

ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS1 & KS2

TEACHERS' RESOURCE PACK

Audley End House and Gardens

This resource pack will help teachers plan a visit to Audley End House and Gardens, which provides essential insight into one of the greatest Jacobean houses in England.

Use these resources before, during and after your visit to help pupils get the most out of their learning.



INCLUDED:

- Historical Information
- Glossary
- Sources
- Site Plan

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Don't forget to download our **Hazard Information Sheets** to help with planning.

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Step into England's story

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

DISCOVER AUDLEY END

Below is a short history of Audley End House and Gardens. Use this information to learn how the site has changed over time. You will find the definitions of the key words in the Glossary.

NORMAN WALDEN ABBEY

The De Mandeville family, **earls** of Essex, took possession of the manor of Walden from the **Norman Conquest**. They built a castle there in 1140, and a market nearby in 1141. The town of Saffron Walden developed around these. A **Benedictine priory** was built on Walden estate land near the river Cam in 1139 and was given **abbey** status by King Richard I (r.1189–99) in 1190. 'The Book of the Foundation of Walden Abbey' (written in about 1203) details the struggles to establish the priory. The abbey was largely complete by 1250, and the church rebuilt and extended in about 1500.



A digital reconstruction showing how Walden Abbey may have looked in about 1500.

TUDOR AUDLEY END

Walden Abbey was dissolved by King Henry VIII (r.1509–47) during the **Suppression of the Monasteries** in 1538. The abbey and its land were given to **Sir** Thomas Audley, a lawyer who had been appointed **Lord Chancellor** in 1533 and had confirmed the divorce of the king from his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. He built a large mansion house by adapting the monastic buildings and called it Audley Inn.

The estate passed from Sir Thomas Audley to his daughter Margaret Audley and her husband Thomas Howard, 4th **Duke** of Norfolk. Audley Inn was visited by Queen Elizabeth I (r.1558–1603) in 1571 (and later in 1578).

But in 1572 the duke was executed for conspiring against the queen. His second son, also called Thomas, repaired the family reputation and was knighted for his bravery commanding a ship in the fleet that defeated the **Spanish Armada**.



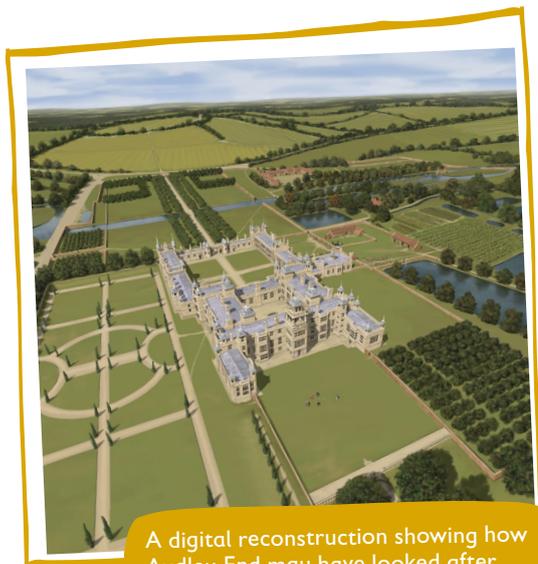
A portrait created in 1569, said to be Sir Thomas Audley. He built the first mansion on the Walden estate, and called it Audley Inn. From a private collection on display at Audley End House, Essex.

THE JACOBEAN HOUSE

King James I (r.1603–25) made Thomas Howard 1st Earl of Suffolk and appointed him Lord Chamberlain of the royal household. To reflect this new-found status, in about 1605 Thomas demolished Audley Inn and began work on a huge new house and impressive gardens. The new house was called Audley End.

During a **royal 'progress'**, the court moved between grand houses each spring and summer. Leading subjects tried to outdo each other in providing the best accommodation. Thomas

Howard developed Audley End to include state apartments for King James I and Queen Anne. It was a palace in all but name. In 1614, Thomas Howard became **Lord Treasurer** and King James I visited Audley End, apparently commenting that it was 'too great for a king but might suit a Lord Treasurer'. Howard's royal favour came to an end in 1619, when he and his wife were found guilty of corruption and bribery, and were banished from court back to Audley End in disgrace. He died in 1626, leaving large debts.



A digital reconstruction showing how Audley End may have looked after Thomas Howard's rebuild in about 1614.

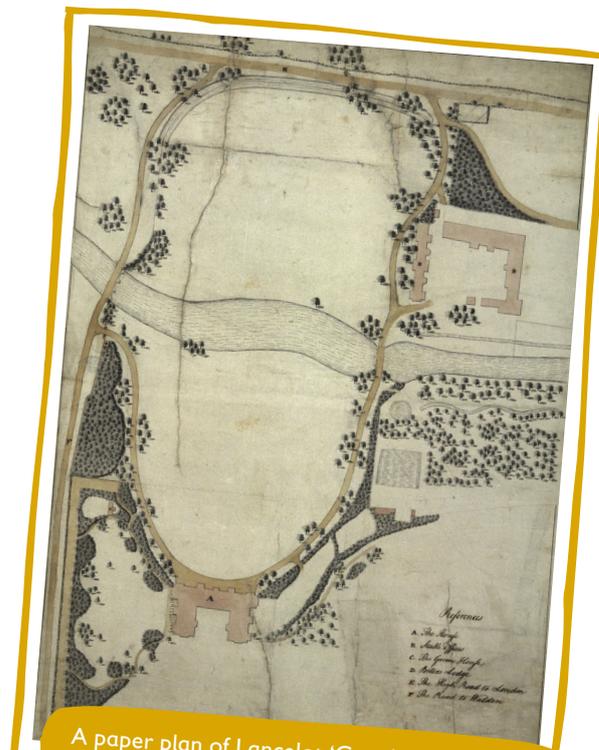
A GRAND HOUSE DECLINES

Audley End attracted the attention of King Charles II (r.1660–85) as it was close to Newmarket races, and he bought it in 1667. But the house was beginning to look old-fashioned and its condition was deteriorating. After 1670, neither King Charles II nor his successors made much use of it.

King William III (r.1689–1702) returned the house to the Howard family in 1701, and over the next 50 years the house was drastically reduced in size.

When the last of the Howards died in 1745 the estate was divided among a number of beneficiaries, one of whom was Elizabeth, **Countess** of Portsmouth. The survival of Audley End was thanks to her buying the house and gardens in 1751, and adding it to her existing share of the estate. She repaired and remodelled the house in a Jacobean style, and many of the furnishings seen at Audley End today belonged to her.

Her nephew and **heir**, Sir John Griffin Whitwell inherited Audley End in 1762, but only after fulfilling his aunt's condition that he change his name and coat of arms to Sir John Griffin Griffin. Sir John quickly sought advice from the leading **architect**, **Robert Adam** and garden designer **Lancelot 'Capability' Brown**. With their assistance, he and his second wife Katherine continued the improvement of the house and park in the latest fashionable taste.



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



A portrait of Elizabeth, Countess of Portsmouth, painted by Thomas Hudson in the 1750s. She bought Audley End in 1751 and repaired it.

AUDLEY END UNDER THE BRAYBROOKES

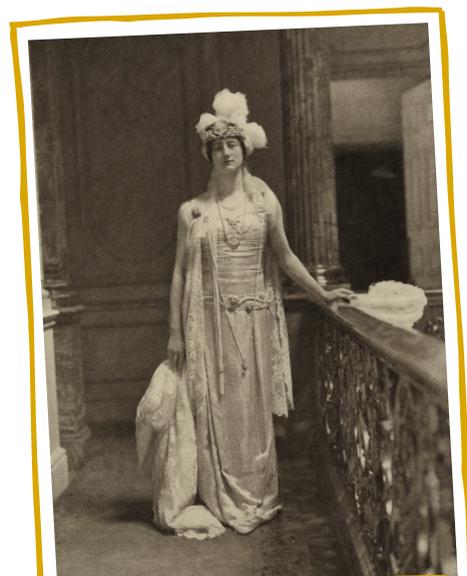
In 1788 Sir John Griffin Griffin (now Lord Howard de Walden) was created 1st **Baron** Braybrooke on the understanding that this title would pass to his chosen heir, Richard Neville, a descendant of Lady Portsmouth. Richard came to Audley End as a widower with seven children. His eldest son, also Richard, became the 3rd Baron Braybrooke and on inheriting Audley End in 1825 he wanted to restore the **Jacobean** character of the house. He researched the importance of Audley End's architecture, and in 1836 published his findings in a book called 'The History of Audley End and Saffron Walden'. Two of his sons died in the **Crimean War**, but the three surviving sons succeeded as 4th, 5th and 6th Barons Braybrooke between 1858 and 1902. Richard Cornwallis Neville, 4th Lord Braybrooke, suffered from ill health and put his energy into gathering a huge **natural history** and **archaeology** collection, which he displayed at Audley End. The natural history collection can still be seen in the house today, which is displayed as it would have appeared in 1881.



Richard Neville, 4th Lord Braybrooke, photographed in about 1860. Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery.

ARTISTIC AUDLEY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Henry Neville, 7th Lord Braybrooke, who inherited in 1904, decided not to live at Audley End and instead leased it to Thomas Ellis, 8th Baron Howard de Walden, a distant relation. Thomas inherited a huge fortune aged 19 and set about making Audley End a grand venue for country house parties. He loved the arts, and became engaged to Margherita van Raalte, a trained singer. She was convinced the house was haunted and, after their marriage in 1912, the couple left to live at Chirk Castle in Denbighshire. Henry Neville, 7th Lord Braybrooke, returned to his ancestral home with his wife and children in 1914, and died there in 1941.



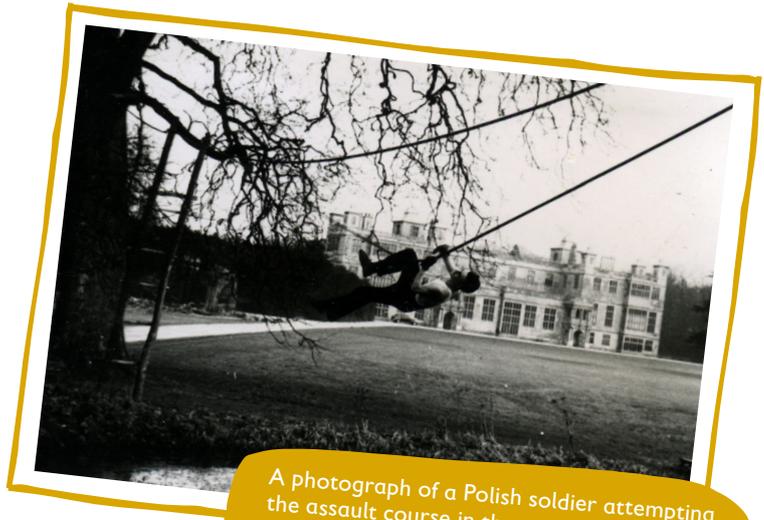
A photograph of Margherita Howard de Walden taken by Cavendish Morton in about 1910. Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery.

A SECRET WARTIME PAST

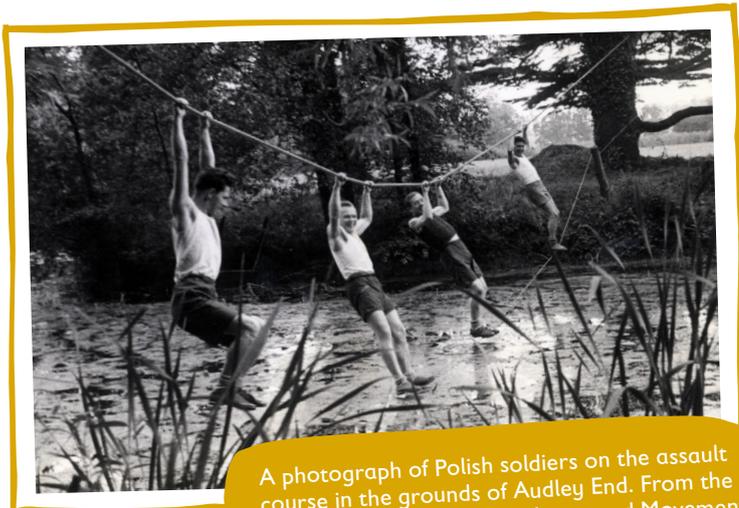
Between 1942 and 1944, Audley End was used by the government as the headquarters of the Polish Section of the Special Operations Executive during the Second World War (1939–45). They trained Polish soldiers to become undercover agents, using gruelling assault courses and sports like swimming, basketball and volleyball to build physical strength along with lessons in fieldcraft (how to observe the enemy without being detected) and sabotage (disrupting the enemy).

Once training was complete, the agents were given false identities and dropped by parachute into their German-occupied home country. This was dangerous work: of the 316 men and one woman eventually dropped into Poland, 108 died.

Audley End was purchased by the government in 1948 and opened to the public. English Heritage has been looking after the house and gardens since 1984.



A photograph of a Polish soldier attempting the assault course in the grounds of Audley End in the early 1940s. From the collection of the Polish Underground Movement Study Trust – London.



A photograph of Polish soldiers on the assault course in the grounds of Audley End. From the collection of the Polish Underground Movement Study Trust – London.

GLOSSARY

TRICKY TERMS AND
WHAT THEY MEAN

Below is a list of words you might come across while exploring Audley End. Use this Glossary to find out what they mean.

abbey – the buildings where a community of men or women live under religious vows, led by an abbot or abbess

archaeology – the study of where and how people lived and the things they left behind, to find out about human history

architect – a person who designs buildings

Baron – a title given to the lowest order of British nobility. Barons are usually addressed as ‘Lord’.

Benedictine priory – a small monastery or nunnery that is governed by a prior or prioress where the monks or nuns follow ‘The Rule of Saint Benedict’

countess – the wife or widow of a count or earl, or a woman holding the rank of count or earl in her own right

Crimean War (1853–56) – a war fought in the area of the Crimean peninsula (the northern coast of the Black Sea), between Russia and an alliance of Great Britain, France, Sardinia and Turkey

Duke – a very high ranking title in England, above ‘earl’ and below ‘prince’. It is the highest ranking title outside of the royal family.

earl – a title given to an English nobleman ranking above ‘lord’ and below ‘marquis’ or ‘duke’

Heir – a person who is legally entitled to inherit their family estates. In the medieval times, only male children could be heirs, and the eldest son would have the first claim.



A Benedictine monk.

Jacobean – something relating to the time period between 1603 and 1625 when King James I ruled England

Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (b.1716–d.1783)

– a famous English landscape architect (a person who designs the look of outdoor spaces like parks and gardens) who particularly designed natural-looking landscape parks, and worked on Audley End in the 1760s

Lord Chancellor – an important royal official who was head of the judiciary (the judges in court) and keeper of the Great Seal used to sign royal documents. He was also the official in charge of the House of Lords in parliament.

Lord Treasurer – a senior official responsible for managing the royal treasury, where the king or queen kept their money, gold, silver and jewels

monarch – a supreme ruling head of state like a king or queen

natural history – the scientific study of plants and animals

Norman Conquest – the conquest of England by William of Normandy (William the Conqueror) after the Battle of Hastings in 1066

Robert Adam (b.1728–d.1792) – a Scottish architect (a person who designs buildings) and furniture designer who used a decorative style in his designs, and worked on Audley End in the 1760s



William, Duke of Normandy who became King William I of England.

royal progress – a tour of their kingdom by a monarch and their entourage (the group of important people accompanying the king or queen)

sir – used as a title before the forename of a knight or baronet

Spanish Armada – the great fleet (a group of ships sailing together) sent by King Philip II of Spain (r.1556–98) to invade England in 1588. The Spanish Armada was defeated in the English Channel by the English fleets.

Suppression of the Monasteries (1536–40) –

when the Roman Catholic Church refused to give King Henry VIII (r.1509–47) a divorce from his first wife Catherine of Aragon, King Henry broke away and set up his own Church in England, with the king as its spiritual head. King Henry then ordered over 800 monasteries be closed and either broken up for building materials, sold off or reclaimed for the Church in England.



How a Spanish galleon may have looked at the time of the Spanish Armada.

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. Experts at English Heritage have chosen these sources to help you learn about the history of Audley End House and Gardens.

SOURCE 1

SIR THOMAS GRIFFIN

Audley End has an impressive collection of paintings and family portraits by famous artists including Hans Holbein and Peter Lely. It also includes portrait miniatures like this fine example by Nicholas Hilliard of Sir Thomas Griffin, painted around 1600. Nicholas Hilliard specialised in producing beautiful miniatures of nobles and courtiers. From a private collection on display at Audley End House, Essex.



Sir Thomas Griffin, seen in the miniature portrait, is not to be confused with Sir John Griffin Griffin who inherited Audley End in 1762. But they do have a connection. Sir Thomas Griffin's nephew (Sir Edward Griffin) married into the Howard family, and it is this marriage that gave Elizabeth, Countess of Portsmouth a right to own part of the Audley End estate in the 1750s. She left Audley End House to her nephew on the condition that he change his name to Sir John Griffin Griffin to honour the family connection.

SOURCE 2



A reconstruction drawing of Audley End as a Jacobean mansion. Historians have used historical sources to build up a picture of how the house looked in 1614.

SOURCE 3



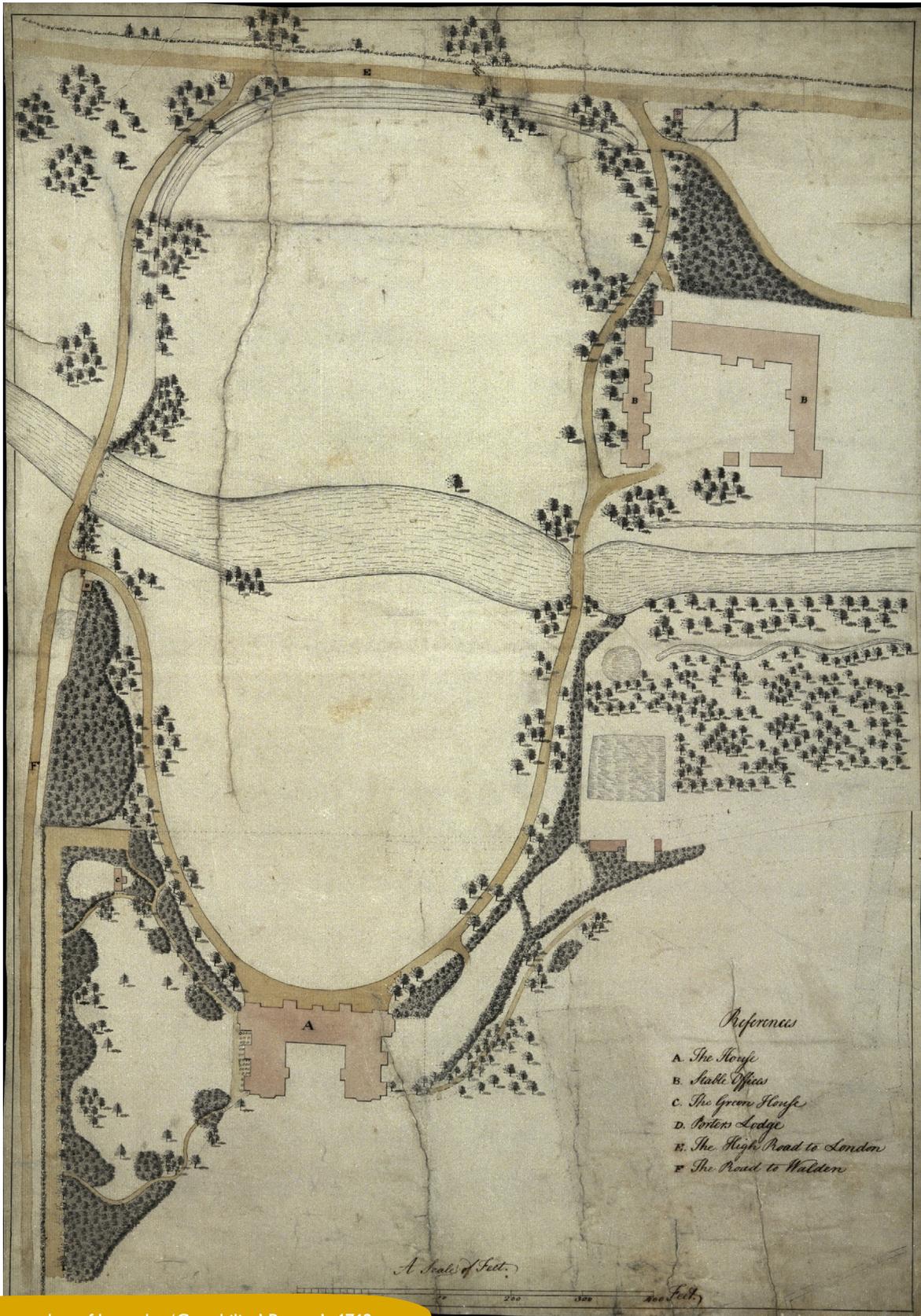
A digital reconstruction showing how Audley End may have looked in the time of Elizabeth, Countess of Portsmouth, about 1760.

SOURCE 4



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

SOURCE 5

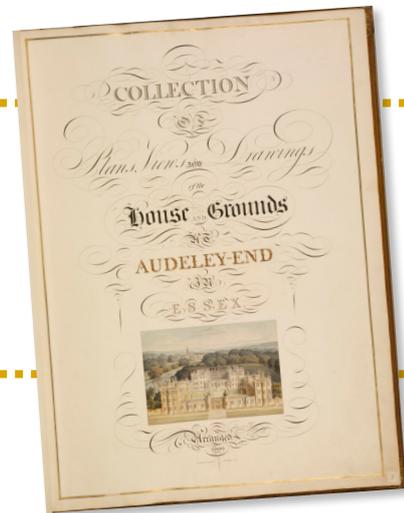


A paper plan of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's 1762 landscape design around Audley End House.

SOURCE 6

AUDLEY END SCRAPBOOK

In 1809, Richard Neville, 2nd Lord Braybrooke, created the Audley End scrapbook, full of illustrations that told the history of the house and gardens, and of the people who lived at Audley End. The scrapbook was displayed on a specially made stand.



SOURCE 7

‘Their Royal Highness’s the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and his sister Princess Sophia Matilda arrived at Audley End about 5 o’clock ... [T]he Royal Party were escorted by a very numerous body of horse men ... consisting of the most opulent persons of Walden and the neighbourhood.

Their Royal Highnesses were received by Lord Braybrooke and his family at the door, and alighted on a crimson carpet spread for the occasion, and proceeded into the Great Hall, a band of music striking up God save the king ...

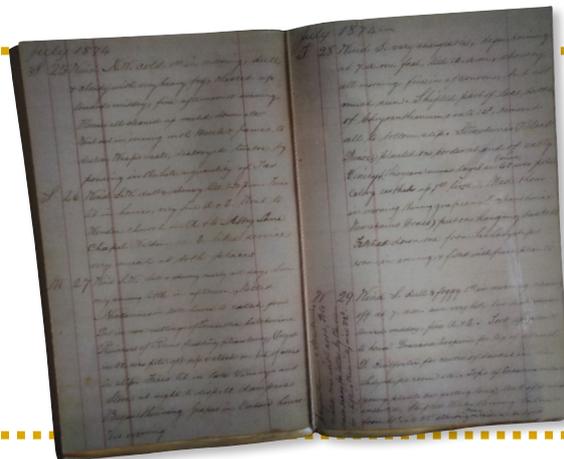
In a short time, they were taken up the great staircase into the saloon where they staid for some time, until they were shown into their respective apartments on the same floor. The gates of the village were thrown open, and the lawn before the house was crowded by very orderly people, who did not advance beyond the gravel walk, and returned quickly soon ... after giving many cheers.’

An account from the Cambridge Chronicle and Journal of the visit of the Duke of Gloucester (a daughter of King George III) to Audley End on 7 July 1819. They stayed for a few days at Audley End on their way back to London from Cambridge.

SOURCE 8

WILLIAM CRESSWELL DIARY

William Cresswell was a 22-year-old under-gardener in the kitchen garden team at Audley End. He worked there for seven months in 1874, and kept a diary which records the life of a professional working gardener. It describes weather conditions, the tasks he undertook each day, the types of plants found in the gardens and what life was like living in the bothy (a small cottage) behind the main greenhouse.



SOURCE 9



Saturday 7 March

Left Forest Hill for Lord Braybrooke's Audley End 2:45 train. Fare 5/6. Looked over houses with Mr Bryan, Head Gardener.

Tuesday 10 March

Peaches well syringed with engine, morning and afternoon. Made up fires at 12 noon. Ground covered with snow 4 inches deep, 10° of frost same time, heat in all houses and pits.

Saturday 14 March

Shallots planted in rows 1 foot apart by 6 inches in the row. Seeds sown of Roseberry, Brussel Sprouts and Asiatic Cauliflower in open ground covered over with netting to protect from birds.

Tuesday 24 March

First lot of forced strawberries gathered. Mr B out. Well syringed peach trees in late house to clear of bloom where fruit has set.

Tuesday 31 March

Fruit trees in Orchard house syringed and dusted with snuff tobacco powder etc. to kill flies. Mr B home again. Gathered violets early in morning.

Saturday 11 April

Wind N. dull, showery, very changeable. Went through houses putting plants in order and houses cleaned up etc. 10 boxes filled with soil for Beans and put in 3rd vinery. Well smoked orchard and late Peach houses at night. Received from Mr Bryan 1/- for extra work etc.

Monday 20 April

Planted out in flower beds. Red Beet sown in drills, also Ridge Cucumber and Vegetable Marrows in pans in doors. Sat up late writing letters.

Tuesday 5 May

Seeds sown in Kitchen Garden of Broccoli, Kail Cabbage and other greens.

Monday 11 May

Wind N.E. very cold, 5° of frost this morning and yesterday morning. Earthed up Beans in pots (3 in a 24 size) and put on shelf in later vinery, Grapes in this house now in bloom, atmosphere kept dryer with more heat viz 75° by night, 85° by day or more with sun heat, these are Muscats, first lot cut from early house. Lady Braybrooke came on a visit for the day, accompanied by the chaplain.

Wednesday 13 May

French Beans raised in boxes, planted out and covered at night with mats to protect them from the frost. Potatoes are now black from frost.

SOURCE 9 continued



Wednesday 20 May

Seed beds in Kitchen Garden well watered, slipped in tank in 2nd vinery; tore trousers. Cut Cucumber for Mr Warren.

Monday 25 May

Vegetable Marrows and Tomatoes planted out, protected with handlights. Onions thinned 1st time. Several visitors round with Mr Bryan. JB received from them perquisite's 4/-s.

Saturday 6 June

Lord and Lady Braybrooke and family came home. All houses cleaned up. Green house made gay as possible. At work till dark watering etc.

Wednesday 17 June

Boy came into garden for frightening birds from fruit. Bees swarmed.

Sunday 5 July

Had New Potatoes yesterday and today – 1st this season, also Green Peas.

Monday 20 July

Self troubled in mind with several things lately taken place in affair connected with situation, had thought of giving notice to leave.

Thursday 6 August

Wind N.W. blowing strong all day, clear bright morning, fine day. Took up plants to house for the decoration of His Lordship's study for Ball tonight and Dinner party. Red Quarrenden Apples gathered, Veitch's Autumn Giant Cauliflower coming into use, several been cut.

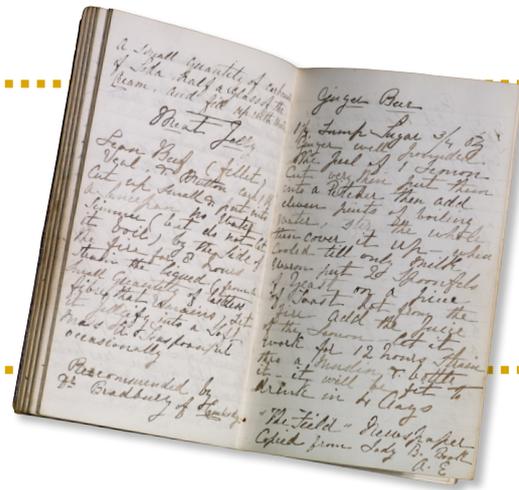
Monday 31 August

Received from Mr Bryan £3.9s 4d for month's wages, also notice to leave at end of next month.

A selection of entries from William Cresswell's diary, 1874.

AVIS CROCOMBE'S COOKBOOK

Avis Crocombe was the cook at Audley End in the 1880s. She kept a handwritten cookery book to collect all her different recipes, including roasted swan, ginger beer and jellies.

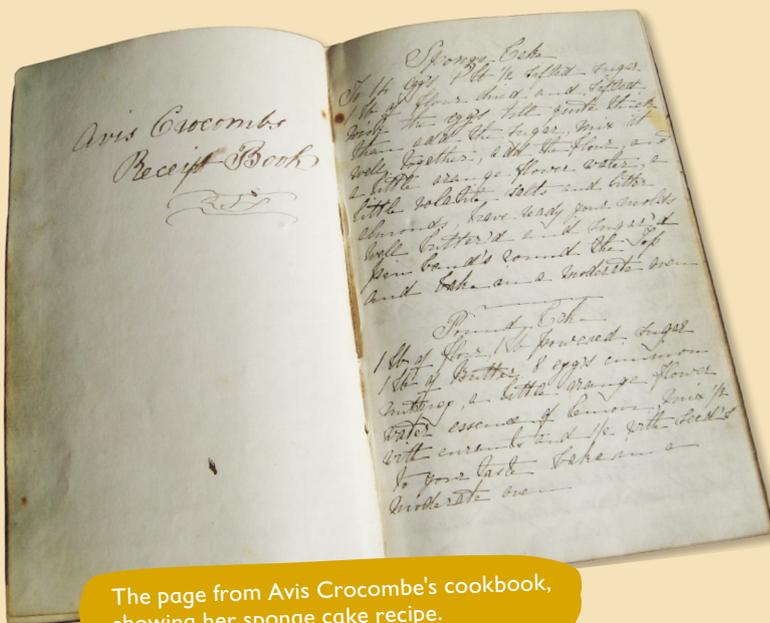


The recipe below comes from Avis Crocombe's cookbook. She would have been cooking a very large cake to feed the Braybrooke family at Audley End, but we have used her recipe to make a smaller version you can try at home.



Sponge Cake

'To 14 eggs 1 ½ lb sifted sugar, 1lb of flour dried and sifted. Whisk the eggs till quite thick then add the sugar, mix it well together, add the flour, and a little orange flower water, a little volatile salts and bitter almonds, have ready your molds well butter'd and sugar'd. Pin band's round the top and bake in a moderate oven.'



The page from Avis Crocombe's cookbook, showing her sponge cake recipe.



This example of Avis Crocombe's sponge cake was baked by Annie Gray for English Heritage.

SOURCE 11

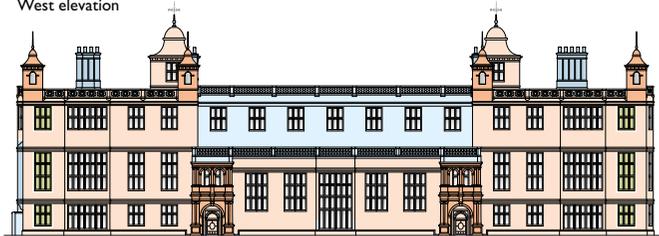


A photograph taken in the early 20th century, showing a group of the Braybrooke family servants. The cook, Alice Taylor, is in the middle. Photograph by courtesy of Marjorie Wellby.

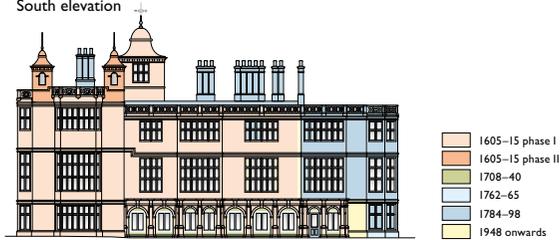
SITE PLAN

AUDLEY END HOUSE

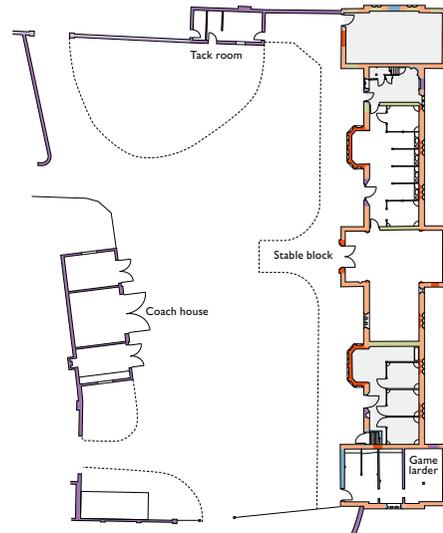
West elevation



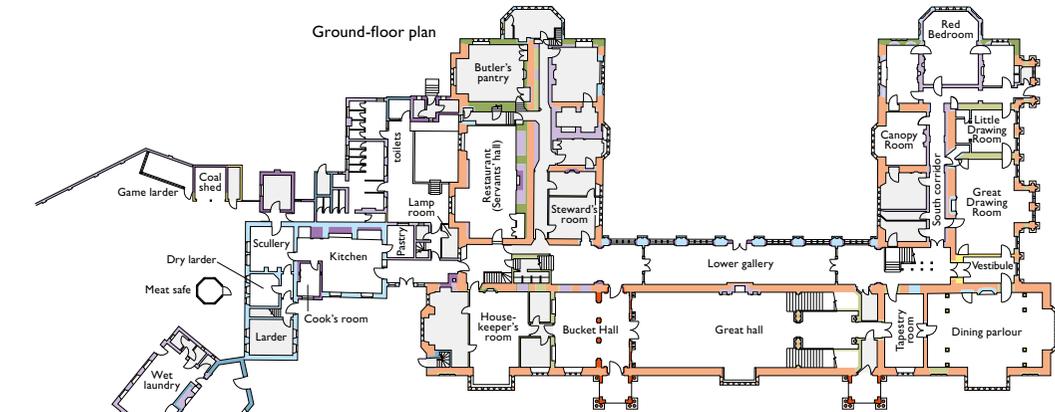
South elevation



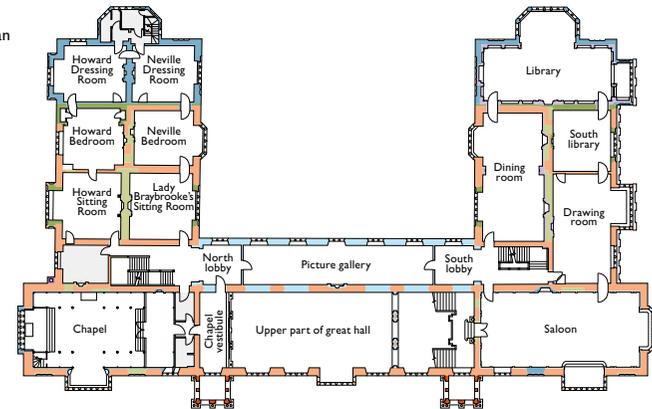
Stable block ground-floor plan



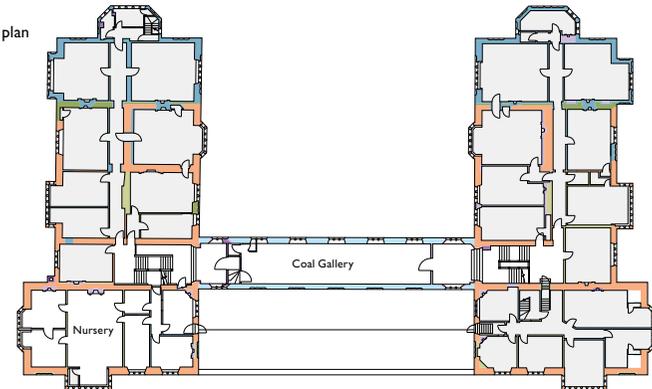
Ground-floor plan



First-floor plan



Second-floor plan



- Light orange: 1605-15 phase I
- Orange: 1605-15 phase II
- Light green: 1708-40
- Light blue: 1751-52
- Blue: 1762-65
- Dark blue: 1784-98
- Purple: 1820-30
- Yellow: 1863-83
- Light yellow: 1948 onwards
- White: No visitor access

