

Institut Européen des Jardins & Paysages

*Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes of England*

**Inventory of Great Britain**

WALLINGTON

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WALLINGTON

Name:	WALLINGTON
District:	Northumberland (Unitary Authority)
Parish:	Wallington Demesne
label.localisation:	Latitude: 55.155087 Longitude: -1.9597813 National Grid Reference: NZ0266184529 <a href="#">Map: Download a full scale map (PDF)</a>
label.overview:	Heritage Category: Park and Garden Grade: II* List Entry Number: 1001054 Date first listed: 01-Jan-1985

## Details

Formal landscape laid out 1729-77, incorporating wooded pleasure grounds, park, and improvement landscape developed by Sir Walter and Lady Elizabeth Blackett.

### HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

In 1542 there was a 'stronge toure and a stone house' (CL 1918) at Wallington, important for defence in an area of Border warfare. The estate, which included a mill and village, belonged to the Fenwick family who sold it to Sir William Blackett (d 1705) in 1684.

In 1702 Sir William's son, also called Sir William Blackett (d 1728) inherited the estate. On his death he left it to Elizabeth Ord. By this time the property consisted of Blackett's shooting lodge, surrounded by 6.5ha of formal plantations and gardens including 'The Levels', a long, regular, linear strip of pasture running from the south front of the lodge to the River Wansbeck (Robinson, 1728).

Elizabeth Ord married Walter Calverley in 1729, who adopted the name Blackett. From the 1730 to the 1770s he reorganised the Wallington estate on a grand scale, carrying out agricultural improvements, remodelling the house, building stables, laying out extensive gardens, and ornamenting the park, building a new deer park nearby at Rothley Park (1740-6) and making new plantations throughout.

Finance for some of these works arose in part from Blackett's interests in collieries in Kenton and the Wansbeck valley, the latter held in partnership with Sir Charles Loraine (qv Kirkharle). By 1767 coal was being extracted from Rothley Park and a pit in Wallington Park was worked out by 1774. Income also arose from lead mines in Allendale, whaling, and farm rents but mainly from the sale of his Yorkshire estates, which realised £106,000 in 1749.

During the 1730-40s Blackett commissioned Daniel Garrett (d 1753) to remodel Wallington Hall, design Rothley Castle (an eyecatcher to be seen from Wallington), and estate housing in Cambo and elsewhere on the estate. Garrett, a protégé of Lord Burlington's, published the first book devoted entirely to farmhouses in 1747 which proved popular due to the rapid land enclosures in northern counties at this period.

By the 1760s, Sir Walter had consulted with various architects to design follies, although not all were executed. Thomas Wright (1711-86) prepared designs for a castellated north entrance gateway into Rothley Park, and for Wallington Park designs for a shepherd's castle, Codger's Fort (1769), and a Chinese House. James Paine (1717-89) designed a monumental bridge over the

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Wansbeck. Of Lancelot Brown's (1716-83) design scheme for Rothley Park, only Rothley High and Low Lakes (1769) were implemented. Five unsigned and undated drawings for planting, a banqueting house, and rockwork for a bridge-dam exist, attributed to Brown.

Following Sir Walter's death in 1777 the estate passed to his nephew Sir John Trevelyan, fourth Bt (1734-1828) whose main seat was at Nettlecombe, Somerset (qv). Rothley Park ceased to be a deer park when the deer were sold and area of parkland were planted up or put under cultivation.

The next major development of Wallington was carried out by Sir Walter and Lady Pauline Calverley Trevelyan during the 1850s when they employed John Dobson (1787-1865), the Newcastle architect (qv Belsay Hall) to roof in the open courtyard enclosed by the house.

The Wallington estate, a total of 5261ha, was donated by Charles Philips Trevelyan (1870-1958), Minister for Education in the first and second Labour governments, to the National Trust in 1942. It remains (2001) in their ownership.

#### DESCRIPTION

**LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING** Wallington lies 19km west of Morpeth, along the B6343 and 1.5km south of Cambo village. The B6342, Hexham to Craggside road runs north-west to south-east through the registered area, and effectively divides it in two. Leading directly south-eastwards from Cambo to the north-east corner of the boundary wall of Wallington Courtyard, it then turns a sharp dog-leg to the east and once more leads south-eastwards, passing 140m away from the east front of the Hall. Leading 450m downhill to the River Wansbeck, the road crosses by Paine's Bridge, before turning at right angles, westwards, to lead either through Wallington Dean to Little Harle (qv Kirkharle), or southwards to Rothbury.

The 125ha parkland and pleasure grounds are ranged east and west of this main axis, on the south-facing slopes of the Wansbeck valley. The registered area includes the west parks, regular enclosure fields delimited on their west side by a tributary of the River Wansbeck and, to the east, the enclosures south of Prior Hall.

Rothley Park, 6km to the north-east, lies outside the area here registered. Its major contribution to Wallington Park is in contributing views of Rothley Castle, located within Rothley Park.

**ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES** The principal approach leads south along the North Avenue, which also forms the public road (B6342) from Cambo. Some 320m north of Wallington Courtyard, a drive (C19) leads off westwards then, turning southwards through North Wood, leads up to the Clock Tower Gate, which forms the main entrance, set centrally on the north side of the Courtyard. Visitor parking, laid out by the National Trust (mid-late C20), lies within North Wood to either side of the drive. Gate piers and a screen wall (mid C18, listed grade II) originally marked the drive entrance off the main road but in 1963 were moved further southwards. They now sit 180m to the north of Wallington Courtyard.

Previous to 1963 the principal entrance (created 1740) led off the public road directly to the north-east of the Hall, arriving at a turning circle on the east front. The mid C18 gate piers and screen wall (listed grade II) still mark this entrance, on the route to East Wood.

**PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS** Wallington Hall (1688, listed grade I) incorporates the basement of the old Fenwick Castle in the cellars. It was extensively remodelled by Daniel Garrett between 1735 and 1745, who reconstructed the south front, rebuilt the roof, refenestrated the whole house, and built a new entrance front.

Wallington Courtyard is situated directly adjacent, and to the north of, the Hall, separated from it by a screen wall and gate piers (mid C18, listed grade II). The Stable Courts form the north-west and north-east ranges of the Courtyard (both mid C18, listed grade II\*) and lie to either side of the central Clock Tower Gate (Garrett 1754, listed grade I). The latter was originally designed as a chapel, replacing The Arches (see Park below).

**GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS** The gardens and pleasure grounds are set within West Wood and East Wood, the latter separated from Wallington Hall and the East Lawn by the B6342. The Hall lies at the centre of these two woodland pleasure gardens. The broad gravel terrace, 200m in length on the south front of the Hall, links these areas. It extends to either side of the south front of the Hall, overlooking the ha-ha and The Park to the south. At the west end of the terrace, a Lime Avenue (planted by the National Trust) leads to a series of informal walks through West Wood, by way of the icehouse (late

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C18, listed grade II) and the remains of a Battery standing 220m south-west of the Hall, both constructed by 1742 (Richmond, 1742). West Wood is set with three ponds laid out along a stream; the Lower Pond (the easternmost) has a boathouse.

From the terrace a path leads north-eastwards across the East Lawn, planted with specimen trees, to the principal 1740s entrance (see above) and then, across the road, into East Wood. On the roadside boundary of the East Lawn and central to the east facade of the Hall, are four monumental, stone-carved dragon heads. These were placed here in 1928, having previously decorated Rothley Castle, and were originally brought to Wallington from Bishopsgate, London in 1760 as ballast in one of Sir William Blackett's colliers.

In East Wood a series of walks lead eventually to the Walled Garden, lying 650m directly east of the Hall. From the roadside entrance into East Wood, a serpentine walk leads to the Garden Pond, 400m north-east of the Hall. Landscaped as part of a pleasure ground in the 1760s, the Pond was created on the site of an earlier walled garden. Portico House, a cottage (c 1750, probably by Garrett, listed grade II) with summerhouse and flanking C17 walls (listed grade II), all situated together on a terrace, survive from this earlier, pre-1760 scheme. The portico acts as an eyecatcher over the water, a view which was retained in the 1820s when the pleasure ground was then developed into a woodland garden. Another route through East Wood leads north to the China (or Chinese) Pond, created in 1760, named from the Chinese building in its vicinity, constructed in the 1750s but no longer extant.

**PARK** Directly to the south of the Hall lies The Park, open parkland of c 15ha, its south boundary delimited by the river and Fenwick's Drive, both within a woodland belt. Paine's Bridge (1755, listed grade I) carries the public road over the river, and forms a grand approach to the Hall.

The B6342 divides The Park from Barn Flatt, an open area of parkland lying to its east, enclosed on its north side by East Wood and on its south-east by the river. Gate piers (mid C18, listed grade II), 80m north-west of Paine's Bridge, mark the entrance to Fenwick's Drive and The Park. To the east of the public road, Fenwick's Drive is continued by a formal drive leading north-eastwards up to the Garden House. A roadside wall, 100m in length, with monolithic square domed gate piers (mid C18, listed grade II) marks the entrance to a small-scale farm layout, attributed to Lancelot Brown. This is the Garden House (1766, listed grade II\*), with its yard and outbuildings (listed grade II) which is separated from Barnflatt by, and lies directly to the east of, the Walled Garden.

The area north-east of East Wood consists of a series of regular enclosure fields (early-mid C18), some now amalgamated. The Arches (1735, listed grade II\*) stands in the north-east park. Originally the major gateway into the courtyard, it proved too narrow for the passage of coaches so it was re-erected in the park in 1751, to act as an eyecatcher from walks in East Wood. Built of squared stone with ashlar dressings, the central bay has heavy pyramidal finials with dog-tooth ornament and other, smaller finials decorate its facade.

The area to the north-west of West Wood also consists of a series of regular enclosure fields (early-mid C18) with distinctive shelter belts running north/south. The large woodland clumps, Round Plantation and Octagon, had been laid out by 1777 (Duffield), but only the Octagon survives, Round Plantation having been felled mid C20.

**WALLED GARDEN** The L-shaped ornamental Walled Garden, thought to be c 1766 by Lancelot Brown (listed grade II\*), is set on its north side with a Conservatory (1908 for Sir George Otto Trevelyan, listed grade II) and the Owl House (c 1766, listed grade II), a gazebo with an external stair and so-called because it is surmounted with a central stone owl. A raised brick-built terrace (c 1766, listed grade II) leads around the north side of the garden.

The conservatory has a fuschia of 1908, lemon verbena pre-1908, and a heliotrope, 1940. Lady Trevelyan laid out a terrace at the west end of the garden in 1938.

#### REFERENCES

Country Life, 43 (22 June 1918), pp 572-8; (29 June 1918), pp 592-7; 147 (16 April 1970), pp 854-8; (23 April 1970), p 922; 164 (7 December 1978), p 1977 D Stroud, Capability Brown (1975), pp 25-6, 43 Garden History 9, No 2 (1981), pp 166-74 G Jackson-Stops, An English Arcadia (1992), pp 78-85, 138-40

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Maps John Robinson, Map of the Estate of Wallington surveyed in the year 1728, 1728 (Wallington Hall) Survey of Wallington, 1728, schedule to accompany Robinson plan (ZWN D2/2), (Northumberland Record Office) H Richmond, A Plan of the Lordship of Wallington 1742, 1742 (Wallington Hall) T Duffield, Estate map, 1777 (Wallington Hall)

OS 6? to 1 mile: 1st edition surveyed 1861, published 1865 2nd edition surveyed 1896

Archival items The Trevelyan Papers are held at the Northumberland Record Office and include: Book of plans, 1777 (ZWN/A4); Plans, 1778-9 (ZWN/A5); Estate accounts, 1737-1928 (ZWN/D10-18)

Description written: January 2001 Register Inspector: KC Edited: July 2003

## Legal

This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by Historic England for its special historic interest.