

SOURCES

PEER INTO THE PAST

A historical source is something that tells us about life in the past, such as a document, a picture or an object. It may be a primary source, from the time, or a secondary source, created later. Our experts have chosen these sources to help you learn about the history of Audley End House and Gardens.

SOURCE 1



A digital reconstruction showing how Audley End may have looked in 1614.

SOURCE 2



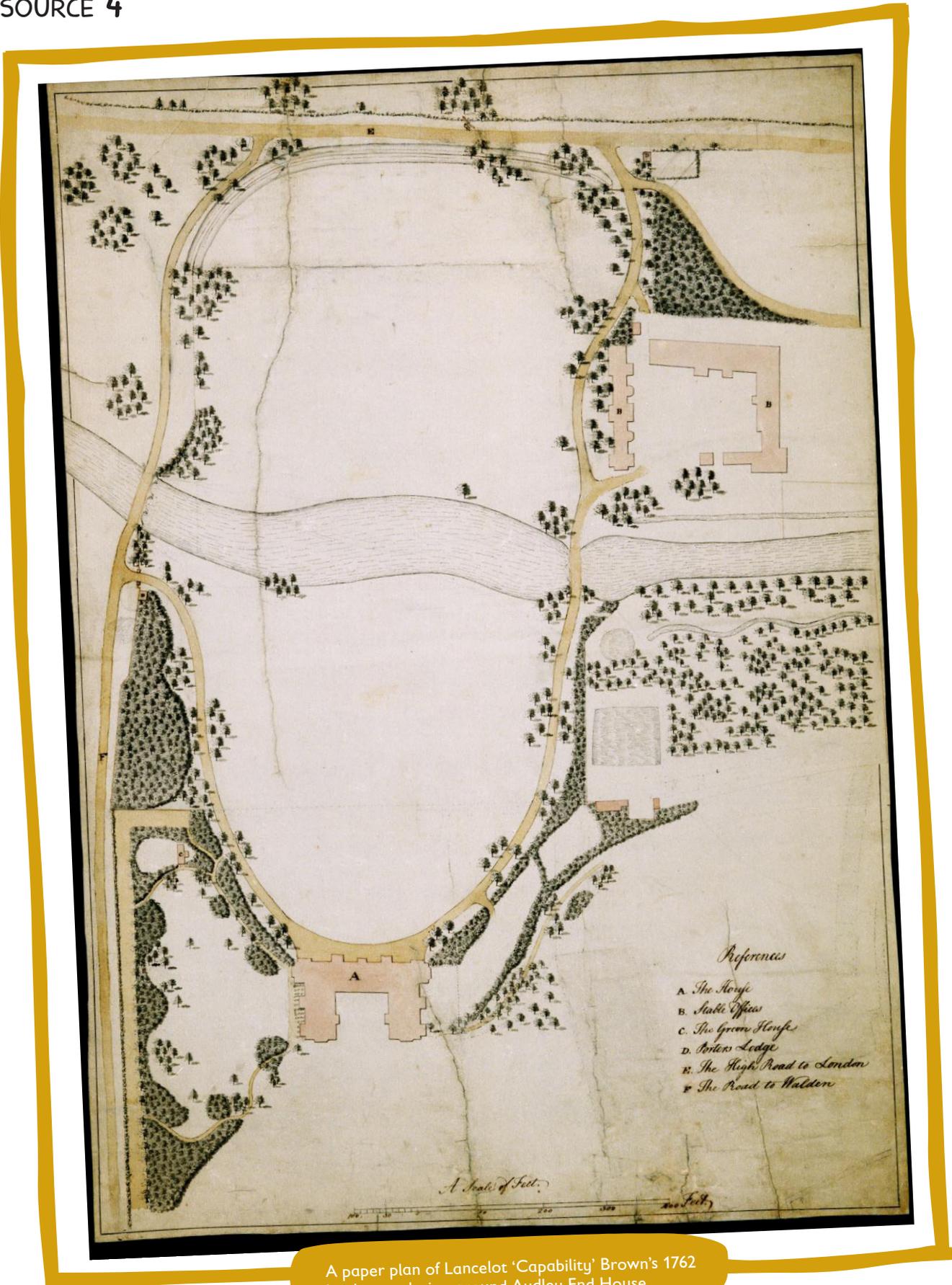
A digital reconstruction showing how Audley End may have looked in the time of Elizabeth, Countess of Portsmouth, about 1760.

SOURCE 3



A digital reconstruction of how Audley End may have looked in the time of the Braybrookes, about 1835.

SOURCE 4



A paper plan of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's 1762 landscape design around Audley End House.

SOURCE 6



'A Prospect of Audley End from the Ring Temple, Saffron Walden beyond', by William Tomkins (1732–92). Oil on canvas, 1789.

SOURCE 8



SELF-LED ACTIVITY

CHANGING LANDSCAPES



KSI-2

Recommended for

KSI-2 (History, Science)

Learning objectives

- Consider how the landscape at Audley End has changed over the years.
- Investigate the impact of the people who redesigned the gardens on the local environment.
- Gain a greater understanding of humanity’s impact on our environment.

Time to complete

Approx. 30 minutes



The landscape has been heavily designed by gardeners, with lots of flowers that aren’t native to the area.

SUMMARY

Audley End and its grounds have been changed and redesigned several times over the course of the property’s existence. This activity explores how Audley End has changed over time.

Watch the short film ‘Postcard from Audley End House and Gardens’ (0 min 57 sec) on English Heritage’s YouTube channel to see an overview of the landscape and gardens at Audley End. Ask your students how many features they remember from their visit.

Look at the sources on pages 46–49, 51 and 53 and as a class arrange them into chronological order. Compare these images with what the class saw on their visit and in the YouTube video, discuss what the biggest change was and when it happened. Consider the impact these changes, such as diverting the river Cam, would have on the local flora and fauna. After the discussion, ask the students to draw a plan of what the Audley End gardens look like today.

TEACHER ANSWERS

Source dates (in order):

Source 1 is from 1614

Source 2 is from 1760

Source 4 is from 1762

Source 8 is from 1782

Source 6 is from 1789

Source 3 is from 1835

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Consider how the introduction of new plants, like the exotic fruits, and animals, such as the otters may have had an impact on native species.