

Case studies  
of  
some estate gardens  
in Bedfordshire:

Woburn,  
Wrest,  
Southill,  
and  
Flitwick

## WOBURN

### Map of 1661 by Thomas Moore

The variety of landscape surrounding an important house is shown by Thomas Moore's map the *Manor of Woburn* in 1661 (X1/33/1.) The house was built round a courtyard, and would have included parts of the mediaeval building. The south wing, which looks Seventeenth Century looked out on an enclosed area, which had a pond as its centre-piece and included a number of rows of trees. West of the house was a sundial and to the north of it a formal parterre with the paths in the shape of a St Andrews' cross. North of this lay another wooded area. To the west of the gardens proper, which were enclosed by a wall, was the kitchen garden and the Gate House. All this was small scale and in the immediate vicinity of the house.

To the west within the park palings were a number of enclosed fields such as King's Close and Great Meadow. On the other sides of the house and gardens was a large well wooded park (644 acres). This was dense enough in one area to be described as a Rookery. On the edges of the park were denser woods with formal rides cut through. In the southern of these was a Hop Ground and Hop Pond. These woods together with the meadows totalled 558 acres. The woods continued especially on the east, including Briary Grove, Beech Grove and Somerley Spring. They acted as a buffer between the park and the extensive Eversholt Common Field.

### Plan of the manor and parish of Woburn by Thomas Brown, 1738 (R1/237)

This map shows that the 'Natural' influences in gardening/landscaping style of the 1720s and 1730s had affected Woburn substantially by this date. In the north east is an irregular avenue, described as a *Terrace along a natural hill from whence you command a most beautiful country*.

There was also a Serpentine River. Further new features were a Chinese building on the island in Drakeloe Pond on the west of the Park and a Cold Bath. Formal features were still very evident, such as the circular water to the west of the house with a formal, straight avenue leading to the town of Woburn. To the south of the park was a *Circular Lawn from the center of which there are several Vistors to various objects*. Nearby was another smaller circular viewing point with paths radiating from it. Curious features of the landscaping were the *platoons*: small blocks of trees arranged in avenues forming a rough pentagon. There was a Bowling Green but no House with it, deer barns and a duck decoy.



There were two small gardens near the house, one to the North and one to the south. They were probably walled with fruit trees but were not an important element in the landscape unlike the formal garden at Wrest park. By 1738 there was a Menagery. Woburn had started its fascination with exotic animals.

### Thomas Jeffreys' map of 1765

This printed map of Bedfordshire shows that in the north west of the park is The Ever Green Plant and to the west of the lake is the Cold Bath (just predating the surviving one at Wrest Park). There are still formal straight drives, as well as more informal tracks and paths.

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### **Map of Woburn Park, 1794 (R1/238)**

The map of the Park of 1794 shows that a number of features such as the garden to the south of the house, the platoons, a number of the former avenues had been replaced. The garden was still retained but the boundaries were paths rather than walls. The Bason was large and of irregular shape. The Drakeloe Pond was greatly extended. Behind Park Farm were kitchen gardens and *May Gardens*.

### **Repton**

*Humphrey Repton, Landscape Gardener 1752-1818* by George Carter, Patrick Goode and Kedrun Laurie (Catalogue for Exhibitions 1982-1983) summarises in its Gazetteer for Woburn: *In his most splendid Red Book Repton made proposals for firstly, altering the course of the London approach, to run across a new stretch of water; secondly creating a series of gardens connected to the house by a covered corridor, including a terrace near the house (built 1807), a private family garden, a rosary, a grass garden, an American garden, and a Chinese garden; thirdly, garden buildings, including a menagerie, an aviary (finished c 1808); fourthly Aspley Wood (or Henry VII) Lodge by his son John Adey.*

### **Plan of Woburn Park, Abbey & Appendages by Thomas Evans, 1817 (R1/240)**

A map of 1817 of the centre of the Woburn estate shows the practical implementation of Repton's ideas, as well as the expansion of the Park as the result of the intensive enclosing of the nearby parishes from 1760 onwards. Near the house are marked the Chinese Dairy and the re-sited Menagery. A new pond extended the Bason to the East and a Boat house installed. An ice house is marked near the Hop Garden Ponds; an essential feature of pre-refrigeration gardens. Drakeley, [Drakelow] had been turned into the main feature of the approach to the Park from the town of Woburn. Interestingly the field on the left was called *Tenterhooks*, alluding perhaps to the anticipation of the visitor at seeing the glory of the landscape of the Woburn landscape!

### **Map of Woburn Park, 1867 (P118/28/4)**

This map fifty shows extensions to elm avenues and new plantations in the West Avenue area.

### **Ordnance Survey Maps etc**

The 1880s Ordnance Survey Maps (available at 6" or 25" to the mile) provides a useful summary of how far the landscape had changed by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the features that appear on this map such as the Thornery appear on earlier maps. Other features in the Park area included: the Evergreens along the side of the Husborne Crawley Road right down to Drakesloe Pond, a small deer enclosed park near the Park Keeper's House, a rhomboid Redlodge Plantation, a series of small round clumps of trees, Speedwell Belt covering the view of the London Road, and a Swiss Cottage (south of Froxfield). The actual garden area had been developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with straight walks in an informally wooded setting. There was a Maze and Rock Garden as well as the Grotto.

Once you have got the general picture of the Park and Garden's development from maps, you need to have a look at books that will give greater detail on specific periods. The chief of these are Gladys Scott Thomson's *Life in a Noble Household 1641-1700*; George Carter, Patrick Goode and Kedrun Laurie's *Humphrey Repton, Landscape Gardener 1752-1818* and Paul Smith's unpublished thesis: *The Landed Estate as Patron of Scientific Innovation: Horticulture at Woburn Abbey 1802-1839*. All these are available to be researched at BLARS.

With this background and a clear sense of the chronological development of the landscape, you can start looking at the huge archive, deposited at BLARS by the Bedford Settled Estate.

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The earliest references to gardens in the archive occur in the Box of Vouchers (R Box 356). Mention is made in accounts dated 1698 of several gardens, Orchards, Bowling Green and a Hop Ground. The sites of some of these appear on maps. The vouchers include:

A Bill of 23 February 1700 was sent by James Lane to  
*The Right Honourable Lady Russell for things  
sent to Woburn Abby for the Garden House  
For Half a Hounerd of Tub rose roales 15s  
April 8th for 2 dousen of large Bell Glasses 12s*

22 January 1700 [1701] from James Lane  
*For 2 White nutmeag peach trees 5s  
For 2 red Nutmeag peache trees 5s  
Payments for various types of peas for sowing: Reading, Sandwich and Hottspore  
Kidney beans, endives, cauliflowers, Seldishon lettas, Long orring Carrott, Italian Saldry, ,Rose  
and upright Larksperes Seed, Aferecaine and french merygold  
6 spades cost £1, 1s and 3 pruning knives 3s*

A bill for 1700-1701 included 28 May *For 4 scuttles to the weeders 1s, 8d.* There are some small payments for indigo. Thomas Surcut was paid 10s for a quarters wages *killing moles in the Park.* He signed his receipt with his mark.

R boxes 403-545 include Establishment Vouchers for the gardens and pleasure grounds between 1802-1904. There is, for example a voucher for painting frescoes in the Thornery in 1828 (R Box 413) and for new flower houses in 1839.

### **Russell Estate maps relating to the gardens and park at Woburn**

1661 X1/33/1  
1738 R1/237  
1740 R1/76 (incl. Extension of park in 1794) Not great detail shows line of park wall.  
1758 R1/77 lands intended to be taken into the Park, east side near Milton Wood.  
c1794 R1/238 Park  
1804-5 FAC130/1-2 photocopy of Repton Red Book.  
1817 R1/240  
1861 R1/234 Extensions to Abbey and new plantations  
1867 P118/28/4.  
1880s First Edition Ordnance Survey 25"  
c.1890 R1/356 Big Paddock, thrown into the Park  
1898-9 R1/497 Park water.

## WREST

Like Woburn, the present landscape at Wrest is part of an ancient landscape. Deeds from the National Archives, Kew, quoted in the Victoria County History show that by 1344 there was a park to the west of the former house at Wrest Park (VHV Flitton1) This old park lasted until the 1940s when it was ploughed up for agricultural production.

Evidence of the development of the gardens round the Old House (nearer to the Canal than the modern house) starts with a bill of 1658 issued by the estate builder, Christopher Bishop (L28/12) *for a wall, 7 foot high and 18 to 19 poles long in the new garden for £28,5s including a pair of well wrought stairs of red stone.* This and other work had to be completed within seven weeks or forfeit 40 shillings.

In the 1670s a Classical front was added on the north side of the house. This was intended to act as the focus point of the formally planted park. The double avenue of limes and sweet chestnuts led northward to the park boundary. Another double avenue led from Silsoe village east to the Warreners' House to the right of the present drive. In the park were two formal plantations; at least one of which was a Nursery. The extent of the work is mapped in one of the views of Wrest by J. Knyff and J. Kip, circa 1708 (L33/143).

Details of the developments occur in the Account Books from 1685-1730 (L31/288-294). Two bills (L31/295-6), dated 1697-8 show that the Wrest Estate was buying fruit trees from Henry Wise (1653-1738) from the Brompton Park Nursery. References to Mr Ackres suggest that his famous firm of garden designers had an input into the design of this earliest stage of the development of the garden. In 1693/4 purchases were made from Marshfield's Nursery at Knightsbridge and Grigson at Twickenham (L31/297-8). From this period dates a catalogue of fruit trees from Lord Carteret i.e. from Hawnes Park.

The Great Garden was extended to the South with wyvern statues erected on the walls. A wilderness of blackthorn was planted to the South east. The fish ponds were formalised and the Long Water extended, leading the eye to the hills at Higham Gobion to the south. Lines of trees were planted leading to the hill to the east, called Cain Hill. By circa 1708, there was a Maze between the garden and the Long Water.

The landscape was greatly developed by the Henry Grey, Duke of Kent, (1671-1740), who owned Wrest 1702-1740. The foci of the first development were the garden buildings, designed by Thomas Archer, called *The Banqueting House* (now the Pavilion) and Cain Hill House. Extensions of the Park towards the village of Silsoe took place and in the area of the Pavilion led to an elaborate series of swaps with other local landowners. The resulting deeds are found in L25. The area around the Long water was filled with paths forming geometric patterns. The development of the garden by 1720 can be gauged by three sources. The Kyp and Knyff Views can be compared with the 1719 Survey (L31/286 Folio 3). A little later watercolour



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sketches were made of the gardens from both north and south, probably by Signor Angello [Angellis, friend of Tillemans] (L33/127-129). The series of account books goes up to 1730.

A further set of watercolours (L33/127-137), this time from the later 1720s, are signed by Peter Tillemans (1684-1734) and shows the garden at its most formal with outer streams straightened out and columns on the south corners.

In the 1730s the garden was transformed in the new more informal style of Bridgeman under the guidance of Batty Langley (1696-1751) and Thomas Wright (1711-1786). John Rocque published plans of the garden in 1735 and 1737. These included views of all the major garden buildings. The Greenhouse was added on the 1737 edition. The plans show a serpentine water introduced in the southwest of the garden and a circular water in the south-east. Winding paths had been introduced within the geometric pattern of the paths around the Long Water. The area around the Bowling Green House was also changed with a new front put on the building itself. To the south was added an amphitheatre to view theatrical performances on the boat on the straight piece of water in front of it.

1740 saw the death of the Duke of Kent, who had been one of the leading promoters of gardening in the country. *Observations on Wrest*, c. 1740 suggests that the deer in the Park should be reduced to 400 and no doubt major improvements were curtailed. Letters from the 1740s in the Wrest Park Archive give a flavour of the work going on. In November 1744 the Duke's granddaughter and heiress, Jemima, Marchioness Grey, wrote to Mary Gregory: 'Finish all our works, make an end of cleaning John Duwell's canal, which you will scarcely believe was so full of mud as to be a month about; and new banking the mill pond, which has been near as long. The walk across the lawn below the Hill-house that went from nothing & ended in nothing is cut down; only a clump left at the end by the garden' (L30/9a/3/42). Minor works of maintenance rather than major improvements seem to have been the order of the day.

Marchioness Grey emphasises the bucolic atmosphere of the gardens. In 1744 she says you could 'almost take me for a Shepherdess. All the haymaking time I was to be found with my dog and my book among wood and purling streams' (L30/9a/4/4).

On 11 June 1745 Catherine Talbot describes the effect on her of the garden, which 'appear'd in full Beauty. The whispering of Trees, the warbling of Birds, the surrounding Verdure, the Fragrance of Seringos and Bean Blossoms the Gay Bloom of Roses and Honeysuckles, which are innumerable in these woods, the Smooth Canals sometimes bending like Artless Rivulets and sometimes appearing Silver Lakes with stately swans sailing up and down in them' (L31/106).

The late 1740s saw additional construction in a picturesque and scholarly style. In 1748 the Pagan Altar was erected. In 1749 an Hermitage was made of roots in the new Gothic style to the designs of Mr Edwards. The nearby Serpentine River was improved in 1748 according to Land Use Consultants (Z821/2). The designer would probably have been Thomas Wright. A Chinese Temple was added in 1761.

The mapping of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century changes during the ownership of Jemima Marchioness Grey (1722-1797) and her husband Philip Yorke, 2nd Earl of Hardwicke (1720-1790) is not as good as earlier mapping. In 1758 Lancelot Brown added his input. Unlike many of his projects, he did not sweep away the formal garden at Wrest but modified it. In a letter of 3 October 1758 from Jemima to her cousin, Mary Gregory, she details what Brown was doing:

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The canals already joined are the circular canal, John Dewell's and the mill pond: and the stream they make is to be lost, that is, the end will be turned into and be concealed by some plantation. The end of the water (the mill pond) is now at work upon and not near finished. When it is done, it is proposed the work should go on to the piece of water at the bottom of the garden, and join that too (altering its form a little) both to the circular and the brook: so that the whole when finished, will appear one stream running in where the brook now comes into the garden, and winding on until it is lost among bushes. (L30/9a/3 page 19, Joyce Godber's *Marchioness Grey* (BHRS Vol. XLVII p 62)).

Work was completed by August 1760 (L30/9a/3 page 49). The newly joined waters are shown on the 1765 Thomas Jeffreys map of Bedfordshire. There is an obelisk in the garden commemorating Brown's work.

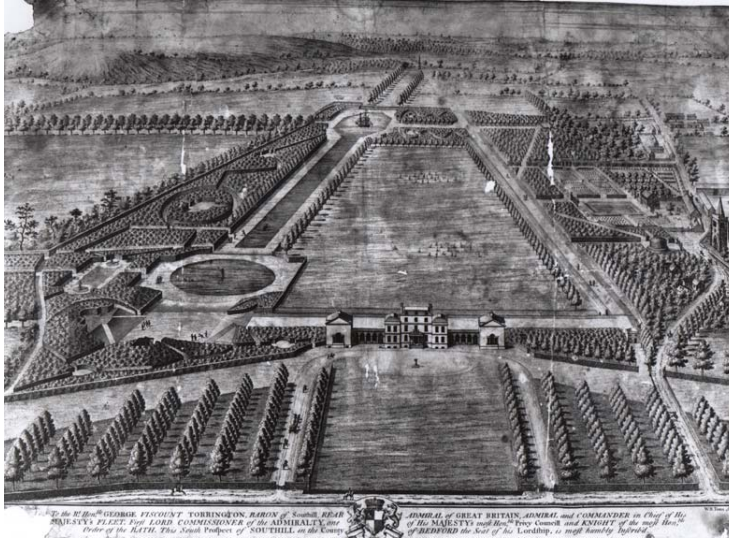
Brown visited the gardens again in the late 1770s. In a letter from Amabel Grey to Mary Jemima dated 19 November 1778 she says Brown called in on way to Haynes

“He did not pay much attention, or open any scheme relative to the middle of the garden. He saw indeed that the Water might appear to come from one Wood flow into the other, but he did not know whether a winding Water through a strait Avenue might not look inconsistent, & if the Avenue was destroy'd, & part of the Wood clear'd away, it might unravel the Mystery of the Gardens; In short he did not think that any material Alteration could be made anywhere unless the whole Stile of the Place was chang'd, except cutting down a few Trees...” (L30/13/12/52).

Short descriptions of the some of the garden buildings are found in a photocopy of Earl De Grey's Description of Wrest Gardens made 1831. (CRT 130 Silsoe 4). Illustrations from this volume are found in the slides held at BLARS (slides 1653-1699). Included are pictures of the French influenced lodges that De Grey had built in the 1820s. The map in this book shows the gardens just before the building of the present house in 1839. As the new house was to be built on a site to the north of the old house, new gardens had to be laid out to fill the gap between the new house and the Long Water. The elaborate Italian Gardens were the result. Contemporary with the House is the Orangery (L31/189-190). To the west of the garden was added a large kitchen garden with an impressive entrance gate (see L31/186 and S R. Houfe's article in *Country Life* of 25 June 1970.)

Research notes to accompany proposals to rejuvenate the garden (Z821) were prepared by Land Use Consultants between 1983 and 1994.

## SOUTHILL PARK LANDSCAPE HISTORY



Another formal landscape with a different history from either Woburn or Wrest, is that of Southill Park. The present house was described as *new built* in 1732 (see BHRS Volume 74 pages 212-233). It was built for the Byngs (Lords Torrington from 1721) in a classical, formal style and no doubt the formal landscape dates from the same time. Around 1727-32 Thomas Badeslade produced the *South prospect of Southill* for George Viscount Torrington, First Lord Commissioner of the

Admiralty (AD1589). The entrance front is on the south side of the house with two carriage drives on either side of a lawn flanked on either side by ranks of straight rows of trees. The planting stretched down to a public road that acted as a direct extension to the road from Deadman's Cross, (the west part is shown by a hedge-line on the first edition Ordnance Survey map).

The north landscape is more extensive and more ambitious. The centre piece is a trapezium shaped park, whose north, west and east sides are lined with trees. The trees on the west and east sides lead the eye to a focal point marked by an obelisk. In the park are two herds of deer. On the west side of the western line of trees is a formal straight canal with a hexagonal pond at the north end. On this is depicted a man of war, a graceful reference to Lord Torrington's naval prowess. Beyond the south end of the Canal, there was the Circular pond with a statue of Poseidon in the centre. To the west of it and the canal was a wooded area divided into strongly geometrical shapes by fencing. This included a viewing mound. There is a summerhouse/bowling green house nearby with a vista of the Circular pond, along the Canal to the Obelisk. Between the Mound and the Circular Pond was a Bowling Green on which some men were playing. Nearby was an enclosed glade with two statues at either end.

On the east side of the Park, was further woodland. Near Southill Church were extensive kitchen gardens. The public road then divided the Park from the Church.

On 7 April 1750 George Byng (1740-1812), became 4th Viscount Torrington and ultimately succeeded to the ownership of the Southill Estate. He married in 1765 and started a family. He decided to employ Capability Brown to transform the landscape. By the time of the 1777 map of Southill called a *Map of Wrotham Farm*, surveyed by Cole (copy in BLARS searchroom map tank). Brown's work was substantially completed. The formal landscape was almost entirely swept away. The areas to the north and west became four simple fields probably separated by ditches, screened in a Brownsian way by trees. The area to the south became a much extended park with characteristic clumps of the trees. Substantial woods had been planted to the north-west of the lake, two woods to the south west (separated by a road) and screening the public road on



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the south east. A new entrance was made immediately south of the house, opposite what then was the hall but now is the drawing room.

All this was hugely expensive and Torrington's decision in 1779 to extend the offices at the back of the house, led him to make a hasty exit to Belgium from which he never returned. The house was let to Lord and Lady Polwarth. Lady Polwarth wrote to her mother, Jemima, on 6 May 1779, describing Southill: *There is also an unfinished bath where the workmen seem to have been sent away at a minute's warning, for the very mortar is lying ready to join some tottering bricks* (L30/9/60/195).

At the same time lists were made of the plants in the Greenhouse. The first of these (L31/337) is an account of green and hothouse plants. These were valued by Lord Hardwicke's, Lord Ossory's and Lord Ongley's gardeners. There were 626 plants. Species that were prominent included myrtles (large, small and large double-blossomed) geranium (common and Tumenthams) and mixambrianthemiums, euphorbias, sedums, crab oranges and a yucca. The total value was £41, 5s, 6d.

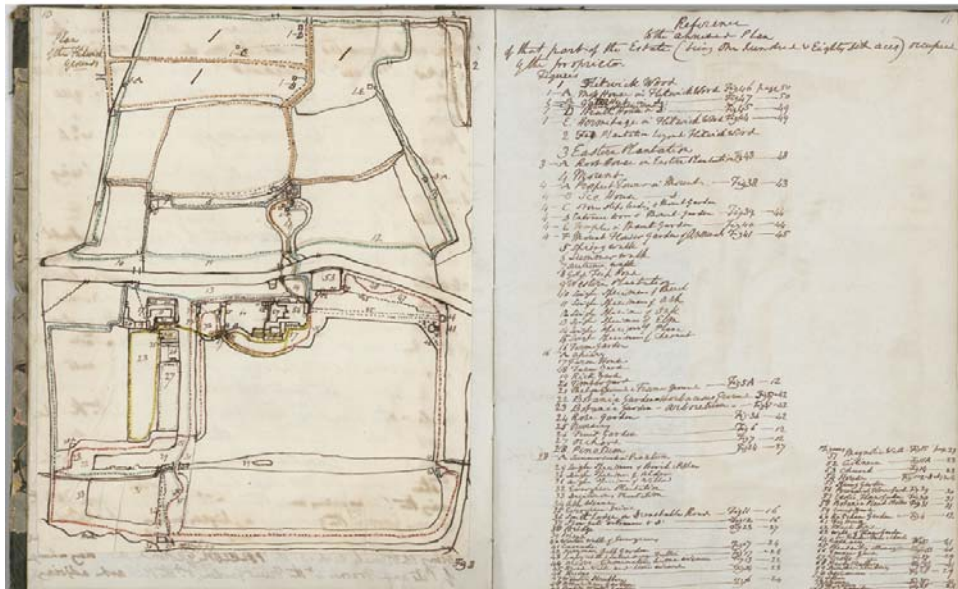
A print of 1782 of Southill Park, *seat of Lord Viscount Torrington*, painted by Brooks, engraved by W. Watts shows the South front from the south-west. the area in the front of the house is entirely clear apart from a few semi-mature trees. Horses graze with deer in the distance. Cattle seem to be separated from the main lawn by a ha-ha. On the lawn is a round tent, probably for some celebration. On either side of the house was denser woodland. The print gives a useful snapshot of the landscape after Brown and before the post Holland transformation of this area but does not cover the area of the Cedars.

In 1795 the Southill Estate was sold to Samuel Whitbread I (1720-1796), the famous brewer. On his son, Samuel Whitbread II (1764-1815) inheriting in the next year, Southill was transformed to the designs of Henry Holland and later Tatham. The entrance front was changed from the south to the north and a large drawing room and ante room created on the south side. The park to the north remained unchanged but elsewhere in the estate Whitbread planted large numbers of trees, which when they grew to maturity were sold for railway sleepers on the Bedford- Hitchin line (opened 1857).

In 1817, the new owner of Southill, W. H. Whitbread, had another map made of the 754 Acres, 1 rood and 11 perches of the House and Park (W3375). This map was subsequently attached to the Settlement Deed of 1819. To the south a garden was created, which is depicted in an engraving by F. W. Stockdale (Z104/9).

### FLITWICK MANOR: THE LANDSCAPE HISTORY

Although the centre of one of the smaller Bedfordshire gentry estates, Flitwick Manor was surrounded by an important Victorian landscape. This development is chronicled in *The Diary of a Bedfordshire Squire: John Thomas Brooks of Flitwick 1794-1858*, edited by Richard Morgan (BHRS Volume 66, 1987)



There are a number of maps, mainly in the Lyall Archive that show the landscape before J. T. Brooks made his alterations. The earliest of these is dated 1717 and is entitled *A True Mapp and Plott of Several Closes, Orchards & Gardens etc, belonging to the Homestead and Mansion House scituate and being in the parish of Fleetwick, in the County of Bedford, being the Estate of Benjamin Rhodes, measured September 1717 by George Lettin* (LL17/38). The house is shown separated from the Church by a road, which ran quite close to it. On the east and north of the house were three small gardens, one of them walled. Beyond the gardens to the east were Warren (near a Brick Kiln) and Little Warren Close. Beyond the yard on the south was Elms, a large wooded area. Beyond the Church were Orchard Close and then Mount Hill.

Benjamin Rhodes left all his property to Humphrey Dell of Maulden, Dr of Physic by his Will proved 3 October 1735 (LL110). In his turn, Humphrey left the Flitwick Estate to his god-daughter, Ann Fisher, daughter of Jeffrey Fisher of Maulden Esq and Ann his wife who was appointed Executrix. Ann married firstly James Hesse. He died in 1779. She married secondly in 1789 George Brooks (1741-1817). They produced a son John Thomas and the Flitwick Manor Estate went down through the Brooks Family, rather than through the Hornes and Bolds descended from the Hesse marriage.

The 1765 Jeffreys map is unhelpful as to the layout of the landscape at Flitwick but does suggest that the area of the later Canal contained two interconnecting ponds. The 1793 *Map of Parish of Flitwick, principally belonging to George Brooks, Esq.* (R1/250) shows that there were considerable changes since 1717. The area east of the house now formed one large park called the *Paddock*, bisected by the Canal, a large piece of water, fed by a local stream. This suggests a scheme to 'naturalise' the landscape by a follower of Brown or Repton. West of the Church was Stocks Close, which was an amalgamation of Orchard Close, Stocks Close and Upper Mount. Further west lay the large Flitwick Wood intersected by a few formal rides.

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Flitwick House was leased to from 1793 to at least 1808 to Robert Trevor (LL17/174-8).

The circa 1800 pre enclosure map and reference book (LL4/1 & 2) shows little change since 1793 apart from the creation of a Plantation in the Mount area. The area known formerly as the Elms was now called the Grove. The gardens round the House were the *Kitchen Garden* (near the Court Yard) and *Pleasure Ground*. The Paddock west of the Canal comprised 17 acres 0 roods 17 perches.

On 15 April 1807, the tenant Robert Trevor agreed with Mr Brooks that he *shall enlarge & alter the house at Flitwick according to Mr Salmon's plans for that purpose, or according to any other plans equal of expence that shall be more agreeable to Mr Trevor & approved by Mr Brooks & make the proposed alterations in the Fences etc And that Mr Brooks should pay one half of the expence as far as £600 for that half but that if the whole expence should exceed £1200 Mr Trevor shall pay such surplus. The new Building to be of brick-work work of proper thickness* (LL17/177)

By 16 March 1808, Brooks was complaining at the cost: *Having laid out already more than £1100 for Mr Trevor great part of which was not necessary but in which I acquiesced.... and besides I do not want a new Garden, Servants' Hall or Wash house nor the Housekeeper's Room or Coach House be made better.*

The circa 1808 enclosure map (MA68/2) shows the road still separating the Church from the Manor. The 1810 *Map of Estate belonging to George Brooks* (LL17/341) shows the landscape round the house as the same as in circa 1800 with no sign of the New Garden, which may have been merely projected.

George's son John Thomas (1794-1858) was given Flitwick manor on his marriage on 20 April 1816 to Mary Hatfield. Despite his father's prediction in 1808, that he would never live there, the newly weds moved to Flitwick, where they remained for the rest of their lives

By an Order of Quarter Sessions of 10 December 1828 (QSR1828/167-172), the road by the Manor House was diverted to a new line to the west of the Church and the old road stopped up. This is marked on a plan as well as diversions of two footpaths. As a result Brooks had made the house more private.

His Diary (BHRS vol. 66 see above) starts with the entry *19 January 1829 New Road begun.* and *25 April New Road finished.*

The first references in the Diary to improvements in the Grounds occurs in 1831 In October *the two Lodges were built by Burrowes* ( a local carpenter and builder). *The Avenue, approach road, was planted with Spanish Chestnuts* on November 2. On the 9th he *bought Glasses for the Conservatory at Mr Mc Queen's sale, Ridgmont.* *August 6 1835 visited by Dr Hooker, Professor of Botany at Glasgow* and from 1839 Director of Kew.

J.T Brooks's daughter inherited her father's love of plants. From 1839 Mary Ann Brooks (1822-1848) kept a diary, which is useful for monitoring the progress in her father's garden at Flitwick and what she saw at other Bedfordshire gardens. On 6 May 1841 she walked in the Arboretum and went to see magnificent *Calecolarias* at Wrest. On 1 June she commented on Colonel Seymour's garden at Woburn as *a beautiful specimen of a garden in a small place.*