

The Church contains memorials to John Cotton (Bart.) and his wife Jane; and to Jane, their daughter. Brown is credited with helping to include the church into the view and making it appear as though part of the Madingley estate.



8. Madingley Church

The main drive was in this location at the time that Brown was working here, but the tree avenue is a later addition.

Walk up the drive and through the stone archway (2). The walled garden (9) is to your left, with an entrance through a door at the end of the hedge. Whilst the layout of the walled garden is not attributed to Brown, it is a delightful space with alpine beds, a rose pergola and a medicinal border. The walls were built at the same time as Brown was working at Madingley. Gates on the south side of the walled garden lead out to the car park.

Walk 2 (yellow) is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (0.7 km), $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, a short version of Walk 1, centred on the views (3,4) from the Hall and the walled garden (8).



9. Walled Garden



The life of Lancelot Brown

1716 – Born Kirkharle, Northumberland
Baptised 30th August

1732 – Apprenticed to '*trade crafte or misterie of gardening*'

1739 – Moved south to Stowe, then to Hammersmith to set up on his own account, creating over 250 garden works

1744 – Married Bridget Wayet at Stowe

1756 – Arrived at Madingley Hall at the invitation of Sir John Hynde Cotton (4th Bart.); Brown's first commission in Cambridgeshire.

1764 – Appointed Master Gardener at Hampton Court Palace

1770 – Purchased Manor of Fenstanton & Hilton

1783 – Died 6th February. Buried in Fenstanton

Other leaflets in the series describe Wimpole Estate, The Backs Cambridge, and a walk around Fenstanton village. Published in 2015 by Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust to celebrate the tercentenary of Lancelot Brown and sponsored by

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'Capability' Brown and Madingley Hall garden and grounds



1. Madingley Hall and ornamental lake in 1824

Madingley Hall is an elegant country house built in the 16th Century and owned by the Hynde - and later Hynde Cotton - family until 1871. In 1861 Queen Victoria rented the Hall as a residence for Edward, Prince of Wales whilst he studied at Cambridge. The Hall, with grounds and farmland, was sold to the University of Cambridge in 1948 and is now a continuing education and conference centre.

Sir John Hynde Cotton started to de-formalize this landscape and gained permission to close the village road. He sought out Lancelot Brown and engaged him in 1756. The handwritten contract for the sum of £500 contains four articles and an annotation by Hynde Cotton:

'Never executed nor any other but all was done upon honor on both sides and never repented by either.'

Capability Brown 'improvements'

Described in the Contract:

1. Start at the east of the house and 'lay in' an easy lawn slope down to the common road. Filling in formal water scattered round.
2. Sloping lawns on the other (north) side of the house.
3. Gravel path all around.
4. Making good the coach road.

Attributed to Brown:

5. The (lake) lower pond with the bridge that is a sham
6. The view to the east over the common road continues to land added to the park (not part of the park prior to Brown).
7. Views to the north through the wilderness grove were given an informal look.

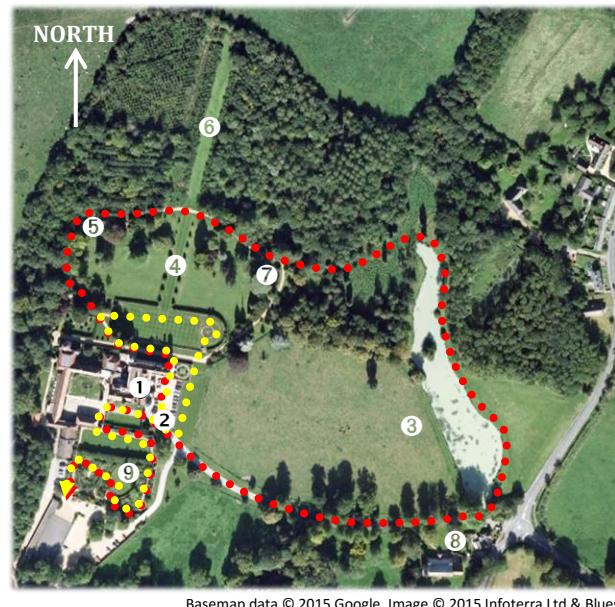
The work included making the previous design less formal and creating the Lake and view to the east from the front of the Hall. The other long views out to the surrounding countryside are typical of Brown in style, but there is no documentary evidence to confirm this attribution. A plan was created (undated) between 1757 and 1793 showing the landscape after the Brown improvements. The Old Schools Archway was purchased from the University by Sir John Hynde Cotton and erected in 1758. The walled garden was created at this time as well.



2. Stone Archway

Walk 1 (in red) is 1 mile (1.5 km) $\frac{3}{4}$ hour, and starts from the stone archway (2). For Visitor Information: www.madingleyhall.co.uk/hall-and-gardens

Walk past the front door of the hall and take in the long view across the sloping lawns, over the Lake. The 'common' road is hidden from view by the elegant landscape contouring typical of Brown. The open fields beyond are framed on both sides by planting which narrows to enhance the view (3).



Cross the forecourt and access the small raised terrace through the wooden gate. Continue around the Hall to the north side and walking along the gravelled terrace above the Croquet Lawn note the view to the north (4). The vista was here when Brown arrived, but he changed the planting, making the Wilderness Grove more informal in appearance. He also added 'clumps' of trees in the distant fields to draw in the wider countryside.



3. East view to the Lake

About 2/3 of the way along the terrace, turn right at the spiral topiary. Although not attributed to Brown, the Yew Topiary Garden on the left of the path is worth a detour.

Follow the gravel path to a T-junction and then turn right. The path takes a circuit 'all around' the lawns (5) and is in the same location as Brown created it. At the point where the path passes the end of the Yew Avenue (4) there is a gate and stile to access into the Wilderness Grove (6).



4. North Yew Avenue

Continue along the gravel path to the Cedar of Lebanon (7) and a gate in the fence with a stile leading past the pet cemetery. Over the stile, follow the markers to reach the end of the Lake. Cross the little bridge over the ditch and turn right to walk along the Lake towards the entrance gates of the Hall near the bridge and Church (8).