

1. Stableyard - Visitor services including: Disabled Parking, Toilets, Gift Shop, Tearooms, Coach House, Trust Office.

2. Grand Étang
Originally a large pool created to reflect the House with a central fountain. It was used for ice skating in the winter.

3. Dead Reach and 4. Little Reach
Inspired by the water features of Versailles, they formed part of the great canalisation scheme implemented on the orders of the 1st Duke of Montagu after Ambassadorial duties there.

5. Broadwater Lake
Evolving from the initial series of elaborate water basins the lake had reached its current size by 1746. Lost over the centuries to "benign neglect", it has been now been restored and re-boarded to establish the original crispness.

6. The Mount
Created by 2nd Duke of Montagu, perhaps intended for the construction of his Mausoleum. It was, until recently cloaked in trees, but following restoration it, once again, provides a superb viewing point across the still evolving landscape.

7. Orpheus
The new project -'Orpheus' is intended to complement wonderfully the intelligent and visionary approach of the 1st and 2nd Dukes of Montagu.

8. Boat Reach
Recently restored the Reach forms part of the extensive canalised river system of the original water gardens.

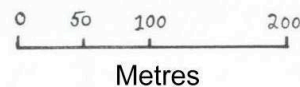
9. The Wilderness
Created as formal avenues and woodland, key rides have been opened up to reveal the intended sight lines.

10. Walled Garden and Sensory Garden
The herbaceous border and newly created sensory garden mean this is a pleasant place to spend a quiet afternoon.

11. The Lily Pond and 12. Rose Garden

● A suggested route to view the landscape and gardens
The terrain varies, and it will take at least an hour to complete the full circuit including the Mount.

Guided Walks are available every Wednesday in August
They commence at noon from the Stableyard, and last for about an hour, £5.00 per person.



The Designed Landscape and Restoration Programme

For over two centuries the immense formal garden at Boughton in Northamptonshire was virtually lost to view. Sixty years of intense creativity began in the 1680's when Ralph, 1st Duke of Montagu laid out the template of canals, lakes and avenues that even now remains dominant. Within this template, which extended over nearly 100 acres, Ralph created wonderful parterres replete with stone basins, statuary and fountains, neatly tended woodland with bosquet (formal plantation of trees) compartments, all reflecting the visual influence of years spent as ambassador to Louis XIV at Versailles.

The subsequent 40 years of stewardship by his son, John, 2nd Duke of Montagu, are illustrated by a succession of extant detailed plans. Stone basins are subsumed into lakes, parterres are grassed over, a great mount is constructed and sinews of avenues stretch far and wide into the countryside beyond. It was evolutionary rather than revolutionary, for Ralph's template remained, but it was an early reminder that things rarely remain frozen in aspic.

The great house and its estate passed twice in succession through the female line to families already well endowed with substantial properties of their own. Benign neglect became the norm as nature reclaimed the terraces, the waterways silted up and woodlands were adapted to sporting, rather than landscape priorities. Increasing use of the house by the Dukes of Buccleuch, descendants of the Montagus who first acquired the estate in 1528, took place throughout the last century. It was not however until the 1970's that the first significant steps to restore the landscape were taken under the stewardship of the late 9th Duke of Buccleuch. The Broad Water was dug out and the sluice restored. It was a huge effort with a significant visual impact and two decades were to pass before the next step.

A new Management Plan drawn up in 2004 identified a ten year programme for restoring the main structure of the grand avenues, the canal system, key water and earthwork features. Much has been achieved since then with the digging out of the Dead, Little and Boat Reach canals and the Lily Pond and the removal of trees from the Mount at the heart of the gardens. More than 12,000 cubic metres of silt has been dredged and more than 1,500 metres of oak boarding has been installed. Over a mile of lime avenues using home grown stock has been planted.

Restoration of further sections of canal, the Grand Étang to the north of the House and of the cascade at the Star Pond are but some of the projects in the work programme for the next five years. From the outset, however, the present Duke was determined to explore whether there was space and opportunity for some 21st century addition to the overall design, to reflect the best of thinking for today.

'Orpheus', (shown right) with its sure intellectual foundations seems to complement wonderfully the intelligent and visionary approach of the 1st and 2nd Dukes of Montagu. Though just one element in the overall vision for restoration at Boughton with which it seems thoroughly in keeping, it has the potential to provide a frisson of surprise. The creation of the landscape at Boughton was the work of decades and it is difficult to know whether the restoration project will ever truly be finished. It is the Duke's hope, however, that when the 500th Anniversary of the Montagus at Boughton comes to be celebrated in 2028 there will be a landscape in which everyone can take pride and joy.

