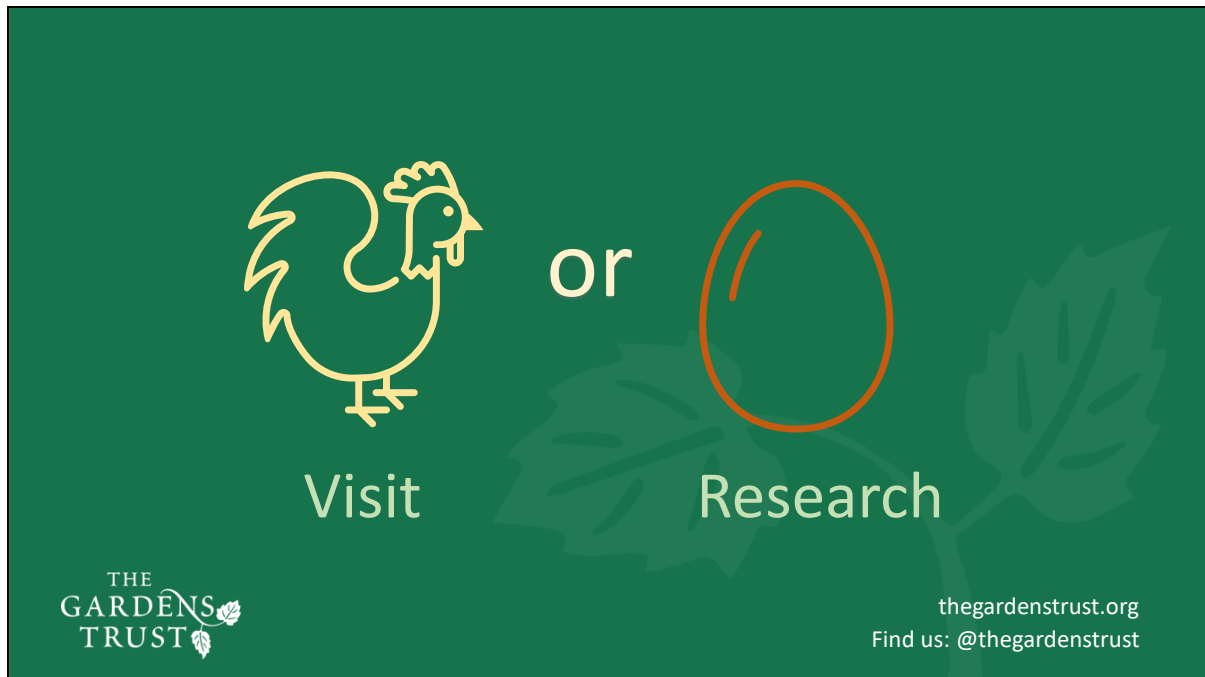




This webinar aims to give you an overview of how and where to research a park or garden, or another type of designed landscape.

It is the combination of two previous training webinars we have given in the past, which go into more detail and if you are now starting out on your researching garden history journey, we can send you the links to these too.

Slide 2



You have identified a designed landscape you would like to find out more about, but do you start by visiting it, exploring every nook and cranny, making notes and taking photographs? Or do you look online and in libraries and archives for any information about the site and the people who lived or worked on it? It is very tempting to do the former especially if it has become romantically overgrown or 'lost' in the way Heligan in Cornwall did. However, we would always advise undertaking research first, so that you fully understand the site before you visit and appear knowledgeable and professional when you meet the owners or manager.

The fact that you are interested in your site may well mean that someone else has also been drawn to research it in the past. You don't want to spend hours or days researching it only to find that someone has already done it. If this is the case, you may be able to add up-to-date information or still find new material.

Where do I look for what is already known?

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

historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/map-search/

Grade (Listing/Park and Garden)	
Show all	
Heritage Categories	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed Building
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scheduled Monument
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protected Wreck Site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park and Garden
<input type="checkbox"/>	Battlefield
<input type="checkbox"/>	World Heritage Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of Immunity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Building Preservation Notice

Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service: Cadw

Historic Environment Scotland: Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Archive: Heritage Gardens Inventory

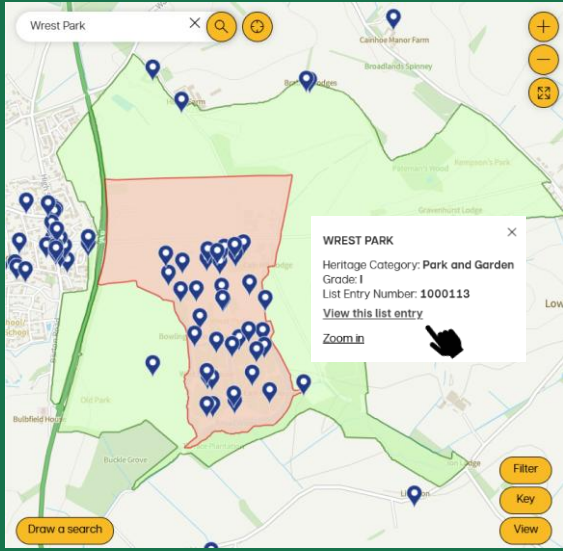


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The first place to look, to see what is already known about your site, is on Historic England's National Heritage list for England. As you can see from the menu on their Search the Map page, they have several categories of heritage assets. Listed Building status tops the list and includes all standing structures from grand mansions to garden walls. Scheduled Monuments cover archaeological sites, ruins and historically interesting areas such as deserted Medieval villages. Many shipwrecks are protected, as are battlefield sites. Recently, World Heritage Sites have been added, along with areas with certificates of immunities and buildings with preservation notices. To find out if your gardens is on the National Heritage List, more commonly referred to as the Register of Parks and Gardens, you can unselect all the other categories and search your county for landscapes graded Grade I, II* and II. The majority of the landscapes being researched as part of the Green Futures Project are not on the Register of Parks and Gardens, but you can use this Search the List to look for listed buildings and scheduled monuments on your site.

If you are researching in other parts of the UK, you can look at these websites to see what is known by Cadw, Historic Environment Scotland or on Northern Ireland Heritage's Gardens Inventory.


Slide 4



WREST PARK

Heritage Category: Park and Garden
Grade: I
List Entry Number: 1000113
[View this list entry](#)
[Zoom in](#)

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



Google Earth - <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Wrest+Park/>

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I used the Search the Map facility to look at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire and can immediately see the green shaded area which tells me it is a Park or Garden on the Register. If I right click anywhere in the green area an information panel comes up telling you the name of the site, its Grade (in this case Grade 1) its unique list entry number and the link to view the information on this park. The aerial photo on the right shows, the formal gardens in front of the house and that the shape of these corresponds with the red shaded part of the park which shows us this area is also a scheduled monument. The blue pins mark all the listed buildings and structures – including statues and temples. You can click on each to find out more.

Slide 5



The screenshot shows the Heritage Gateway website. At the top, the title "HERITAGE GATEWAY" is displayed in blue. Below it, a banner image features the word "welcome" in a large, white, serif font. A navigation menu on the left lists various links: Home, More Detailed Search, Help and FAQs, Cookies, About Heritage Gateway, Historic Environment Records, National Datasets, Professional Access, Contact Us, Terms And Conditions, and Accessibility. The main content area includes a search bar with a "Search" button and a "What's This?" link. Below the search bar, there are radio buttons for "any order", "exact", and "any words". A note mentions that local HER records contain more detailed information than currently available. The footer includes logos for IHBC, Historic England, and the Heritage Gateway partners, along with a copyright notice for 2012.

HERITAGE GATEWAY

Site Map
Text size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

welcome

You are here: [Home](#)

select...

- Home
- More Detailed Search
- Help and FAQs
- Cookies
- About Heritage Gateway
- Historic Environment Records
- National Datasets
- Professional Access
- Contact Us
- Terms And Conditions
- Accessibility

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

PastScape results now appear as Historic England Research Records. [Further information on Historic England Research Records](#)

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

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.

IHBC
INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS
REPAIRING - CONSERVATION

Historic England

heritage gateway partners
Marriage Cookies

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<https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

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Another website to search for information already known about your site, is the Heritage Gateway. This website serves to draw together several databases including the National Heritage List we have just looked at.

In order to search for our landscape on the Heritage Gateway you can use the more detailed search facility, highlighted. Fill in the property name and you will have the choice to search the records in a list or on a map....

Slide 6

Your search returned 229 results from 4 of the 18 resources available on the Heritage Gateway. Results from 3 of the 4 resources are visible on the map. These are indicated by the icon in the results list.

Where: Within 1km of selected location (TL095355) [Refine your search]

Summary Results View Results on a Map

Statutory Data

The National Heritage List for England 43 results

National Designation Decisions

Designation Decision Records (Expired Certificate of Immunity from Listing entries) No records matched your search

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

NMR Excavation Index 20 results

Church Heritage Record No records matched your search

Local Records

The Historic Environment Record for Bedfordshire 165 results

Durham Historic Environment Record No records matched your search

Gloucestershire County Council: Historic Environment Record No records matched your search

Greater London HER No records matched your search

Hertfordshire HER & St Albans UAD No records matched your search

Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record No records matched your search

Northumberland Historic Environment Record No records matched your search

<https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx>

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These are those two options which resulted from a search for WREST PARK. On the left side, the statutory data at the top shows 43 results – these will be the listed buildings, scheduled monument and the Park or Garden designation we saw on the Historic England entry in the previous slide.

The green category underneath is titled National Designation Decisions – for this site none are listed but this section may include unsuccessful bids for listing buildings or entry on the parks and gardens register. Also, there might be an entry here if a site has become so degraded or lost that it no longer merits inclusion on the Register.

The mauve section is titled Non-statutory National Data – and provides links with other data bases which have shared their entries. Here, there is one result for the Parks and Gardens UK website and 20 results on the NMR Excavation Index.

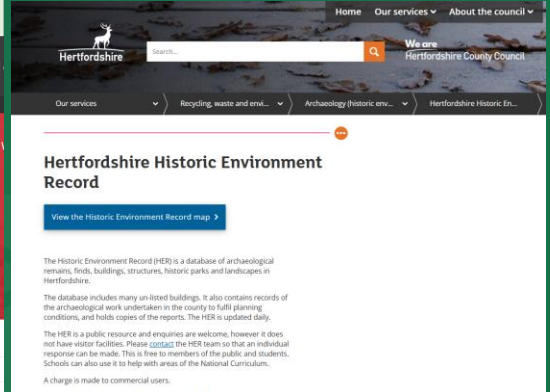
Of more interest to us is the orange section at the bottom titled Local Records. These records are those of the county's Historic Environment Record, usually referred to the county HER. Bedfordshire HER has uploaded 165 records, and it is these shown in orange on the map on the right. Interestingly, Bedfordshire HER has drawn a slightly larger area for WREST PARK than Historic England's Registered Area. Anyone putting in a planning proposal should consult their county HER to find information for their heritage impact statements.

Slide 7

Accessing a county's Historic Environment Record

Bedfordshire and
Cambridgeshire
HER:
Access through
Heritage Gateway

Essex HER: Access through Heritage Gateway



Essex HER: <https://www.placeservices.co.uk/>

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/>



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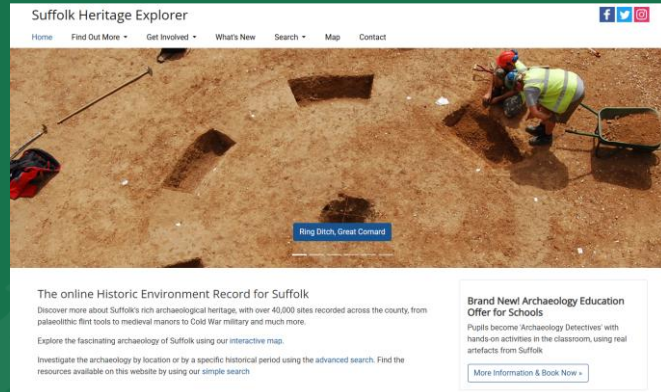
Every county HER is different from the next, and how you can search their records differs too. Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex HERs have uploaded their entries onto the Heritage Gateway database so that is how you look for information. Essex also has a website called Place Services where you might find information too. As you are not researching the HERs for professional purposes there should not be a charge, or less of a charge, but you may have to wait for a report as the HER offices are often under-staffed and dealing with lots of enquiries. However, you may be able to see enough information without needing to request a report.

Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk have their own website and interactive maps, so you can search here for your park or garden

Historic Environment Record (HER)



<https://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/>



<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/>



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The Norfolk and Suffolk HERs are found on the Norfolk or Suffolk Heritage Explorer websites and are quite straightforward to use.



Other places to look for previous research

Parks and Gardens UK (PGUK)

County Gardens Trusts

Friends Groups or Local History Groups

Publications: books, pamphlets, blogs

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There may be other places holding information on your landscape, these are a few of them. Parks and Gardens UK is a user-friendly website, where you can search for gardens in your county and read about different landscape and garden designers.

Your local county gardens trust may have researched your site in the past, many have produced books or gazetteers, or have an inventory of gardens on their websites. If you can't find any of these, it may be worth you contacting them to see if they have any information or can help you with contact details of garden owners or managers.

Village history groups, thematic history groups or other organisations may hold information of interest to you or have published booklets and leaflets. Many organisations post information on a website or a Facebook page. The latter may be a good place to ask people for information or share a picture to get memories flowing.

Garden History is a relatively new subject and unless your park or garden is a well-known one, it is not likely that you will find a whole book on it. Research is published in many different formats these days, and we will look at some of these in a moment.

Slide 10



Published Research

Contents of Garden History

Download a copy of the entire *Contents of Garden History*, and its predecessor volumes (from 1969), up to and including Winter 2024, which includes details of how to read or obtain the articles below.

- [Garden History Journal Contents to Winter 2024 – PDF](#)
- [Garden History Journal Contents to Winter 2024 – Word](#)

To search the lists for authors or topics, use CTRL+F for the PDF file or if using the Word doc, download and open it first before using the same CTRL+F command to open the navigation pane.

We have also published a [50th anniversary celebratory volume](#) revisiting some of the seminal articles that have been published in the previous 49 volumes. Many articles originally published in *Garden History* later led onto work that became the classic books on the subject.

The Gardens Trust (formerly the Garden History Society) has been publishing academic articles on the subject since 1969. If you include our two early **Occasional Papers**. All articles remain in print and/or are available through JSTOR. See below for Supplements, appendices or gazeteers related to the Journal.

<https://thegardenstrust.org/resources/journal/>





<https://georgiangroup.org.uk/georgian-group-journal/>

EVENTS ABOUT US ▾ CONSERVATION ▾ NEWS ▾

GEORGIAN GROUP JOURNAL

The Georgian Group Journal is the authoritative journal of record for early modern architecture in Britain between 1660 and 1840 and was first published in 1986. It is cited more often than any other title in Sir Howard Colvin's classic work of reference *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840* and is essential reading for anyone interested in architecture and related aspects of material culture during this period.



The Georgian Group Journal, published annually, is sent to all members and subscribing libraries. It is currently edited by Dr. Geoffrey Tyack of Oxford University. Previous editors have included: Roger White, Giles Worsley and Richard Hewlings.

An **online archive of past articles** together with a **cumulative index** is available **via the button below**. NB: at any given time the three most recent volumes will only be available in print form. Please note the titles of all articles published in *The Georgian Group Journal* are also listed in the RIBA Library catalogue, which hosts the RIBA's Architectural Periodicals Index.

ONLINE ARCHIVE

Back issues of the Journal are available to purchase in hard copy by contacting members@georgiangroup.org.uk.

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Academic journals such as the Gardens Trust's *Journal of Garden History* may hold information on landscapes, garden styles, landscape designers or owners. There is a contents index for this journal on the Gardens Trust website to help you track down the correct edition on JSTOR, RHS Lindley Library or a back copy from the Gardens Trust (if available).

Other journals are available to read online to. For example, the Georgian Group took lockdown as an opportunity to digitise back copies of their journal, and these can be searched and read on their website.

Slide 11

The Garden History Blog

THE GARDENS TRUST

the garden history blog

spreading the word about garden history since 2013

Home Topics covered so far... Blog Website

... Doty and its botanic garden The Maharaja and his German gardener ...

William Nesfield: soldier, artist & landscape designer

Posted on 22/02/2025 by The Garden History Blog

There can't be many great landscape gardeners who, as a young man, fought against Napoleon in the Peninsular War or against the Americans in the War of 1812. Yet one who did both went on to become a well-known artist and then one of the leading garden designers of the 19thc, with over 250 sites including some of the most important in the country under his belt by the time he died in 1881.

He was William Andrews Nesfield usually mainly remembered for his complicated colourful geometric parterres but who was actually a far more nuanced and sophisticated designer than he is

<https://thegardenhistory.blog/home/>

Most Popular Posts during the last 48 hours

- Clarence Elliott: garden writer and alpine specialist
- The Maharaja and his German gardener
- Electroculture
- The Golden Apples of the Hesperides
- Home
- An Englishman's Home is his Castle - or Mr Wemmick and Me
- The Company's Garden
- A pineapple? Gosh...thank you Mr Rose!
- William Nesfield: soldier, artist & landscape designer

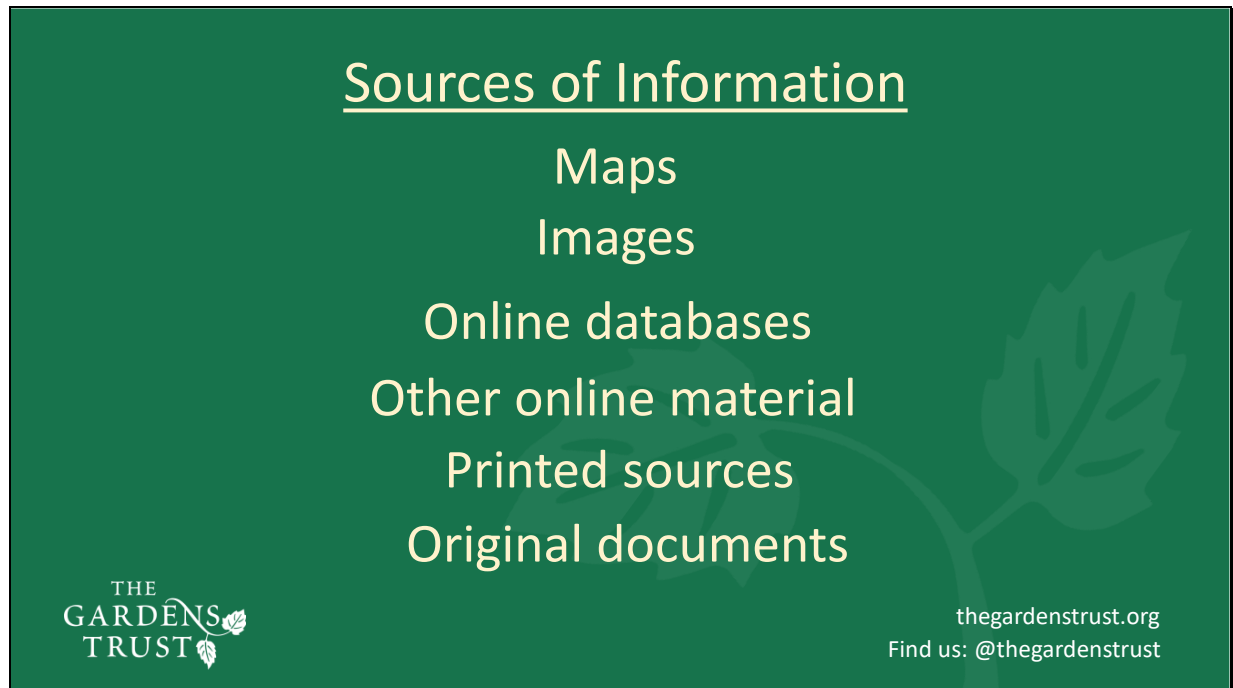
Search

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Increasingly over the past few years, researchers are publishing their work online on their own websites or blogs. David Marsh has over 500 articles available to read on his Garden History Blog. You can search all his blog articles by name, site, owners, or garden style or feature, using the box at the top.

There are a lot of well-researched sites out there but keep an open mind about the veracity of information as they might not be 100% accurate, or they have been written from a particular point of view.

A green rectangular box with a dark green background. In the center, the text "Sources of Information" is underlined in a light green font. Below it, a list of sources is written in the same light green font: "Maps", "Images", "Online databases", "Other online material", "Printed sources", and "Original documents". In the bottom left corner is the logo for "THE GARDENS TRUST" with a small leaf icon. In the bottom right corner, the website "thegardenstrust.org" and the social media handle "Find us: @thegardenstrust" are listed in a light green font. A faint, large leaf graphic is visible in the background of the box.

Sources of Information

Maps
Images
Online databases
Other online material
Printed sources
Original documents

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It may be that you cannot find any or very little information on your park or garden, and you need to go looking for information yourself. Sources of information fall mainly into 2 categories – primary and secondary. Primary sources were created at the time of history they represent. These include documents (letters, diaries, accounts books, sale catalogues etc.) and images (paintings, drawings, drawn plans, photographs, postcards, census returns). All these were created at the time, and although they might be biased in favour of their creator's view – they have not been interpreted by a second party.

Secondary sources include later books, magazines, blogs, websites.

It is important to keep in the back of your mind the origin of the information you are reading or looking at, and whether someone could have misinterpreted or altered it or just presented it with their own spin on things. Write down every source, website address and the date you looked at it, before you make any notes. The same good practice applies to all online and archive research – there is nothing more annoying than having a note

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Maps

Tithe and Enclosure Maps

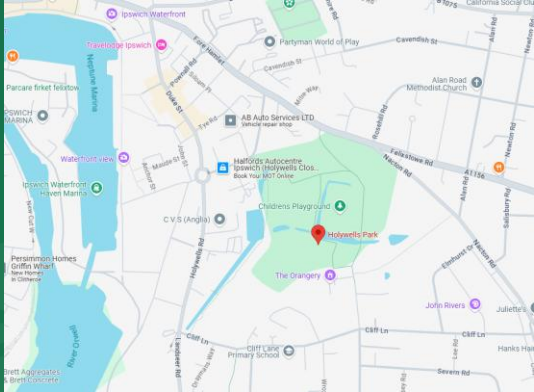

Other Maps

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Maps are a huge source of information to garden detectives and vary in quality and accuracy from the large-scale Ordnance Survey maps to sketch plans drawn up to accompany wills or estate sales.

Google Earth



<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Holywells+Park/>




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Before I look at any maps, I familiarise myself with the landscape as it is today, by using aerial photographs and modern base maps such as these. This is Holywells Park SE of Ipswich town centre. Ipswich Marina and river Orwell can be seen far left and the park is a tree-lined green space surrounded by housing to the north, east and south. Light industrial units occupy the space between the park and the quaysides. The Felixstowe and Nacton roads run across the north and eastern park boundaries, and the boundaries are marked with thick tree belts, with gardens and play park features in the park centre.

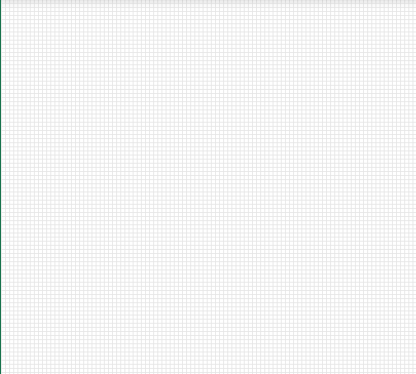
Now I am familiar with the site and its surroundings it will make it easier to recognise it on earlier maps.

Ordnance Survey Maps

**National Library of Scotland**
Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba

Map images

[Maps home](#) > [Ordnance Survey](#) > [OS 25 inch England and Wales, 1841-1952](#)



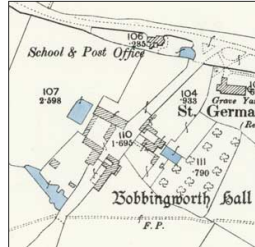
Ordnance Survey Maps - 25 inch England and Wales, 1841-1952


The most detailed topographic mapping covering most parts of England and Wales from the 1840s to the 1950s.

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

See also:



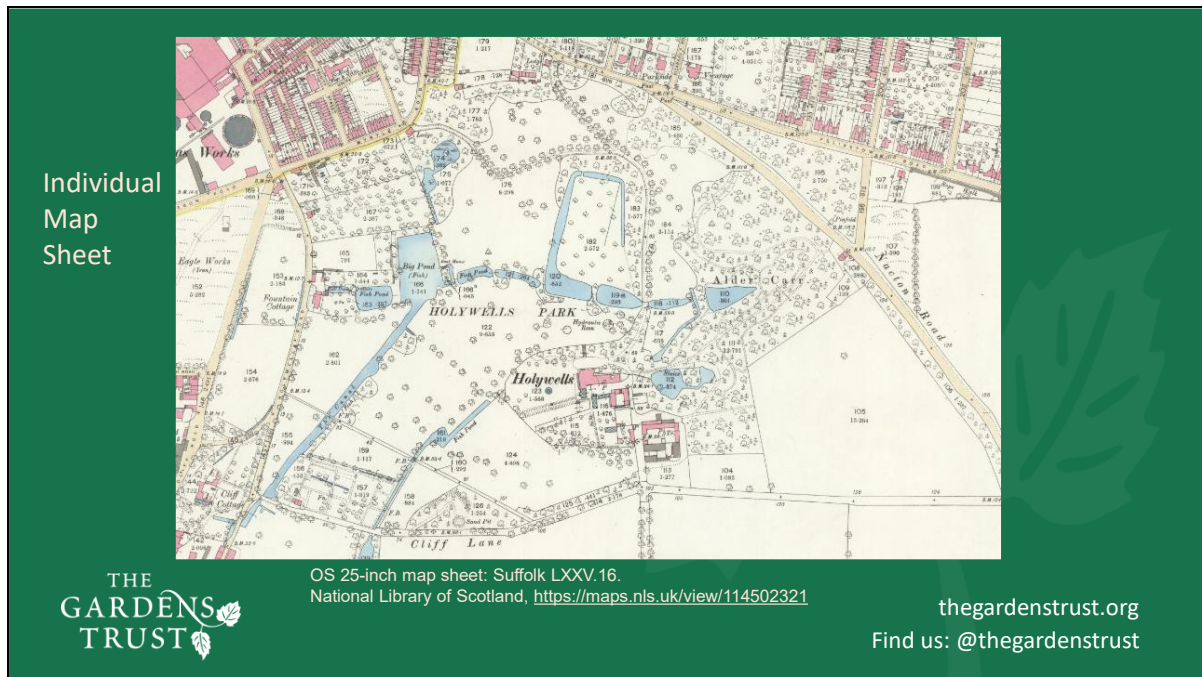


<https://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch-england-and-wales/>

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Any garden researcher will mention looking at the National Library for Scotland website because over the past decade or so it has become the most useful resource. The site is constantly being updated, new maps added and new interactive features. The maps garden historians use most, are the 25-inch OS maps as they are larger scale and show paths, buildings, and bigger garden features, from the 1880s and over first the half of the 20th Century. You can also look at the 6-inch maps, which have not so much detail but date from a couple of decades earlier.

You can browse the maps they have on this website in three different ways: as individual sheets, as a seamless zoomable overlay layer and the side-by-side map and aerial option. I'll briefly look at each option you can view the maps next....



This is a detail of the 1884 map sheet which shows Holywells Park. Many of the earlier OS maps will have some colour like this one, with blue for water features, red for habitable buildings, grey for uninhabited buildings and yellow for public roads. We can see areas of trees, some with serpentine paths, and an extensive chain of different shaped water features across the park. The main residence is shown with other inhabited buildings to the south. You could argue that maps like this are a primary resource as they were surveyed and drawn up at this time, but it was very much down to the OS surveyor what and how he showed the information he recorded. However, they are the most accurate maps we have from the 19th Century.

The Scottish Library website has very nearly a map sheet to view, for every square on the grid. Sometimes there is more than one and particularly in built-up areas you may be able to look at the changes shown from maps of the 1880s, 1900s, 1920s and 1940s.

Slide 17



The screenshot displays the NLS Maps Explorer interface. On the left, a menu lists various background and overlay options. The 'Background - Google Satellite' option is selected. Below the menu, a 'Choose an historic map overlay' dialog box is open, showing '1. Select a category: Great Britain' and '2. Select a map / map series: OS 25 inch, 1892-1914'. The main map area shows a seamless zoomable overlay layer of historic maps (1890s – 1920s) over a modern map background. The overlay is divided into six map sheets. The text 'Seamless zoomable overlay layer (1890s – 1920s)' is overlaid on the right side of the map. The Gardens Trust logo is in the bottom left corner. The URL <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/> is in the bottom center. The website thegardenstrust.org and Twitter handle @thegardenstrust are in the bottom right.

Background - Google Satellite
Change background - ESRI World Image
Background - ESRI World Topo
Background - MapTiler Streets
Background - MapTiler Satellite Hybrid
Background - MapTiler Elevation
Background - Google Satellite
Background - Google Satellite Hybrid
Background - OpenStreetMap
Background - OS Maps Leisure (1:50,000/1:25,000)
Background - OS Maps API
Background - OS OpenData
Background - OS 1920s-1940s
Background - OS 1900s
Background - OpenTopoMap
Background - Light Pollution / Dark Skies, 2016
Background - Land Cover Map 2021
Background - LiDAR DTM 50cm-1m - Eng, Scot, Wales
Background - LiDAR DTM 2m - Eng, Wales
Background - LiDAR DSM 1m - Eng, Scot, Wales
Background - LiDAR DSM 2m - Eng, Wales

Choose an historic map overlay:
1. Select a category:
Great Britain
2. Select a map / map series:
OS 25 inch, 1892-1914
Zoom to this layer's extents View single list
Filter overlays
Change transparency of overlay:

Seamless zoomable overlay layer (1890s – 1920s)

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<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/>

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The seamless zoomable overlay layer is useful for large parks or those which fall near the edge of individual map sheets. This is Holkham Park in North Norfolk, and it is made up of the earliest 25-inch maps available on the website. As you can see it covers six map sheets. You can spend a lot of time exploring this option because you can select from the menu top left, which modern map, aerial photograph or LiDAR image to put underneath the older map overlay. In the bottom left corner is a transparency slider which you can use to toggle between the two layers you have chosen.



The third option on the 25-inch map home page is the side-by-side map and aerial photo layer. This is useful for pinpointing features in dense woodland or where there has been a lot of change in the intervening period. This is Marshalls in Romford. A small landscape park, around a Georgian house which was demolished in the 1950s, and the parkland is now under extensive housing developments, and there is now a school on the site of the house. Wherever you put your cursor on the map, the cross on the photograph will show the same spot.

1 : 528 OS Town Map Series


Added to NLS collection June 2024

<u>Bedfordshire</u>	<u>Cambridgeshire</u>	<u>Essex</u>	<u>Hertfordshire</u>	<u>Norfolk</u>	<u>Suffolk</u>
Bedford	Cambridge	Bishop's Stortford	Berkhamstead	Dereham	Beccles
Biggleswade	Ely	Braintree	Hertford	Great Yarmouth	Bury St. Edmunds
Dunstable	Huntingdon	Brentwood	Hemel Hempstead	Kings Lynn	Ipswich
Leighton Buzzard	March	Chelmsford	Hitchin	Norwich	Lowestoft
Luton	Peterborough	Colchester	Leighton Buzzard	Thetford	Newmarket
	Wisbech	Halstead	St. Albans		Stowmarket
		Harwich	Tring		Sudbury
		Malden	Ware		Woodbridge
		Saffron Walden	Watford		
		Waltham Abbey			

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Since the last time we presented our research webinars, the National Library for Scotland has uploaded the 1870s large-scale town maps. These were not drawn up for the whole country or even all the larger settlements but commissioned by many town and city corporations. These will not be so useful for the Green Futures project sites, being urban maps, but are really useful if you are researching in these settlements. Map sheets are available to view in these settlements in the eastern counties.



Gardens of Amwell House,
Ware, O.S. 1:528, pub. 1880

Scott's Grotto in Ware, Hertfordshire is a Grade 1 listed building and with six chambers it is the most extensive shell grotto in the United Kingdom.

THE GARDENS TRUST Hertfordshire XXIX.12.9. <https://maps.nls.uk/view/231285351>

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Just to show you what features you can find on these maps, this is the southern half of the garden belonging to Amwell House in Ware, Hertfordshire. The pathways amongst dense tree and shrub planting can be seen, with steps, seats and end of avenue eye-catchers shown. Even smaller features like urns, fountains and rockeries might be marked. There looks to be a kitchen garden with glasshouses, maybe an orangery. I don't know this site but chose it as there was this interesting garden area across the road, with an octagonal building with double steps leading up to it, next to a round temple and t-shaped building. This is typical of research rabbit holes you can easily fall down. I was intrigued to look at the Hertfordshire HER to see if what was recorded here, it turns out it's a very special garden survivor in what is now a heavily developed area of housing. If you live near Ware, a friends group opens Scott's Grotto to the public occasionally throughout the year.

Earlier than the 1880s 25-inch OS maps are the Ordnance Survey drawings commissioned by the government as a response to the Napoleonic Wars and the threat of invasion. The coastal areas were mapped first and gradually all the south half of England was surveyed.

Up until March 2024 these drawings were available to view on the British Library website, but since the devastating cyber attack on the British Library – its website, catalogue and online exhibits, such as these drawings, fell victims. I have found many of them on the Wikimedia Commons website and they do let you zoom right in. The drawings are of a smaller scale than 25-inch, but they can show information from the earlier decades of the 19th Century.

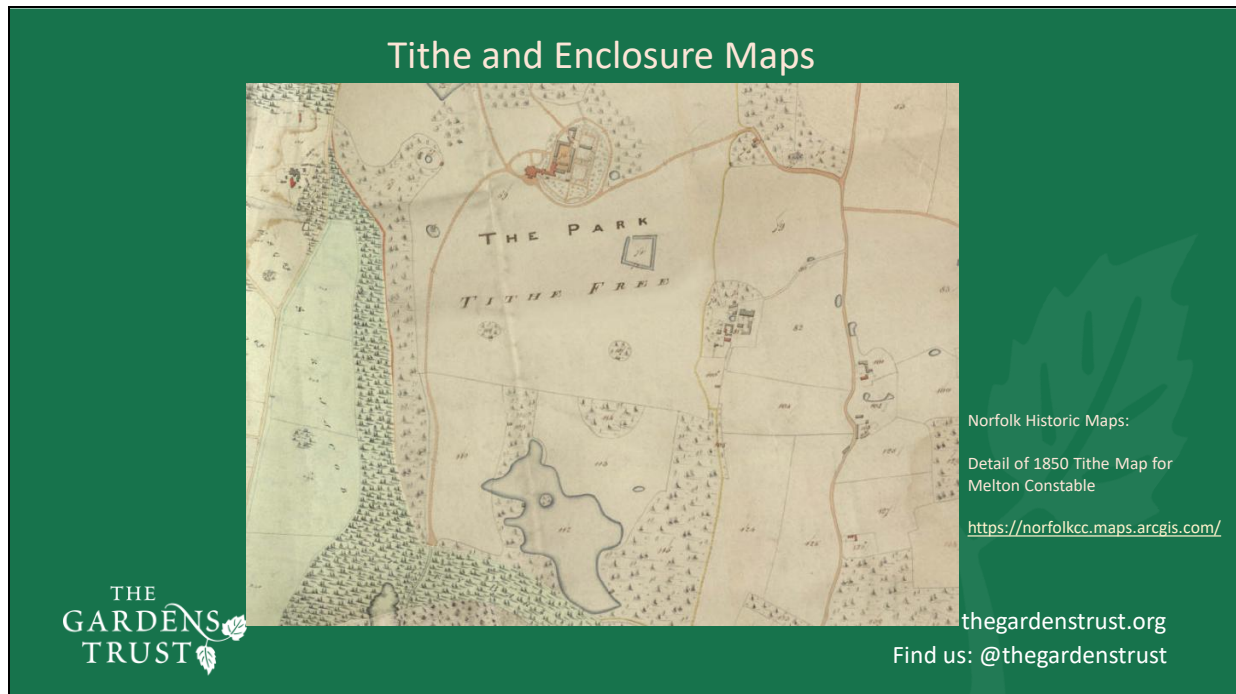
This is a detail from the Fakenham drawing in North Norfolk, showing the earlier size of the park at Melton Constable Hall; 60 years after Capability Brown had worked on the site and before the later 19th Century expansion of the park, which is not shown on other maps.

Hopefully all the drawings will be back on the British Library website very soon.

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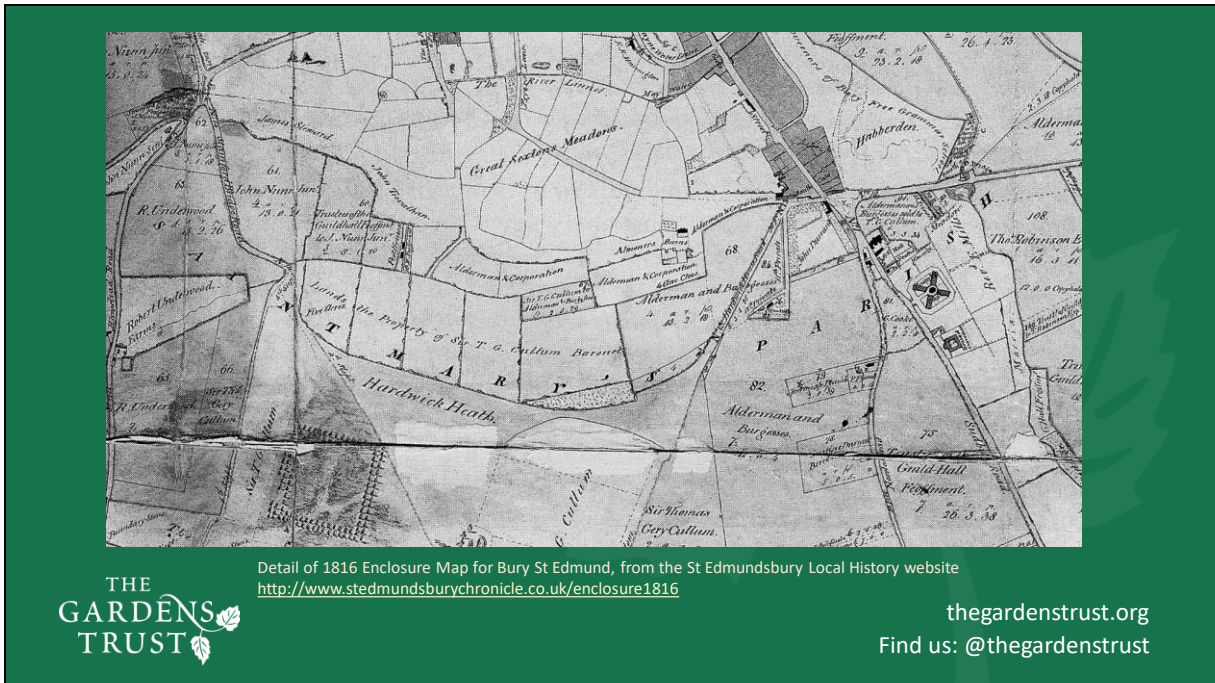


This is the Tithe Map for the same park at Melton Constable, showing the lie of the land 34 years later than the OS drawing. The ha-ha bordered pleasure grounds show nicely around the east side of the house and the shape of the lake is more defined, with new areas of parkland and woods to the west.

Tithe maps date from the middle of the 19th century and can be viewed in county archives or through genealogist websites – the latter does require payment.

Before 1836, tithes were paid to the church in ‘produce from the land’ (crops, animals, timber, fish etc. whatever people could spare) 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.

The accompanying apportionment document will tell you the size of the parcel of land, who owned it, and who lived on it or worked it, if it was not the owner.



Slightly earlier than Tithe maps are the Enclosure Maps from the early-19th century, however not every parish commissioned an enclosure map.

Enclosure maps are large scale and of mainly rural areas. Accompanying them are Enclosure Awards, which are legal documents created to record redistribution or reorganisation of land, providing legal proof of historical ownership and the boundaries of landholdings.

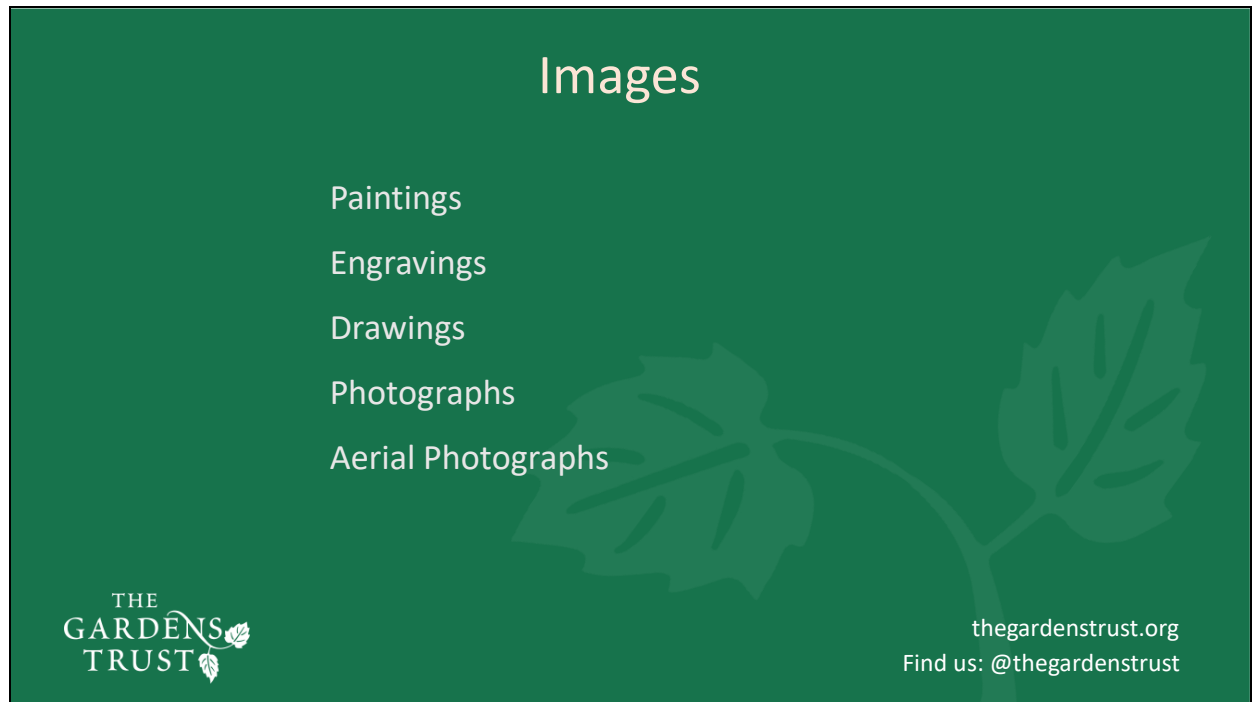
This is the 1815 Enclosure Map for the area to the south of central Bury St Edmunds – not many landscape features are shown except a square parcel of land bounded by double rows of trees, in the bottom left. I looked on the 1880s 25-inch map to see if it was still visible. A heavily-treed area of Hardwick Park was marked as The Square on the site, and paths marked it out. Was it still there today I wondered, a quick look on aerial photos and it is still discernible in amongst tree planting but is now the site of Bury hospital – another research rabbit hole I fell down!



Some counties have large 18th century, printed county maps, for example, Faden's 1797 map of Norfolk, Hodgkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk and Bedfordshire's Jeffrey's Map 1765, but these are smaller in scale than the Tithe and Enclosure maps. They might show where there were landscape parks but not much more detail than that.

You might be lucky and find some historic documents such as sales papers or wills, which contain hand drawn maps. Also, estate maps might have been surveyed and drawn up to show the extent of the land owned by someone. Sometimes smaller estates such as this Suffolk landholding owned by Samuel Wardly in 1735. If we zoom in, we can see an orchard, all the gateways and individual trees. Zooming in further we can look at the small garden around the house. There appears to be a small building – possibly a summerhouse – and a jetty over a formal canal or fishpond.

Hand drawn maps were drawn up for a reason and will show what was important to the owner.



Paintings and drawings of houses and their landscapes may still have remained in the house or been moved if the family relocated or house contents sold. If you get the chance to visit your park or garden do ask if there are any pictures hanging in the house – they are often found in upstairs corridors or back entrance halls.

UK Online Image Archives

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

Bridgeman 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>

County Archives or local history organisations may have online image archives



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These are some of the UK image archives available to search online. The resolutions of the website images may be good enough for research purposes but to obtain digital files from these archives can get quite pricey. Other image archives can be found on county archive websites, local history websites and in many university library archives.

U.S. 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 don't have to limit your searches to UK archives, there are very good ones, shown here, in the U.S. A lot of UK documents and images have been bought by American universities who, on the whole, are very generous about sharing them and high-resolution images can be found, and sometime downloaded, for free.

Internet
Image
Search

Edward Adveno
Brooke: The
Gardens at
Stowlangtoft
Hall, c.1850s/60s

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<https://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2011/old-master-british-drawings-sale/>


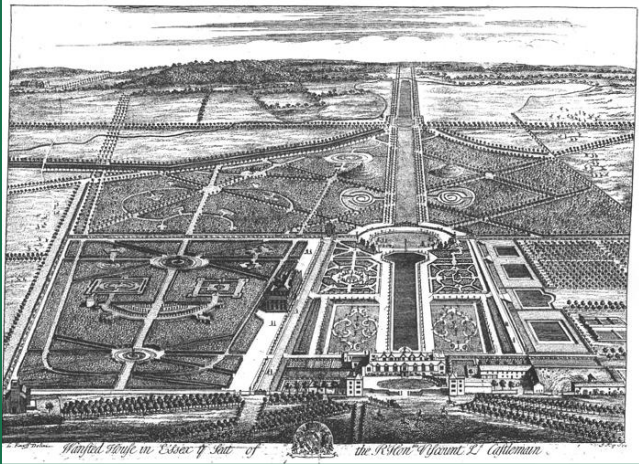
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Of course, there is always the good old Google image search which can turn up images from a variety of sources. This watercolour by Edward Adveno Brooke of the gardens at Stowlangtoft Hall, was painted sometime in the 1850s or 60s. It turned up in a Google search and was from a 2011 Sotheby's catalogue. It is a well-executed painting showing gardeners and a wheelbarrow in the centre, another is potting up a plant bottom left, being watched by member of the family and her child. A greenhouse is shown far right, and the distant hills are glimpsed through a gap in the planting the far side of the lawn. Whether this is a true representation of the garden at Stowlangtoft at this time, it is not possible to say with certainty as artistic licence could have been employed to create an attractive scene.



In some ways, more useful to the garden researcher, are amateur paintings and sketches. A painting like this one of Thornham Hall is more believable and it looks like someone has faithfully recorded everything they could see. The perspective is all over the place, but pineapple finials on the gate piers, potted specimens along the top of the front wall, the clipped trees in Versailles-style square planters and the clipped standards either side of the central path tell us so much about the gardens here in the 17th Century.

Engravings and Prints





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Jan Kip and Leonard Knyff engraving (1728)
<https://londongardenstrust.org/publications/wanstead/Gardens%20of%20Wanstead-P1.pdf>

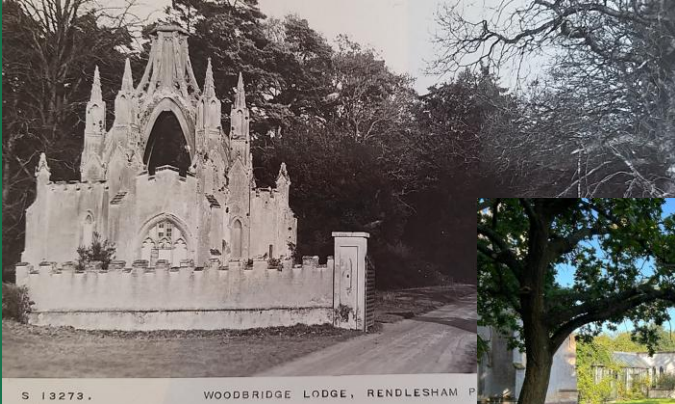
<https://www.google.com/maps/search/wanstead+park/>
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Engravings are likely to show the grander houses and their gardens. This is the extensive formal garden around Wanstead House, seat of Viscount Castlemain, formerly in Essex and now in the London Borough of Redbridge. Designed to dominate the landscape and show off the high status of its owner. It was probably inspired by the fashionable gardens at Versailles; it is hard to believe that these gardens existed especially since the building of the golf course. Although Wanstead House has disappeared, some of the formal garden features have survived like the large basin just below the centre, the avenue leading away from it towards the surviving canal and a few garden buildings.

Not all engravings will be as grand as a Kip and Knyff drawing but there may well be one of your site if it appeared in a topographical book – someone's travels around your county in the past.

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.

Photographs



1906 postcard. S Bate collection

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<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore>



<https://www.airbnb.ie/rooms/1239956496507957704>

[thegardenstrust.org](https://www.thegardenstrust.org)

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Local archives and collections may have albums or loose photographs from the 19th Century or early 20th Century. Early books and magazines are also a good source of photographs, as are early postcards such as this one of the glorious Gothic gate lodge at Rendlesham Park in East Suffolk. It is set back from the passing road and so a quick look on an aerial photograph showed that it is still there although now alongside is a large curving building. An internet search threw up an advert on Airbnb with a host of recent pictures of the glass connecting walkway and the curved building of bedrooms looking away from the lodge across the park.

Robert Frewer's garden in St James Place, Norwich.

1870s photograph



©Jenny Sumser-Lupson. Norfolk GT Members' Magazine, 2016 Spring edition, article by S. Bate

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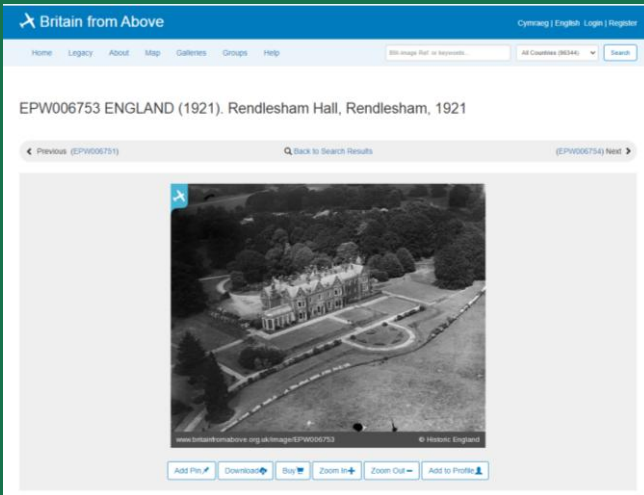
This has got to be up there amongst my favourite Victorian garden photographs.

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's 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 the couple 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.

Slide 33


Aerial Photography




EPW006753 ENGLAND (1921). Rendlesham Hall, Rendlesham, 1921

[https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EPW006753](https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EPW006753)

Gawthorpe Hall, National Trust:
<https://www.facebook.com/nationaltrust/photos/a.97566018585/10156661326793586>

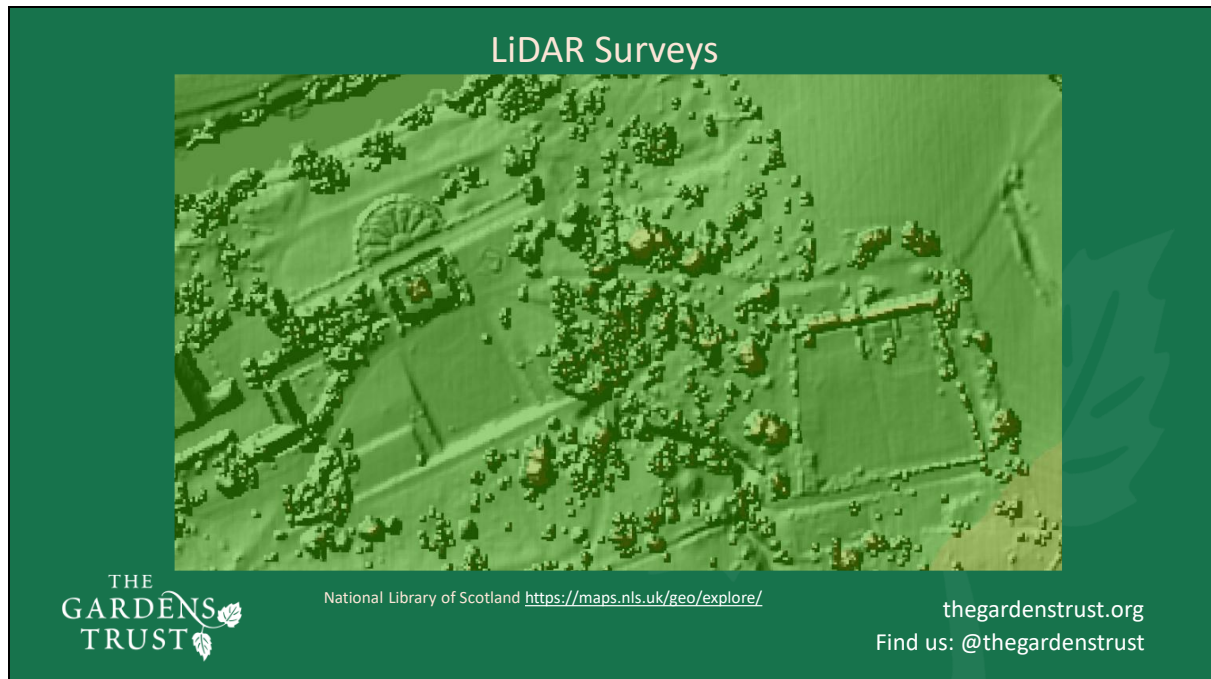




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If you can find aerial photographs of your site these can be helpful. In the past they were taken either by the military or professional survey companies, but sometimes by keen hobbyist pilots who share their images online. The lefthand photo is on Historic England's *Britain from Above* website. This is the house at Rendlesham that the Gothic lodge was built for, and this photo taken in 1921 records the grounds immediately around the hall.

The right-hand photo, taken with a drone, shows very dramatically the ghost of the Victorian parterre gardens in parchmarks at Gawthorpe Hall in the height of summer a few years ago. Hot summers encourage drone flyers and county archaeology groups to send their machines up to take photographs. They may be willing to share them with you.



A recent source of information for garden researchers has been the development of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) using millions of laser readings from a plane to the ground level below. 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.

HousePrices website is a good website to look at LiDAR images (<https://houseprices.io/lab/lidar/map>) but the version shown here is now available on the National Library of Scotland website by choosing the seamless zoomable map layer and the LiDAR base layer option from the drop-down menu I showed you earlier and sliding the transparency button across to switch between the map and LiDAR image.

This is Gawthorpe Hall again and it clearly shows the current semi-circle of flower beds north of the house, the lawn with the parchmarks shown in the last slide is the flat square of garden to the south. There are paths or ditches in the woods that are not shown on the OS map and in the walled garden far right there are the faint lines of former paths.


Sources of Information in Archive Collections

- Books and pamphlets (contemporary and more recent)
- Accounts books
- Sales particulars
- Maps (printed and hand-drawn)
- Diaries and letters
- Newspapers (local and national)
- Magazines (Country Life, The Gardeners Chronicle, The Gardener's Magazine)
- Photographs, aerial photographs and films
- Drawings and plans
- Oral histories


When you have exhausted desk-based online searches it is time to look for original material in local record offices and other archives. This is a list of the type of items you might be interested in seeing. County Archive Centres tend to have material that is unique and not available elsewhere. You might be able to see original items, or they might produce copies to preserve the originals. There will also be some reference books, and item images on microfilm or microfiche.

Local studies centres or heritage centres tend to have printed material such as newspapers, leaflets, booklets, digitised images and printed maps.

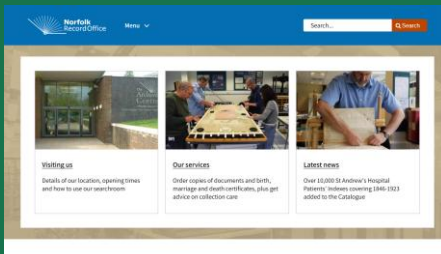
Which Archives Should I Look in?




bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk/SearchOurCatalogues




www.essexarchivesonline.co.uk




www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/



www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk



www.hertfordshirearchives.org.uk



www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/

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For a particular park or garden, you might like to start by browsing the appropriate county archives website. They will give you access to their online catalogue, and may have exhibitions, articles, historic maps and image collections which could be of interest to you. Bedfordshire Archives have helpful videos on their home page which show you how to look for a person or place in their catalogue. If you are finding traversing their catalogue difficult, you might like to visit and ask one of the archivists to give you a brief demonstration. The staff are there to help you so don't be afraid to ask for their advice.

We have arranged visits to eastern county archives in October for the Green Futures volunteers, where we can look at how each one operates, how to search their catalogues and a behind the scenes tour of their stock rooms, which will give us a really good idea how documents and maps are stored and conserved.

Slide 37

The screenshot shows the 'Discovery' page of the National Archives website. On the left, a green sidebar contains the text 'Access to Archives (A2A)', 'National Archives website', and the URL 'https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/'. The main content area has a dark header with 'THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES' logo and navigation links like 'Visit', 'What's on', and 'Explore the collection'. Below the header, a search bar is titled 'Explore the catalogue' and includes a text input field for keywords, date range selectors ('Between YYYY and YYYY'), and a 'Held by' dropdown menu set to 'All archives'. A 'Search' button is at the bottom right of the search bar. Below the search bar, there are three sections: 'Popular collections' with a small image of a soldier, 'What is Discovery?' with a brief description of the database, and 'Research guides' with a link to 'Family history'. At the bottom of the page, a green footer contains 'THE GARDENS TRUST' logo, the website 'thegardenstrust.org', and the social media handle 'Find us: @thegardenstrust'.

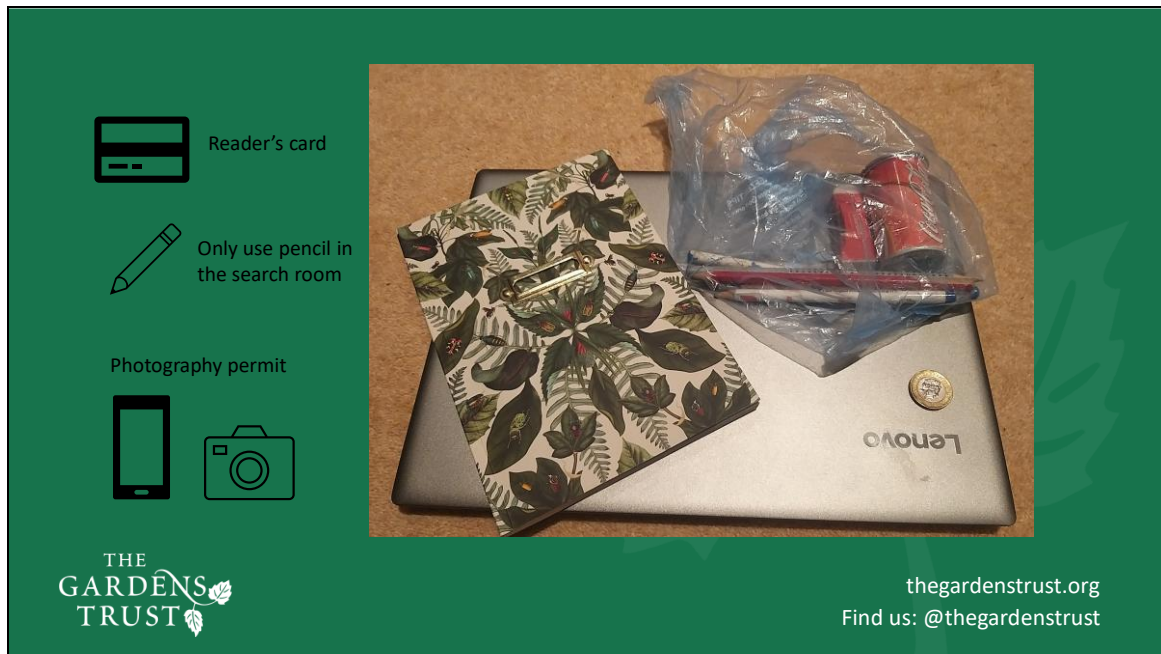
A good way to find out, which archives have materials you might be interested in, is to look at the Access to Archives website, often referred to as A2A, managed by the National Archives. This website includes not only the National Archives themselves but will link to many other affiliated archives you can search.

A search of their database will undoubtedly lead you to many items in your local record office but also to other archives in your county or beyond. Family papers for a particular site might have moved to another property, with the family, and ended up with another set of estate papers in a different part of the country.

A2A has digitised many wills, so you might be lucky to find one for a person of interest for your site and be able to read it online. Alternatively, you can go to Kew and read it in their search room..

Accessing census returns from home is through the National Archives partners Ancestry or Find My Past, and therefore not free to search without paying a subscription. Many libraries, heritage and archive centres have access to Census returns, so you may be able to use these, for free, instead.

Slide 38



Before you visit a county archive or heritage centre, look at their website to find out how to obtain a reader's card. You may be able to order one before you go or check what items (proof of address etc) you need to apply for one on arrival. Also, check to see if you need to book a visit to the archives, rather than just turn up.

Before you visit, explore the online catalogue and identify a couple of items you would like to see and email or fill in their online form to order these.

Once you are in the search room, you will be asked to fill in order slips which will be collected every 15 or 30 minutes by the staff so that your items will arrive on the next trolley delivery. If you haven't ordered a couple in advance there will be a wait before you see any documents. If you know you want to see large maps, let the staff know in advance and they can reserve you a larger table.

Notebooks, laptops, tablets and phones are allowed in the search rooms (on silent), and you can only use pencil to make notes. Take a £1 coin for lockers to leave all bags, coats and other items you won't need in the search room.

If you want to take any photographs you will need to fill in a photography permit. This records your name, the items you have snapped and the purpose for the photos. Archives vary, some offer 30-minute, half day or whole day permits. You might want to only take a couple of pictures or snap every page of an accounts book – for example. Both these you could do within a 30-minute permit and have all the photographs to refer to back home. As you can normally only have 4 items on your table at once, if you want to take photos of many more documents you will need a longer permit, to allow the exchange of items.



**Researching gardens
and garden history
can become addictive!**

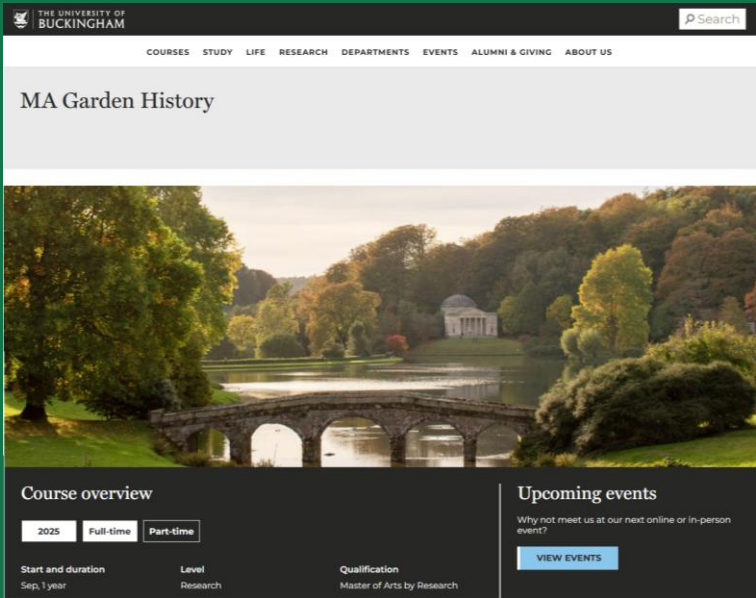
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Just a word of warning – finding out about gardens, their history over time, who designed them, who owned them and how they were used or who worked in them, can become very addictive! Garden History as a subject can take you down many avenues and you find yourself interested in topics or time periods you had never considered before. Many other subjects contribute to Garden History, for example: architecture, fine art, horticulture, arboriculture, economics, social history, politics, national and world trade, exploration, and journalism, to name a few.

If you do enjoy becoming a garden history detective and, in the future, would like to take it to the next level

Slide 40



The screenshot shows the 'MA Garden History' course page on the University of Buckingham website. The page features a navigation bar with links to COURSES, STUDY, LIFE, RESEARCH, DEPARTMENTS, EVENTS, ALUMNI & GIVING, and ABOUT US. Below the navigation bar is a search bar. The main heading is 'MA Garden History'. A large image of a garden with a bridge and a building is displayed. Below the image, there is a 'Course overview' section with tabs for '2025', 'Full-time', and 'Part-time'. The '2025' tab is selected. The 'Full-time' and 'Part-time' tabs are also visible. Below the tabs, there is a table with the following information:

Start and duration	Level	Qualification
Sep, 1 year	Research	Master of Arts by Research

To the right of the table is an 'Upcoming events' section with the text 'Why not meet us at our next online or in-person event?' and a 'VIEW EVENTS' button. The page is set against a green background with a large leaf graphic on the right side.

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<https://www.buckingham.ac.uk/courses/research/ma-garden-history>

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The Gardens Trust, in partnership with Buckingham University, run a Research Masters course in Garden History. There is a series of lectures on garden history through the centuries, and a schedule of seminars held in London near Euston station. The seminars are on well-known gardens and parks, by speakers who own them or manage them, or they are garden history experts on the period. You can choose to take the course over one or two years, and your research dissertation can be on any topic you are interested in, and your supervisor has approved.

Happy researching!

If you feel you need more detailed descriptions of finding and using research source material, you can watch the webinars given as part of the Suffolk's Unforgettable Gardens Project or Nottinghamshire's Garden Story, in the Gardens Trust's resource hub on their website:

<https://thegardenstrust.org/resources/vs-hub/research-recording/>



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