Gardens Trust Green Futures Project, 2025-2026: Site Record	
Section 1.	
Site Name*	Sundown, Hall Lane, Roydon IP22 5XL
Location*	County:* Norfolk District or Borough: * South Norfolk Parish:* Roydon
Type of Survey*	Site visits
Surveyed by:	Lizzie Billett & Scilla Latham
Reported completed:	Date
Heritage Assets	
NHLE Names and Numbers*	N/A
HER (Historic Environment Record)*	N/A
Is the designed landscape listed locally?	No
Is it in a Conservation Area?	No
Landscape Summary and Description (for the HER record)	
Summary*	A 20th century plantsman's garden influenced by Alan Bloom's landmark Dell Garden at Bressingham Hall, (which charts the development of horticulture in post war garden design and planting in the creative and innovative use of island beds).
Description	Sundown is a 1.4 acre garden created by Robert Bloom and his wife Elizabeth. Robert was the son of Alan Bloom of Bressingham Gardens. When Sundown was built some outer decorative stonework was added to the front of the property by Alan Bloom. The site has uninterrupted views over open fields to the west and the sunset (hence the name Sundown), that carry the eye to Bressingham Gardens along the entire western border. The garden is accessed from the front of the property which affords a small parking area. A winding woodland walk to the left of the property is planted with trees and shrubs offering dappled shade, densely under planted with ground covering plants. Here you will find acid loving specimen trees, a rhododendron bank with some 30 species and other acid-loving shrubs and plants. To the rear of the property a barbeque patio and formal pond were added, with summerhouse. Adjoining island beds and deep borders were developed. A dovecote provides the focal point of a white themed bed. A striking Cornus controversa "Varigata" the focal point of another planted with varieties of phormium and grasses with three modern sculptures. All beds and borders are

	densely planted with perennials including Hosta, Helleborus, Geranium, and Symphyotrichum provides year round interest. A curving pergola with central water feature. Benches are placed to pause and enjoy the internal views adjoin. Towards the far end of the Woodland Walk a circle of tree stumps is surrounded by a bower of Pleached Hornbeam Trees. The Woodland Walk ends halfway down the garden to the east, opening onto an informal pond and bog garden with mature yellow and black bamboos to each side framing the entrance. The garden continues southward with a new area bounded by a beech hedge. The new space is divided by two hornbeam hedges. The orchard has been replanted to feature old varieties of damson, greengage, medlar and mulberry trees. A small arboretum provides year-round interest, and is under planted with seasonal bulbs and has six mown pathways radiating from a central driftwood sculpture from New Zealand. The southern boundary is marked by a ditch, the border of which is planted with trees, shrubs and perennials. A formal kitchen garden with greenhouse, fruit cages and raised beds are separated by gravel paths and a central olive tree is close to the rear of the property. Throughout, the garden offers many differing views and vistas drawing the eye and moving one on to explore different parts of the garden.
Statement of Significance	
Archaeological interest	n/a
Architectural and Artistic Interest	N/A
Historic Interest	Influence Alan Bloom of Bressingham Gardens (1906-2005)
Summary Statement of Significance (up to 250 words)	The significance of the landscape of Sundown is the way in which Robert Bloom, (1939-1995) develops the design approach of island beds and borders first introduced by his father, Alan Bloom who created Bressingham Gardens from 1953 onwards. The garden has a sweeping uninterrupted view over fields towards Bressingham Gardens. In a semi-rural setting, this plantsman's garden a number of specimen trees, some bred by Alan Bloom, set within informal and formal areas of mature planting. A woodland walk, themed beds, modern and landscaped water features, bog garden and kitchen garden, blending with a newly planted arboretum and orchard.

	Throughout attention has been given to views and vistas as the garden is explored.
Owner Information (if multiple owners, please provide all known)	
Name	REDACTED
Address	Sundown, Hall Lane, Roydon IP22 5XL
Telephone	REDECATED
Email	REDACTED
Main contact for the site (if different from above)	
Name	REDACTED
Address	Sundown
Telephone	REDACTED
Email:	REDACTED
Owner/Occupier notes	
Any extra information not given above	

Section 2. Outline History of the Site	
Key Dates*	1968. Sundown was built and garden started Mid 1970's Rhododendron bank developed to east of garden Late 1980's Patio and barbeque area and formal pond added to the rear of the property 1996 Rhododendron walk developed into woodland walk. Here the heavy clay soil was improved with ericaceous compost to enable the planting of acid loving plants. 2001 Summerhouse added 2005 development of island beds and deep borders 2007 Kitchen garden added 2007 Development of borders and Dovecote added 2011 Informal pond and bog garden added 2014 1/3rd acre acquired to south west making the garden 1.4 acres. In this area, bounded by a beech hedge there is • A new orchard featuring old varieties of fruit trees • A small arboretum trees of year round interest planted within mown pathways radiating from a central driftwood sculpture • Southern boundary ditch planted with trees, shrubs and perennials • The now longer border to the west (113 meters) gives unhindered views across farmland to Bressingham Gardens
Key People*	Alan Bloom (1906-2005), Robert Bloom (1939-1995) and Elizabeth Bloom.
Events:	Open Gardens Via National Gardens Scheme

	Private garden opening Norfolk & Suffolk Group of the Heritage Plant Society.
Influence:	Alan Bloom's Dell Garden at Bressingham Hall
Documentation*	Liz Blooms handout for garden visits
Major changes	2014 1/3rd of an acre extension to south west end of the garden to increase the width – planted with trees.
List of sources*	Bressingham Gardens Website https://www.thebressinghamgardens.com/ Article in Norfolk Gardens and Designed Landscapes page (P94) Ordnance Survey maps courtesy of National Library of Scotland Norwich to Tilbury interactive map Google Earth OS Rasta Norfolk heritage map Norfolk Heritage Explorer Historic Environment Record

Section 3. Site Visit	
Date/s*	26/9/2025 and 5/11/2025
Site Contact	Graham Boutell
Site visit by*	Lizzie Billett & Scilla Latham
Are there any threats to the preservation of the site?	Not known
Are there any other issues and/or vulnerabilities that could potentially affect its preservation?	The immediate proximity of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury line of pylons (within 200 m) along the entire west side of the garden will dominate views across it.
Are there any Stewardship Schemes relevant to the site?	None known
Is there a management plan in place?	None known
Constraints encountered	None

Section 4. Description of the Site	
Ordnance Survey 8-figure grid reference – site centre	0927-8082
Postcode:	IP22 5LX
Type of Location	Semi rural – off a quiet lane with houses either side and across the lane. On the west side there are arable fields.
Entrance points and pathways*	Short curving drive, off Hall Lane leads to parking area in front of the house and garage landscaped with herbaceous plants and shrubs A path to the left leads to the Woodland Walk and main area of the garden. Farm gate from Hall Lane to new area – former access to field.

Main component areas	Approach/front garden, Woodland Walk, island beds, ponds, orchard, small arboretum, formal vegetable garden, terrace by house. Semicircular hornbeam 'bower' by Woodland Walk.
Views and vistas	To the west across open fields to woodland. Other views across the garden which focus on specific trees and plants, as well as a wooden obelisk, dovecote, and an octagonal summer house. The woodland walk provides a continually changing series of openings leading the eye across the garden.
Landforms and earthworks*	Flat
Water features*	There are two ponds. One formal, designed as part of the terrace area by the house, and a naturalized one with bog garden to the west of the woodland walk about half way down. It is a feature of the main lawn.
Tree species and specimen trees	All trees planted by the owners Betula "Golden Cloud" 1980 bred by Alan Bloom Xanthocyporis nootkensis "Pendula" Betula utalis Himalayan Birch Cornus controversa "Varigata" Acer plantanoides "Crimson King" Acer griseum Acer capillipes Stewartia psueudocamellia "Korean Group" Cornus controversa "Aurea" Salix babylonica var. "Pekinensis Tortuosa" Ginkgo biloba Betula nigra "Heritage" Betula utilis "Grayswood Ghost" Betula ermanii "Grayswood Hill" Pterostyrax hispidus Betula utilis subsp. albosinensis "Red Panda" Stewardia pseudocammelia Betula utilis supsp. utilis "Wakehurst Place Chocolate" Acer davidii "George Forest" Quercus cerris "Argenteovarigata" Metasequoia glyptostroboides Aesculus pavia "Atrosanguinea" Aesculus indica Corylus colurna Koelreuteria paniculata "Pride of India Castanea sativa Ptercocarya fraxinifolia Lirodendron tulipfera

	Malus “Princetown Cardinal” Malus trilobata Corylus colurna Cornus mas Chimonanthus praecox
Structural planting	Garden bounded to the east by a burgundy leafed hedge, Prunus pissardi Nigra. Internal hornbeam/leylandii/yew hedges dividing areas of the garden Informal planting of mature shrubs evergreen and deciduous Large stemmed yellow and black bamboo
Buildings, constructions and ornaments*	Octagonal Summerhouse, timber obelisk, timber arches, dovecote, terrace area by the house and decking around the naturalized pond. Greenhouse in vegetable garden. New Zealand driftwood sculpture in arboretum. Three small contempory statues in Cornus controversa “Varigata” bed.
Pleasure grounds/gardens	n/a
Parkland	n/a
Land beyond the boundary that makes a contribution to significance	Arable land to the west of the garden – View of the sunset across the landscape
Kitchen gardens and productive/service areas*	Vegetable garden with raised beds at the north end of the garden. Enclosed by a yew hedge. Compost and machinery shed to west of main garden concealed by Leylandii hedge.
Modern features	Formal pond **and patio**
Boundaries*	Hedge along road, a burgundy leafed, Prunus pissardi Nigra. Ditch to south, post and rail fence along new area, house to north, Hall Lane to east. Open fields to west.
Other descriptions or features not covered above	N/A

Section 5. Concluding	
Final comments:	Cedric Morris said, “We may have the same palette we all have but we are all creating a different picture.” Richard and Liz Bloom have taken the palette of Alan Bloom’s historic and innovative Dell Garden and created a gardener’s garden, transforming a long thin strip of farmland into a generous and spacious garden which gently unfolds. It is

	enclosed yet open and airy. A garden of peace and tranquility.
Site map attached?* (Please indicate ownership boundaries where known)	Yes
Labelled photographs*	1. Photos of Sundown24.9.2015 and 5.11.2025 courtesy of Scilla Latham,(see separate photo file) 2. Boundary of Sundown, Google Earth 3. OS map 1900 showing site of Sundown 4. Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Routes interactive map showing relation to route to Sundown, Hall lane, Roydon 5. Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Routes, Google Earth showing relation to route to Sundown, Hall lane, Roydon 6. OS Rasta Norfolk Heritage Map
Photo permission attached?	No
Drone images	No
Copies of useful source materials attached and labelled?	Yes
Sensitive information	

2.



Boundary of Sundown, Hall Lane, Roydon IP22 5LX

3.



Background OS 1900 Site of Sundown

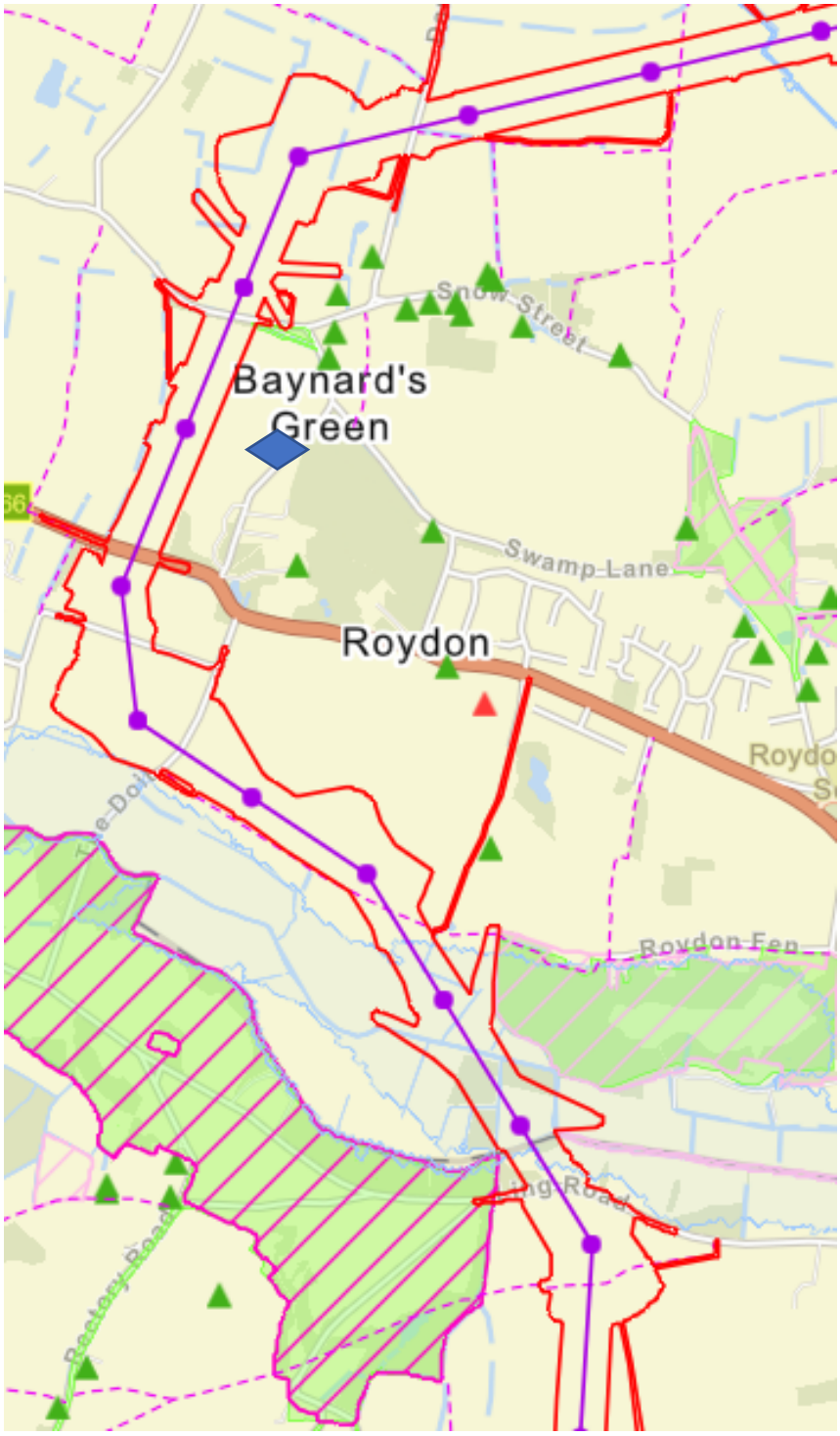
4.



Google Earth Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Route in relation to Sundown, Hall Lane, Roydon IP22 5LX

Site of Sundown

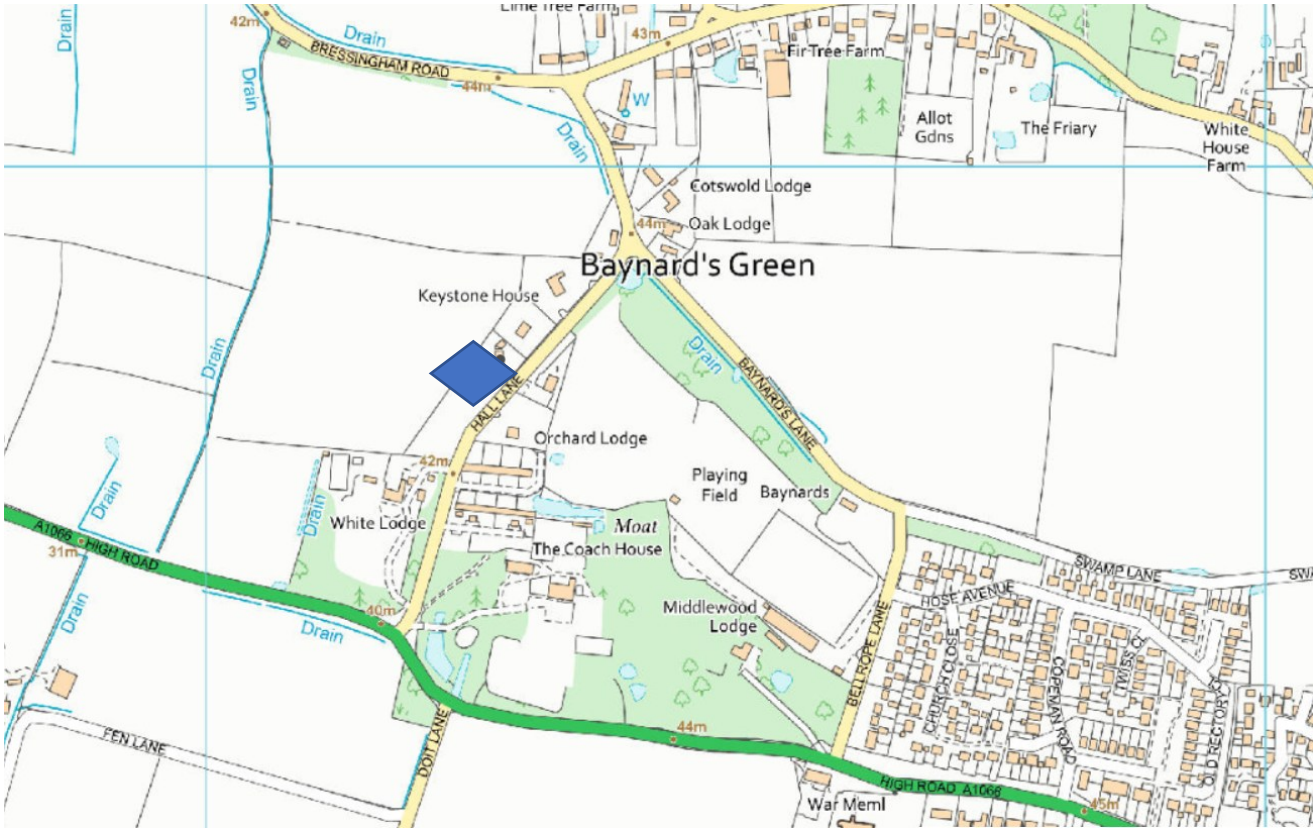
5.



Norwich to Tilbury pylon route in relation to Sundown, Hall Lane, Roydon, Ip22 5XL

Site of Sundown

6



OS Rasta Norfolk Heritage Maps

Site of Sundown

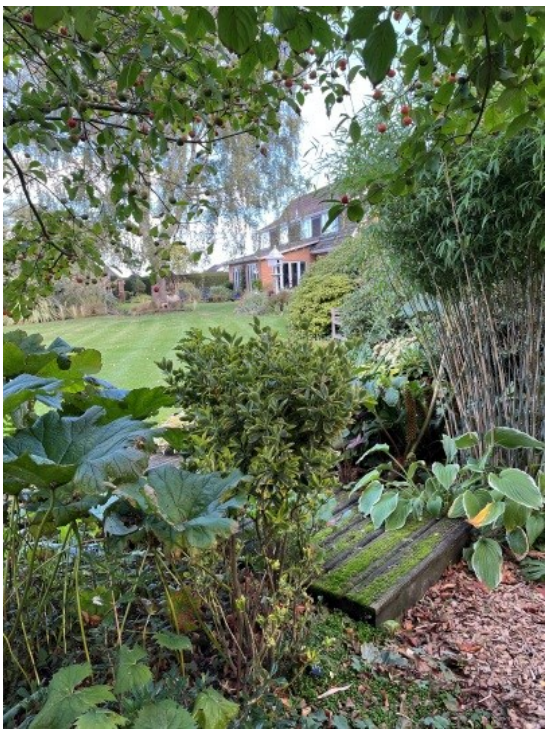
1. Photographs of Sundown, Hall Road. Roydon, IP22 5XL courtesy of Ms Scilla Latham



View south west from the house



View west from the house to where the pylons will be sited



View north to the house from woodland walk through to an informal pond with black bamboo to the right



View north through to an informal pond with yellow bamboo to the right



View south east from the house with formal pond to the left



View south from the house to informal pond



View north east from lawn to formal pond



View north, formal kitchen garden to the west of the house



View to the west where pylons will be sited



View to the south, newly planted arboretum



Circular bower south of the woodland walkway



View south



A view westward from the house where the pylons will be sited



A view north west to the house and formal pond



A view south to newly planted orchard and arboretum



View south west over open field where pylons will be sited



View to the west over open field where pylons will be sited