

1

The House

The House at Weston was built in 1671, designed by architect William Taylor with the support of Lady Elizabeth Wilbraham. The House was significantly remodelled in the 1760s for the 1st Earl of Bradford. Set within the wider estate, The House, 1,000 acres of parkland and the Collection within it, were gifted to the nation in 1986, meaning it is now in the care of the Weston Park Foundation – the independent charity that owns and maintains Weston for all to enjoy.

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Years

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2

Lady Anne's Garden

Lady Anne's Memorial Garden is a modern addition to our Gardens, designed to honour Lady Anne Bridgeman, sister of the 6th Earl. Following Lady Anne Cowdray's death, her family gifted the Foundation a generous gift that was used to develop the garden in her memory. The garden was inspired by her gardens at 'Broadleas', Wiltshire and her love of flowering trees.

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3

Top Terrace Sundial

After vanishing in 1939, the Top Terrace Sundial was rediscovered in the gardener's compound. The sundial was restored by the Weston Park Foundation with funding from Arts Society Wrekin and was re-instated on the Top Terrace in 2021.

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The Yew Hedge

The Yew Hedge and Arch has been an established part of the Formal Gardens for decades.
Last year, our gardeners gave it a big haircut to help re-establish some of its shape.

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5

The Hidden Staircase

This hidden staircase would have been used by the family to get out into the wider parkland.
Take a walk down the staircase but remember to shut the door behind you!

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The Fountain

The Italian Gardens are part of the Formal Gardens developed in the Victorian period to contrast the more naturalistic style of Capability Brown out in the Park. The Italian Garden and its features, including the Fountain, were restored and re-imagined, with significant re-designing of the terrace planting taking place in 1991.

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Sweet Chestnut Trees

This tree is one of the oldest trees on the estate and dates back to before the House was built. There were previously two trees that stood here; however, one fell. The branches that have fallen off this tree over the years have now become rooted into the ground, giving the tree its unique shape!

Please do not climb on me, I'm very old!

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Pendrell's Cave

Pendrell's Cave is an 18th-century feature set within the Shrewsbury Walk Pleasure Ground designed by Capability Brown. It was created as a mineral and shell grotto and was said to be home to a hermit called Pendrell. Pendrell was said to be related to the servants of Boscobel House and helped the King escape after the Battle of Worcester in 1651. In reality, many estates employed a person to act as a hermit to add to the mystery and historical intrigue of the Park!

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The Shrewsbury Walk

Designed by Capability Brown, the Shrewsbury Walk is one of two pleasure grounds we have here at Weston. While Capability Brown began transforming the Park in the 1760s, the Shrewsbury Walk was formalised later, in 1846. The walk is characterised by a wide gravel pathway, designed for leisurely strolls, and was designed to offer views over to the 500-metre-long Park Pool.

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Weeping Lady Statue

This statue was found amongst a Rhododendron in the gardens of the Pink Cottage in the early 1990s.
This statue was restored and placed into the Teardrop Garden.

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The Fuschia House

The Fuschia House is a current restoration project for the Weston Park Foundation. This would have been used to grow fuscias and in the 1960's was used as a Cyclamen House. In the 1980's, the Fuschia House became a butterfly House for a short period of time.

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12

The Conservatory

Built in 1935, the Conservatory is used to propagate plants before they go into the gardens. Prior to this, the Conservatory supplied to the 2nd Earl of Bradford, created by Jones & Clark of Birmingham in 1840, had a traditional domed roof, metallic framed windows and two wings which stretched to either side of the canted dome centre. It was not only used as a shelter for exotic plants but was also a popular venue for house party guests during this period.

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13

The Curatage

The Grade II listed Curatage is a two and a half story house built on Church Drive, originally part of where the old Weston Under Lizard village stood. There has been a building on this site since the 1600's, and it is likely this building served as a residence for a senior staff member, serving St Andrew's Church or the House.

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14

St Andrew's Church

Originally at the heart of the village, St Andrew's Church has medieval origins, with parts of the building dating back to the 12th century, making it one of the oldest structures in the parish. Primarily designed by Elizabeth Wilbraham in a provincial baroque style, the Church you see now replaced the earlier medieval structure. Over the centuries it has been altered and extended and even has a secret corridor connecting to the Orangery in the House. St Andrew's Church continues as a functioning church in the Diocese of Lichfield.

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Church Pool

Church Pool, originally Town Pool, used to be at the centre of the old Weston-Under-Lizard village.

When Sir Henry Bridgeman commissioned Capability Brown to landscape the Park, the village was moved to make way for the four-acre Walled Garden. The Pool used to be bigger, going right up to the Granary Building. Prior to the Foundation becoming custodians of Weston, the Picnic Area was home to a concrete pool which housed penguins and flamingos!

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Wellingtonia Trees

Wellingtonia trees are towering giant sequoias planted in the mid-19th century when such exotic species became popular additions to large British estates. They were named in honour of the Duke of Wellington shortly after the species was introduced from California. These impressive trees were planted as part of the estate's ornamental woodland planting and are said to be the first planted in the UK.

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17

The Weather Station

Daily rainfall and temperature readings have been measured using the weather station since 1866.

Weston officially reports the weather to the Environment Agency monthly to provide National Weather Statistics. The Head Gardener records this information at 9am every single day, with all records being noted down in the Weather Book inside the House.

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18

Sundial in the Maze

This Sundial has always been in the Walled Garden, being added into the Maze after its creation in 2006. The inscription on the side of the sundial says 'remember your days under the sun' in Latin - a reminder to embrace the present and enjoy every day as it comes.

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19

The Pineapple House

The Pineapple Houses used to sit to the right of the Maze, along the wall between the two bothies. These were unfortunately in a state of disrepair when the Weston Park Foundation took over Weston and were taken down. The Heated Walls were used to create a warm environment for growing soft fruits such as peaches and apricots.

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20

The Fig Tree

Located to the left of the gate to the Potting Shed and Gardeners Bothy, the Fig Tree in the Walled Garden survived the demolition of the Pineapple Houses in the 1980's. The Fig Tree used to be housed in the Vinery on the wall to your right before it was moved outside.

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21

Plant Tags

These plant tags are for plants which would have been grown here on the heated walls. These were primarily utilized for permanent, long-term labelling of valuable or slow-growing plants, particularly during the 19th and early 20th century.

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22

The Granary

The Granary was commissioned by Sir Henry Bridgeman and was built in 1767 as the model home farm. The ground floor was used to house cattle to the west and heavy horses to the east, with granaries above. Following a grant in 2008 from the National Heritage Lottery Fund, the Granary is now home to the Granary Restaurant, the Rose Paterson Art Gallery, Commercial Offices and the Weston Park Estate Offices.

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23

The Carriage

The coach was one of the first horse-drawn vehicles that would have been used on the estate. It was supplied by J&C Thrupp in 1842 to the 2nd Earl of Bradford. Due to all the modifications the family wanted on the Carriage, it took over two years to formalise the bill!

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24

The Pineapple Gates

The pineapples on top of these gates came from the family's other estate, Castle Bromwich Hall in Birmingham. In the 18th century, pineapples were a symbol of wealth, hence why they are on top of this gate.

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25

The Ha-Ha

The Ha-ha was constructed in the mid 1760's as a critical part of the landscape design by Capability Brown. Commonised by Sir Henry Bridgeman, the ha-ha was designed to keep the deer out while allowing uninterrupted views from the House across the landscape.

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26

Pauslips Tunnel

Much like Pendrell's Cave, another grotto was created in Temple Wood. Pauslips Tunnel was created from the front of the Stables, running below Blymhill Drive, leading into the Eastern pleasure ground of Temple Wood. The tunnel would reveal the magic of Temple Wood, where paths would be lined with flowering trees and scented shrubs.

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27

The Miniature Railway

The Miniature Railway began operations in 1980, with the track being acquired from the earlier Hilton Valley Railway which closed in 1979. The track is approximately 1,2000 yards long and travels through Capability Brown's pleasure ground, Temple Wood. The railway features several engines, including Merlin, built in 1999. Merlin has done enough miles to reach Australia!

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28

The Redwoods

The Redwoods were planted by the 6th Earl of Bradford in the 1950's as part of his passion for forestry.
These trees are native to the USA and are very young for their species.

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29

The Cascade Garden

The Cascade Garden is a memorial garden dedicated to Lady Joan Bridgeman who died at the age of 19 in the 1930's. She was the sister to Lady Anne Cowdray, whose memorial garden is located in front of the House.

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30

The Temple of Diana

The Temple of Diana is a garden building set within Capability Brown's Pleasure Ground, Temple Wood. Built for Sir Henry Bridgeman between 1760 – 1770, by architect, James Paine, the Temple was intended as a focal point within the landscape and as a versatile garden folly. It served as a secluded retreat for music, tea and entertainment, featuring an Orangery, circular Tea Room and octagonal Music Room. The Temple of Diana is now a holiday cottage, available for short breaks and sleeping six.

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31

The Coalbrookdale Gates

Originally located along the wall that ran around the Carriage Ring to enclose the drive, the restored Coalbrookdale Company Gate is now set outside the Temple of Diana. Cast in the renowned Coalbrookdale ironworks in Shropshire in 1869, the gate reflects the tradition of incorporating fine design elements into vast landscapes.

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32

Temple Pool

Temple Pool is an ornamental lake situated within Temple Wood – one of our Capability Brown designed pleasure grounds. It forms part of the wider 18th-century landscape scheme created by Capability Brown, where water features were carefully shaped to look natural while enhancing key views. The pool sits near the Temple of Diana, helping to create a picturesque setting that combines water, woodland and classical architecture.

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33

The Boathouse

The Boathouse located on the south side of Temple Pool was added circa 1837, designed to add a picturesque feature to the landscape. The Boathouse would have also housed a small rowing boat, used by the family for afternoons relaxing on the Pool.

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34

The Stone Urns

After much research, where these Urns came from remains a bit of a mystery!

There is a possibility that they may have come from the family's other estate, Castle Bromwich Hall in Birmingham or from the neighbouring Tong Castle estate. There is also a possibility that these Urns were made for the 3rd Earl of Bradford, Orlando Bridgeman as replicas for the Doncaster Cup, won in 1879 and 1882 with horses Chippendale and Retreat. The Doncaster Cup can be seen on display in the House in the Dining Room.

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35

Paine's Bridge

Built in 1790 and commissioned by Sir Henry Bridgeman, James Paine's Roman Bridge was originally a walkway over a small stream in Temple Wood. The bridge would have formed part of the original drive into the estate from the A5, down Lichfield Drive and through Temple Wood.

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36

The Obelisk

The Obelisk was erected in the 19th century to mark the British victory in the Battle of Waterloo. The monument also celebrates a victory of the Bridgeman family – the Earldom was revived in November 1815, making Orlando Bridgeman the first Earl of Bradford of the second creation.

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37

The King & Queen Oak

The King and Queen Oak, located in the southern part of the Park marks the oldest area of the Weston Park estate. Showing signs of dating back to before the 17th century, these trees symbolise the longevity of Weston's legacy.

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38

The Water Splash

The Water Splash was installed in the 1980's as part of the iconic RAC Rally Stages. Although the RAC Rally no longer exists, the Water Splash now forms part of the rallying route across the estate used at the AGBO Rally. The Team at Begin Off Road also like to take their dirtbike riders through the splash too!

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39

The Knoll Tower

The Knoll Tower originally sat on the adjoining Tong Castle estate, purchased by the 2nd Earl of Bradford in 1855. The land around the Tower was used for hunting, with the Tower providing an area to view the chase as well as a comfortable place for refreshments. In the early days of the Weston Park Foundation, the Tower was a rental property. Grade II listed and sitting at the highest point of the estate, The Knoll Tower is now a holiday cottage available for short breaks and sleeps two.

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40

Park Pool

Park Pool was created in 1828 as part of the extensive 19th century landscape of the estate.
A 19th-century record of a Boathouse on the Park Pool exists from 1883, created by Lady Gertrude Cecilia Bridgeman, indicating the on going use of the lake for pleasure.

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