



## YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

### A guide to researching an historic designed landscape by Louise Wickham

#### Part 2 – Using archive and other resources

In the previous guide, we looked at widely available online resources to get started. With these, we were able to prepare an initial chronology and focus in on time periods of likely interest, before looking at more detailed resources in archives and elsewhere.

##### Step 1 - Wider background research

First ask if anyone else has researched this site and published their work, even if it only focuses on one aspect of the site (e.g. designer, feature such as a folly, type of garden etc). To do this consult garden history books (see Appendix for some suggestions) and other online resources. Taking our example of Carlton Hall, there are three important sources:

*Georgian Gardens: The reign of nature* by David Jacques (1990)

*Richard Woods (1715 – 1793) Master of the Pleasure Garden* by Fiona Cowell (2009)

*Thomas White (c. 1736 – 1811) Redesigning the northern British landscape* by Deborah Turnbull and Louise Wickham (2022)

From these we learn that the owner of Stapleton commissioned improvement plans from Woods (1765) and White (nd) and we can see what they were proposing. Comparing them to what was on the ground now, it is clear the walled kitchen garden is the same (in both) but only White's plan shows the lake in the same place and shape.

You now need to decide what would be useful to look at from the archives and make a list before you view the documents. To do this, you need to search their catalogues (see details on YGT website page, 'Become a research volunteer', for those in the wider Yorkshire region). Many have listed individual items that is very useful, so a simple search for the estate name and type of document such as 'Carlton map' is enough. Others only provide a general listing but usually they will group together similar documents e.g. surveys, letters etc.

Although many estates have donated their archives to public sources, some have retained material. It is therefore always useful to get in touch with them and check what they hold. Although access may be limited and they may not be well catalogued, if they have important maps and plans it is worth the effort. For instance the improvement plans for Carlton are still held by the Carlton Towers estate.

## Step 2 – Viewing maps and plans

### *Tithe maps*

First have a look and see whether there is a tithe map for the area. These were commissioned from 1836 when the tithe system was abolished. The National Archives lists all those available, to search put in the name of the area here - <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C9356>. That will give you a reference for the map and the 'apportionment' or list of grounds (often down to field level). First check the local record offices and the Borthwick Institute to see if they have a copy. Note that West Yorkshire (<http://wytithemaps.org.uk/>) and North Yorkshire are now putting their tithe records online for free.

Things to note:

1. Not all areas had tithe maps – Carlton is an example of this
2. The maps were done by surveyors who often used existing maps instead of a new survey and so may show features in existence well before the date given on the map
3. Many were completed just before the first 6" OS maps in Yorkshire, so the latter are more reliable as the date of the survey is given

However they can be a useful source as they are very detailed, see examples below for Thirkleby (ref. IR 30/42/367 & 29/42/367, © The National Archives):



C.—London: P

LANDOWNERS.	OCCUPIERS.	Numbers referring to the Plan.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF LANDS AND PREMISES.	STATE OF CULTIVATION.	QUANTITIES OF STATUTE MEASURE.		
					A.	R.	P.
Russell Sir Robert Frankland (continued)	Himself	1	Mansion Offices & Yards			2	29
		2	Managers' and Yard			1	5
		2 <sup>a</sup>	Roads in Park			1	35
		3	Gardens		2		32
		4	Oak Wood	Wood	14	2	
		5	Orchard	Graz		3	30
		6	West Park	Pasture	29		
		6 <sup>a</sup>	Plantations in West Park		2	3	21
		7	Wheat Riggs (Park)	Meadow	20	1	32
		8	Church Field (Park)	Pasture	31		
		8 <sup>a</sup>	Plantation in Church Field		1	1	11
		9	Deer Park	Meadow	9		36
		11	South Park	do	42	2	18
		11 <sup>a</sup>	Plantations in South Park		2	2	9
		12	Shrubberies at Hale		7	1	12
		13	Wood near Farm Yard	Wood	3	1	34
		14	Farm-yard offices and Folds		1		6
		15	East Park	Pasture	20		
		15 <sup>a</sup>	Plantations in East Park		1	1	9
		16	Buddings Wood	Wood	43	2	38
		108	Near meor Plantation	do	3		20
		111	New Plantation	do	2	1	10
		112	Pond and Plantation	do	4		
		117	Middle meor Plantation	do	7	2	30
		118	Far meor Plantation	do	21		30
		137	Long Skip Plantations	do	2		24
		138	Plantation opposite Pond	do	6		
					251	1	21

### Enclosure maps

These were made when landowners wanted to enclose common areas of ground. This process started in the medieval period and maps can be found from the early 16th century, however they are most numerous from 1750 onwards. The National Archives has a useful guide -

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/enclosure-awards/> to help you locate any that might be relevant.

The advantage they have over tithe maps is that they were properly surveyed at the time and are often of an earlier date. They are typically held by the local archives for the area and the archive services may have specific guides for you to consult. Otherwise do a general search on their website e.g. 'Carlton enclosure map'. For our example, there is one copy in the North Yorkshire County Record Office (ref. I PC/CTN, shown below) and another in the West Yorkshire Archives Service (ref. QD5/3/Vol 2/4). Multiple copies were often made for various landowners including the Church and so it is worth doing a check of other local archives.

This map below for Carlton was completed in 1808 and provides us with more evidence that the designed landscape shown on later maps was in place by this stage. It also indicates that the parkland was extended to the east between 1809 and 1849, as the enclosure map shows it as fields.





### Estate maps

These have to be the most valuable piece of evidence for the garden historian. These were usually commissioned by the owner from a detailed survey and should not be confused with plans such as those by Woods and White (detailed earlier) that were *proposals for improvement*.

Looking at the estate archives for Carlton at Hull History Centre, we find *Survey of estate of Thomas Stapleton at Carlton c. 1771* (U DDCA 36 34). In a subsidiary collection at East Riding Archives, there is *Map of the estates of Thomas Stapleton at Carlton, 1753* (DDCL/3390). These are ideal because one is before Woods' improvement plan and another is after, so that will not only help us to determine whether his ideas were carried out but also narrow down the dates of their construction.

The earlier map below is sadly quite damaged and a section is missing to the west of the Hall, however we can see that the area around it is open fields and there is no walled garden to the north.





The second map is not dated but it is thought to be c. 1771. Comparing it with the one above, we can clearly see that the walled kitchen garden is in place but not the lake or the later extensive parkland.



### Step 3 – Estate surveys

Once you have exhausted all available map sources, you should turn next to written surveys. These sometimes accompanied a map such as the ones above (as areas have numbers) but even on their own, they give interesting detail.

We have a number for Carlton, including one dating back to the building of the Hall c.1600, *Survey of mine closes of the demaine of Carlton whereof the ould orchard was one* (U DDCA 36/3):

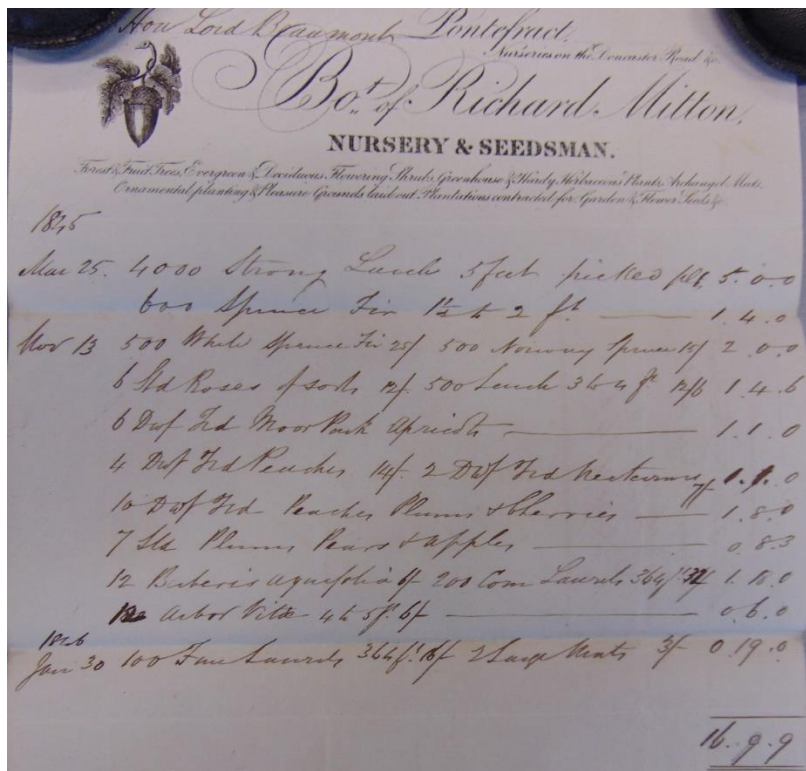
1. The Orchard	1 acre, 1 rood, 2 perches
2. High Parke	17 acres, 3 roods
3. The Inges	37 acres
4. Greene Gates	31 acres
5. Low Rookehill	15 acres, 1 rood, 5 perches
6. High Rookehill	20 acres, 2 roods
7. House close	7 acres, 2 roods
8. Long close	7 acres
9. Baughame	27 acres
10. The close about the house	16 acres



## Step 4 – Estate Accounts & Bills

More typically you will find general estate accounts, where you have to search for expenditure that may be relevant. The Carlton archives at Hull have a lot of these including some from the 17th and early 18th centuries (U DDCA 2/48/1-18, 1656-1705). A particularly interesting entry comes from 1673 (U DDCA 2/48/5) showing landscaping around the Hall:

Often bills for large purchases were kept and although they may take time to look through, they can reveal information that perhaps is not in the formal accounts. Here you can find bills from nurserymen and other tradespeople such as masons, carpenters and glaziers who refer to garden areas. Here is an example from 1845 (U DDCA 2/48/110):



## Step 5 – Other archive information

### Correspondence

Owners were often away and their stewards or agents would regularly write to them to let them know what was happening at the estate, particularly if major work was underway. There are also letters from others such as architects, designers and nurserymen that can yield information. They may be the original single letters or in the form of a letterbook. Many archives now give more details about each letter allowing you to narrow down your research.

### Diaries

Belonging to owners, these can take the form of just entries of appointments but many also allow for details of expenditure. This is useful for large payments to individuals such as architects or designers for example, that wouldn't necessarily be in the estate accounts.

### Notebooks

Some kept details of the things they had planted or done on the estate. Here is an example from the Busby Hall archive in the North Yorkshire County Record Office (ZDU 105/Book 1):

The Purchase of Ash Trees in  
Busby Wood of the Hedge Rows in the  
Year 1768 — £455..17..0

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1776. The Purchase of Ash Trees in  
Busby Wood. 105 Trees with their Tops. £125..1..0

1776. Sold 61 Tons & 34 Feet of Oak  
Timber in Busby Wood & Hedge Rows — 169.3.5

Oak Wood taken for my own Use valued at — 8.0.0

100 Quarters of Bark with a 10 lb. Bushell  
Sold at 12..6 1/2 Quarters — £62..10..0 } — 69..11..9

3 bu. 4 Bush. w. an 8 lb. B. at 10..6. — 7..1..9 }

6 Tree Tops sold at 2 — 0..12..0 } — 0..18..0

2 Loads of Top Wood at 3 — 0..6..0 }

2 B. at 2..6 — 0..5..0 } — 0..14..4

2 — at 3 — 0..6..0 }

B. and Posts — 0..3..4 }

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9 1/2 Feet of the above Oak Timber — £373..8..6



## Step 6 – Sources outside of archives

Now you are casting your net even wider and it may take longer to get anything useful but it is worth trying to look at these, especially as so much is now online that is searchable:

### *Newspapers, magazines and journals*

Newspapers date back to the mid 18th century and cover both national and local news such as house/estate sales, horticultural events and personal events. The British Newspaper Archive (<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> or <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search/british-newspapers>) is a good place to start, although you have to pay. A free resource, particularly good for gardening magazines and journals is <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

### *Old books*

While some caution is needed in accepting everything previously written, contemporary accounts of a place can be invaluable. Two sites worth exploring are: <https://archive.org/> and <https://www.hathitrust.org/> To narrow down your research put in specific search terms such as 'Carlton Hall park' using "" to ensure only that phrase is used and start with oldest books available. Remember that spelling has changed over time and you need to try alternatives e.g. 'Carleton'

### *Old photographs and postcards*

You will find photographs and postcards going back to the mid 19th century. Apart from a general Google Image search, some archives have good collections such as Godfrey Bingley collection of photographs at Leeds University Special Collections - [https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1500/special\\_collections](https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1500/special_collections) and the Victoria and Albert Museum - <https://www.vam.ac.uk/collections?type=featured>

### *Paintings and drawings*

While some caution is needed with 'artistic licence' used, paintings and drawings can help for the period before photographs. Sites to try (in addition to general search) are:

<https://artuk.org/>

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection>

British Library - [http://explore.bl.uk/primo\\_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=BLVU1](http://explore.bl.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=BLVU1)

V&A – as above

While it might seem that all these disparate pieces of information may not give a complete history in themselves, they are all part of building a picture. To see how the archive and other material was used, see the report for Carlton Hall (Towers) on the YGT website.

Once you have established what was done when and by whom from archive sources, the final stage is to a survey of the site's features to see whether anything more can be gleaned.

## British Garden History Texts

### General

- Batey, M. and Lambert, D. (1990) *The English Garden Tour: a view into the past*. John Murray
- Hunt, J. D. and Willis, P. (1988) *The Genius of the Place; The English Landscape Garden 1620-1820*. The MIT Press.
- Jellicoe, G. & Jellicoe, S. (1995) *The Landscape of Man*. Thames and Hudson
- Jellicoe, G. et al. (1986) *Oxford Companion to Gardens*. Oxford University Press.
- Lambert, D., Goodchild, P. and Roberts, J. (2006) *Parks and Gardens: a researcher's guide to sources for designed landscapes*. Landscape Design Trust
- Quest-Ritson, C. (2003) *The English Garden: a social history*. Penguin
- Wickham, L. (2012) *Gardens in History: A Political Perspective*. Windgather Press

### Gardens prior to 1700

- Anthony, J. (1991) *The Renaissance Garden in Britain*. Shire Publications
- Creighton, O.H. (2009) *Designs Upon the Land: Elite Landscapes of the Middle Ages*. The Boydell Press
- Harvey, J. (1981) *Mediaeval Gardens*. B. T. Batsford Ltd
- Henderson, P. (2005) *The Tudor House and Garden*. Yale University Press
- Jacques, D. (2017) *Gardens of Court and Country: English Design 1630-1730*. Yale University Press
- Jennings, A. (2005) *Tudor and Stuart Gardens*. English Heritage
- Landsberg, S. (2002) *The Medieval Garden*. British Museum Press
- Liddard, R. ed. (2007) *The Medieval Park: new perspectives*. Windgather Press
- Strong, R. (1998) *The Renaissance Garden in England*. Thames and Hudson

### 18th century gardens

- Dixon Hunt, J. (2002) *The Picturesque Garden in Europe*. Thames and Hudson
- Jacques, D. (1990) *Georgian Gardens: The reign of nature*. Batsford
- Richardson, T. (2008) *The Arcadian Friends: Inventing the English landscape garden*. Bantam Press
- Symes, M. (2005) *The English Rococo Garden*. Shire
- Symes, M. (2019) *The English Landscape Garden: A survey*. Historic England
- Williamson, T. (1998) *Polite Landscapes: Gardens and Society in Eighteenth-Century England*. Sutton



## 19th century gardens

Batey, M. (1995) *Regency Gardens*. Shire Publications

Boniface, P. ed (1987) *In Search of English Gardens: The travels of John Claudius Loudon and his wife Jane*. Lennard Publishing

Conway, H. (1996) *Public Parks*. Shire Publications

Elliott, B. (1986) *Victorian Gardens*. Batsford

Ikin, C. (2012) *The Victorian Garden*. Shire Books

Jennings, A. (2005) *Victorian Gardens*. English Heritage

Wilkinson, A. (2011) *The Victorian Gardener*, The History Press

## 20th century gardens

Brown, J. (1999) *The English Garden through the 20th century*. Garden Art Press

Brown, J. (2000) *The Modern Garden*. Thames and Hudson

Crowe, Sylvia (1994) *Garden Design*. Garden Art Press

Jekyll, G. and Weaver, L. (2005) *Arts and Crafts Gardens: Gardens for small country houses*. Garden Art Press

Tankard, J. B. (2004) *Gardens of the Arts and Crafts Movement*. Harry N. Abrams

Tankard, J. B. (2011), *Gertrude Jekyll and the Country House Garden: From the Archives of Country Life*. Aurum Press.

Waymark, J. (2005) *Modern Garden Design: Innovation since 1900*. Thames and Hudson

## Garden Features

Buxham, T. (2014) *Icehouses*. Shire Publications

Campbell, S. (2005) *A History of Kitchen Gardening*. Frances Lincoln

Fisher, A. (2003) *Mazes and Labyrinths*. Shire Publications

Grant, F. (2013) *Glasshouses*. Shire Publications

Masset, C. (2012) *Orchards*. Shire Publications

Rolf, V. (2011) *Bathing Houses and Plunge Pools*. Shire Publications

Rutherford, S. and Lovie, J. (2012) *Georgian Garden Buildings*. Shire Publications

Way, T. (2010) *Topiary*. Shire Publications

Woods, M. and Warren, A. (1988) *Glasshouses*. Aurum Press

## Garden and landscape designers

- Bisgrove, R. (1992), *The Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll*. Frances Lincoln Limited
- Bisgrove, R. (2008) *William Robinson: The Wild Gardener*. Frances Lincoln
- Brown, D. and Williamson, T. (2016) *Lancelot Brown and the Capability Men: Landscape Revolution in Eighteenth-Century England*. Reaktion Books
- Brown, J. (2011) *The Omnipotent Magician: Lancelot 'Capability' Brown*. Chatto & Windus
- Cowell, F. (2009) *Richard Woods (1715-1793): master of the pleasure garden*. The Boydell Press
- Daniels, S. (1999) *Humphry Repton: landscape gardening and the geography of Georgian England*. Yale University Press
- Finch, J. and Woudstra, J. eds (2020). *Capability Brown, Royal Gardener: The business of place-making in Northern Europe*. White Rose University Press.
- Gibson, T. (2011) *Brenda Colvin: A Career in Landscape*. Frances Lincoln
- Hunt, J. D. (1987) *William Kent*. A. Zwemmer
- Lynch, K. (2016) *Noble Prospects: Capability Brown and the Yorkshire landscapes*. YGT
- Lynch, K. and Eyres, P. (2018) *On the Spot: The Yorkshire red books of Humphry Repton, landscape gardener*. New Arcadian Press
- Mowl, T. (2006) *William Kent*. Jonathan Cape
- Mowl, T. (2000) *Gentleman & Players: Gardeners of the English Landscape*. Sutton Publishing
- Phibbs, J. (2016) *Capability Brown: Designing English Landscapes and Gardens*. Rizzoli International Publications.
- Phibbs, J. (2017) *Place-Making: The Art of Capability Brown*. Historic England.
- Shields, S. (2016) *Moving Heaven and Earth: Capability Brown's Gift of Landscape*. Unicorn
- Turnbull, D. and Wickham, L. (2022) *Thomas White (c. 1736 – 1811) Redesigning the northern British landscape*. Windgather Press.
- Turner, R. (1999) *Capability Brown and the Eighteenth Century English Landscape*. Phillimore
- Van Zuylen, G. (2008), *The Gardens of Russell Page*. Frances Lincoln
- Waymark, J. (2009) *Thomas Mawson: Life, Gardens and Landscapes*. Frances Lincoln
- Williamson, T. (2020) *Humphry Repton: Landscape Design in an Age of Revolution*. Reaktion Books.
- Willis, P. (2002) *Charles Bridgeman and the English Landscape Garden*. Elysium Press Publishers

## Plants, nurseries and nurserymen

- Campbell-Culver, M. (2001) *The Origin of Plants*. Eden Project Books
- Harvey, J. (1972) *Early Gardening Catalogues*. Phillimore
- Harvey, J. (1974) *Early Nurserymen*. Phillimore



Whittingham, S. (2011) *The Victorian Fern Craze*, Shire Books

### [Yorkshire's gardens and designed landscapes](#)

Hall, I. ed (1979) *Samuel Buck's Yorkshire Sketchbook*. Wakefield Historical Publications

Klemperer, M. (2010) *Style and Social Competition in the large scale ornamental landscapes of the Doncaster district of South Yorkshire c. 1680-1840*. Archaeopress

Neave, D. and Turnbull, D. (1992) *Landscaped Parks and Gardens of East Yorkshire*. Georgian Society for East Yorkshire

Neave, S. (1991) *Medieval Parks of East Yorkshire*. Hutton Press