

Capability Brown

Out of the 170 Capability Brown worked on, some of the most well-known gardens created include:

- Blenheim Palace - Oxfordshire



Set in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds, Blenheim Palace is considered to be one of the finest baroque houses in the country. It was a gift from Queen Anne and a grateful nation to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, in recognition of his famous victory over the French at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704. It is now the home of the 11th Duke of Marlborough and is lived in and cared for by the family for whom it was built. Inside the Palace can be found a superb collection of tapestries, paintings, porcelain and furniture in the magnificent State Rooms.

In 1764, the 4th Duke brought Lancelot “Capability” Brown to make major changes to Palace Park and Gardens. Brown transformed the park by making the canal into a serpentine lake, naturalising woods, designing a cascade and placing clumps in strategic positions.

- Stowe - Buckinghamshire

Stowe was created by a family once so powerful they were richer than the king. The scale, grandeur and beauty of Stowe is shown through over forty temples and monuments, gracing an inspiring backdrop of lakes and valleys with an endless variety of walks and trails. In the 1741, Lancelot “Capability” Brown was appointed head gardener. He worked with Kent until the latter's death in 1748 and his own departure in 1751.



- Audley End House - Essex

Once amongst the largest and most opulent in Jacobean England, today Audley End House is set in a tranquil landscape with stunning views across the unspoilt Essex countryside. The park was designed by Lancelot Brown in 1763. It contains a circular temple and a bridge over the River Cam. The Mount Garden was altered by Lancelot Brown in the mid eighteenth century and was laid out in its present form (of undulating lawns and paths through trees and shrubs) in the 1830's.

- Broadlands - Hampshire

Broadlands house and was home to Lord Palmerston in the 18th century and to Lord Mountbatten in the 20th century. The park was designed by “Capability” Brown. Broadlands House and grounds are open to the public in summer. However, nowadays it contains mostly residential and commercial properties.

- Clandon Park - Surrey



Clandon Park is a Palladian Mansion, built c1730 for the Onslow family and notable for its magnificent Marble Hall. The Onslows have been active in political history, being the only family to have produced three Speakers of the House of Commons. The 4th Earl of Onslow transported Hinemihi, the Maori meeting house in Clandon’s attractive garden, from New Zealand as a reminder of his time as Governor in the 1890s. There is also an intimate sunken Dutch garden and a stunning bulb field, designed by “Capability” Brown in 1781. Displayed inside the house is a superb collection of 18th century furniture, textiles and porcelain, including Meissen Commedia dell’arte figures. Clandon is also home to the Surrey Infantry Museum.

- Highclere Castle- Berkshire

Highclere Castle has been home to the Carnarvon family since 1679. Built on an ancient site, the original house was recorded in the Domesday Book. The present day Castle was designed in 1842 by Sir Charles Barry, the architect also responsible for building the Houses of Parliament in Westminster. The Castle’s history also includes a fascinating connection with ancient Egypt, as the 5th Earl, with Howard Carter, discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings in 1922. The Castle now houses an exhibition that commemorates this historic event, including some rare antiquities from the 5th Earl's earlier Egyptian excavations. Highclere Castle is set in 1,000 acres of sweeping parkland. This was designed for the 1st Earl of Carnarvon by the famous 18th century landscape gardener Lancelot “Capability” Brown, and then developed by his son the 2nd Earl who like his father was passionate about the landscape.



- Petworth House - West Sussex

The beauty and drama of this 17th century palace inspired the artist JMW Turner time and time again. Petworth became Turner's favourite retreat and he was a regular guest of the 3rd Earl of Egremont. Today a world famous art collection fills the gallery and extravagant state rooms are yours to discover. Outdoors, there's 700 acres of parkland to explore with stunning views of the South Downs, landscaped by "Capability" Brown and immortalised in Turner's paintings. An impressive herd of Fallow deer roam amongst ancient trees, and the Pleasure Grounds are filled with wildflowers and woodland walks.

- Sheffield Park - East Sussex



A magnificent landscaped garden laid out in the 18 century by "Capability" Brown and further developed in the early years of the 20 century by its owner, Arthur G Soames. The centrepiece is the original four lakes. There are dramatic shows of daffodils and bluebells in spring, and the rhododendrons, azaleas and stream garden are spectacular in early summer. Autumn brings stunning colours from the many rare trees and shrubs.

- Longleat - Wiltshire

Go back in time and experience over 450 years of history exploring Longleat House. Hear ghostly tales of the Grey Lady, marvel at priceless antiques and walk in the grounds and gardens created by the renowned "Capability" Brown. Longleat is also a popular adventure park in Wiltshire.



- Bowood - Wiltshire

Bowood is the magnificent family home of the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne. It is a perfect place for walks in 100 acres of beautiful parkland, offering a lake, arboretum, pinetum and cascade, designed by "Capability" Brown. The Bowood House hosts a wealth of unique items and an extensive art collection.

- Corsham Court - Wiltshire

Corsham Court is one of England's finest stately homes and is based upon an Elizabethan Manor dating from 1582. The interiors are laid out as a suite of magnificent Georgian Staterooms, the work of leading 18th and 19th Century architects. Their brief was to properly display the famous Methuen/Sanford art collection featuring Old Masters by Van Dyck, Carlo Dolci and Lippi. Important works still hang as intended alongside Adams Brothers' pier glasses in the unique tripple cube picture gallery with ornate ceiling by Lancelot "Capability" Brown. Extensive formal gardens with Brown/Repton landscape beyond complete the contemporary setting.