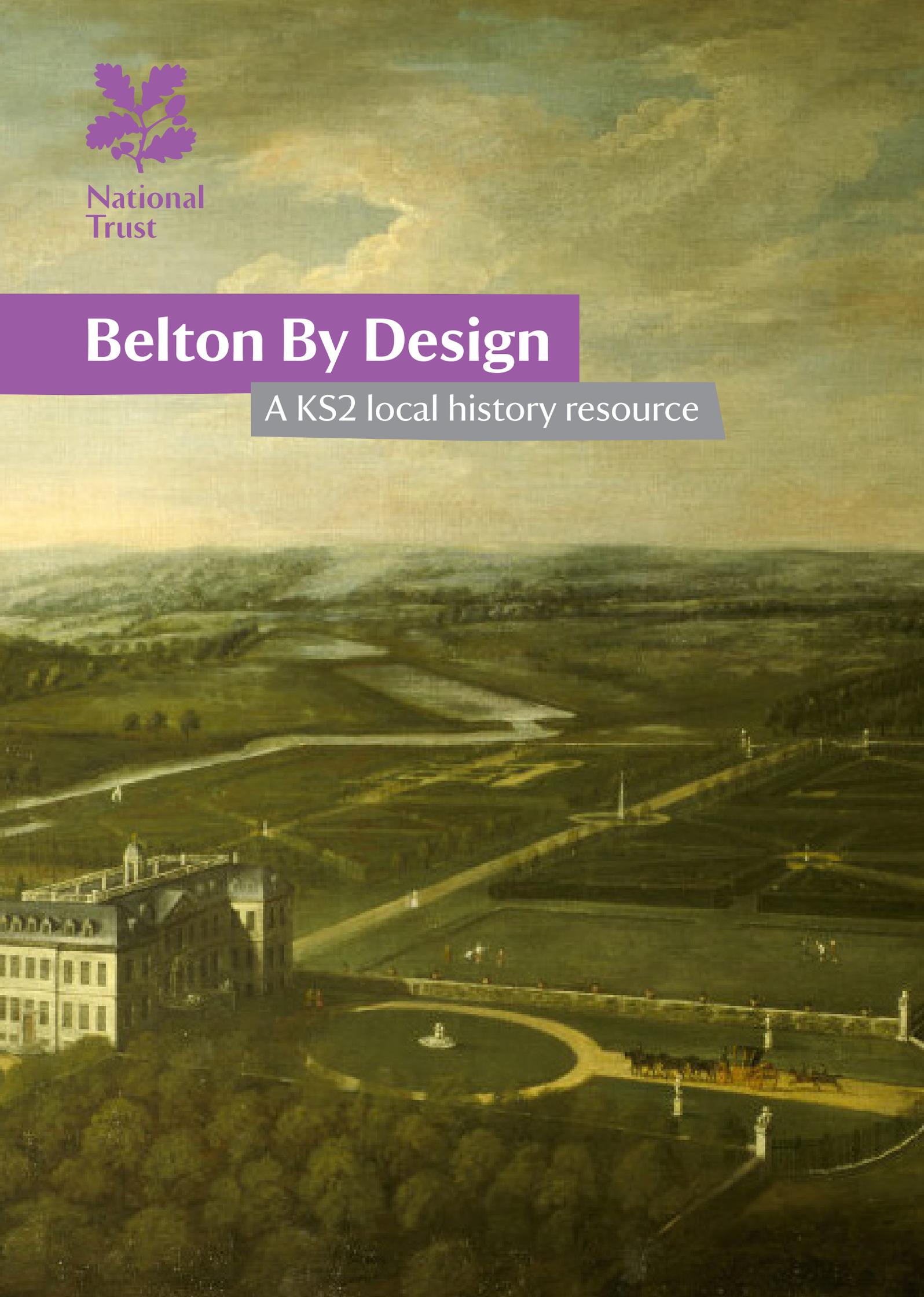


National
Trust

Belton By Design

A KS2 local history resource



Curriculum map

The curriculum map below highlights main curricula links, however please remember that this is a guide only.

Local History

- children should address and/or devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance.
- children should use relevant historical information and sources to construct knowledge and understanding of Belton's past.
- children should understand how aspects of national history are reflected in the locality.
- children should be able to understand how classical (Ancient Greek & Roman) and other countries influenced architecture and design.
- children should be able to articulate how the Brownlow family influenced the architecture of Grantham and surrounding villages.
- children should understand how the Brownlow family, the local community and the National Trust have shaped the parkland.

English

- children should be able to understand and compare the different forms of writing used in designs and planning.
- children should be able to draw inference with regard to people's feelings and thoughts, and events.
- children should be able to distinguish between statements of fact and opinions.
- children should be able to discuss and present ideas and understanding from the case studies and source materials.
- children should be able to produce creative writing in a variety of media (e.g. short stories; newspaper articles; etc.).

Art & Design

- children understand how different designers, architects and artists have influenced Belton and the wider estate.
- children understand how different materials, perspective and illusion have been used to influence how we see Belton today.
- children should understand how different media can be used to show and record change and planning (e.g. sketches; watercolours; architectural plans; photographs).
- Children use a variety of methods to record their observations.





Geography

- children understand how the land at Belton House has been influenced and altered by the Brownlow family and land use.
- children understand why Belton House is in their locality.
- children understand how the land at Belton House was used for agriculture.
- Children use historic maps, aerial photographs and historical photographs and paintings to identify the changes over time.
- Children use maps and aerial images to identify historic land use
- (with a field trip) children collect observations and measurements of physical and human geography at Belton.

Science

- children should be able to recognise different types of habitats at Belton.
- children should be able to identify and differentiate between native trees and plants and the non-native species introduced.
- children should understand how changes within the environment can have positive and negative impacts.
- children should understand that the National Trust is a conservation charity that looks after Belton House for ever, for everyone.
- Children should be introduced to and understand the Countryside Code and how people's actions can affect the environment both positively and negatively.

Belton before the Brownlow's arrived

The villages of Belton and Towthorpe are mentioned in the Domesday Book as thriving villages.

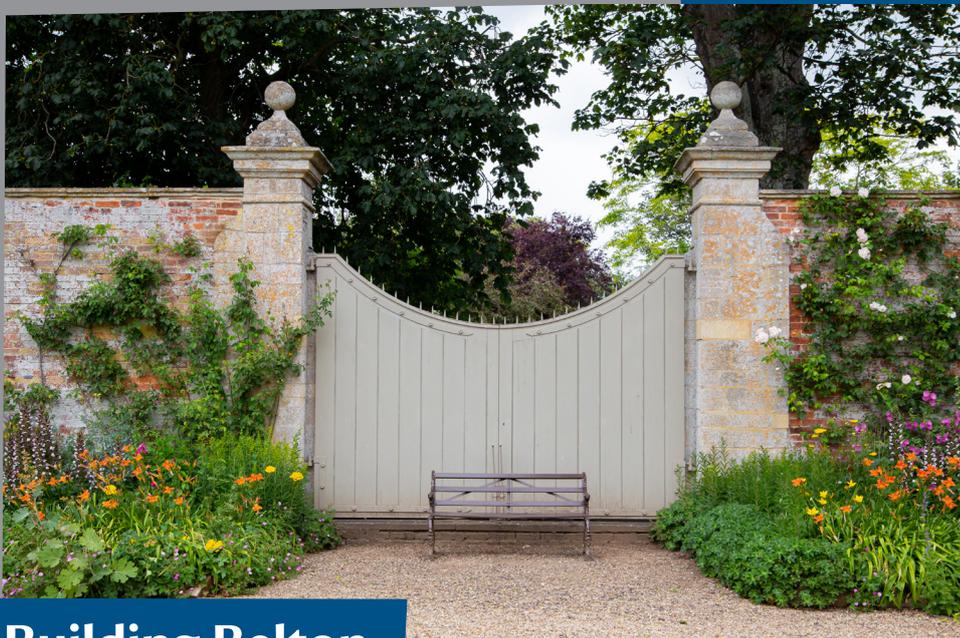
Today only Belton remains as a village. Towthorpe was deserted in the medieval period and is now one of the archaeological sites in the parkland.

From the middle ages there has been a manor house at Belton, although the original house was now where the Orangery stands today.

The only remains are these gates and some archaeological evidence underground.



Towthorpe pond on part of the site of the medieval village.



The old manor house's gates in the gardens.

Building Belton

Belton Park was bought by Richard Brownlow in 1609. He was a very wealthy lawyer in London.

However, to be powerful at that time you needed to own land. He spent most of his annual income every year buying land as a good investment. As the years passed he bought more and more, including Belton.

When Richard's great-nephew, 'Young' Sir John and his wife Alice, inherited the estate they decided to have a house built and to live at Belton.

They were inspired by the very modern Restoration palace in Piccadilly, London, called Clarendon House (which is no longer there). With its elegant symmetry and confident common sense design, Belton House is one of the greatest examples of this type of architecture. It was built to show off the family's wealth and rank.

What was the restoration?

Restoration refers to the period when the monarchy was restored and Charles II was on the throne.

Sir John and Lady Alice moved into their new house in November 1688.

There have been a few changes over the years, with each generation making its mark and keeping Belton House fashionable. That is until the Victorian times, when Adelbert, 3rd Earl Brownlow and his wife Adelaide, Countess Brownlow restored many of the original features of the house.

In 1984, 299 years after the first stone was laid Lord Edward, 7th Baron Brownlow, gave Belton House to the National Trust.



Who designed the House?

It's thought that 'Young' Sir John hired the architect William Winde to design Belton House. He was a captain in the British army, who had experience in military engineering. He used this skill in designing country houses - first for his godfather, the 1st Earl Craven. His involvement in the building of Belton House was probably just drawing the first plans.

The building of Belton House, from 1684-1688, was overseen by the mason and sculptor William Stanton, and it is believed that he revised and modified the original drawings over this time.

Today it is hard to say which William had the most influence on the design of the house that you see today.

The south front, painted about 1720, is one of the earliest pictures of Belton House.

Building Belton

Before Belton House could be built, the old manor house had to be taken down. Workers did this very carefully and the wood, stone, glass, lead and slate were stored and then used in the new house.

It was only then that local workers started to gather gorse and bracken to fire the brick kilns in February 1684. At this time brick makers would travel to a building site and make the bricks there.

Over the next year almost 2 million bricks were made at Belton and used to build the walls of this house. These walls were then covered on the outside with golden Ancaster stone from the local quarries. This is called facing as it's the side of the wall that you see.

It took four years until the brick layers, stone masons, carpenters, roofers and all the other craftsmen, including the internal decorators, were finished. Only then could Sir John and Lady Alice move into their new home

Making changes

Sir Brownlow Cust, Baron Brownlow, inherited Belton House in 1770. By this time it would have seemed a little old fashioned. He didn't just commission any decorator; he commissioned James Wyatt, one of the country's most fashionable designers.

In order to transform Belton House into a home befitting the Baron's status, all traces of the 17th century design were removed. Several rooms were redecorated, but some of the biggest changes were to the outside. He removed the cupola and balustrades from the roof and put in new windows.



The north front shortly after the rooftop was altered.

North front of Belton House, Lincolnshire.



The Boudoir ceiling designed by James Wyatt.

Inside the house, Wyatt transformed the great chamber where the family would have eaten to create a new drawing room. Now the library, you can still see his domed or shallow vaulted ceiling.

He also designed Lady Brownlow's dressing room (now the Boudoir) with a magnificent painted



Wyatt's original design for the library ceiling.

neo-classical ceiling. Much of the 3D effect that you can see is actually painted on to flat paper.

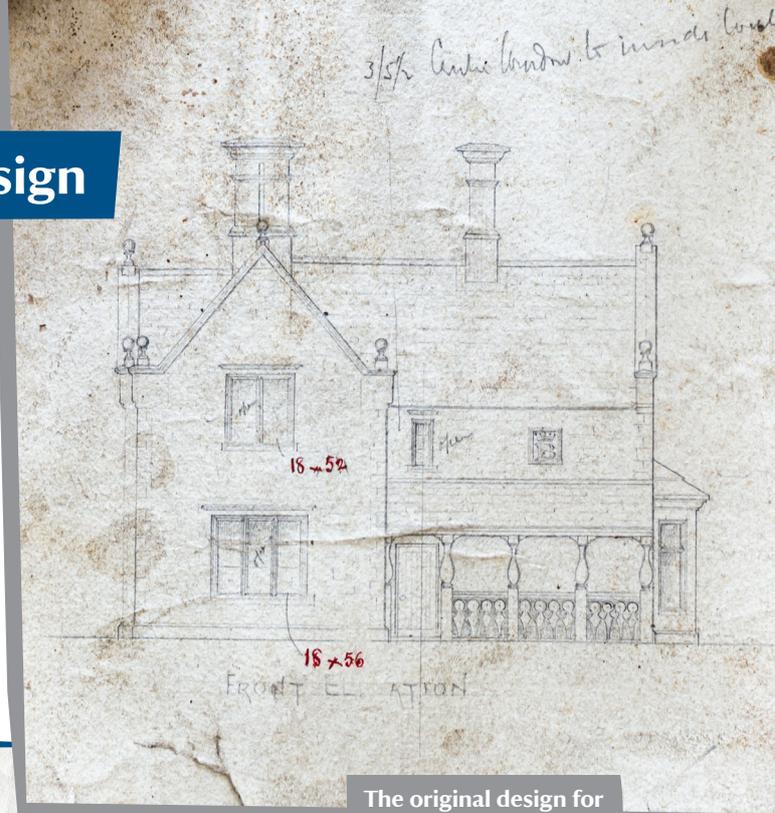
Sir Brownlow Cust was also responsible for bringing the house into the 19th century, by installing new stoves and a water closet in the house.

Landscaping and interior design

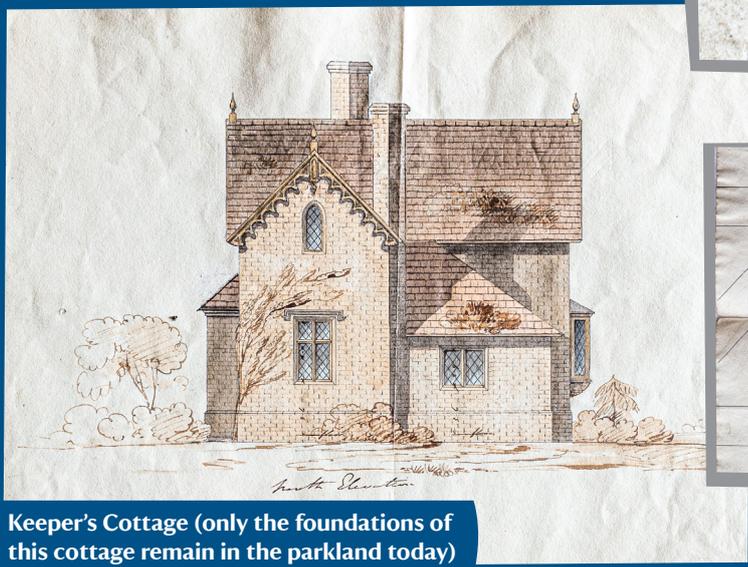
The next family member to inherit was John Cust, 1st Earl Brownlow, who commissioned the fashionable designer Jeffrey Wyattville to put his mark on Belton House.

As well as being responsible for having the Orangery built and for creating the formal gardens, he made significant changes to the kitchens and created today's dining room. He also transformed the estate villages, modernising and expanding them to ensure that they continued to meet the needs of his workers and tenants, including building a school for the children.

Designs by Jeffrey Wyattville:



The original design for 1 Main Road, Belton

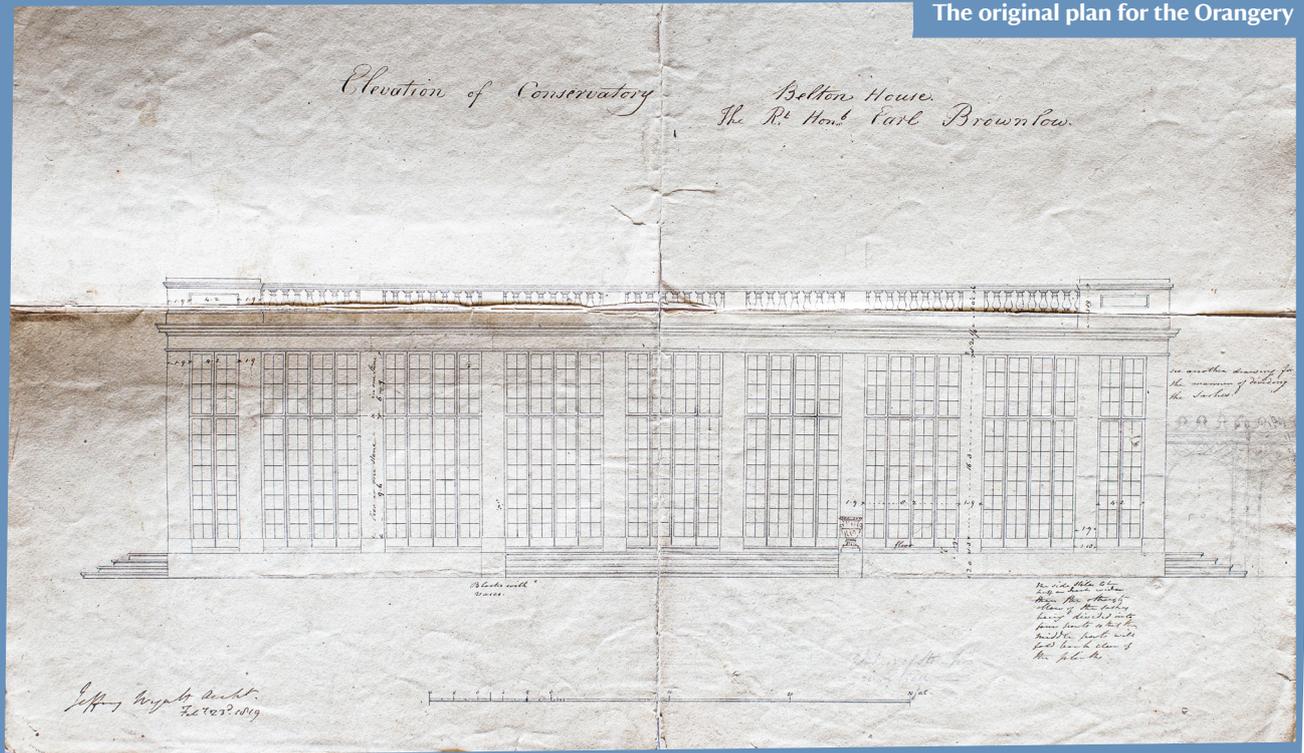


Keeper's Cottage (only the foundations of this cottage remain in the parkland today)



The design and instructions for the decorative gold scroll in the Staircase Hall, Belton House.

The original plan for the Orangery



Remodelling and restoration



A Victorian photograph of the north face of Belton House after the cupola and balustrade were restored.

The last major changes to Belton House were at the request of Adelbert, 3rd Earl Brownlow.

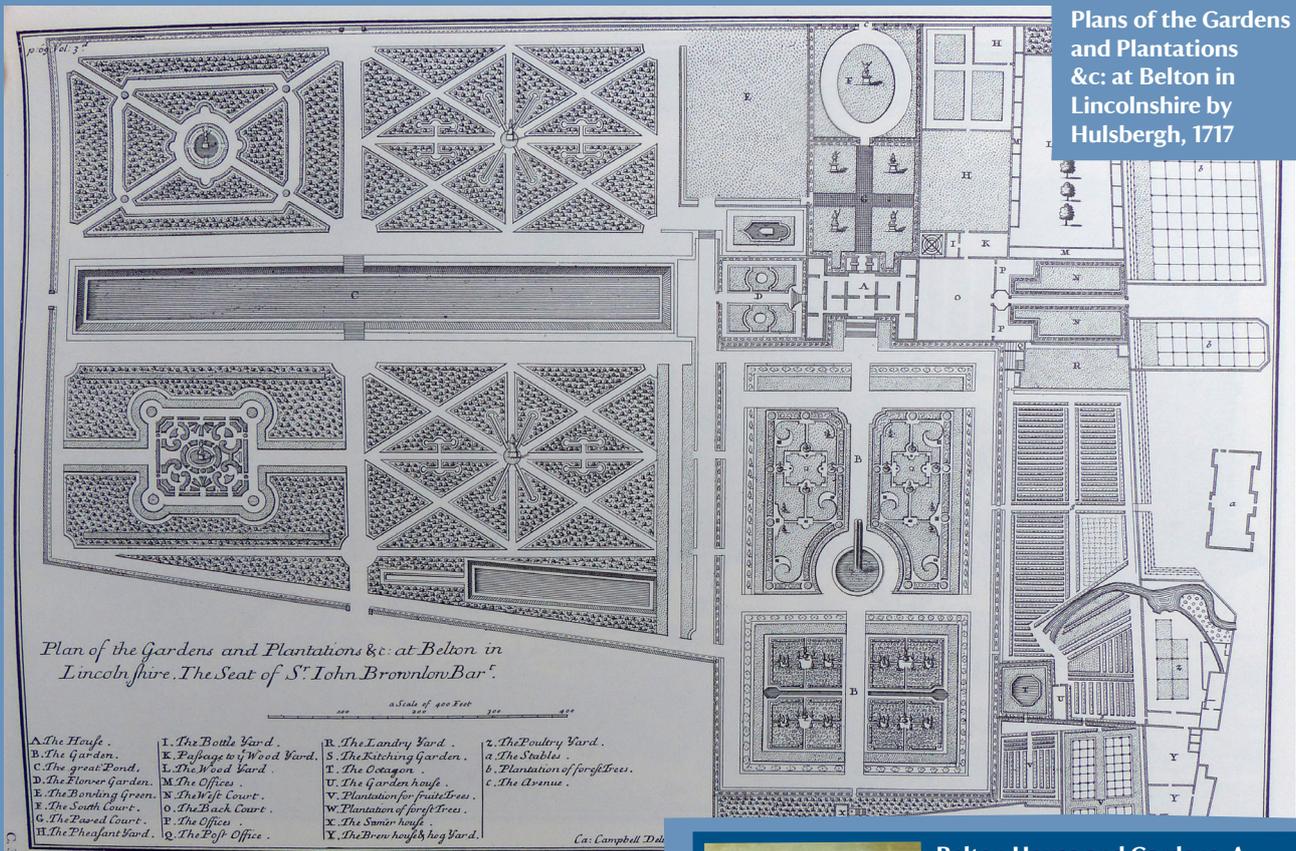
Unlike his ancestors, he was governed by what he felt was the spirit of Belton, rather than the latest fashions. It's unknown who his architect was, however many years were spent re-instating original features to the House, including the cupola and balustrade on the roof.

A lot of what you see of Belton House today is as the 3rd Earl left it.



The Red Drawing Room

Plans of the Gardens and Plantations &c: at Belton in Lincolnshire by Hulsbergh, 1717



The Historic Gardens

‘Young’ Sir John was just as interested in the design of his gardens as he was of his new house. So much so that in 1685 he had nearly 40,000 trees planted in the grounds.

The earliest plans the National Trust has of the gardens were engraved by Hendrik Hulsbergh for a book Vitruvius Britannicus that was published in 1717. These plans show very formal gardens, a bowling green, kitchen garden, orchards and what is believed to be a fountain.

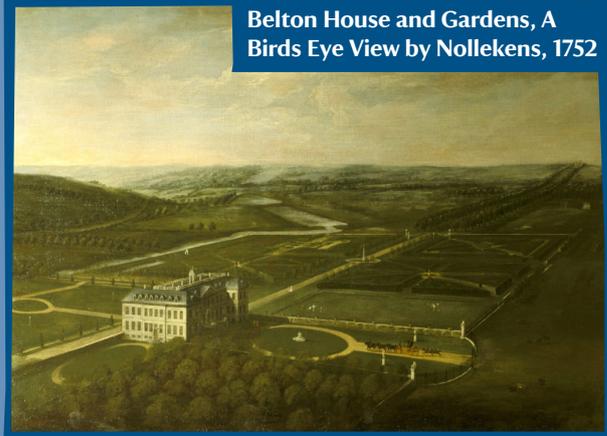
As with all fashions, garden design and use changed and with each new generation the gardens started to look very different.

Who made what changes?

When Viscount Tyrconnel inherited he created the Wilderness, Cascade and Gothick Ruin (now located in the parkland; but this used to be part of the gardens).

The 1st Baron Brownlow employed a landscape gardener called Willam Emes to make changes to the park and gardens. It was at this time that the Pleasure Grounds of informal plantings of woodland with serpentine walks was created.

Belton House and Gardens, A Birds Eye View by Nollekens, 1752

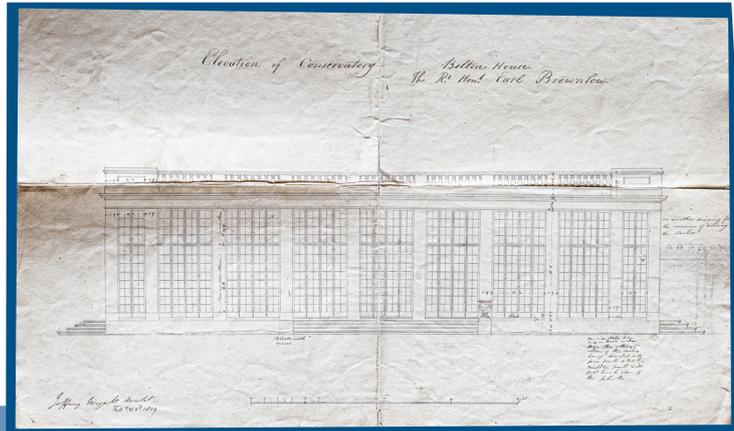


Much of the history of the gardens is shown in the many paintings, account ledgers and Victorian and Edwardian photographs held within Belton's archives.

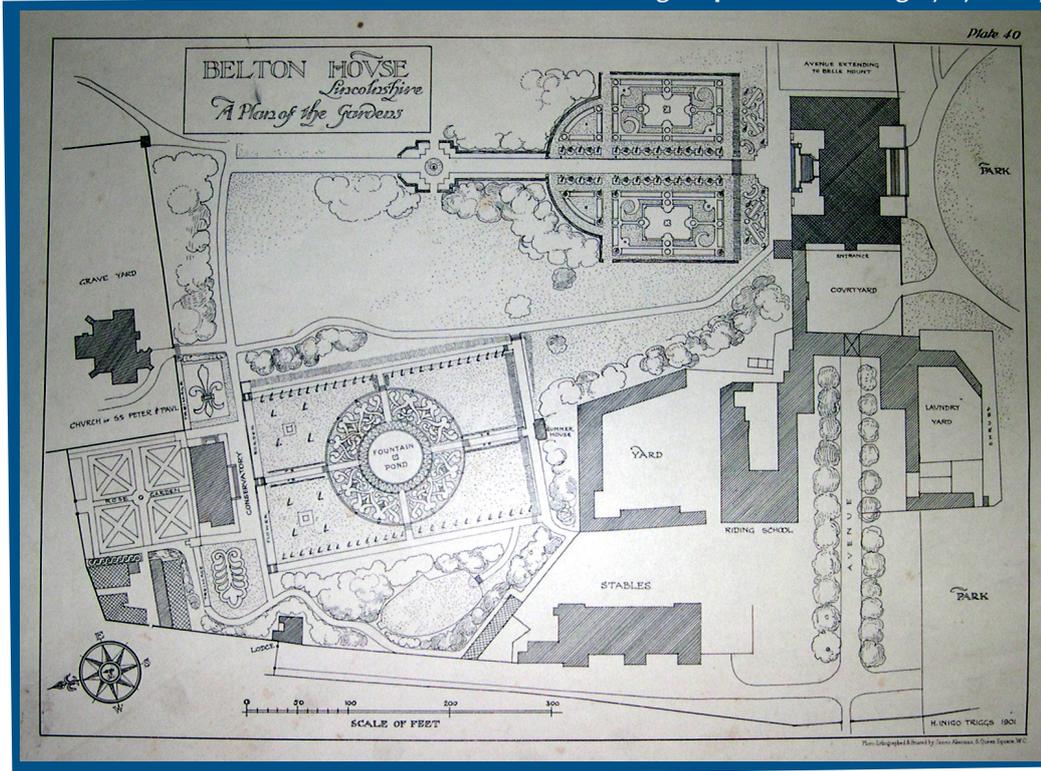
The 1st Earl was responsible for the more formal gardens that we see today, commissioning the Orangery and Italian Garden to be built in 1820s after a great flood had created a blank canvas. He also commissioned the Fishing lodge and the Cascade in the Pleasure Grounds.

Adelbert, 3rd Earl Brownlow, continued to develop the formal gardens, completing the Dutch Garden in 1879.

There has been little change in the main landscaping of Belton's formal gardens in the last 100 years. However some features such as the rose arches around the fountain were removed during the Second World War. With the reduction in gardeners, some flower beds were also removed to create a more minimalistic garden.

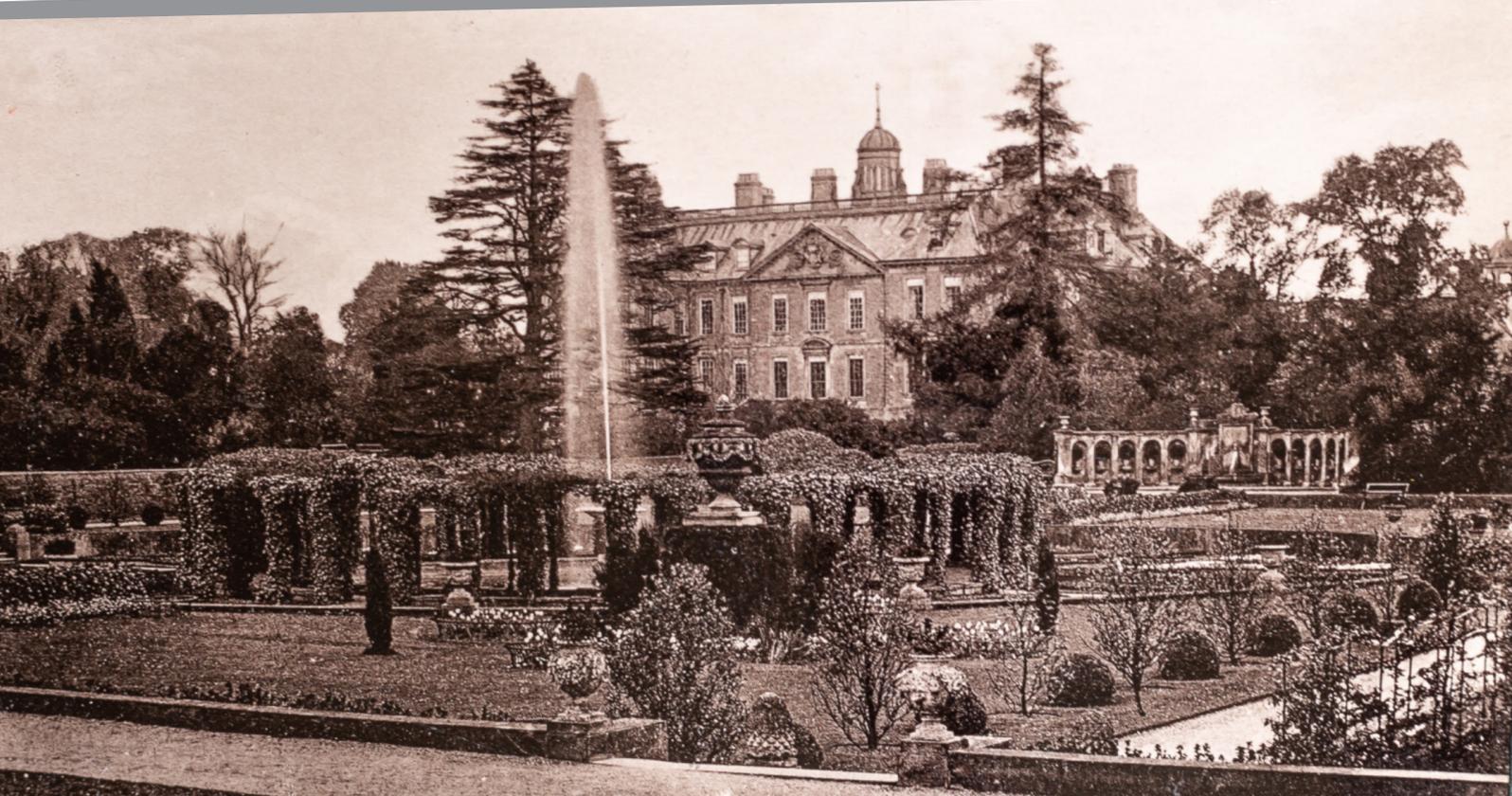


The original plan for the Orangery by Jeffrey Wyattville, 1819



Plans of the Formal Gardens dated 1901

A photograph of the Italian Garden c. 1900s



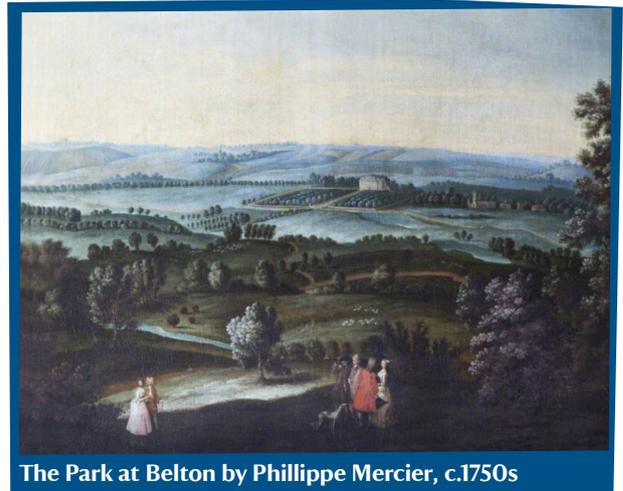
The Historic Parkland

Although the parkland looks natural it is in fact a designed landscape. A few years after the House was built, in 1690, 'Young' Sir John Brownlow gained royal approval from William III for a deer park.

This meant that where the land had been ploughed in an open field system from medieval times, it was now enclosed (or fenced). Once this happened, Fallow deer were introduced into Belton Park, changing the use and look of the park.

One of the first changes to the park at this time was changing Old Wood. Already called this in 1690, 'Young' Sir John had the woodland layout made into a more formal, ornamental one. With a rectangular boundary he had paths (walks) put in, in a geometrical pattern like two Union Jacks.

This arrangement of trees and shrubs cut through with walks was called a 'Wilderness'. It was very fashionable in the 17th and 18th centuries but wasn't intended to be 'wild' as we understand it



The Park at Belton by Philippe Mercier, c.1750s

today. In a time when gardens were very formal and structured; they were places that enveloped the visitor, heightening the contrast between the artificial parterres (designed planted areas) and the wide, wild landscape beyond: contrasting and contemplating man and nature.

Who designed the park you see today?

Viscount Tyrconnel commissioned the landscape architect and gardener William Emes to redesign Belton Park.

William Emes did keep some of the natural environment, incorporating the existing ancient

woodland and areas of pasture into his design. What he created were new vistas, the Bellmount Tower and a picturesque 'Wilderness' garden.

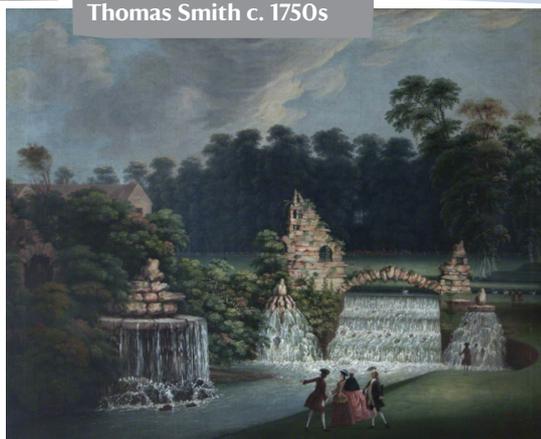
Emes particularly liked using water and trees to create parks which looked more natural than the previously fashionable formal designs. Stand in the parkland and you will see clumps of trees at interesting viewing points, or the South and East Avenues of trees that tie the House with its parkland, and ponds and streams feeding into the River Witham.

This landscape was designed to provide points of interest and to show how rich and powerful Viscount Tyrconnel was.



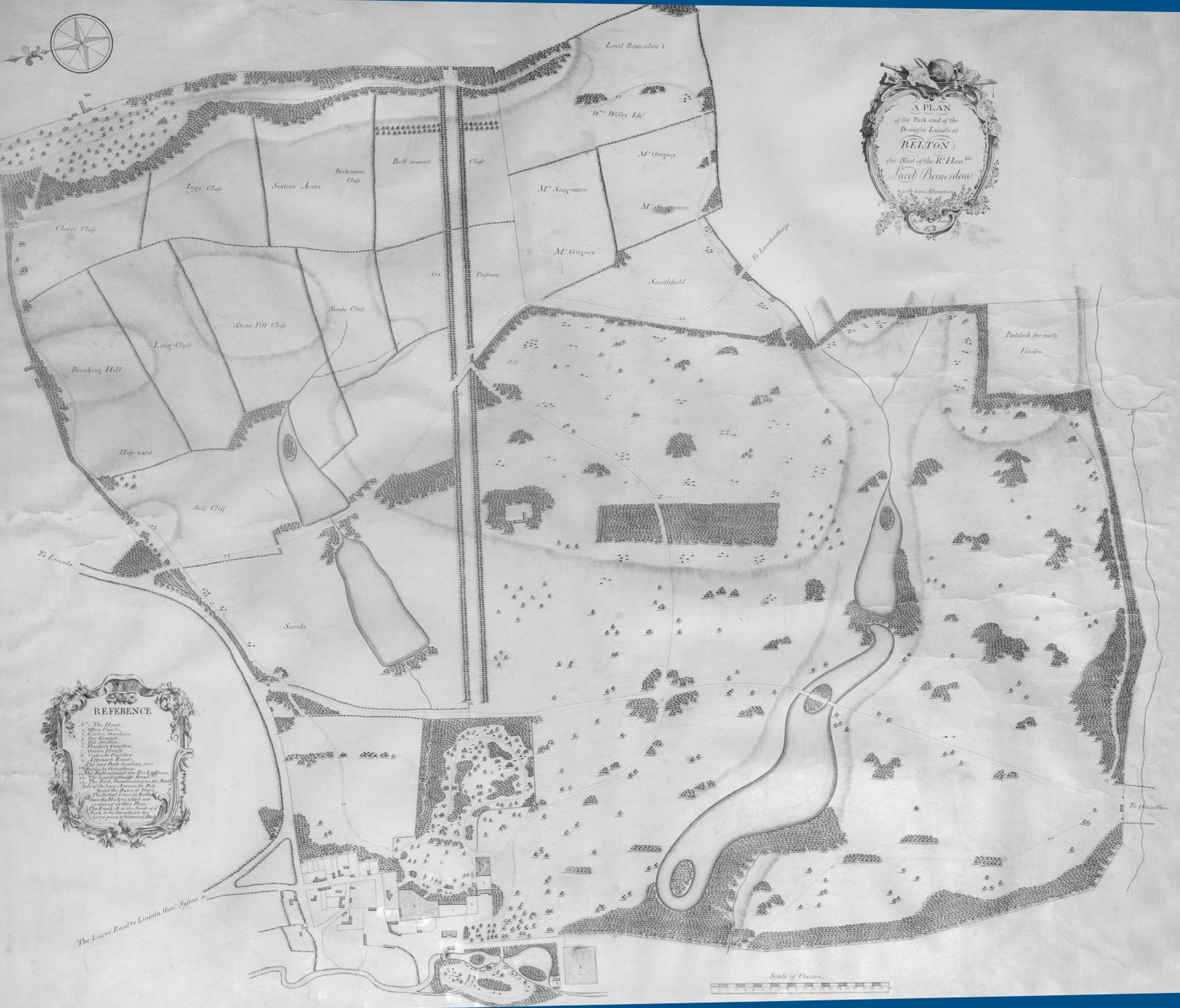
Sir John Brownlow, Viscount Tyrconnel by Charles Jervas, 1730s

The Cascade at Belton by Thomas Smith c. 1750s



Even the River Witham didn't escape the re-design; a dam was introduced to create a cascade water feature to complement the Gothick Ruin that was built. An island was also created in the river near this point with a summerhouse for the family to use.

Emes didn't get to see everything that he designed completed, with Towthorpe Ponds being created after his death.



A plan for the park by William Emes, mid-1700s

By 1807 the work was completed, with established plantations on the south side of the park and new public roads were built along the boundary, making the parkland private.

There has been little permanent change to the parkland that remains at Belton House over the last 200 years. Additions and alterations have included the Alford Memorial in 1852, the golf course that was laid out by Adelbert, 3rd Earl Brownlow in 1892,

the temporary First World War training camp and the felling and replanting of the South Avenue due to Dutch elm disease in the 1970s.

Using old maps and photographs we can see how the parkland has changed in size over the centuries and also how the parkland was managed.

Bellmount Tower



The Bellmount Tower, completed in 1751, provides a magnificent viewpoint at the end of the East Avenue. Viscount Tyrconnel was a fashionable man, moving in the circle of Frederick, Prince of Wales, and interested in updating Belton to the current style. He probably had Bellmount Tower built as a feature to impress and amuse his guests, and to act as a focal point from the house, garden and wider estate.

Tyrconnel wrote to his nephew, John, about what he planned:

"A Mount Rail'd by five or six slopes and Terraces, and covered with ever Greens growing wild all the way up to ye Top, which is to be crown'd with a Pavillion of Lattice work from whence Both ye Canal and Great Pond in ye Park are seen on each side in full view".

This is not a very accurate description of the Bellmount Tower, which is certainly not "a Pavillion of Lattice work". Nevertheless, the Tower was crowned with a prospect room and it is most likely that the reference is to Bellmount Tower.

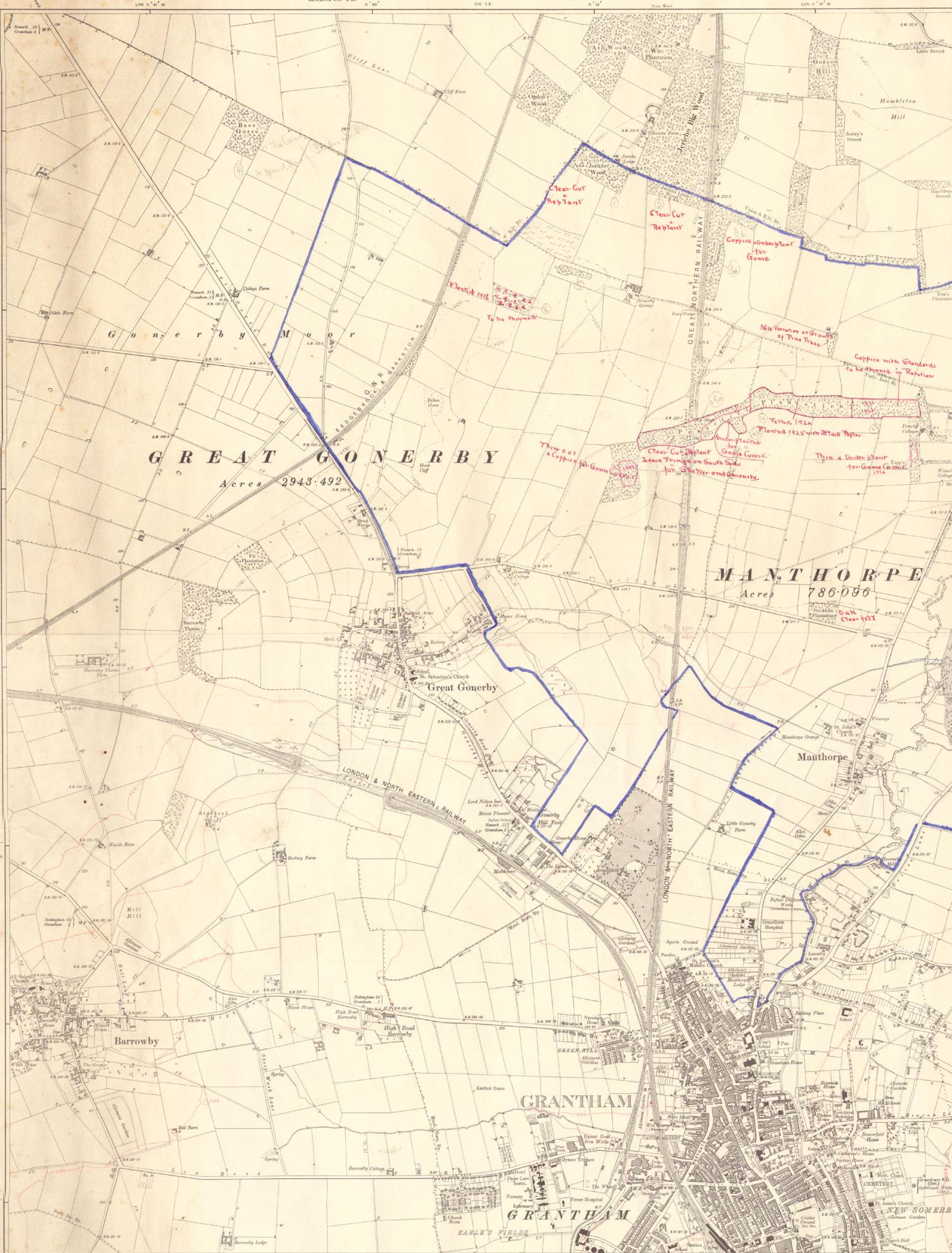
There was just enough furniture and equipment to enjoy the view in relative comfort and to keep the room clean. It is clear that visitors were encouraged to visit the prospect room in the Tower.

After a visit to Belton in 1757, Mrs Philip Lybbe Powis recorded her thoughts in her diary.

"In the evening we went to Belton House, the seat of Lady Cust. 'Tis nothing more than a good family house. Two things relative to it we were desired to remember, viz., that the original of sash windows was at the erecting of this edifice in Charles I.'s time; the second, that from a temple in the garden called Belle Mount you may see seven counties at once, a thing from one spot thought very remarkable. Having stayed pretty late at Belton, we only got back just at suppertime, and early next day quitted Grantham".

At Tyrconnel's death in 1754, an inventory listed the Tower's contents:

- A great fender and brush
- A mahogany corner table
- Eight garden seats framed
- Two wainscot stands
- A stool
- A scrubbing brush
- A hair broom
- Two pails
- And a chafing dish



G R E A T G O N E R B Y
Acres 2943.492

M A N T H O R P E
Acres 786.086

Great Gonerby

Manthorpe

Barrowby

GRANTHAM

GRANTHAM

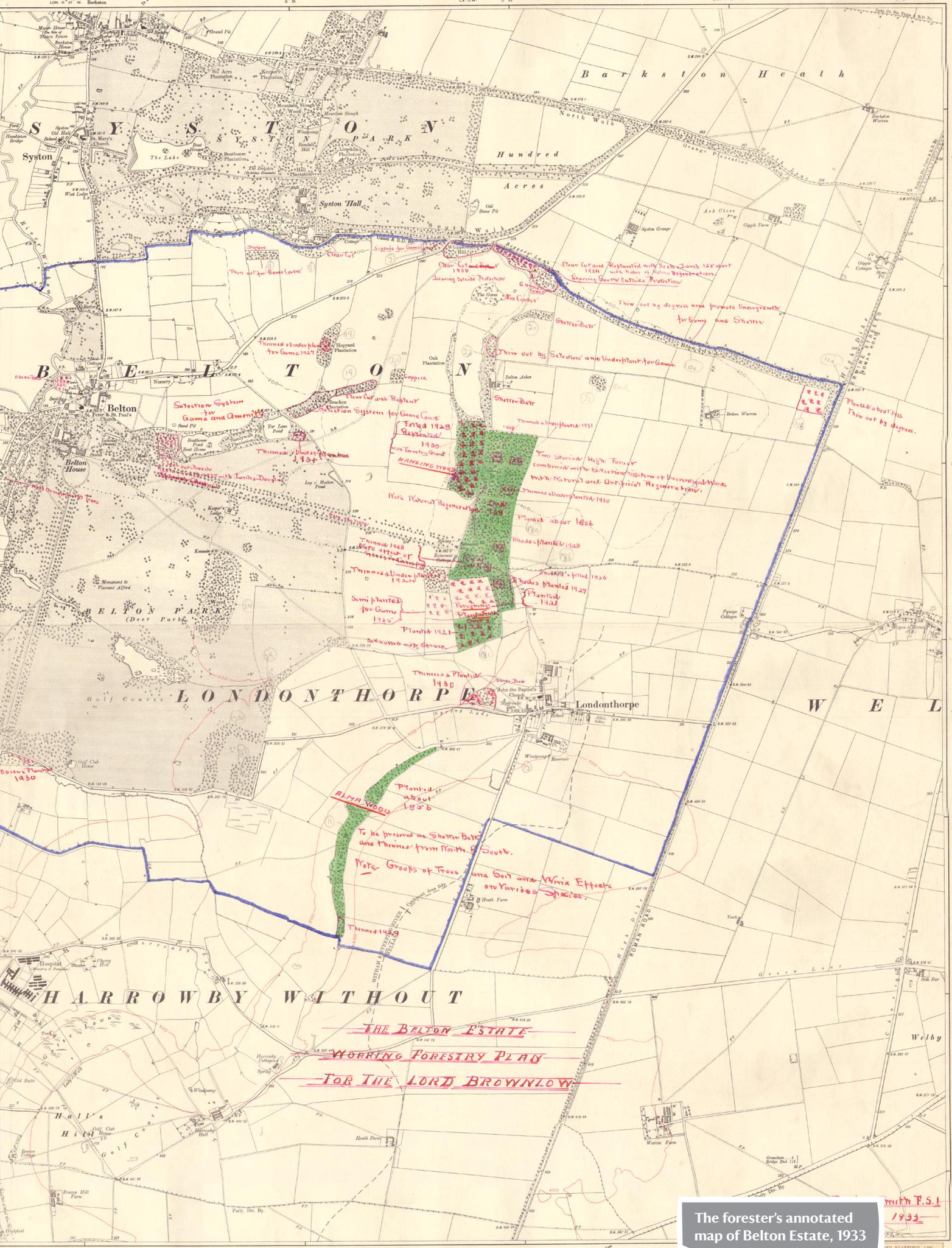
NEW SOMERBY

HARLAXTON PH. BUTLAND AND STAMFORD DIVISION Surveyed in 1885-86. Revised in 1909. Re-compiled in 1930.
CHARACTERISTICS AND SYMBOLS.
County Boundary ———
Parliamentary District Boundary - - - -
Rural District Boundary - - - -
Parish Boundary - - - -
Antiquities, Site of ———
Arrow showing direction of flow of water ———
Contours Instrumental ———
Contours Sketched ———
Trigonometrical Station ———

The Altitudes of Bench Marks and surface heights are given in Feet above the mean level of the sea at NEWLYN, and are based on the new primary levelling of 1912-21. The contours, however, are referred to the old Liverpool Datum and not based on the new primary levelling. This may produce discrepancies between the contours and the bench marks and spot levels apart from change due to possible surface movement between date of contouring and re-levelling.
To refer heights to the obsolete Liverpool Datum, add to the figures shown 0.3 feet. Note that the correction applies to this plan only and is only approximate to 0.1 ft. Further information on application.
Altitudes indicated thus (B.M. + 54.7) refer to bench marks on buildings, walls, &c., those marked (-) preceded or followed by the height to surface levels.

GRANTHAM MUNI. BORO. SPITTLEGATE
Scale—Six inches to One Statute Mile or 880 Feet to One Inch ———
10 Chains 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 Chains
1000 Feet 500 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 5280 Feet
1 Furlong 0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 Mile

N.B. The representation on this map of a Road, Track, or Footpath, is no evidence of the existence of a right of way.
Printed and Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton. Price 2s. net. Crown Copyright Reserved.



The forester's annotated map of Belton Estate, 1933

The parkland today

Today this Grade 1 listed parkland is still home to the National Trust's only naturally maintained deer park and is a haven for wildlife. Grazing in the parkland are the Fallow deer and, at certain times of the year, sheep. The wildflowers and tree blossom provide food for butterflies and bees, with dragonflies spotted near the ponds.

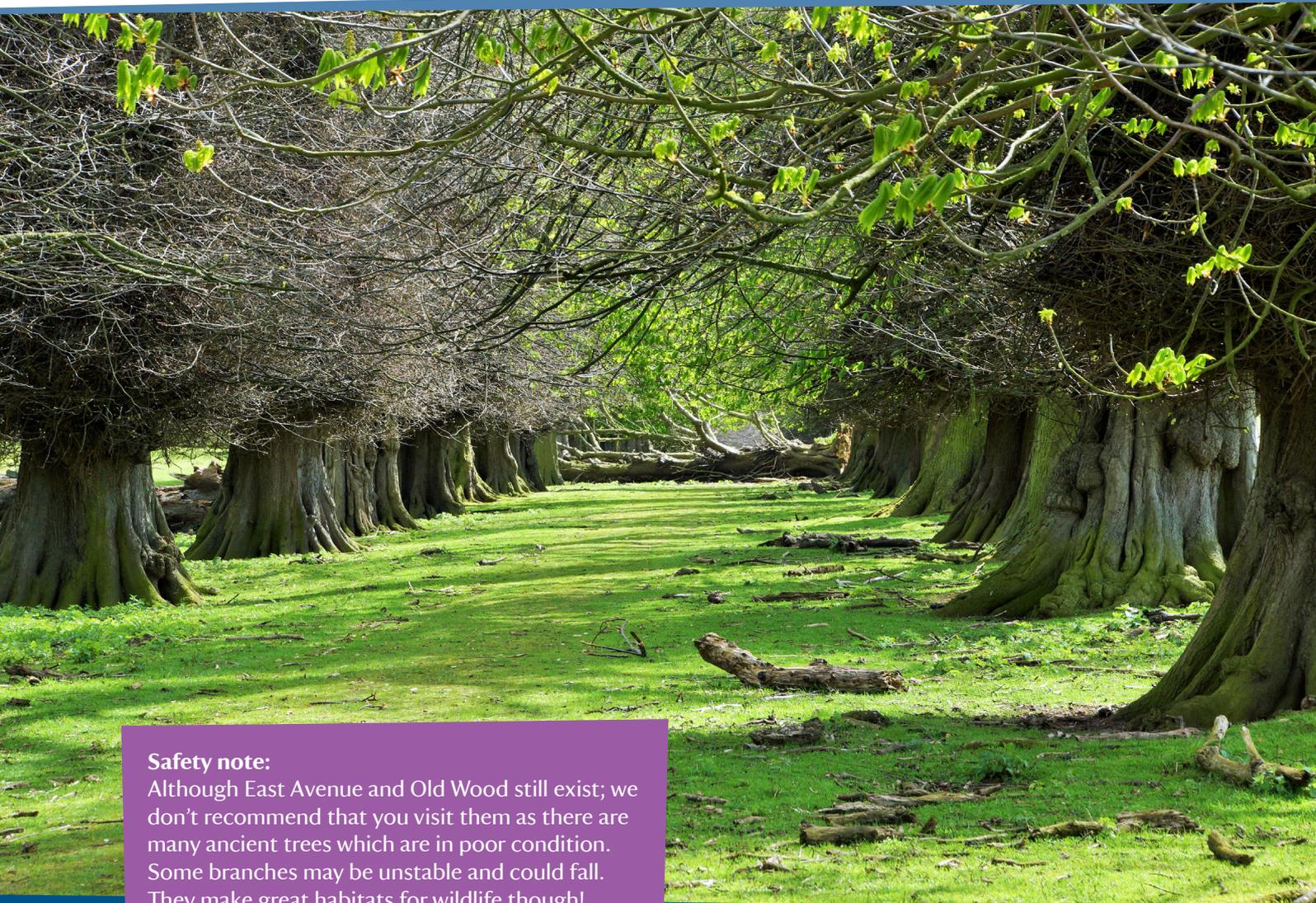
Within the ponds and river are some protected or rare species. Otters occasionally fish here for carp and there is a significant, regionally important population of white-clawed crayfish.

It is also home to two archaeological sites: the deserted medieval village of Towthorpe, located to the south of Towthorpe Ponds; and the First World War 'Kitchener Camp' that became the Machine Gun Corps training camp and Military Hospital.

Today, instead of the hustle and bustle of thousands of people who would have been in the park 100 years ago, you might be lucky enough to see a red kite soaring overhead, or one of Belton's foxes.



White-clawed crayfish.



Safety note:

Although East Avenue and Old Wood still exist; we don't recommend that you visit them as there are many ancient trees which are in poor condition. Some branches may be unstable and could fall. They make great habitats for wildlife though!