



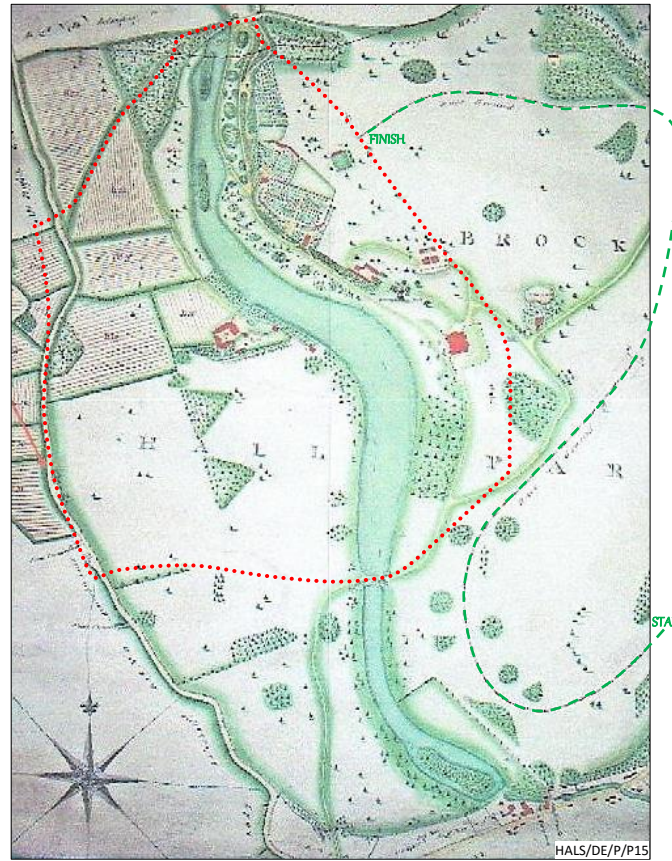
**L.** *Flint Bridge and Fishing Alcove*

The walled kitchen garden (**J**), partially hidden in trees on the left, was once a productive garden with vine houses, and other glasshouses. Although the walls survive it now serves as a car park for the golf course. Another kitchen garden adjacent to it is derelict.



In the woods take the path straight ahead and where it peters out, continue along the fence line, down the moderate slope to a meeting of

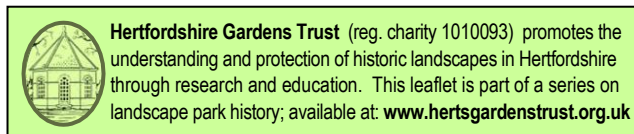
footpaths at the bottom (**K**). Turn left and walk to the nearby Flint Bridge and Fishing Alcove (**L**). The Lea passes under the bridge and widens into the Broadwater, the banks of which were lined by Richard Woods' pleasure grounds. Filled with ornamental shrubs, roses, herbaceous plants and statuary in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this area is now scrub.



**M.** *Brocket Plan by Thos Pallett, 1798* (walk in red)

An early photograph of the Alcove shows turrets as well as a roof, and it would have offered a good view of the lake and bridge.

Carry on past the Alcove and follow the path uphill through woodland, back to the lay-by **P**, evidently created when the B653 was straightened in modern times (see 1798 plan).

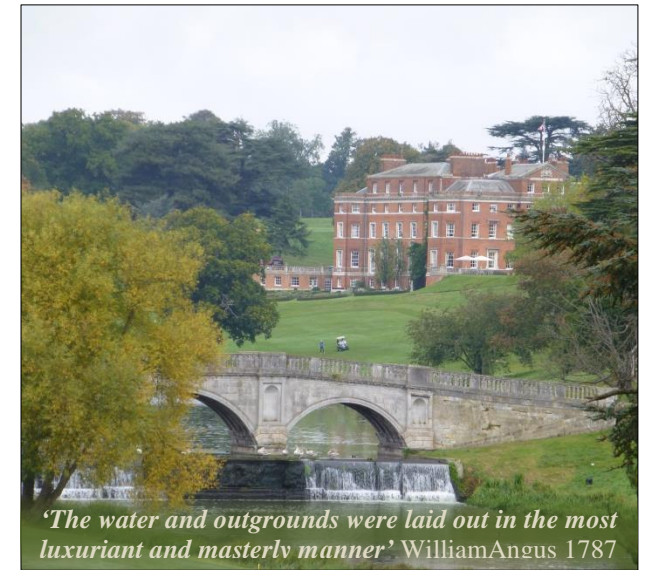


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## Hertfordshire Landscape Parks



# Brocket Park



*'The water and outgrounds were laid out in the most luxuriant and masterly manner'* William Aeneas 1787

**C.** *Brocket Hall, Palladian bridge and Cascade*

**The Walk** is 2 miles (3.2 km).

**Parking** in lay-by (**P**) off B653 (Marford Rd) between Wheathampstead and Lemsford, OS Explorer Map 182 Grid Ref. TL205130.

**Refreshments:** Crooked Chimney pub, AL8 7XE

**Brocket Park** The views of the Broadwater and downstream along the river Lea, as well as across the wider landscape were possibly designed by Charles Bridgeman in the early 18th century, and remodelled from 1770-74 by 'Mr Woods of Essex', a contemporary of 'Capability' Brown. Two golf courses have subsequently been laid in the grounds, with the later one, to the north of the river, being less intrusive than the southern.



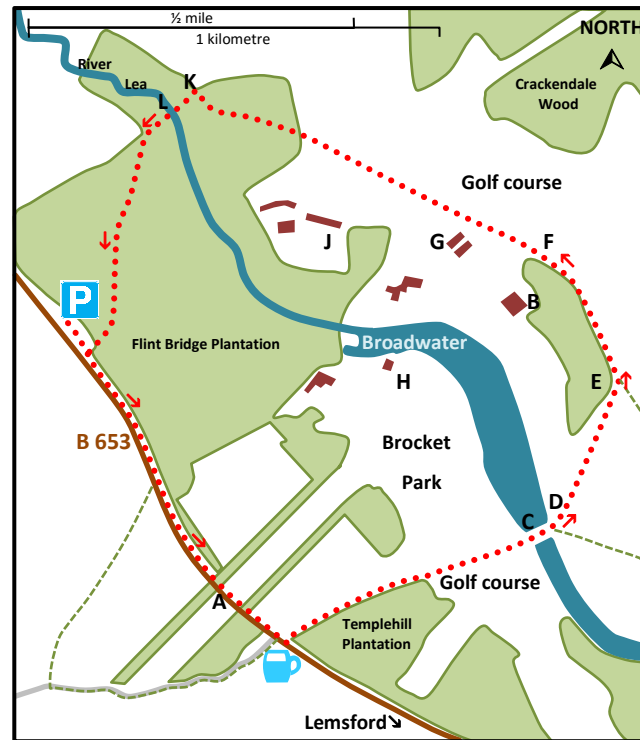
**A.** Gates framing view of avenue to Brocket Hall

**Walk** from the lay-by **P** towards Lemsford on the footpath beside Marford Road, past the entrance to Brocket Hall Golf Club. Continue to the 1935 iron gates and screen with an inscription on the piers (**A**), which reveal the distant Brocket Hall (**B**) along the avenue. In the opposite direction an impression can be gained of the countryside view designed for the Hall, which was set in an estate of about 200 ha. Continue along the roadside path and turn left onto the footpath opposite the Crooked Chimney pub and follow the tree-line on your right, downhill towards the bridge. Beware of golfers!



**E.** Tennis pavilion in the Pleasure Grounds

As you proceed through the landscaped park you will glimpse the late 18C Hall and a nearby stucco 'Temple' (**B**) built to designs by James Paine, along with his bridge (**C**) of 1772-74 over the Broadwater (listed Grade II\*). The Palladian bridge conceals a dam holding back the water, and the cascade is seen over the downstream parapet. This bridge is similar to one depicted in Palladio's 1570 *'II Quattro Libri dell'Architettura'* (Four Books of Architecture).



Cross the bridge and head up the drive towards the Hall entrance. At the gates turn right (**D**) and follow the footpath skirting the pleasure grounds on your left. An early 20<sup>th</sup> century thatched tennis pavilion can be seen through the shrubberies (**E**). At the service entrance (**F**), cross the road and head up the hill towards the woods on the waymarked footpath.



**G.** Stable block

The stable block (**G**) was built by James Paine in about 1765. Views across the car park afford glimpses of Brocket Lea (**H**), an 18<sup>th</sup> century building on the site of a medieval dwelling called 'Durrants', which Thomas Brocket acquired in 1477. On the right of the path is the site of the racecourse laid out for the Prince Regent in 1790 by Penistone Lamb, owner of Brocket Hall from 1768 to 1819 (green dashed line on plan, **M**).



**H.** Brocket Lea ('Auberge du Lac' restaurant)