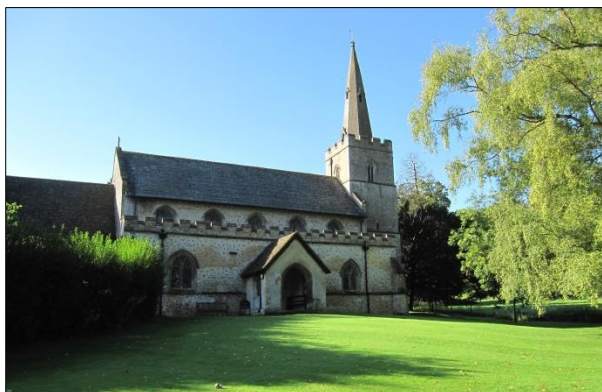


The church contains memorials to John Cotton (Bart.) and his wife Jane; and to Jane, their daughter. Brown is credited with helping to include the church into the view and making it appear as part of the Madingley estate.



7. The church

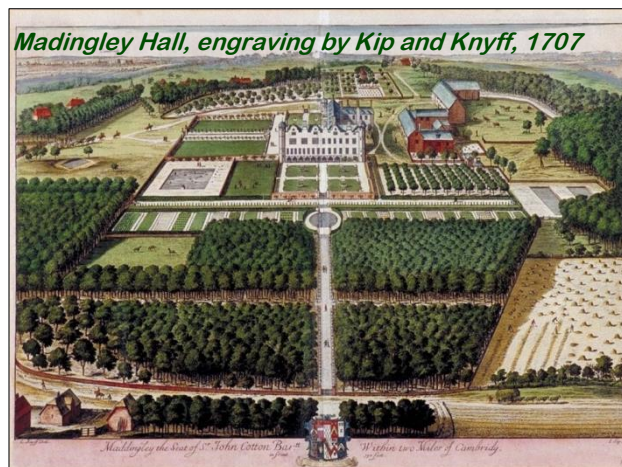
The main drive was in this location at the time that Brown was working here, but the tree avenue is a later addition.

Walk up the drive and through the stone archway (2). The walled garden (8) is to your left, with an entrance through a door at the end of the 'crenellated' 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.



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

**Walk 2** (yellow) is ½ mile (0.7 km), ½ hour, is a short version of Walk 1, centred on the views (3,4) from the Hall and the walled garden (8).



## The life of Lancelot Brown

1716 – Born Kirkharle, Northumberland  
Baptised 30<sup>th</sup> 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 (4<sup>th</sup> Bart.); Brown's first commission in Cambridgeshire.

1764 – Appointed Master Gardener at Hampton Court

1770 – Purchased Manor of Fenstanton and Hilton

1783 – Died 6<sup>th</sup> February. Buried in Fenstanton



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

## '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 now serves as a conference and learning centre.

Sir John Hynde Cotton started to deformalize 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'

In 1756 Sir John purchased the Old Schools Archway from the University and it was erected whilst Brown was working at Maddingley. He carried on the de-formalization of the previous design; the lake was created, as were the walls of the walled garden; also the long views out to the surrounding country side. Although they are typically Brown in style 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.



2. Stone Archway

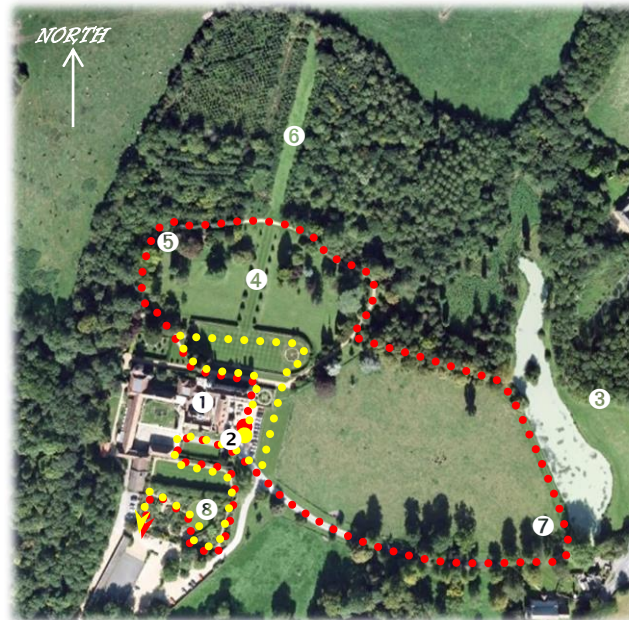
### Described in the Contract:

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.

**Walk 1** (in red) is 1 mile (1.5 km) 1 hour, and starts from the stone archway (2). Walk past the front door of the hall across the gravel drive and access the small raised terrace through the wooden gate. 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).



Continue around the Hall to the north side and walking along the raised gravel terrace note the long 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. About 2/3rds of the way along the raised gravel terrace there is a gravel path leading through trees to the north-west.



3. East view to the lake

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.



4. North yew avenue

At the point where the path passes the end of the yew avenue (4) there is a gate and stile to enter into the Wilderness Glade (6). Walking to the end and back will add about half an hour.

Continue along the gravel path to a gate in the fence with a stile leading through the horse chestnut avenue down to the lake. As you approach, you can either take the route to the left and go around the lake or take the path to the right and along the Hall side of the lake. The grass path finishes at the main entrance drive, near the bridge and Church (7).