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A WORK TO WONDER AT Historic Gardens of Buckinghamshire



Stowe Landscape Gardens

Stowe Gardens are, quite simply, the most outstanding example of 18th-century English landscaping on a grand scale. A magnificent work of art, they are a remarkable reminder of an age of opulent living and political idealism, expressed through the beauty of nature and architecture. The gardens offer eight miles of

exceptional walks, presenting valleys and vistas, narrow lakes and rivers, with more than 30 temples and monuments designed by the leading architects of the day. At their centre is Stowe House, now occupied by a famous public school. The house was built for Viscount Cobham, a powerful political figure who engaged only the finest talent that money could buy. Over the ensuing years, Vanbrugh, William

Kent, Capability Brown and other great names of garden history all worked on the grounds, shaping "a work to wonder at" which influenced garden design all over Europe. The gardens and their surrounding parkland are currently undergoing an ambitious restoration programme, with work already completed on such evocative monuments as the Fane of Pastoral Poetry and the Doric Arch.

Buckingham MK18 5EH

Tel: 01280 822850 www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Open: | Mar-3 | Oct, Wed-Sun, 10.00-17.30. | Nov-21 Dec, Wed-Sun 10.00-16.00. Admission: Adults £5, Children £2.50, House: Adults £2, Children £1,

OTHER PLACES TO VISIT...

WADDESDON MANOR

Nr Aylesbury, Bucks HP18 OJH Tel: 01296 653226 www.waddesdon.org.uk

The garden of this French château is renowned for its colourful parterre, specimen trees, shady walks and fountains, sculptures and full-stocked aviary.



Open: Garden: 5 Mar-21 Dec, Wed-Sun & BH Mon, 10.00-17.00. House: 2 Apr-2 Nov, Wed-Sun & BH Mon, 11.00-16.00. Admission: House & Grounds: Adults £11, Children £8. Grounds: Adults £4, Children £2. ♂₽&次€3>曲☆☆

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S CHILTERNS AND THAMES VALLEY

It's easy to see why so many great houses sprang up in the Buckinghamshire countryside. The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is centred here around the picturesque valley towns of Wendover, Old Amersham, Princes Risborough and Beaconsfield, its wooded slopes and heady hilltops criss-crossed by secluded footpaths and country lanes. The notorious rake Sir Francis Dashwood chose West Wycombe for his estate and Disraeli made his home here too at Hughenden Manor, where Mrs

Disraeli created a garden in High-Victorian style. The Rothschilds settled in the rich, open farmland of the Vale of Aylesbury building the Renaissance-style Waddesdon Manor, furnished with Europe's choicest things. The Verneys put down roots at Steeple Claydon amongst other old- world villages to the north of the Vale, creating the remarkable Claydon House decorated in lavish 18th-century rococo and chinoiserie style. Peaceful pastures around historic Buckingham and the River Ouse served as the setting for Stowe and elegant neighbours like Winslow Hall, designed by Sir Christopher Wren. For further information, call up www.visitbuckinghamshire.org.uk





Waddesdon Manor

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