

Beginning Your Research on a Historical Garden or Designed Landscape



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Slide 1

This is the third webinar in our series. We began with a very brief journey through garden history and all the wonderful features you might find in an historic designed landscape, and last time Margie outlined all the ways in which these landscapes can be under threat and why it is so important to research and record them, so that future planners, developers and the public can appreciate and understand them.

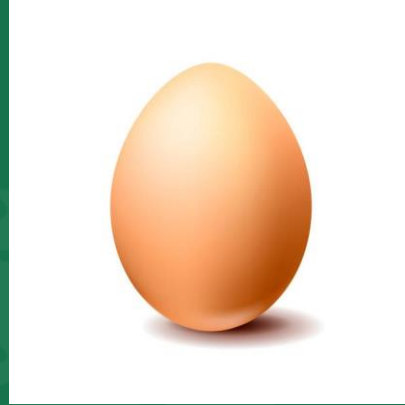
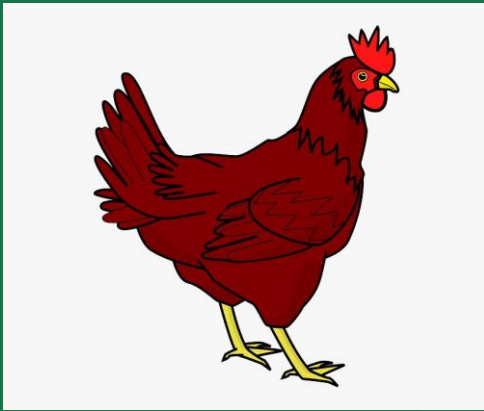
Today, I am going to be looking at how to start your research into a historical garden, local park or another type of designed landscape.

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 some original information and how to find your way around the different digital resources available online.

If you have had some experience researching already, then bear with me, but many people watching this are starting from scratch, so I will be taking you through sources from the beginning.

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 my talk's transcript which will be sent out with pdfs of my slides.

Research or Visit?



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Slide 2.

It is a bit of a chicken and egg situation – do you visit a 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 local archives, and then go armed with maps and documents on your first visit. If you already know your site on the ground really well, then the answer is easy – it’s research. If you don’t know the site intimately, then it’s still research first, not only will you have an idea of what existed and what to look out for, but when you meet the owner or manager, you will sound more knowledgeable and professional. But you may never be able to gain access to the site you are interested in and therefore will have to rely on every other source you can find.

You might be raring to find out all you can about your chosen 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 or even 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? 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 begin?



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You have identified a landscape you want to research but where do you start?

For me? I always look at Google Earth first to get a feel of the shape and location of the site, how it fits into the surrounding roads and settlements, where any buildings and access roads are, belts or clumps of trees, water features etc., and because I am just plain nosey!

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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Then question to ask yourself: is my site important enough to be on the National Register of Parks and Gardens? Held by Historic England we usually refer to it as The Register – I will show you a quick way to find this 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/>) and 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>)

Search the List - Map Search

Postcode, Place, NGR or List Entry Number

Use current location

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

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Slide 5.

As this webinar is part of the training for Nottinghamshire's Gardens Story and most of our viewers tonight are from England, let's go back to searching for a site on the National Heritage List 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?> Which will be in the notes. 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 Church Cemetery in Nottingham, so I will type Nottingham into the search box at the top.

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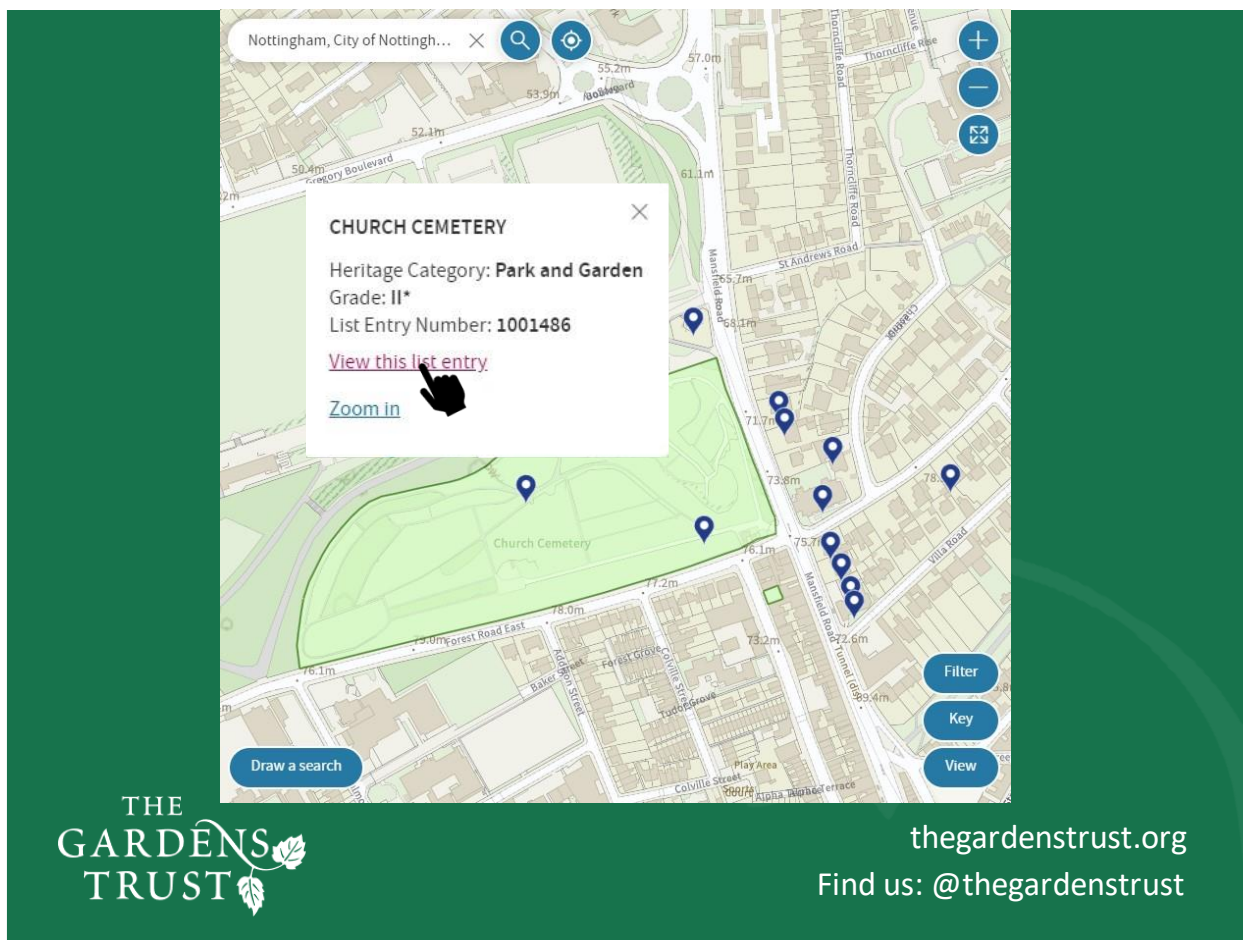
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Slide 6.

The screen zooms into the heart of Nottingham but you can use the controls you'll see in the bottom right or your mouse wheel to pull out a bit and look for your site. The map changes its appearance to look like this.

Immediately, I can see green shaded areas which tells me that these are Park or Gardens on the Register. Let's enlarge the second map to look at the information we have.



Slide 7.

You can now see clearly the boundaries of the garden and how the registered area fits into the surrounding roads. There are lots of blue markers, which are listed buildings or structures. If there were any areas shaded in red these would be scheduled monuments.

If I left click anywhere in the green area, this information box comes up telling me the official name of the park or garden, in this instance Church Cemetery and it is designated as Grade II* on the NHLE register with a UID number of 1001486. 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 markers in the green shaded area we can find out more about the listed buildings and structures here. These might be features of the garden which were built when it was created or inserted at a later stage, or they might be not connected at all apart from being geographically close. The blue markers in or near the green area are retaining walls and stairs; a war memorial and kerb; and just outside in the northeast corner is a building called Forest Lodge, which I wondered if it was connected to the cemetery, but reading its entry it is not, it's the lodge for the Nottingham Racecourse (now the Forest Recreation Ground)!

Towards the bottom of the white box is a link to take you to the list entry for this garden.



Overview

Heritage Category: **Park and Garden**

Grade: **II***

List Entry Number: **1001486**

Date first listed: **11-Jan-2001**



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Slide 8.

We are now taken to the overview page for the site, which has the same identifying information that we just have seen, but we have two options to look at next to it: the Official List Entry and the tab on the right tell us there are an additional 6 comments and photos for this site too. On another occasion we will talk about the button on the right which is link to an initiative called Missing Pieces Project and it enables anyone to add information, images or anecdotes to flesh out what is known about this landscape.

However, today we will follow the Official List Entry tab at the top

Overview Official List Entry 6 Comments and Photos

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Park and Garden**

Grade: **II***

List Entry Number: **1001486**

Date first listed: **11-Jan-2001**

Location

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

District: **City of Nottingham (Unitary Authority)**

Parish: **Non Civil Parish**

National Grid Reference: **SK 56796 41175**

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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: 11 January 2001 Under the location we can see the garden is in the City of Nottingham and the parish is a Non-Civil Parish because it is a city. In more rural areas a landscape will be in a parish or often, for larger landscapes, the landscape might cross parish boundaries and all the parishes they cover will be listed here.

At the bottom of this section is the 12-figure national grid reference. So, all-in-all, there is absolutely no way that the location of this garden can be confused with another park or garden on the register!

Details

A cemetery laid out by Edwin Patchitt for the Church Cemetery Company and opened in 1856.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The Nottingham Enclosure Act of 1845 enclosed fields and meadows used by the burgesses or freemen of the City to graze their animals and, to compensate for the loss of open space used for recreation, allotted space for a series of places of public recreation and public walks. One hundred and thirty acres (c 54ha) made up of Queen's Walk and Queen's Walk Park (Meadows Cricket Ground), Victoria Park, Robin Hood Chase, Corporation Oaks, St Ann's Hill (Belle Vue Reservoir), Elm Avenue, Nottingham Arboretum (qv), the General Cemetery (qv), Waterloo Promenade, the Church Cemetery, and The Forest were created as public open spaces from the enclosures. This Act allocated 4 acres (c 1.6ha) for Church Cemetery and the Church Cemetery Company, formed in 1851, added a further 9 acres (3.6ha). The cemetery, designed by Edwin Patchitt, a local solicitor and Clerk of the Cemetery Company, took several years to build and was not yet finished when it was opened in 1856. The mortuary chapel was added in 1879. The City Council took over responsibility for the cemetery in 1965 and it remains (2000) in their ownership.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Church Cemetery, also known as Rock Cemetery, lies north of the centre of Nottingham, immediately south-east of The Forest public park, and comprises 5.2ha. Triangular in shape, the cemetery's eastern boundary is part of Mansfield Road (A60), the southern boundary is part of Forest Road East, both marked by iron railings, with the remaining boundary a high, coursed Bulwell sandstone wall, being contiguous with The Forest. The cemetery, built on old sandpits, slopes gradually northwards towards The Forest with a deep natural hollow, known as St Ann's Valley, in the north-west corner of the site. The setting is urban.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The main entrance to the cemetery is off the corner of Forest Road East and Mansfield Road between large stone gate piers and ornamental iron gates. The main processional path, cobbled by the entrance then tarmacked, leads north-westwards; to the west of the entrance is a small brick and render lodge (c 1865), much reduced and altered c 1975, with a slate roof and gable and porch bargeboards. The main path then

Slide 10.

Scrolling down, at the top of the Details section is a very brief summary of what is special about this park to qualify it for national designation – we refer to this as the garden's Statement of Significance.

In the Historic Development section below, any former uses of the site might be mentioned before the date or century that the garden was first created, along with who built it and a brief description. Subsequent changes might be written here too, particularly any changes in garden style, the owner who made the changes along with possibly a designer, if known. At the end of the description will be the most recent information about the site and a reference to its ownership today – private, institutional or public.

There's no need to read all of this slide and the next few slides, if you're interested in this site, you can have a look at the listing after tonight's session.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Church Cemetery, also known as Rock Cemetery, lies north of the centre of Nottingham, immediately south-east of The Forest public park, and comprises 5.2ha. Triangular in shape, the cemetery's eastern boundary is part of Mansfield Road (A60), the southern boundary is part of Forest Road East, both marked by iron railings, with the remaining boundary a high, coursed Bulwell sandstone wall, being contiguous with The Forest. The cemetery, built on old sandpits, slopes gradually northwards towards The Forest with a deep natural hollow, known as St Ann's Valley, in the north-west corner of the site. The setting is urban.

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PRINCIPAL BUILDING A cottage adjoining one of the three windmills which formerly stood on the site of the cemetery was used as a temporary chapel after the opening of the cemetery and was subsequently demolished. A mortuary chapel, designed by E W Godwin, was built in 1878-79 and opened in August 1879. The cruciform chapel with a central tower and pyramidal spire (demolished in 1965) stood 210m north-west of the south-east lodge at the end of a spur off the main processional path.

OTHER LAND The layout of the cemetery is determined by the sandstone rocks and old sandpits on which the it was created. The cemetery has four main areas: the terrace to the south with a straight promenade to the site of the chapel; the section in the centre and north-west which is terraced and has ashlar retaining walls; the catacomb range in St Ann's Valley in the west; and the north-east corner which uses the natural caves, cliffs, and outcrops.

The main processional path along the top terrace runs from east to west past a War Memorial (c 1920, listed grade II) built of Portland stone designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield (1856-1942), which stands 10m from the entrance lodge. Midway along the path a spur leads north to the site of the former mortuary chapel, the main route continuing on to a raised area of graves. The latter terrace has a number of fine Edwardian figure-sculpture tombs. Another path runs northwards from the lodge to sandstone caves. This area has the most impressive Victorian monuments, several of

Slide 11.

The descriptions all follow the same format with sub-headings and start off with the site's physical location, boundaries and aspect.

Next there will be the Entrances and Approaches section which covers not only those used today but describes those that have been there in the past too.

If there is a principal building associated with the park or garden, it will be briefly described before we come to the sections, we are most interested in – Gardens and Pleasure Grounds, and in this example Other Land. For many other sites there could be paragraphs for Parkland and Kitchen Gardens. All the garden-related 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.

REFERENCES

R Mellors, Gardens, Parks and Walks of Nottingham and District (1926), pp 148-51 D Gray, Nottingham, Settlement to City (1953, reprinted 1969), pp 66-68 N Pevsner and E Williamson, The Buildings of England: Nottinghamshire (2nd edn 1979), p 238 Nottingham Civic Society Newsletter, no 73 (April 1987) C Brooks, Mortal Remains (1989), pp 169-70 C Brooks, English Historic Cemeteries (English Heritage theme study 1994), p 61 J Beckett, Nottingham, an Illustrated History (1997), p 49

Maps George Sanderson, Twenty Miles Around Mansfield, 1835 (reproduced in Beckett 1997) Nottingham Enclosure Award map, 1865 (Nottingham City Archives)

OS 25" to 1 mile: 1st edition published 1882 2nd edition published 1901

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION Church Cemetery is designated at Grade II* for the following principal reasons:

* A good example of a High Victorian (1856) commercial cemetery. * The site combines elements of the garden cemetery with the picturesque taste to create a most unusual design and layout. * The dramatic landscape, exploiting rocky caves, chasms and outcrops, survives intact and in good condition. * The cemetery contains a good collection of funerary monuments which reflect the development of Nottingham during the late 19th and early 20th century. * An extensive group of 'Guinea Graves' survives within St Anne's Valley, which forms a separate enclosure, reflecting the social history of Nottingham.

Description written: October 2000 Amended: February 2001 Register Inspector: CEB Edited: April 2001 Upgraded: November 2009



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Slide 12.

At the end, is a list of Resources the listing entry has made use of – they are useful for us to know too, so you can make a note of them particularly if you are planning a visit to the archive centre to look at original material. Also, reading this example, it looks like the Cemetery was initially given Grade II status but for the reasons given it was upgraded to II* in 2009.

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 and many of the sites have not been updated over the past 20 or 30 years.

Other places to look for previous research

Parks and Gardens UK (PGUK)

County Gardens Trusts

Friends Groups



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Slide 13.

If your park or garden is not on the Register, 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. PGUK holds information about designated sites on the register and information for many non-designated sites too. It's 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 touch and tell them where you interested in looking at – they may be able to give you helpful information or contact details if you want visit the park or garden.

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 over the years.

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welcome

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Search for information on England's historic sites and buildings, including images of listed buildings.


This website allows you to cross-search over 60 resources, offering local and national information relating to England's heritage. Click [here](#) for full details of the range of records that you can search on this website.

Quick Search

Use this to carry out a simple search by building name or location. To carry out more complex searches use the [more detailed search](#).

(What's This?)

any order exact any words



[More Detailed Search](#)

Please note that local HER records contain much more detailed information than is currently available here. Please contact the relevant authority direct for all planning matters or queries relating to their records.

news items

[Local Engagement Workshops Summary](#)
[All News Items...](#)

IHBC
INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS
RECORDS - CONSERVATION

Historic England

ALNS
ALNS England

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Slide 14.

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. It says on its website that it allows you to cross-search over 60 resources. This database can be a bit daunting to navigate but it's worth it - <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

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

I'm going to look for Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire. By clicking on the link titled 'more detailed search' you will be taken to a map of the UK.

HERITAGE GATEWAY
Site Map
Text size: A A A

select...

Homepage Search

More Detailed Search

Help and FAQs

Cookies

You are here: [Home](#) > [More Detailed Search](#)

More Detailed Search

You can search any resource using the map (although some will need to be viewed from the results list). For tips on how to use the map visit our [help](#) page

The detailed search also allows you to search using any combination of location (Where), type (What), period (When) and person (Who), as well as which resources you would like to search. e.g. specific Historic Environment Record only.

Where

What

When

Who

Resources

Map
Admin Location

Find on map: Find

Enter place name, street name, postcode or grid reference

Search within: 1km of selected location

[Click to search by Grid Reference](#)

Search Summary
Where = Within 1km of selected location (SK545535)
Reset
Search

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Slide 15.

Above the map is a box which says, 'find on map' and in there I have put Newstead Abbey and clicked 'Find', a new panel appears underneath, often with a short list of possibilities, here I only had 1 option to click on, and this purple box shows the 1 km square around the site so you can double check you are in the right place.

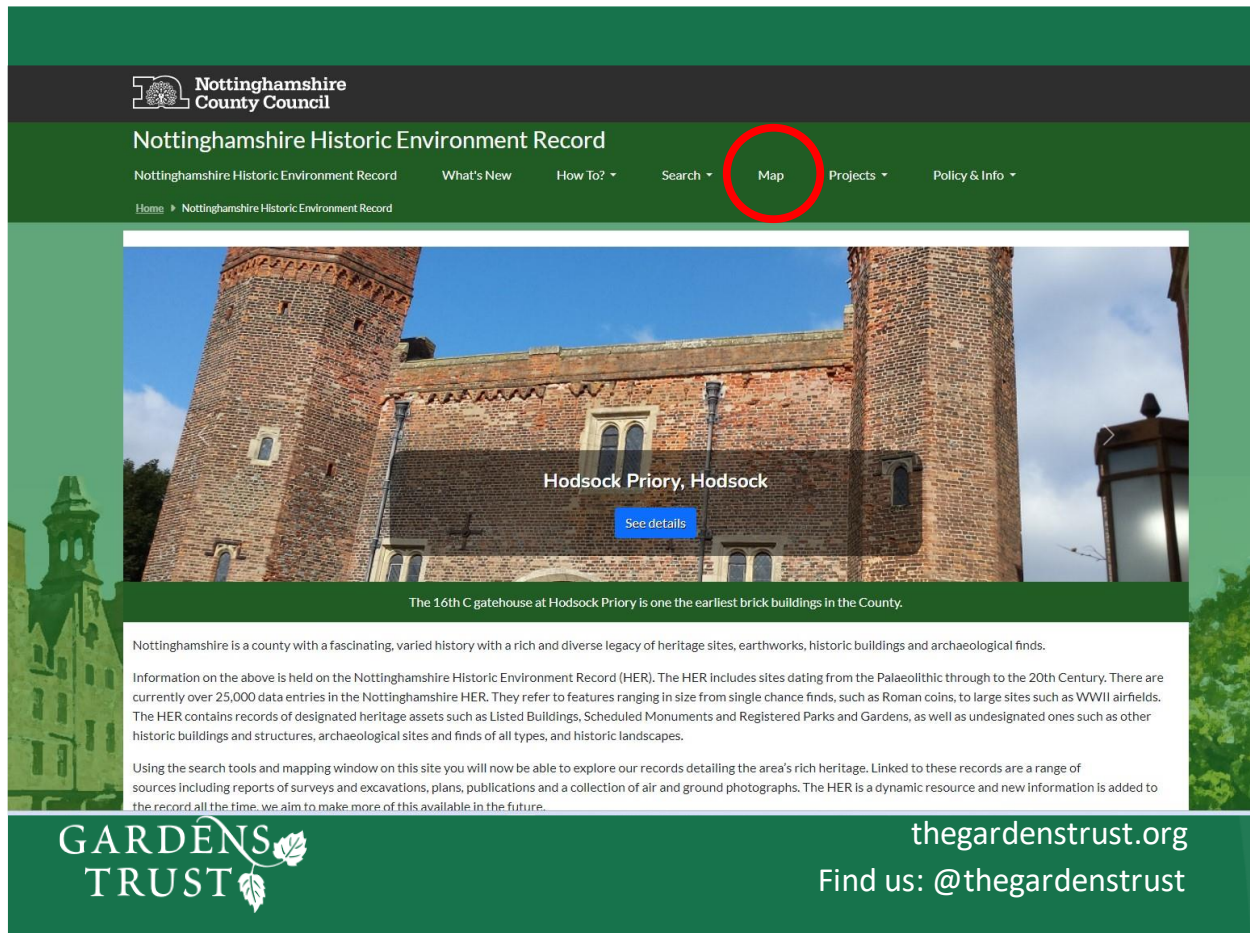
Bottom right is a Search button, which take you to the following page . . .

Slide 16. You can see, at the top 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, particularly if you are researching in a county where the Historic Environment Record (HER) entries have been uploaded. If they have, the map will have blue triangles for listed buildings and small orange circles, or areas shaded in orange which mark features and landscape sites on the local HER.

Here, we can look down to see which databases contain information about Newstead Abbey, from the Statutory Data at the top (that's items on the NHLE that we discussed earlier, and the Parks and Gardens Entry will always be at the end of the list after the listed buildings). 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. It says here that there are none of these for Newstead Abbey.

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 here to the relevant page on the Parks and Gardens UK website.

The bottom section, in orange, lists all country's HER county records and you might just be able to make out that there are 76 records for Newstead Abbey. We can open each one up if it looks of interest – there will be everything known from an ornamental lake to a sherd of Roman Pottery.



Slide 17.

This is the Notts Historic Environment Register home page with a changing banner of featured places or items found. At the top you can search for a place or you can use the map to find what they have on your landscape of interest.

I'm going to use the map search facility to look for Newstead Abbey

<https://her.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/map>

Nottinghamshire County Council

Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record

Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record | What's New | How To? | Search | Map | Projects

Home > Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record > Map

Map layers

- Monuments
- Events
- Scheduled Monuments
- Listed Buildings
- Conservation Areas
- Registered Parks and Gardens

Slide 18.

What comes up looks quite alarming, but it is a map of the county with every record on the HER marked. You can zoom in to your exact location of study and you can select or deselect filters using the menu on the left.

Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record

Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record What's New How To? Search Map Projects Pol

Home Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record Map

Map layers

- Monuments
- Events
- Scheduled Monuments
- Listed Buildings
- Conservation Areas
- Registered Parks and Gardens

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Using the map layers menu, I have selected Scheduled monuments, Listed buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens; and zoomed in to look at the site. Interestingly the Scheduled Monument Area and Registered Park area don't fully coincide. The Listed Buildings are shown as blue stars and the purple dots look like archaeological finds spots. You can click on any of these for a brief description.

Nottinghamshire County Council

Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record

Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record What's New How To? Search Map Projects

Home Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record Map

Base layers

Main layer

- Sherwood Lidar (hillshade NW sun)
- Sherwood Lidar (hillshade NE sun)
- Sanderson
- Aerial2016
- Ordnance Survey

Comparison layer

- Sherwood Lidar (hillshade NW sun)
- Sherwood Lidar (hillshade NE sun)
- Sanderson
- Aerial2016
- Ordnance Survey
- None

Slide 20.

Another useful facility is using the base layers for comparison with the HER map we've just looked at. Using this icon here, I have selected the Sanderson map layer and by using the sliding tool in the centre you can compare today's digital map with this 1836 county map. You can also select LIDAR images or the 2016 aerial photographs.

The screenshot displays the ADS Archaeology Library search results for the query 'holdenby'. The interface includes a navigation menu at the top with options like HOME, SEARCH, DEPOSIT, RESEARCH, ADVICE, ABOUT, GALLERY, HELP, and LOGIN. The search results are organized into a sidebar with 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 two entries for 'Holdenby, Northamptonshire; Its Manors, Church and House' from 'The Archaeological Journal 65', published in 1908 and 1909, by Albert Hartshorne. Each entry includes a PDF icon and a link to 'Access the PDF'.

Slide 21.

To end this section on databases, here are three more places you can search.

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 and any investigation records and other grey literature:

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

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Search our records...

Menu

Sign in Register No items

Home > Discovery > Find an archive

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Find an archive in the UK and beyond

Search for an archive...

Find an archive using the map

Find UK archives

Choose a home nation

England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales

Or choose a region in England

South East

All South East

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Buckinghamshire

Dorset

East Sussex

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Slide 22.

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. These individual archives might be online, or you may need to visit in person.

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


OASIS

The online system for reporting archaeological investigations and linking research outputs and archives

OASIS is an online reporting form enabling archaeological and heritage practitioners to provide information about their investigations to regional Historic Environment Records (HERs) and respective national heritage organisations.

As well as being an information-gathering tool, researchers may share reports with HERs for public release in the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Library.

The ADS, in addition to making the reports available online for access to the wider public, undertakes the curation and archiving of the




Recent and forthcoming improvements (October 2022) ▾

Recent updates Improvement: research framework questions, from the new generation of frameworks, have been loaded into the system. Links to the new home for research frameworks are also in the form, Additional guidance is being created to help users on this part of the form. Improvement: on the admin page – the drop down list ... Continue reading Recent and forthcoming improvements (October 2022) →

Have icons disappeared within the form? Here's the solution >

OASIS V migration in Scotland >

Introducing the OASIS API >



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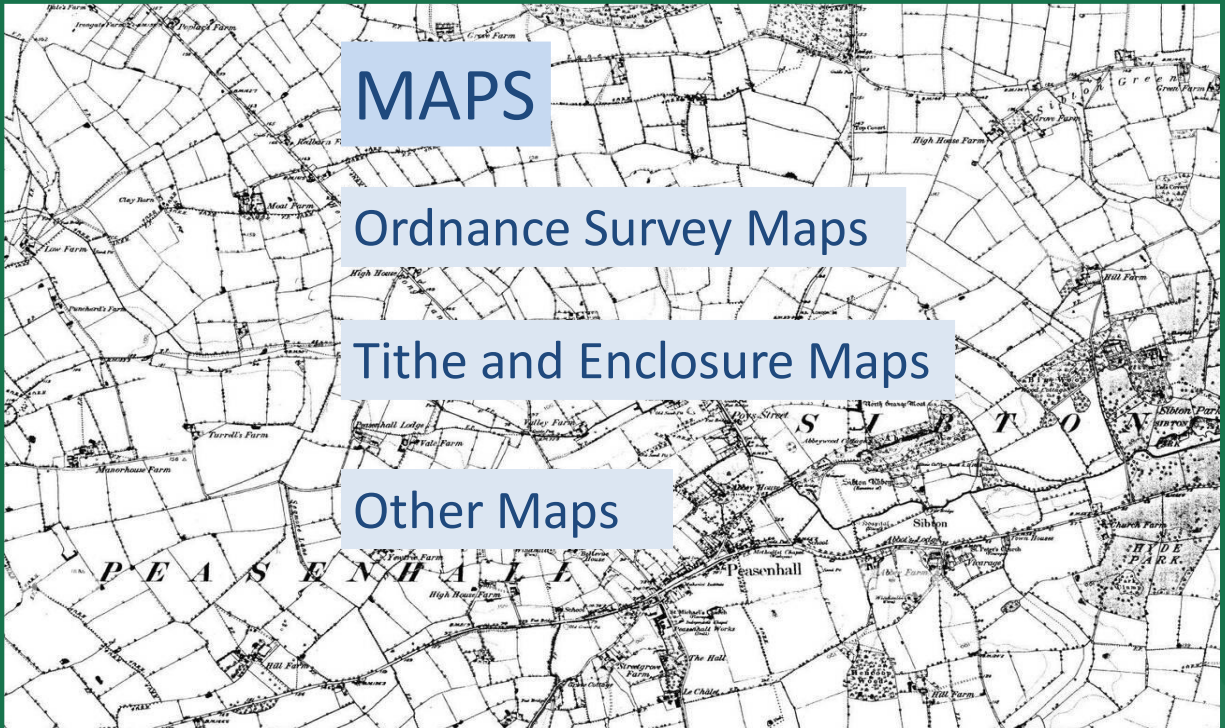
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Slide 23.

The third and final place you can look is on the OASIS database.

OASIS was set up nearly 20 years ago as an interconnected database for archaeologists to record all their reports and excavations but is continually being added too. For example, the Gardens Trust has uploaded all the information we have, on Conservation Management Plans for 1500 landscapes – not the actual multi-page document files themselves but information the site and who wrote the plan and funded them etc., so that there is a record that the plans exist and clues to where they might be found.

This is a much more academic website than Heritage Gateway, and you need to register to be able to search it, but it has the potential to link many disciplines and multiple databases as well as the all HERs.



Slide 24.

When you know the boundaries of your park or garden then you can start to look at map evidence for how it looked in the past.

I'm going to focus on early Ordnance Survey maps - where to find them and how to interrogate them for information.

There are other maps where we can find information about our sites, some of which might be viewable online, and I'll cover these after the break.

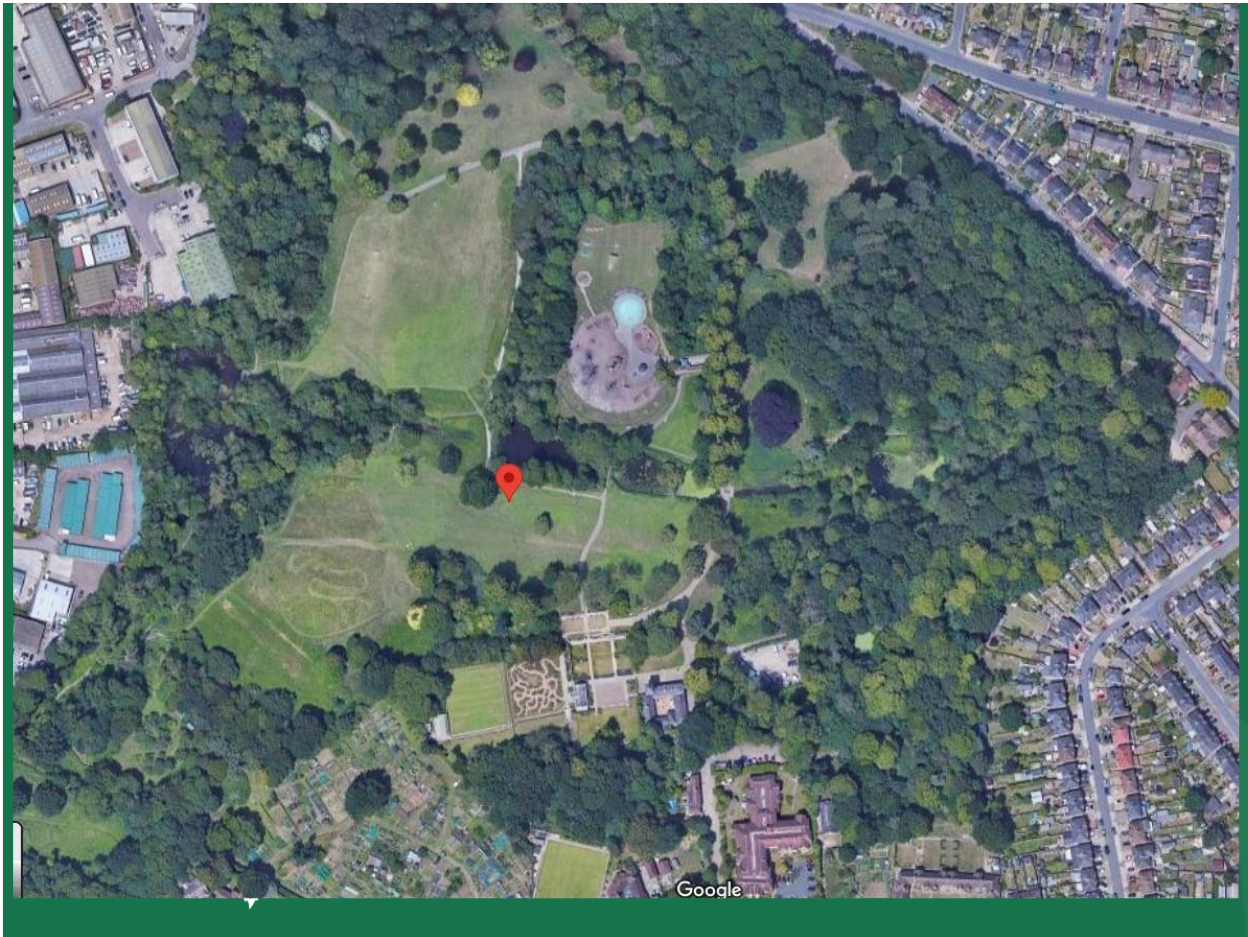


Slide 25.

Before I look at any maps, I have a quick peep at Google Earth. If you are unfamiliar with an area, after studying your site on the aerial photos, finding it on maps becomes much easier. Google Earth Pro has a time search facility which allows you to travel back over the past 20-years-worth of aerial images. For gardens where there has been a lot of recent changes this is very useful. You can install Google Earth Pro for free here:

<https://support.google.com/earth/answer/21955?hl=en>

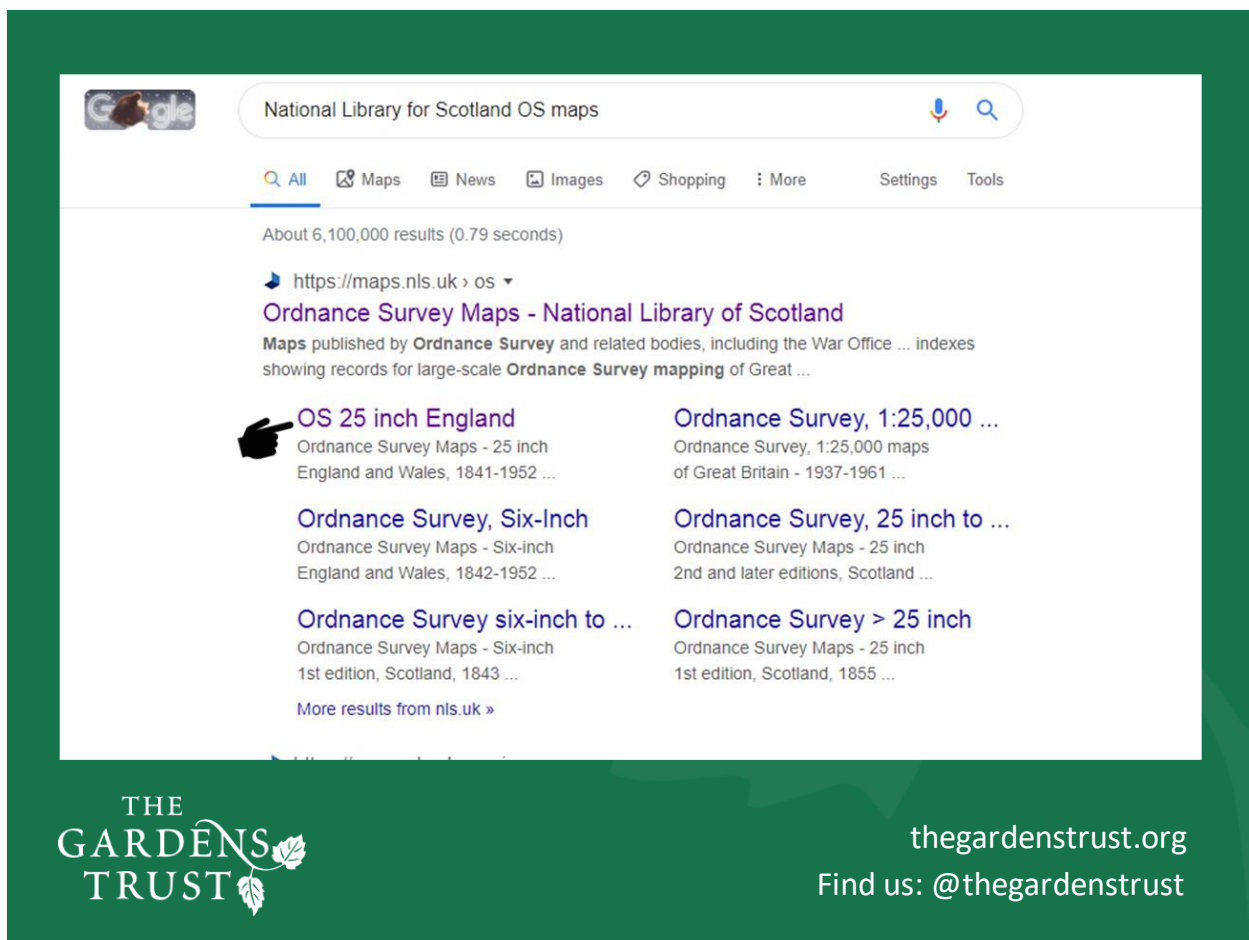
I have chosen a site I have never visited, this time in Suffolk. It is Holywells Park south-east of Ipswich town centre and adjacent to the River Orwell and Ipswich Marina. It's completely surrounded by development, both commercial and housing but you can already see from the air some interesting shapes and I'm curious about the spur of trees heading north-east of the north of Holywells Park too.



Slide 26.

If we zoom in further, we can look for buildings and landscape features. There is a concentration of garden features in the south, with an ornamental garden, possibly a bowling green or two. This building is arranged in a square nearby and there are signs of some water features. There looks like to be a modern circular area and small pool in the centre of the park, this is bounded by 3 sides of a rectangle of mature trees. There are dense areas of tree cover on the east and north sides, and a thick belt of trees running along the west side. What is difficult to appreciate on an aerial photo are the contours of the land and whether your site is flat or contains slopes and viewpoints.

Now we are more familiar with the extent of the park and some landscape features, we can go looking online for old OS maps to compare with these recent aerial photos.



Slide 27.

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. These maps show gardens in such detail, from paths and small buildings to tree plantings and glasshouses.

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 they were only commissioned by some towns and cities. You are very lucky if your park or garden falls into one of these maps.

National Library of Scotland Map Images
Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba

Maps home > Ordnance Survey > OS 25-inch England and Wales, 1841-1952


Ordnance Survey Maps: OS 25-inch England and Wales, 1841-1952

Browse the maps:

- [As individual sheets using a zoomable map of England and Wales](#)
- As a [seamless zoomable overlay layer \(1890s-1920s\)](#) on modern satellite images and OS maps
- As a [seamless zoomable layer \(1890s-1920s\) side-by-side](#) with modern satellite images and OS maps
- [By map sheet number](#) (eg. Anglesey XVII.9) – county text lists

[Background coverage, surveying, county meridians and sheet numbering](#)

[Map content, printing, reprinting, colouring and references](#)



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Slide 28.

Clicking onto 'OS 25-inch England' brings us to this page where we have three 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 a larger site where you want to study the whole area it covers, and it falls across the joins in between individual map sheets. The third option shows you the seamless overlay of maps next to an aerial image on the screen.

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

The screenshot shows the National Library of Scotland's 'Map images' interface. The main map displays the British Isles with a grid of purple bounding boxes representing the extent of maps in the collection. The interface includes a search panel on the left with the following options:

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

The logo for THE GARDENS TRUST is visible in the bottom left, and the website URL thegardenstrust.org and social media handle @thegardenstrust are in the bottom right.

Slide 29.

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

To find your site you can 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. If you are confident that you know where your site is, you can left click roughly its location on the map and then use your mouse to zoom in.

The screenshot displays the National Library of Scotland's 'Map Finder' website. The main map shows Ipswich, with a blue rectangular box highlighting Holywells Park. A search bar at the top left contains 'Ipswich'. On the right, a 'Results - 3 maps: (1884 - 1927)' panel lists three historical maps:

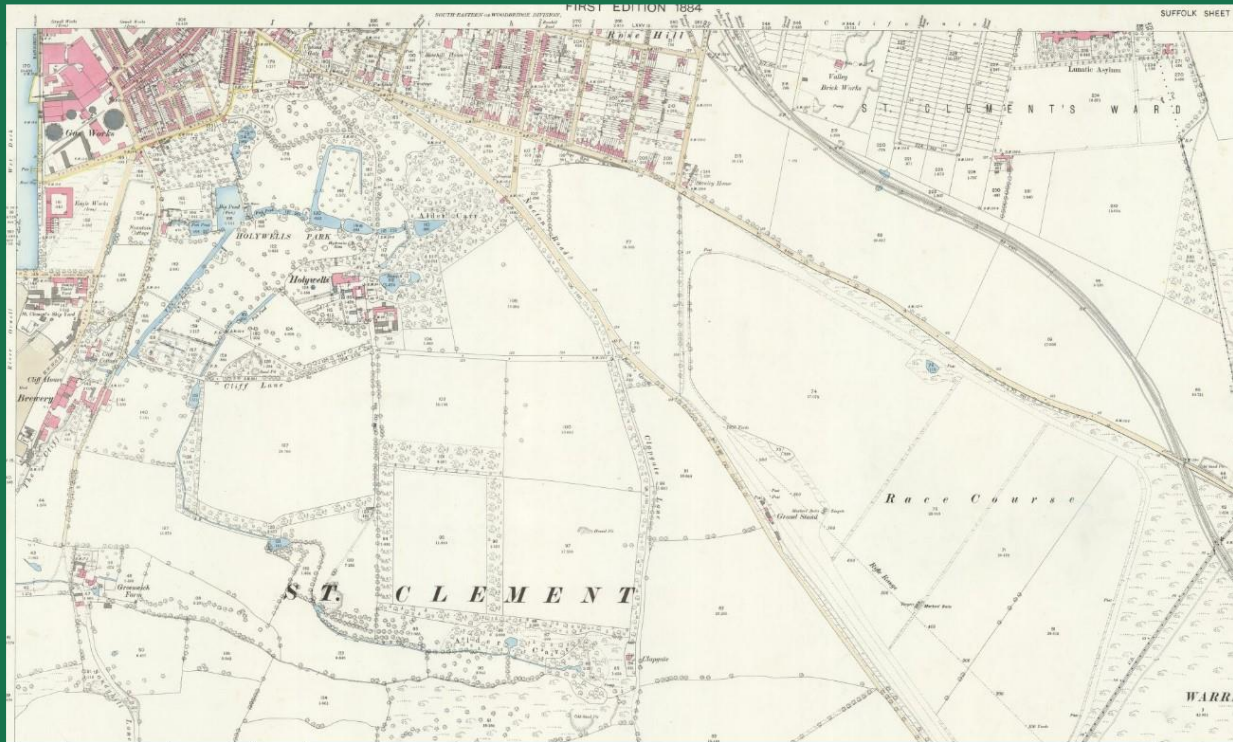
- Suffolk LXXV 16**: Series: Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to the mile. Surveyed: 1880 to 1881. Published: 1884.
- Suffolk LXXV 16**: Series: Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to the mile. Revised: 1902. Published: 1904.
- Suffolk LXXV 16**: Series: Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to the mile. Revised: 1925. Published: 1927.

The bottom of the page features the logo for 'THE GARDENS TRUST' and the website address 'thegardenstrust.org' with the social media handle 'Find us: @thegardenstrust'.

Slide 30.

I put Ipswich 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. We can see which maps are available in the panel on the right, and if I enlarge this panel there are 3 different map versions available, published in 1884, 1904 and 1927. You might want to look at them going back in time from the most recent, but tonight I am going to just look at the first one published in 1884, to see how Holywells Park looked in those days.

1: 25-inch OS map. Published 1884

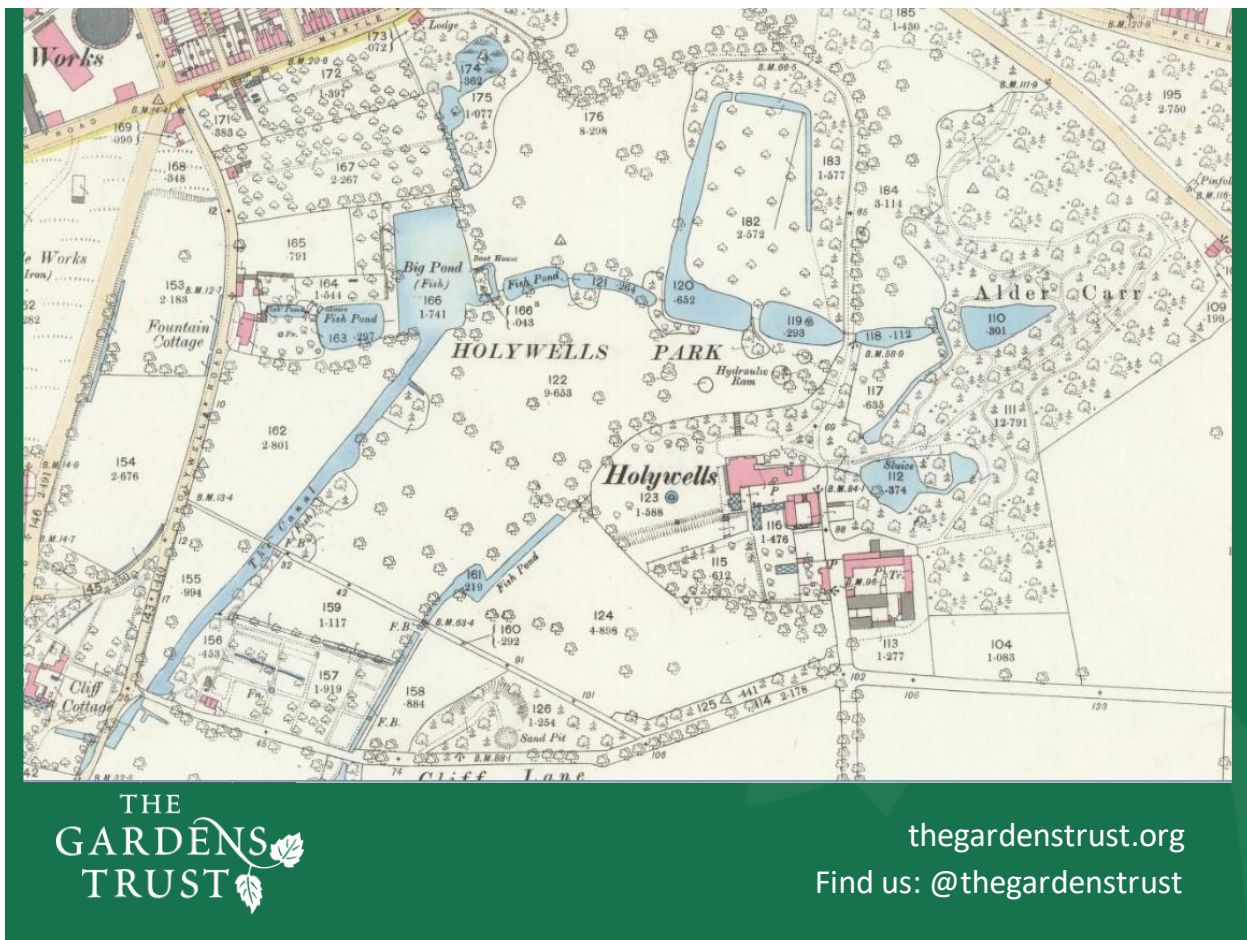


Slide 31.

We'll now spend a short time to interrogate this map, to see what it tells us.

The first thing we notice, is that the Holywells site was very much on the edge of Ipswich in 1884. The eastern quay for the docks is just visible in the north-west corner, along with gas holders and some industrial development.

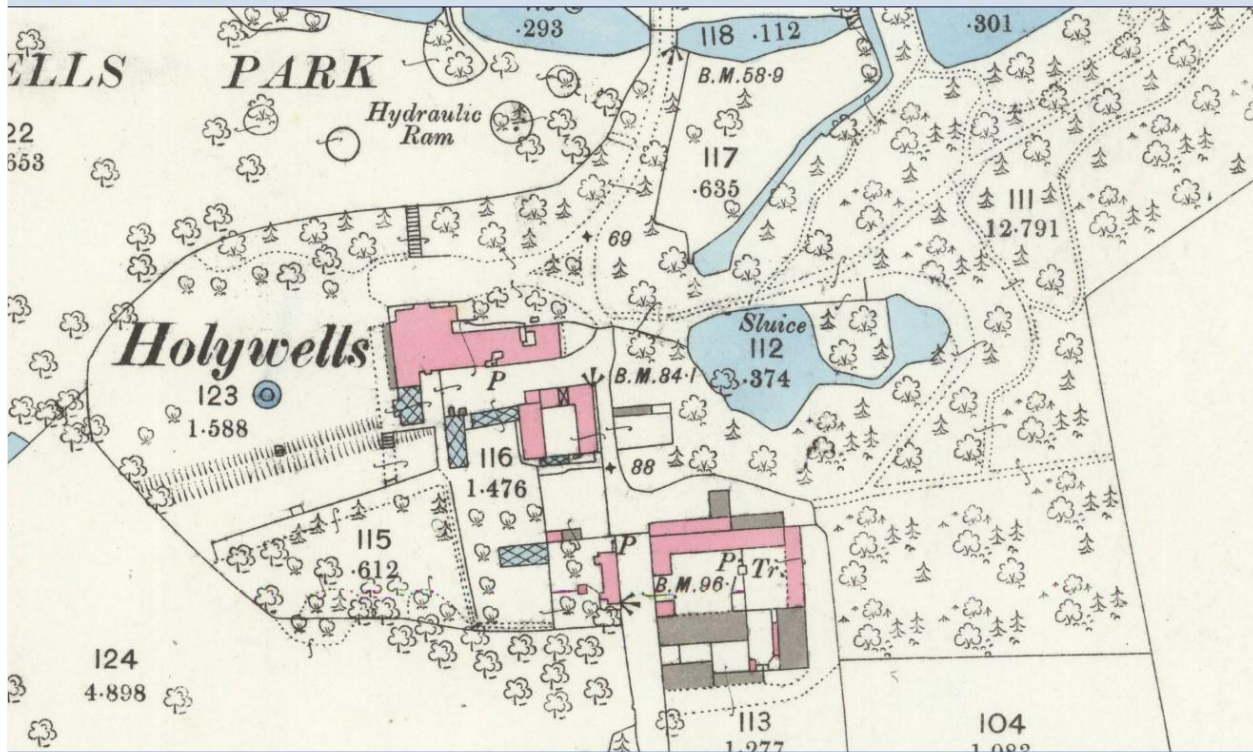
The roads from Nacton and Felixstowe enter the town at this point to form Bishop's Hill and at this time a racecourse is marked in between them with a railway line running away to the south-east to Felixstowe. The name Bishop's Hill and Holywells hints to me that this site has a church connection.



Slide 32.

We can zoom in to see the details on the map more clearly and what is most striking about this landscape is the important part that water plays in it.

The name Holywells surely indicates the presence of springs, and we can see here a complicated ribbon of water features with additional ponds or pools to the north and this rectangular feature with regularly placed trees. The 1927 map for this last area shows a more definite pattern of deciduous trees in straight lines – so presumably an orchard?



Slide 33.

Zooming in still further we can see the main house, and its associated service buildings, shown in red and next to them with hatched lines are 5 glasshouses. Paths through the woodland on the east side look like a pleasure ground and on the west side of the house there appears to be two terraces marked with hachures with the slopes falling down away to the north. There is a flight of steps too, immediately north of the house, taking you to a hydraulic ram.

A curving line separates the garden from the outer park, often this shape around a house is the position of a ha ha – old photos or a visit will be able to establish whether this is the case or there was a ha ha there in the past.



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Slide 34.

I am also interested by this area in the extreme south of the park. There is a small building in red and an oblong area with a regular arrangement of straight paths at right angles and two water features – a short canal and a circular pool in the centre of a path intersection. To me this looks very like a kitchen garden, with a drainage canal and a dipping pool for filling watering cans. To the east is a small triangular quarry on Cliff Lane, which gives us an idea of the topography in this area.

If we bring up the aerial photo again, we can see a building standing in the same spot and a dense coverage of trees in this area now. The triangular quarry next door has become a small housing development and allotments now exist to the north-east of this. So, it is hard to tell from the aerial photo if the red building on the map was once something to do with a kitchen garden but a quick jump to Google Street View shows us the building and what a beauty it is! Very much looking like gardeners' cottages, or at least definitely a building with a connection to Holywells Park. If this area of the park is open to the public, I would make a note to go and have a poke around under the trees and see if there is any sign of walls, paths and those two water features.

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

The screenshot shows the British Library's online gallery page for 'Ordnance Survey drawings'. The page features a navigation bar with links to 'Online Gallery Home', 'Virtual books', 'Online exhibitions', 'Highlights tour', and 'Personal'. Below the navigation, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'bl.uk > Online Gallery Home > Online exhibitions > Ordnance Survey drawings'. The main content area is titled 'Ordnance Survey drawings' and includes a description of the original large-scale drawings made for the famous one-inch-to-the-mile maps between the 1780s and 1840. A hand icon points to a link for 'Georeferencer interactive' and a 'static index'. Below this is a section for 'Peter Barber, Head of Map Collections', with a small photo of him and a description of the 351 original preliminary drawings. A 'Curator's choice' section follows, listing three items: 'Lands End, Mount's Bay, Cornwall', 'Hampstead', and 'Caernarvon', each with a small image and a brief description. On the right side, there are links to 'Elsewhere on our websites', 'Newsletter', 'Online Shop', 'Mobile app', and 'Fine art prints'.

Slide 35.

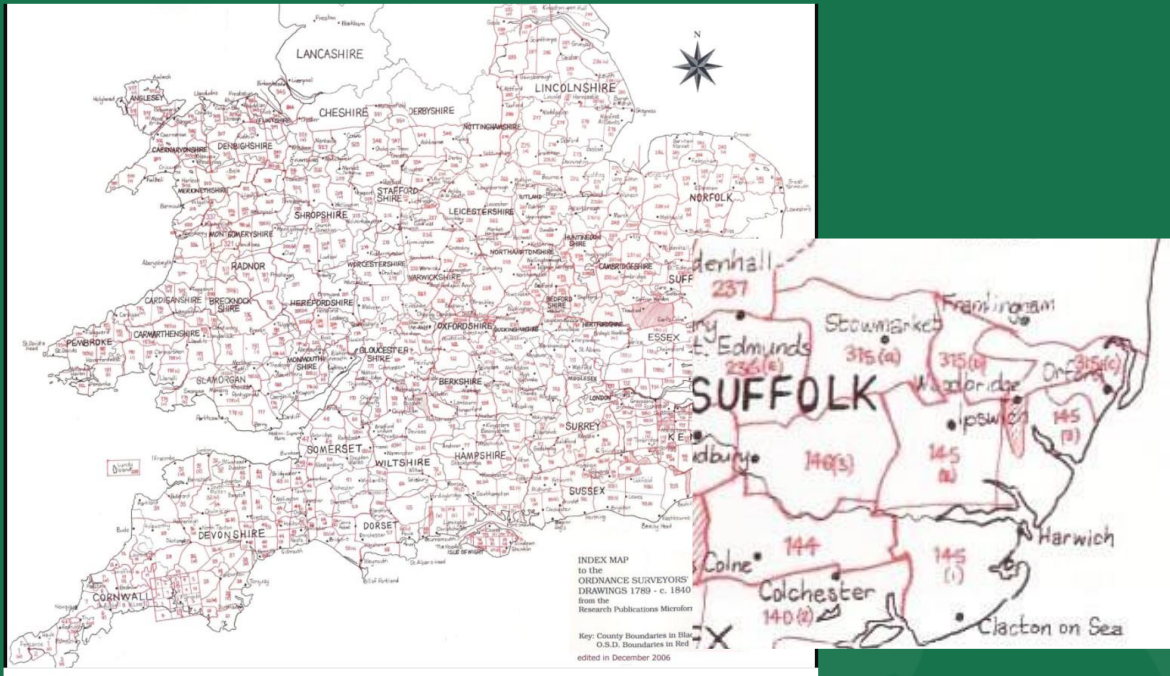
The OS maps date from the 1880s but we do have another OS source which might be of interest.

The threat of war and invasion during the 1780s to 1840s prompted the government to commission a detailed survey of the country 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 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.



Slide 36.

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

As we have been looking at Holywell's Park on the OS maps let's have a look at the OS drawing for that area too. We can see it is Sheet 145 and the settlement named is Ipswich

The screenshot shows the British Library website for the 'Ordnance Survey drawings' exhibition. The page features a navigation bar with links to 'Online Gallery Home', 'Virtual books', 'Online exhibitions', 'Highlights tour', and 'Personal galleries'. The main content area includes a purple header for the exhibition, a section for Peter Barber, 'Head of Map Collections', and a 'Curator's choice' section with three featured map items: 'Lands End, Mount's Bay, Cornwall', 'Hampstead', and 'Caernarvon'. A hand cursor points to the link 'See all of the items in this exhibition'.

Slide 37.

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 alphabetically to find the Ipswich drawing.

The screenshot shows the British Library online gallery page for 'Ipswich 20'. The page features a navigation bar with tabs for 'Online Gallery Home', 'Virtual books', 'Online exhibitions', 'Highlights tour', and 'Personal galleries'. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'bluk > Online Gallery Home > Online exhibitions > Ordnance Survey drawings > Ipswich 20'. The main content area is titled 'Ipswich 20' and displays a survey drawing of parts of Essex and Suffolk. A hand cursor points to the 'Interactive zoomable image (needs Flash)' option in the metadata section. The metadata section includes the following information: Draughtsman: Verron; Medium: Pen and ink on paper; Date: 1796; Shelfmark: OSD 145; Item number: 20; Length: 56; Width: 53; Genre: Map; Map scale ratio: 2" : 1 Mile (1 : 31680). Below the drawing, there is a descriptive paragraph: 'This drawing of parts of Essex and Suffolk is made up from four conjoined sheets mounted on stiff card. Verron's reputation as a surveyor suffered over the course of the survey. A letter from Survey Superintendent, William Mudge, dated 11 October 1820, reads: "Mr Stanley is going with me ...to Woodbridge to examine what is necessary to be done with Mr Verron's Plans...I apprehend they are much worse than... I expected."' The right sidebar contains a search bar, a 'Favourites' section, and a 'Personal galleries' section.

Slide 38.

The Ipswich page is typical of all the survey entries. I can read here that a Mr Verron was the draughtsman, he worked in pen and ink on paper, and the survey drawing was completed in 1796.

The scale is 2 inches to the mile and its British Library shelf mark (reference number) is OSD 145. That last piece of information you will need if you want to order a high-resolution digital file from the British Library- this will incur a fee.

This box gives you 2 options, you can look at a zoomable version of the map or a whole picture of it like this.

Ipswich 20



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Slide 39.

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.

To show you an example I've worked with before, here is a site in North Norfolk, so you can see close up what these drawings look like



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Slide 40.

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 with two-section lake marked in pale blue.

By the time the 1880s OS maps were produced this park's boundaries had been enlarged and so this is an important record of the shape and dimensions that existed previously.

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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Slide 41.

I am going to talk about images we can use for our research in the next section, but these are websites that are all free to search and you can view low resolution images online. There will be a cost if you wish to have a high-resolution file of an image.

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>)



Slide 42.

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 apart from saying millions of laser readings from an aircraft measure the distance to the land surface, even through vegetation, and it has the potential to show landscapes off in a whole new light.

There are free to search LIDAR websites. They have varied resolutions and some just show the resulting survey image like this one from the HousePrices website showing East Suffolk. You can see how patchy the coverage is, but we are lucky with Holywells Park that we can zoom into an area that has been surveyed.

HousePrices website: <https://houseprices.io/lab/lidar/map>

<https://www.lidarfinder.com/>

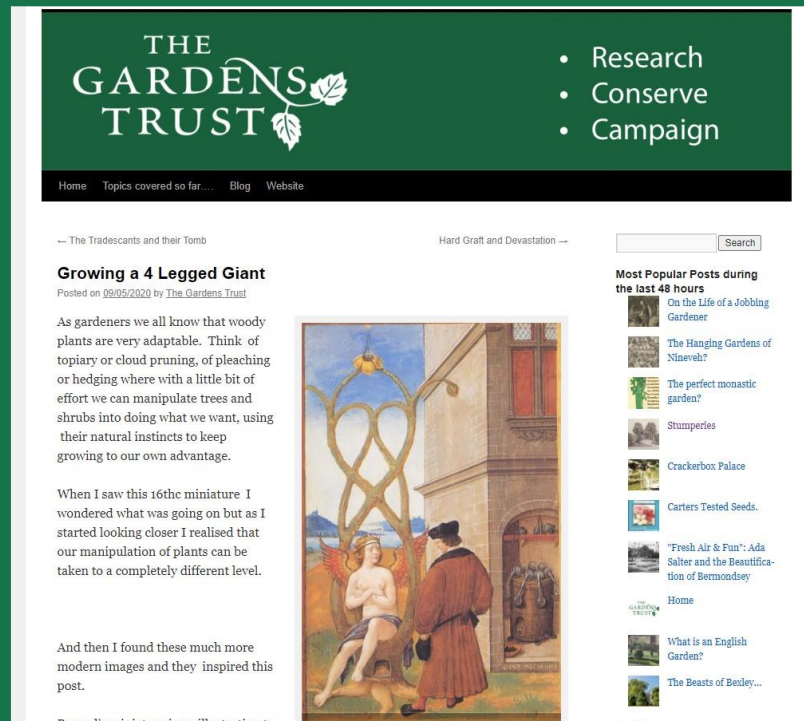


Slide 43.

This is the Lidar Finder website which shows you the aerial photo at the top and the LiDAR survey image underneath, which really helps if your site is not so easy to find. You can move the image around and zoom in and out and the other image will correspond accordingly.

We can use LiDAR to look for features which don't necessarily show up to the naked eye, such as ridge and furrow field patterns, silted up water features, former pathways and features hidden by long grass and trees.

Blogs



The screenshot shows the website for The Gardens Trust. At the top left is the logo "THE GARDENS TRUST" with a leaf icon. To the right are navigation links: "Research", "Conserve", and "Campaign". Below the logo is a navigation bar with "Home", "Topics covered so far...", "Blog", and "Website". The main content area features a post titled "Growing a 4 Legged Giant" dated 09/05/2020. The post text discusses garden adaptability and manipulation. A central image shows a 16th-century miniature of a man with a four-legged tree. To the right is a sidebar with a search box and a list of "Most Popular Posts during the last 48 hours".

THE GARDENS TRUST

- Research
- Conserve
- Campaign

Home Topics covered so far... Blog Website

— The Tradescants and their Tomb Hard Graft and Devastation —

Growing a 4 Legged Giant
Posted on 09/05/2020 by The Gardens Trust

As gardeners we all know that woody plants are very adaptable. Think of topiary or cloud pruning, of pleaching or hedging where with a little bit of effort we can manipulate trees and shrubs into doing what we want, using their natural instincts to keep growing to our own advantage.

When I saw this 16th miniature I wondered what was going on but as I started looking closer I realised that our manipulation of plants can be taken to a completely different level.

And then I found these much more modern images and they inspired this post.

Perreault's miniature is an illustration to

Most Popular Posts during the last 48 hours

- On the Life of a Jobbing Gardener
- The Hanging Gardens of Nineveh?
- The perfect monastic garden?
- Stumperies
- Crackerbox Palace
- Carters Tested Seeds.
- "Fresh Air & Fun": Ada Salter and the Beautification of Bermondsey
- Home
- What is an English Garden?
- The Beasts of Bealey...



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Slide 44.

Over the last two decades, blogs have become very popular online and can be a good source of information, here's the GTs with a search box top right to find names, sites or info on certain types of garden style and features.

Again, I will come back to blogs in the next section.

The screenshot shows the website for The Gardens Trust, specifically the Georgian Group Journal online archive. The top navigation bar includes links for ABOUT US, CONSERVATION, NEWS, and EVENTS. The main content area is titled "GEORGIAN GROUP JOURNAL – ONLINE ARCHIVE" and features a collage of journal covers, including "THE GEORGIAN GROUP Report and Journal 1986" and "THE GEORGIAN GROUP JOURNAL" with a portrait of a man in 18th-century attire. Below the collage, text states: "The Georgian Group Journal is available to read online, with the exception of the three most recent volumes. Please click on the relevant volume below to access the articles for that particular year." and "A chronological index of all volumes and articles can be viewed here. For more information on the Journal, click here."

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THE GEORGIAN GROUP

ABOUT US ▾ CONSERVATION ▾ NEWS ▾ EVENTS ▾

GEORGIAN GROUP JOURNAL – ONLINE ARCHIVE

The Georgian Group Journal is available to read online, with the exception of the three most recent volumes. Please click on the relevant volume below to access the articles for that particular year.

A chronological index of all volumes and articles can be viewed [here](#). For more information on the Journal, click [here](#).

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Slide 45.

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.

The Gardens Trust's own Garden History Journal celebrated its 50th anniversary last year and there is a helpful index you can download from the GT website to see if someone has written an article of interest to you.

On the right is the Georgian Group website, where they have saw the 2020 lockdown as a great opportunity to scan, and make available to read, back issues of their annual journal. (<https://georgiangroup.org.uk/journal/>). If your landscape was created in the Georgian period, or was significantly changed in that time, there might be articles on your site if you are very lucky or you could learn more about the families and designers associated with your site. Many of the county gardens trusts have back issues of their magazines and newsletters available to read on their websites too.

And finally

The good old



(Other search engines are available)



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Slide 46.

I'm sure you will already be thinking of doing this, but it can throw up useful materials, take you to blog sites and websites you have never heard of, or show old images such as postcards, engravings and other illustrations.

NB. You can't just cut and paste anything you find online into a published document or online article, because of copyright regulations, but anything saved for your own use is perfectly fine. Make a note where you find information, because a subsequent search might not give you the same results, particularly sources for images or original documents and maps.

Coming up next.....

Primary and Secondary Sources



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Resource Hub <http://thegardenstrust.org>



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