

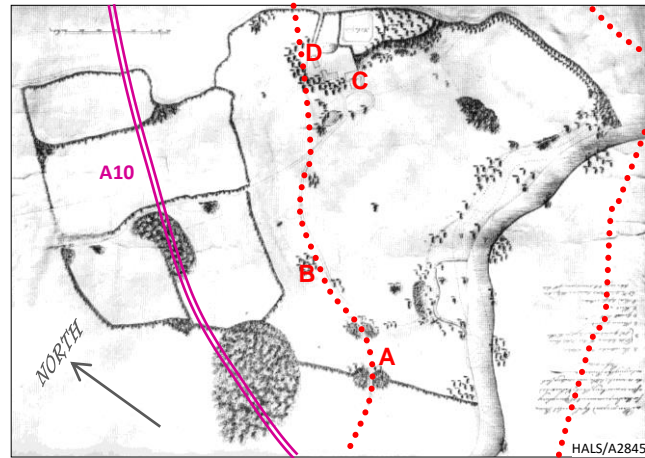


C-E. Youngsburry Hall, Home Farm (walk in red)

You are now back within the park and can follow the yellow arrow markers over a stile to the right and down to a bridge over the river Rib, enlarged by Brown. On the left is 'Fabdens' which was formerly the parsonage of the Old Church. This part of the park has many mature trees – there is a pair of mature Limes on the left hand side (F). The river divides within the park forming an 'island'. Go over the bridge and notice mature Alder trees. Cross the second bridge where brick foundations of an earlier structure can be seen.



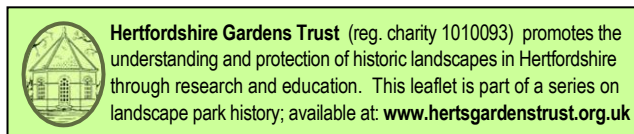
H. The Lodge



J. Youngsburry (c. 56 ha) is a rare Herts site where Brown's plan of c.1769 still exists (walk in red)

Bear left around woodland and on its southern edge is a graveyard alongside the old church tower (G), which is sadly in poor repair. A gate south east of the church joins Bridleway 24 to COLD CHRISTMAS (also the Hertfordshire Way). Turn right and walk west past the earthworks on the right, the site of Thundridge Bury, a medieval moated manor house. At the junction turn right (Bridleway 54 to THUNDRIDGE ½ mile) and follow the tarmac track passing under the A10 bridge into Thundridge village.

At the main road turn right and after crossing the river notice the Youngsburry gates and lodge (H) on your right. The end of the walk at 'The Feathers Inn' or 'Anchor' will now be in sight.



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

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Hertfordshire Landscape Parks

Youngsburry



F. Limes in Youngsburry Park

The Walk is of about 2¼ miles (3½ km), much of it in the park on a surfaced bridleway and across grass, evoking the atmosphere of the designed landscape. The parkland is used for grazing sheep and therefore dogs must be kept on leads. OS Explorer Map 194 Grid Ref. TL360175.

Car Park: Near The Feathers Inn, Wadesmill (🚗) SG12 0TN or Anchor (🚗) Thundridge, SG12 0TD.



B. Ice house earthen mound and vaulted tunnel

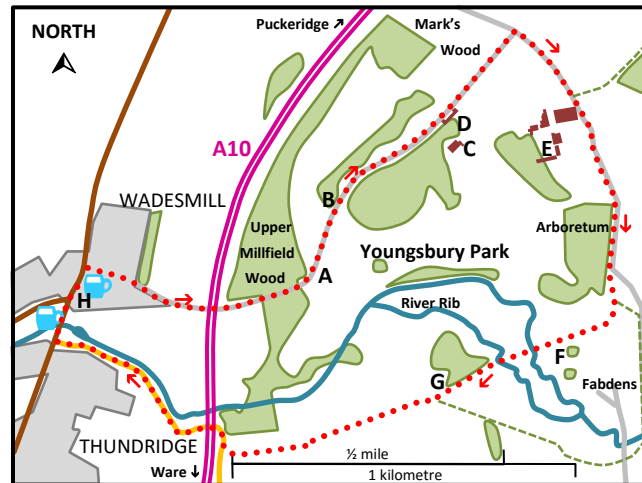
Lancelot Brown's plan for Youngsbury of c.1769 (J) included clumps and belts of trees, a pleasure ground, new carriage drive and gravel walks. Hedges were removed to improve the views and the River Rib enlarged.

There is no client named on Brown's plan. It might have been Mrs Jane Poole, who owned the estate until 1768. A more likely candidate is the next owner, David Barclay, member of a prominent Quaker family of merchants and bankers, and interested in improving the estate. Due to ill health, he sold Youngsbury in 1793 to William Cunliffe Shaw, by which time most of the improvement work was complete.

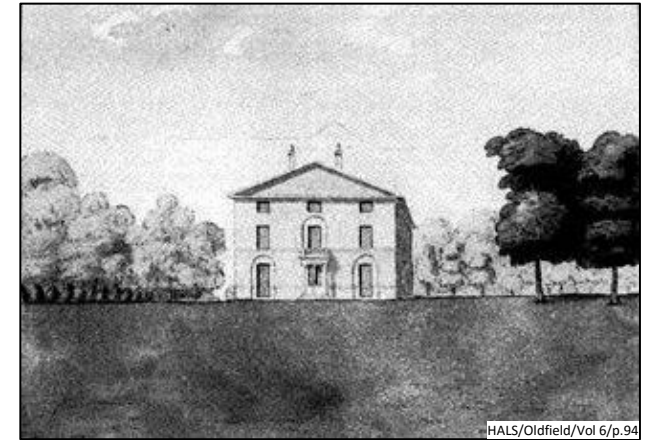


G. Church tower 'eyecatcher'

Start next to The Feathers Inn (📍), and take Bridleway 39 (BARWICK FORD 2¼ miles) east along Youngsbury Lane. Go through a wooden gate, along the path and under the A10 into the Park via the gate next to a cattle grid. To the west the park is defined by a belt of trees – part of the Brown landscape, but with 20th century planting added. On the right is a clump of large beech trees which is likely to be part of the Brown design. Notice the 18th century culvert over a seasonal stream (A) and further along on the left is the Ice House (1793) (B).



Mature trees include Oak, Walnut, Horse Chestnut, Sweet Chestnut and more recent Cedar. The old church tower to the south is frequently visible as an 'eyecatcher' (G). Just before the next cattle grid you can glimpse Youngsbury House (C). Past the gate on the right are the stables with a clock and bell tower (D), contemporary with the Brown landscape. Follow the drive passing an 'Arts and Crafts' style cottage on the right and at the T-junction with a stony track turn right up the hill, along the perimeter of the park.



C. Youngsbury House, remodelled c. 1769

The views to the north and east are of arable fields and blocks of woodland – planted as part of the Brown design. A bridleway joins the track from the left and to the right is Home Farm (E) which has a range of 17th century barns. Continue south down the hill with 'The Arboretum' (19C) on the right. In winter it is possible to discern Roman burial mounds and earthworks. As the track turns east, carry straight on along a grassy path through a wooden gate, yellow arrow on post. 🏠



D. Stable block with clock and bell tower, c. 1769