



E. *The converted stable block and garden*

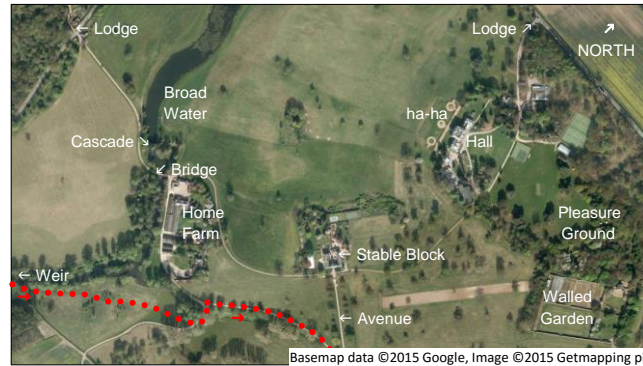
On reaching the avenue, the walled kitchen garden is ahead, laid out c.1782 by William Malcolm (**G**). The young Joseph Paxton, famous for creating Crystal Palace for the 1851 Great Exhibition, served a 3-year apprenticeship here from c.1818.

Turn right along the avenue for a hundred metres and then left. This part of the estate includes the sixteenth century deer park in which ancient pollards survive (**H**). In the nineteenth century fallow deer were introduced, which by 1839 had led to the construction of perimeter walls, park railings and three lodges. The modern parkland (**J**) has been restored to its 19th century state based on research by landscape historian John Phibbs.



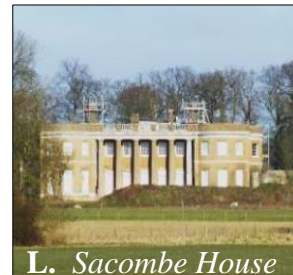
K. *Avenue and Ware Lodge in Greek Revival Style*

Follow the path and cross over the brick perimeter wall. Turn right, with the wall on your right, and notice ‘The Cuts’ passing under the wall, but these have mostly dried up as a result of the draining of fields upstream. Re-cross the avenue approach road where it bridges a gully and observe Ware Lodge, built on a cruciform ground plan (**K**). Continue up along the gully and turn left onto a tarmac road, which then forks right and crosses the busy A602.




J. *Woodhall historic landscape in the 21st century*

Follow the tree-lined lane and after fields open on either side, turn right past a fenced reservoir. Ancient trees and other parkland design features of Sacombe Park may be seen to the north, with Sacombe House in the distance (**L**). Turn right at Bengeo Temple Farm and notice its medieval moat (**M**). Head towards the water tower and the centre of Tonwell.



L. *Sacombe House*



Hertfordshire Gardens Trust (reg. charity 1010093) promotes the understanding and protection of historic landscapes in Hertfordshire through research and education. This leaflet is part of a series on landscape park history; available at: www.hertsgardenstrust.org.uk

Hertfordshire Landscape Parks



Woodhall Park



‘finely divided by hill and dale’ Kelly’s Directory, 1912

H. *Sweet chestnut pollards in Woodhall Park*

The Walk is a circuit of about 5½ miles (9 km) with a high stile (**A**). OS Explorer Map 194.

Parking in Tonwell near the Robin Hood & Little John Pub (**B**) Grid Ref.TL334172.

Woodhall Park near Watton-at-Stone is a late eighteenth century landscape park that was part of a 200 ha woodland estate acquired by Sir Thomas Rumbold of the East India Company. Landscaping and improvements around the new mansion in the 1780s included a ha-ha, pleasure grounds, a walled kitchen garden, extensive planting and damming of the River Beane to form the Broad Water ornamental lake. Park perimeter walls were added in the nineteenth century. Since 1934 the mansion (**A**) has been let to Heath Mount School.



A. *The mansion overlooking the Broad Water*

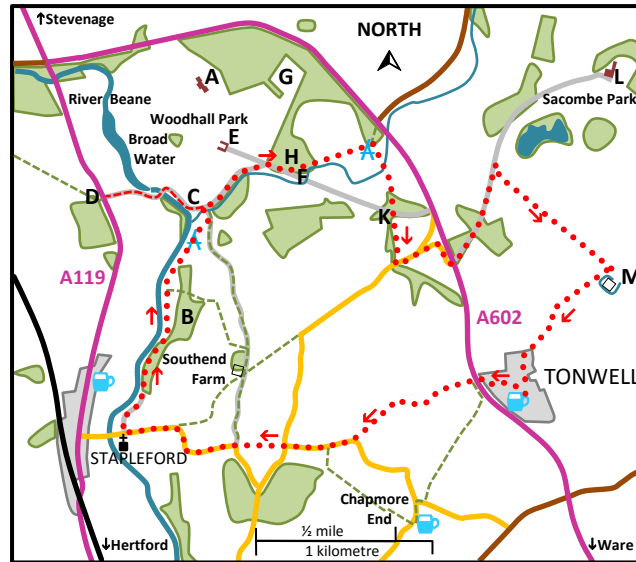
Walk past the Robin Hood & Little John pub (☕) on Ware Road and when the pavement ends, cross over to a paved walkway, and use the traffic island to cross the busy A602 onto the rising footpath opposite (to **STAPLEFORD**). Fields open on the right and at the top of the rise the footpath crosses a corner of the field to join a road.

Keep straight and cross a T-junction and another field to reach a second T-junction. Continue on the tarmac road leading downhill towards Stapleford. Beware of traffic on the sunken portions of this winding lane with narrow verges.



B. *Clusterbolt Wood and River Beane in spring*

Soon after reaching the houses, turn right and follow ‘**CLUSTERBOLTS**’ to its end and join the footpath which runs along the river, upstream through the pleasant Clusterbolt Wood (**B**). The route passes a triple weir and crosses a 19C brick wall to join a track bridging two gullies ('The Cuts'). Ancient trees dominate the landscaped parkland.



At the junction you will be turning right, but a detour to the left is worthwhile to view Home Farm, the Cascade and Tumbling Bay (**C**) from the single-arched bridge (c.1780) crossing the River Beane. Both the landscaping and the creation of the Broad Water by damming the river may have been carried out around 1782-3 by William Malcolm and Son, Royal Nurserymen of Stockwell. Further along the Drive the quirky Hertford Lodge East (c.1870) may be appreciated (**D**). Retracing your steps, there are views across the Broad Water to the mansion (**A**). Back at the junction, walk up beside the dry stream bed towards



C. *The sluice gate, cascade and tumbling bay*

the stable block on the left (**E**), linked to the distant Ware Lodge by a 900-metre avenue (**F**). This Eastern Drive to the old Great Cambridge Road had been completed by 1720 and served the Tudor manor which occupied the site until a fire in 1771. The stable block on this site, as well as the neo-classical mansion (**A**) to the north were built 1778-83, and are attributed to Thomas Leverton. The stable block was converted in 1957-8 to dwellings, occupied by the present estate owners. A garden of about an acre was laid out by landscape architect Brenda Colvin.



D. *Hertford Lodge East at the estate entrance*