Fifty Fabulous Features: Building Foundations for Garden History in Thurrock and Havering



Research Consultant

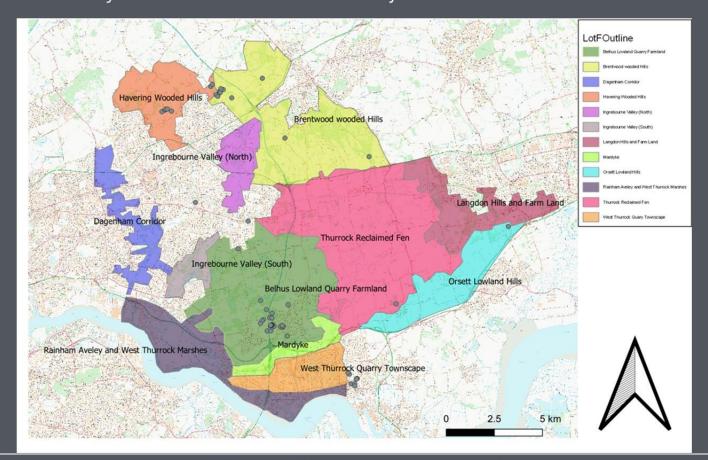
Not Just 50 Fabulous Features!

- For the last two years I have been working with and on behalf of Land of the Fanns Landscape Project, The Gardens Trust, the Essex Gardens Trust, and a simply amazing group of volunteers to develop and deliver three (soon to be four!) different projects focussed on the historic designed landscapes of Thurrock and Havering, in south Essex.
- This is a VERY brief outline of those projects, their aims and methods, their successes, and the difficulties we overcame, . .

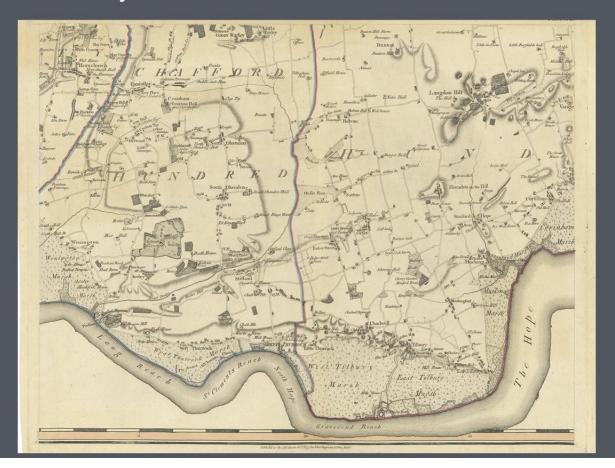


25 minutes is far too short a period to cover all these in any detail at all, and so this is very much a bullet point overview of what the projects were about and how we went about them with some visual treats of some of the fun we had to tempt you to do the same, and also to alert you to the amazing largely unrecognised landscapes of Thurrock and Havering!

'Know It Love It' (and the subsequent '50 Fabulous Features') were focused in the area covered by the Land of the Fanns Project in the south of Essex



Much of the area is almost
Un-recognisable in comparison to the
late 18th century and it has often been assumed little survives



'Know It Love It' (Autumn 2019-Spring 2020)

delivered for the Land of the Fanns Landscape Project in association with the Gardens Trust

- To bring together a wide range of local people and representatives of community groups etc to engage with historic designed landscapes and features.
- To deliver a series of inter-active training sessions both in-class and on-site (using sites within the Land of the Fanns) over a relatively short period.
 Introducing not only concepts around designed landscape history but also planning and conservation (Significance, Values etc)
- To enhance existing knowledge and skills and work with local communities to foster a greater knowledge and appreciation of the features and sites within their areas.
- To build a core group of volunteers who wanted to go on to 'the next stage' . . of undertaking research.



Spreading the 'garden history' word and skills .. on site and in the classroom using local sites





Understanding the threats to local sites and how these might be addressed and protected through greater understanding and local involvement and through conservation and planning routes

Project Two: 50 Fabulous Features

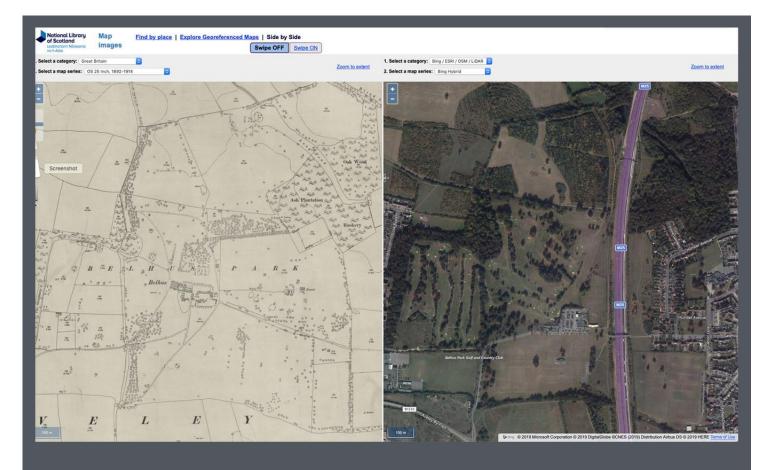
(Winter 2020-Spring 2021)

- Having included approximately 50 people in one or more of the *Know It Love It* sessions, people were now encouraged to continue on to work on the *55 Fabulous Features Project*.
- We retained about 15 people for this (pretty good retention for going on to undertake focused research across a variety of sites with words like significance' and 'planning' floating around by this stage).
- The aim of this part was to encourage people to become active in recognition and conservation and research of their own 'landscapes'
- and to provide further specific training in conservation including the role of the Historic England Register, and the writing of Significance Statements, etc
- The Outcome was to be a printed document resulting from their research and conservation studies of 55 (50 due to Covid) individual features across the designed landscapes of the area AND a volunteers Handbook of research Sources

So whats new about that?

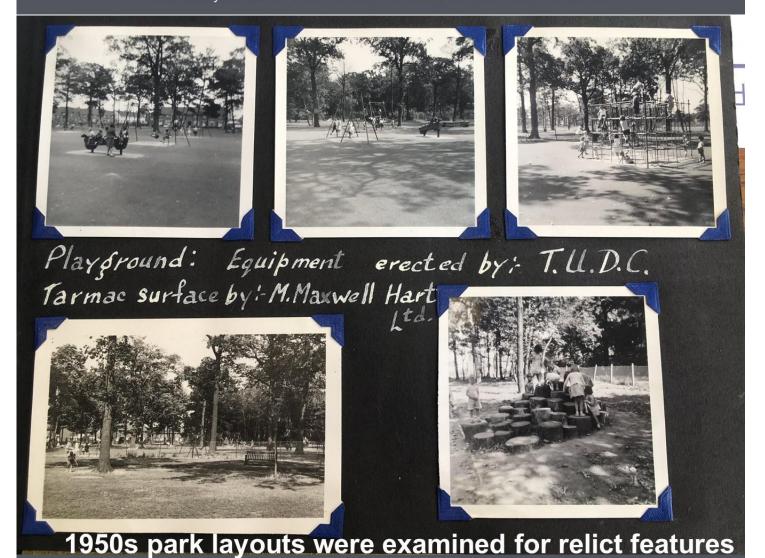
- Where we departed from most research group studies in historic gardens is that we asked them to nominate and research an **individual feature rather than an entire site.**
- · This meant that this first experience of research could be tightly focused,
- It emphasised the heritage on their doorstep (literally),
- It valued the local area and did not 'compare it' to the Stowes and Blenheims,
- It could be accomplished relatively quickly,
- and one person could take on a variety of types and periods of feature.
- We did not ask them to tackle say an entire 18th century landscape that was a huge thing to research, was unusual for the area, and that had less relevance for them. . . although in some instances features were chosen from that type of site.
- · We asked THEM to find and research one or more individual features . .
- · No-one gave up!
- We also incorporated into our definition of historic designed landscapes those types of landscape or isolated feature which often get pushed to one side in the scramble for 18th century parks but are vital open spaces and relict features commonly encountered in built up areas:
- Old Ponds, rockeries and shelters so typical of Amenity parks features on 1950s estates;
- Relict trees abandoned in private gardens long after their associated Tudor park has been built over;
- a Kissing Gate abandoned in brambles originally part of a route around a larger garden;
- as well as the usual relict walls of old walled gardens, re-purposed carriage drives, abandoned spa gardens and the infamous 'stench pipe'.
- We also immediately focused on producing an attractive written documents by them which had an immediate practical use



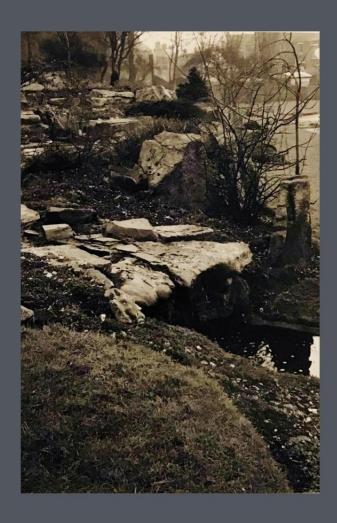


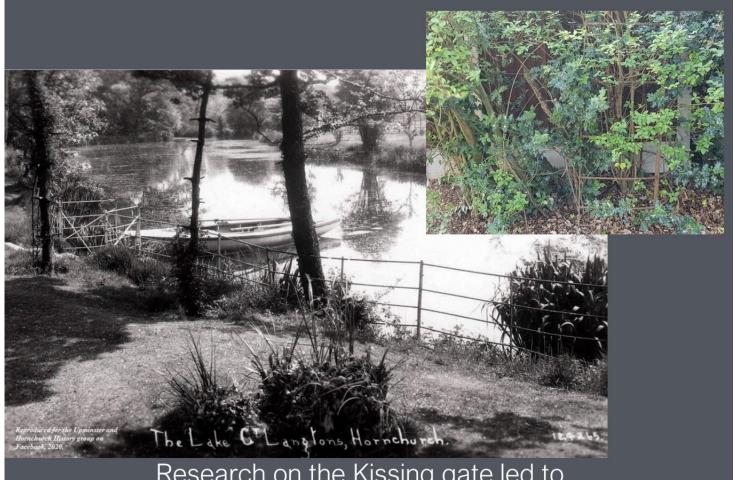
National Library of Scotland digital mapping allows side-by-side or overlay of historic and modern mapping etc which is invaluable in research:

Here the Belhus Veteran Trees at Humber Avenue can be located on the late 19thC OS 25inch map . . fortunately for us all of these research could be done at home on-line!



Grays Town Park Waterfall forming part of the rockery in the 1950s

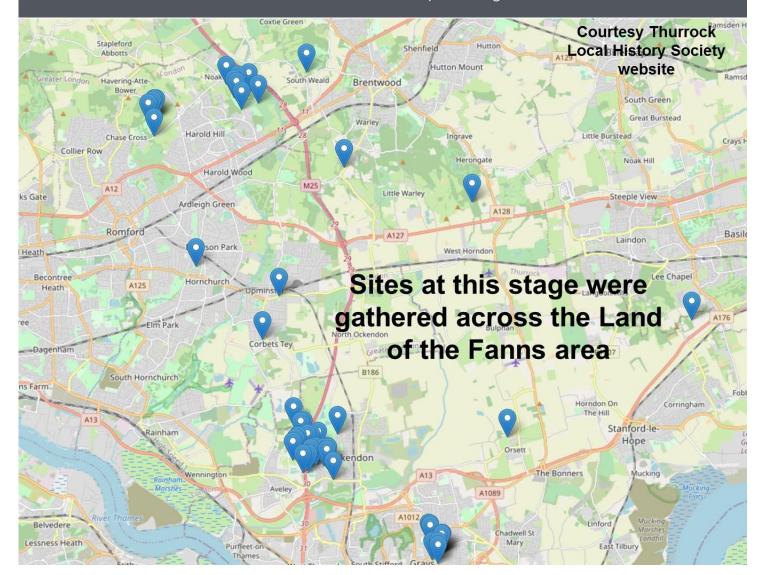




Research on the Kissing gate led to new information about a circuit around the site



As lockdown started and we moved to 'zoom' everyone (we had a team of about 15) was focused on their features and writing them up. We had a clear deadline and a set way of writing that everyone adhered to based on the concepts of Significances.







'Fifty Fabulous Features'

Statements of Significance for Fifty Features of Historic Designed Landscapes within the Land of the Fanns 2020















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Thurrock Unitary Counci

means are to be seen and the dawn choust heard.

Command: The vertex rates are of ubusing historical and status conservation value, and are of gent significance to commands wellbeing. The site makes a pacitive constitution to the bed of community events, fulfilled to the bed of community events, fulfilled historical significance in the bed of community events, fulfilled historical significance in the bed of community events, fulfilled historical significance in the product of the bed of community events, fulfilled historical significance in the product of the significance in the

- Millard's Garden was previously known as Manywares Gardyn 1397, Maynard's Garden in 1519, Mallerds Wood in 1777, and Millards Garden as shown on the 1869 30 Ordance Survey map.

 Brannetts Wood was previously known as Brendewode in 1339 and Branewoods in 1619

 Low Well Wood was previously known as Hanginge Wood in 1619.

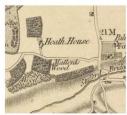
y are amongst the oldest surviving woodlands in Euses, Millard's Garden is recorded as ent Seenishatural Woodland due to its historic use for coppiding and providing wood locks. Medical wood banks (parth mounts with three platents dings the tool), which id have divided these three woods can still be seen today. The trees are mainly of calc, hastel and meret Chestrut. Today, the 3D acres of Millards Garden includes woods and space with two Ordine's play areas.



looking North - Millard's Garden







oman & André Map 1777 showing Mallerds

Statement of Significance

Evidential: In its current form Millard's Garden incorporates substantial evidential material relating to its previous significant usages as a medieval woodland, part of a wooded parkland and also as a twentieth century playground associated with the increasing density of housing development within the area. The earthen wood banks and veteran trees provide evidential material for this past and could be the subject of interpretation boards to act as insights into the long heritage of the site for current users. These could be enhanced by reference on the boards to the documentary evidences.

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Millards Garden: an amenity playground with an unexpectedly deep history

FEATURE NAME: BELHUS PARK - ICEHOUSE WELL

Location: Just beyond the north wall of the former kitchen garden, in the north-eastern corner of the park. To the east side of the M25 by junction 30.

NGR: TQ557531 181528 Local Authority: Thurrock Unitary Council

Material: Red sandy bricks without frogs (size: 8¾inchesx4inchesx2¾inches). Wooden steps. (Not part of original icehouse) Clay and earth mound.

Size: Mound approximately 13.1m in diameter. Approximately 190cm depth of brickw is visible. Diameter at rim of well 270cm.

Current State: At risk - Overgrown with brambles, key and nettles, some modern litter and wooden posts. Current Use: Disused

Existing Designations: Belhus Park — Historic England Registered Park and Garden grade II List Entry Number: 1000738. Bale Hatroy, Bellou, an estate of medieval origins, was the ho familias from the fifteenth century until the twentieth centur Between 1761, and 1727. Thomas Baret-Lennard, Lord Dazre both the house and grounds employing lancelot ("Sapability & landscape architects. Research has not found any referencienhouse therefore it cannot be positively attributed to Brown have been influenced by architect and landscape designer, San Thomas Barrett-Lennard. Lethouses became a common fea eighteenth century, used to store let throughout the year to prite invention of the refrigerator. Chapman and Andrés map Long Flord (a connecens source of feel) with a mount close b

M25 motorway, excavations were carried out in 1979 by Terry Carney for the Thusan an indespherence of the Chapman B. Another maps us a considered to be the location of locations as it was in the correct position. The execution revealed the foundations of technical part of the contraction of the co







**Evidentisk: The 1999 excavation photographs and detailed plans confirm a mid-eighteenth century ischouse existed in the grounds of the historic februs Park estate. The nature of the mound and brickwase was the Chapmans, and André Mago of 1377 suggest that it was included in a mid-eighteenth century landscape design commissioned by Thomas Barret-Lennat, (not a mid eighteenth century landscape design commissioned by Thomas Barret-Lennat, (not Darce, Apostated from the early 1905, owned by a descendent of a gardener employed on the early 1807, owned by a descendent of a gardener employed on the early 1807, owned by a descendent of a gardener employed on the early 1807, owned by a descendent was a complex of the state of the

route just by the side of the M25!

Here is the finished entry

for the icehouse

we were all stood around in an earlier image now located along a dog walking

Aesthetic: Although not originally designed for an aesthetic purpose, its current position situated at the edge of the Oak and Ash Plantation, despite the sounds of traffic from the MZS, once an eight pet peacefulienes of the wood and the shade of the trees. The area surrounding the well of the icehouse provides a rich habitat for wildlife, flora and fauna.

Communal: The Echnouse is situated just to the east of the footpath which is a popular route for walkers. The local residents, who know of the location of the Echnouse, enjoy the fact that it is there, a link to the past and the former glory of Bethur Park. Reinstatement of an information band and clearing of the alse would encourage more local residents to engage with the past and recognise the significance of the Icehouse and the importance of the former Bethur Park Status.

Statement of Significance Summary

The Behlup Park is the Schoolse plays a significant part in the history of Behlus Park as it was included in the eighteenth century landscape plans for the estate. The Chapman & André Map included in the eighteenth century landscape plans for the estate. The Chapman & André Map history and the state of the Chapman & André Map history and control photographs and Lidar images record the history of the site and give insight into the lives of the owners of Behlus Park, the Baretz-Lennard's, and of the working life of their employees. Although only the well and part of the mound remains today, having toots the brick dome and earth cover, the brick walls of the well are an important feature remaining from the eighteenth century design of the lephouse. Maintenance of the site and new information boards would encourage visitors to engage with the past and recognise its significance in an increasingly modern, urban landscape. As one of the last, remaining historic landscape features of the Behlus Park Rehouse be conserved for the present population and for future generations.

Researcher: Heather Hunter 2020

help in gaining protection and perhaps funding













Creating an Inventory of
Historic Designed Parks and Gardens
for Thurrock, Essex

Volunteer Handbook

(Version 2: January 2021)

We also produced
a Volunteer
Handbook which
everyone
contributed to as
we wet along

Other EGT teams have worked on Inventories before -and we have drawn on these and added very considerable updates of new digital resources which will now go forward for use in other EGT research teams.

Unexpected Outcomes . .

Notable during this period one of our volunteers was able to assist in fighting off planning application for new houses on one of the amenity open spaces originating from a Tudor deer park

Another discovered LiDAR markings that resulted in Historic England undertaking a massive study and re-evaluation of the Tudor and 18th century garden at Belhus Park (At Risk)

Another started to assist in the recording of one of the sites we had visited in training

and . . by the end were all trained to such a standard akin to an MA in Garden History Research and passed with flying colours!!



Project Three: Unforgettable Gardens 'The Thurrock Inventory'



A finely honed team . . alert to every landscape feature . .

- By now we had a group of people who were fully trained in research and sources
- They knew how to access and use a wide range f digitalised and digital resources, including LiDAR, mapping overlays, and soke GIS.
- They also knew all about the importance of recording and understanding features and sites if they were to be protected.
- They had also undertaken research on individual features often of features across larger sites which could not be combined.
- So . . this time grant funded by a combination of Essex Gardens Trust and the Land of the Fanns, . . we embarked on a 'more traditional' site based Inventory, (this time focussed on just Thurrock).

- We went 'back to basics' did a map and sources 'sweep ' of the area, also did a through search of the HER, and LiDAR and all the sources we were now familiar with and contacted the local history groups and Museums . .
- We found lots of possible new sites (at one stage in beyond a hundred), and whittled them down to the Inventory criteria of a site of historic designed landscape of local/regional significance.
- Many of the sites were new to us so we set about visiting..

Our Table of possible sites was constantly updated to keep everyone in the loop

-	(England on C&A)										garden
Bulphan	Blankets Farmhouse	TQ 62101 85540	1337086	mid-18th Century house	У	У	у	PL		N	Site fairly built up with various buildings, gardens around house modest
Bulphan	Little Tillingham Hall Farm	TQ 61692 87352	SMR 1874 Grade 2: 1111629	18 th century house. Moated? Known as New Hall on OS		У	У	PL		N	Working farm with some private garder but nothing special
Bulphan	Manor House/ Wick House on maps	TQ64515 86120	SMR 49004	Post medieval farm complex. Need to see Colchester Arch. Trust report				PL		N	New houses being built in grounds
Bulphan	Bulphan Manor	delete		Duplicate of Manor House Farm?				PL	0	N	
Bulphan	Bulphan Hall	TQ637 858		SEAX 1916 photo, sale catalogue Doubtful if there is a historic garden but worth a second look	У	У	У	JP			
Bulphan	Bulphan Manor Hall	delete		Excursions in the County of Essex				PL	4	N	Think this is the same as Bulphan Ha
Bulphan	Brandon Hall former Rectory			https://www.thurrock- history.org.uk/bulphan.htm Parsonage on C&A. 1.8 acres Probably nothing left of earlier gardens but worth a 2 nd look	У	У	У	PL			
Bulphan	Garlesters moated house	TQ6429486440	1111648	https://www.thurrock- history.org.uk/bulphan.htm	У	У	У	PL		N	Some of the moate site remains but ne houses built in the grounds around original house
											grounds around
Bulphan	Barnards Farm	TQ6349487853	1166226	18th Century house and modern sculpture garden. National Malus	У	У	У	PL/J P	Jill	Y	Jill has ¾ written t up when working

By now we were able to actually meet up again . . and we started to have day outings every month to sites as well as continue with Zoom mtgs to discuss research





Drawing on, and sharing, existing skills within the group



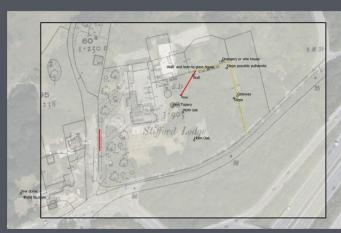


Our sites were amazingly varied and the Inventory will be unusual for Essex in emphasising the impact of the urbanisation and industrialisation of the 20th century and the designed landscape elements that came with it:

From Eastern European factory estates to cemeteries, artificial beach gardens of the Edwardian period, gardens in old quarry sites, a newly created sculpture garden (old enough to represent the late 20thC!), plus memorial gardens to cement makers, and a sprinkling of suburban villa or manorhouse style gardens re-purposed as hotels: and even a mortuary repurposed as a toilet (now derelict!).













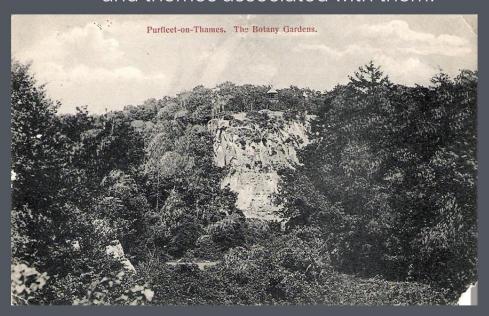




Other than the Inventory itself . . what other positives came from this Thurrock Inventory Project?

- The Inventory integrated the groups research into an established pattern of research within the Essex Gardens Trust and Gardens Trusts.
- This also more firmly embedded the Thurrock group within the wider EGT community and gave them a recognised county and national value to the 'local' work:
- This was also emphasised by the EGT chair and other existing EGT members always came to visits and Zoom mtgs.
- Updates and progress featured in the EGT journals highlighting this too often neglected part of Essex to other EGT members and also demonstrating the on-going role of research and planning to members generally.
- As I write.. the Inventory is being copy edited by two of the group - with maps produced by another.
- It will be printed (17 sites in all) and passed to Essex County Council, Thurrock Council, HER etc to provide valuable information to inform conservation and planning.
- AND it has already been instrumental in providing information in support of conservation at two sites threatened by the Thames Gateway and associated development.
- However rather than resting on our laurels.. we now have a new project!

Many of the sites we discovered during research for the Inventory no longer exist (and could not be included within it). so . . aided by grants again from EGT and Land of the Fanns (Co-op Grants) we will be researching these and themes associated with them.



and PUBLISHING *Lost Gardens of Thurrock* sometime in 2022! To be available through the EGT and at sites and venues in Thurrock!

- This project will highlight the heritage of the area that has been lost
- It will provide context for the sites that do survive and are within the Inventory
- The publication will be available locally and regionally
- It will be written and illustrated in an accessible and interesting manner . . engaging the local community with stories about these lost sites . . (the other projects have really been focussed on planning and conservation rather that the general public)
- And in doing this will provide yet more writing-style skills for our band of researchers, not to mention learning about the editing and publication process!



Project Four: Unforgettable Gardens Part Two! Lost Gardens of Thurrock

Coming soon