondary sources:

There have been lots of books produced in more recent times, although garden history is a relatively young subject so it's unlikely that they'll include a huge amount on your specific site, unless it is a well-known garden, studied by many or the subject of a guidebook.

These are just three examples of the kind of book you might find useful. A good book on the work of a garden designer or landscape architect, will give you information and a comparison with other sites, if your landscape was created by the same individual. This one here is a great overview of Humphry Repton's landscapes by Stephen Daniels. A good glossary of garden terms and features is this one by Michael Symes, in the middle, and lastly, your county gardens trust may have published a gazetteer of their historical gardens or a themed book such as this one on Brown's work in Norfolk.

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Lindley Library

Our beautiful library in London specialises in botanical art and garden history

The library holds unique collections of early printed books to modern titles on botanical art, the history of horticulture and practical gardening.

It also holds the Botanical Art collection of the RHS, the archives of the RHS and the personal archives of notable gardeners and garden designers.




Open on two floors

The **Upper Reading Room** allows open access to our lending library and free public exhibition area. See our [exhibitions & events](#).

at-rhs/events-exhibitions The **Research Room** is open by advanced appointment to provide access to our

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Exhibitions & events



Find out what's going on at our libraries from fascinating talks to world renowned botanical art exhibitions.

If you are interested in exhibiting art or photography at an RHS Show, please see our **shows and events** section

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You can order most modern titles from your local library service or, alternatively, the RHS Lindley Library in London, Wisley and Harlow Carr, also holds a large collection of books - <https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/libraries-at-rhs/visit-the-libraries/lindley-library-london>



Over the last two decades, blogs have become very popular online and can be a good source of information.

Obviously, I must say here, that David Marsh's weekly blog for the Gardens Trust is the most excellent of them all! The link to his blog can be found at the top right corner of the Gardens Trust's homepage on our website and you'll be taken straight to his most recent edition. However, you can search the numerous blogs David has written for a topic or site, using the box on the right. This is a superb example of an eminent garden historian making his research available to all – for free.

There are, of course, other good blogs out there to discover, but with any secondary source the content may be highly accurate, or it could be subject to a bit of embellishment.

Websites

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Websites: There are a plethora of websites out there with gems of information on them. Many have contributions from academics and knowledgeable enthusiasts, and new material is coming online daily.

This is a very recent addition to The Georgian Group website, where they saw 2020 as a great opportunity to scan, and make available to read, past editions of their annual journal. (<https://georgiangroup.org.uk/journal/>).

Many of the county gardens trusts have back issues of their magazines and newsletters available to read on their websites too.

Using your county record office
or local studies centre

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY RECORD OFFICE
Welcome to our blog, sharing our collections, conservation and outreach



Walled Gardens and Glasshouses

By Gail Falkingham, Record Assistant

Search ..

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One day, and it can't come too soon, we shall be able to visit our local county archives again.

2020 and 2021 have been frustrating times for academics, students and local historians alike! Archives might be closed to the public but that does not mean nothing has been happening behind the scenes. My own county record office has been busy developing a whole new cataloguing system and others have been posting articles and blogs via social media or holding Zoom lectures, to stay connected with the public.

A member of Yorkshire Gardens Trust (Gail) also works at the North Yorkshire County Record Office. Using material from their archives, she has recently put together four garden history blogs for their website. Here is her blog on Walled Gardens and Glasshouses, using local examples and images that you will one day be able to go in and view for yourself. (<https://nycroblog.com/category/garden-history/>) Wouldn't it be lovely to have garden history information such as this on all our record office websites?

However, all county record offices and local studies centres are unique, and it is worth spending a bit of time exploring their websites and becoming familiar with their online catalogues.

Before visiting your county record office
or local studies centre

What will you need to obtain a readers' ticket or gain access
to the search room?



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Before you set off to visit your local archive centre it pays to do some preparation beforehand.

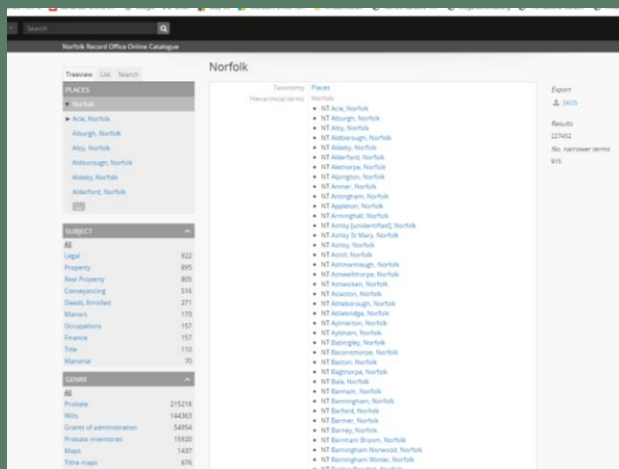
It used to be the case that you applied for your readers ticket on your first visit to an archive. This may still be the case, so look on their website to see what you need to provide in the way of identification (passport, driving licence and proof of address are the usual requirement) and whether you can obtain your pass on the day or if you need to apply in advance.

This is my expired reader's pass for the British Library. For the BL, with its photo pass, it is definitely best to apply in advance, to save you a lot of time when you arrive on the day and then you can reserve items in advance too. (Here is the link to the BL page telling you what you need to provide: <https://www.bl.uk/help/how-to-get-a-reader-pass>)

A lot of county records offices used to create a card for you, which was part of the County Archive Research Network, or CARN as it is usually referred to. Your CARN card would give you access to other record offices around the country. This is not always the case now and I know of at least two record offices who are now not part of the scheme and maybe others are too – so check before you visit.

For busy search rooms you would be advised to book a table in advance, for a morning, afternoon or all-day session. If you are hoping to look at maps, tell the staff, so they can assign you a larger table.

Use the online catalogue to search for some of the items you think you will want to look at



The screenshot shows the Norfolk Record Office Online Catalogue. The main heading is 'Norfolk'. On the left, there are three filter sections: 'PLACES' with a list of locations including Aylsham, Bacton, and Great Yarmouth; 'SUBJECT' with categories like Legal, Property, and Real Property; and 'DATES' with a list of years from 1400 to 1900. The main area displays a list of search results, each with a reference number and a description. On the right, there is an 'Export' button and a summary of the results.

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Once you have familiarised yourself with their online catalogue, look for some maps or documents, and their associated reference numbers, that you would like to look at. Fill in an online request ticket or possibly email details to the address given for enquiries. It is usually one request ticket per item and as a rule you can order 4 items in advance. It is really worth doing this because they will be waiting for you when you arrive. Before you look at them, fill in more request tickets for further items, if you have their catalogue reference numbers to hand, so that the staff can be finding them for you while you look at your pre-ordered items. In this way you should be able to keep a rolling supply of material and do not have to waste time waiting for items to be produced. If there is a delay, there is usually a reference library and microfiche slides or films you can look at. Also, computer terminals where you can search the catalogue for other material of interest.

Record office practice varies. Items from the storerooms may be produced as and when the requests come in, particularly at smaller archive centres. For larger archives there may be a 15- or 30-minute delivery system, where batches of material arrive on trolleys. Whichever system is used, each item will arrive with its identification ticket, which you need to keep and return with that item. Your readers' pass will normally be kept with your request tickets so that the staff know exactly who, in the search room, has which items. This also acts as a security measure, in case an item goes missing, along with the request to sign the visitors' book when you arrive.



All archive centres should have a locker for you to store items you are not allowed to take into the Search Room – so remember to take a £1 coin for those that require it.

The above picture shows what you can take into the Search Room, and as you can see here, I use a clear plastic bag to hold pencils, an eraser, pencil sharpener, tissues and my readers' pass. You can normally take in laptops/phones (on silent) and a notebook but sometimes you may be asked to show there is nothing stowed away in either of these when you leave. Only wear the clothes that you will keep on during your session, scarves and coats etc should be stowed in the locker along with backpacks and handbags.

You must only use pencil in a search room – so take a few in with you and take care not to write on top of any documents. The search room staff can provide you with soft weights to keep documents flat and book cushions to support older items with vulnerable spines.



Photographs: You may know in advance that you want to take pictures of your documents, or you may come across something during your session. You cannot just whip out your phone and take a few snaps, you need to apply for a photography permit from a member of staff. Different archives have different systems – you may be able to pay a small amount for a 30-minute session or pay a bit more for morning, afternoon or all-day permit.

There will be a form to fill in, where you will be asked to give details of what you are photographing and what your purpose is – for your own later reference or for use in a publication etc.

If you want to buy a short time permit you need to be organised and get everything ready, this will be more difficult if you want to snap a larger number of items and you can only have four items out on your table at a time.

For larger objects such as maps there may be a special low table or a set of steps you can borrow to be able to get a good shot from above.

You will not be able to use a flash and you may be directed to a side of the room away from sunlight – ceiling lights can be a nuisance too, casting shadows or reflecting on items in protective clear sleeves. Ask for help and advice if you need a very clear image.

Not everything you would like to photograph might be permitted, sometimes owners of the deposited items may have placed a photography ban on them, or you may need their permission to reproduce the photos as well as the permission of the archive centre.

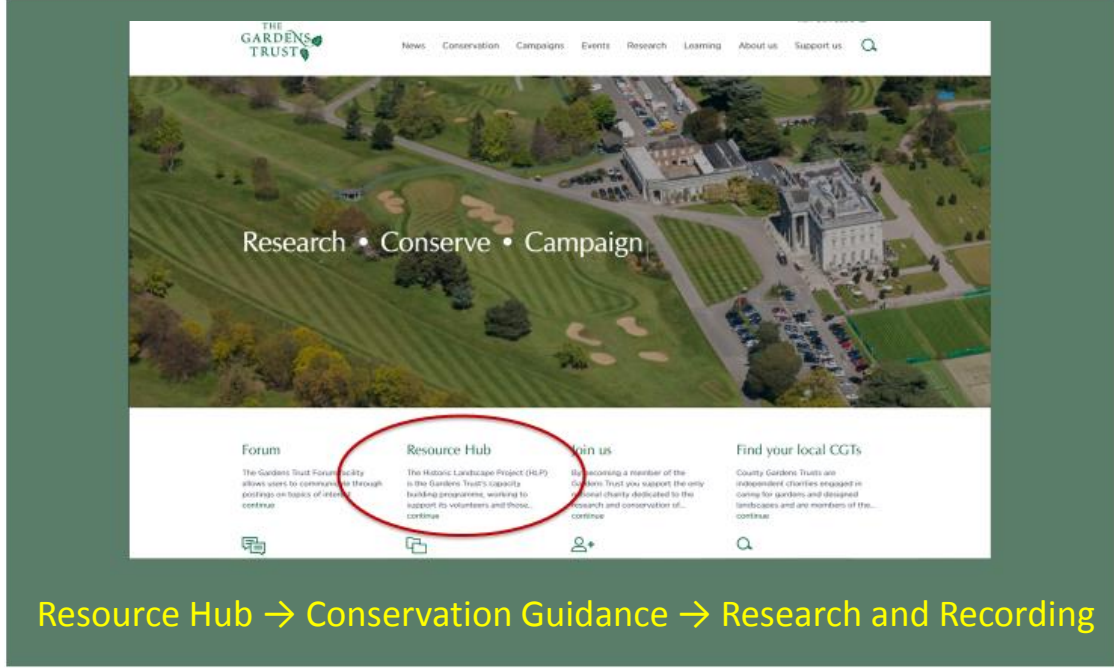


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In the archive centres, I have worked in, the staff have been incredibly helpful, both answering enquiries in advance and in the search room itself. They can help you navigate the catalogue, find your way around the folders of information and microfilm collections. Often, if you cannot find what you need from the catalogue, staff may have knowledge of new, unlisted acquisitions. It is exciting to be presented with a large box of uncatalogued documents, recently arrived from a country estate cellar – however, the documents themselves might be quite grubby and difficult to read – but it is worth a try.

Making a first visit to a record office or local studies centre can be quite daunting – so maybe go with someone else or look out on their website for a ‘behind the scenes tour’ or an induction session – a lot of archives run these because, believe it or not, they do want us to visit!



The screenshot shows the homepage of The Garden Trust website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: News, Conservation, Campaigns, Events, Research, Learning, About us, and Support us. The main banner features an aerial view of a park with the text "Research • Conserve • Campaign". Below the banner, there are four columns of content. The "Resource Hub" column is circled in red. Below the website screenshot, a yellow text box contains the navigation path: "Resource Hub → Conservation Guidance → Research and Recording". At the bottom of the slide, there is a footer with the logo, the website URL "thegardenstrust.org", and the Twitter handle "@thegardenstrust".

Resource Hub → Conservation Guidance → Research and Recording

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There has been a huge amount of information to take in this afternoon and there are so many more places you can find out information about your chosen park or garden.

Hopefully, I have given you some ideas to get you started. We will be sending out a recording of today's presentation, so you can listen again to any parts you missed or want to repeat. Alternatively, in the next day or so my slides and script will be available on our website in the Garden Trust Resource Hub. All the website links will be included too.

Thank you so much for listening and making it to the end!

Good luck with your research, we hope you find out lots of exciting information and hopefully you can find a way to share it with others and use it to help protect our #unforgettable historic parks and gardens.



Thank you to everyone who submitted suggestions of further sources of information and tips for research, please find them below:

Google Earth: There is a useful measuring tool you can use for distances between two points, or by marking a chain of measurements back to the starting point, you can measure the area (David).

Planning applications: Often contain a lot of information, although not always objective or easily verified (Fiona and Mike).

Country Life Magazine: You can buy (£40) the cumulative index of all CL articles since 1897 (Tamsin). ProQuest is great for Country Life articles (Louise) and you need a college login to use this (Pamela). In lieu of an index to Country Life, you can search their image library which indicates which issue the image was intended for, even if it was not used. Go to: www.countrylifeimages.co.uk (Joan). The Country Life Library are incredibly helpful: clpicturelibrary@ti-media.com (Pamela). If you are a member of the London Library you can access editions of Country Life, along with many other useful sources (Jennifer)

Biodiversity Heritage Library online, Hathi Trust, and the Wayback Machine: All great for old journals, newspapers, books etc (Louise).

Ancestry.com has huge amounts of information digitised and available if you have a subscription. Obviously its linked to people, not places. Its search facility is very detailed (Sue).

Royal Institute of British Architects can be good. I have found pen/ink drawings of an architect's impressions of his design, which can include basic garden elements. (David). *Yes, RIBA are very helpful and hold material you might not think of as being architectural e.g. the images from Repton's Red Book for Sheringham was with them and not the NT!* Sally B.

Can you do a **keyword search** for specific features? (Sebastian) Yes, you can search by architect/ designer/ item/ period/ etc on the Historic England website (Janice). *I put Sebastian's query about drinking fountains into the Heritage Gateway search box and 446 suggestions came back!* Sally B