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Enfield Chase lay to the west of the village of Enfield, later called Enfield Town, one of the largest mediaeval parishes in Middlesex and a fully cultivated area by the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086. After the Norman Conquest William the Conqueror granted the extensive woodland around Enfield to Geoffrey de Mandeville (died ca 1100) as part of the Manors of Edmonton and Enfield. It appears that Mandeville's grandson, who became first Earl of Essex, converted the Enfield woodland, probably once part of the ancient Forest of Middlesex, into Enfield Chase in ca 1136--40, enclosing over 8,000 acres for the purposes of deer hunting. The name 'Enfield Chase', denoting land set aside for that sport, first occurs in the time of Edward II, prior to which the hunting park was generally called the Great Park or Outer Park, to differentiate it from the smaller Inner Park, later called Old Park, which lay south-east of the town and was the Home Park of Enfield Manor. Enfield Chase was almost certainly stocked with deer from Old Park. In 1421 both Chase and Manor were allocated to the King as part of the Royal Duchy of Lancaster, which remained landlord until the 20th century, apart from a period lasting from the Civil War until the Restoration.



Fig. 1. Enfield Old Park and Chase: John Norden, map of Middlesex, ca 1593.

¹ The London Parks & Gardens Trust: The London Inventory of Historic Green Spaces (londongardensonline.org.uk). See ‘London Borough of Enfield’.

Enfield Chase was broken up in 1777 when it was enclosed and divided into different parcels of land, and the Old Park estate was also gradually fragmented into separate estates, but remnants of both the Chase and Old Park lands survive today as open space. Enfield Town effectively remained a village outside London until the arrival of the railways in the mid-19th century and the opening of two stations: Enfield Town in 1849 and Enfield Chase in 1871.

EARLY HISTORY: ENFIELD CHASE AND THE OLD PARK ESTATE

The Earls of Hereford, of the de Bohun family, became Lords of the Manor of Enfield and owners of Enfield Chase after a grand-daughter of the Earl of Essex married Humphrey de Bohun. The family remained in possession until 1419 when the Manor passed to Henry V by inheritance. In that year the Chase was divided into three 'walks', each having a lodge to accommodate the keeper: East Bailey Lodge, South Bailey Lodge, and West Bailey Lodge, the last becoming the official residence of the Chief Ranger from the 15th century onwards. The people of the parishes of Enfield, Edmonton, Mimms and Hadley had commoners' rights in the Chase for fuel, timber and pasture.

However, the shape and acreage of the Chase did not by any means remain constant, as encroachments were regularly taking place. For example, when Elizabeth I inherited the Chase after the death of her father Henry VIII, royal properties in the Manor of Worcesters to the north were included in the bequest, among them ca 370 acres of Enfield Chase, which were enclosed during her reign, including the areas known as The Warren and New or Little Park. James I also apportioned 500 acres of Chase land with parts of Northaw and Cheshunt Common to add to his neighbouring estate of Theobalds when he established this as a royal property in ca 1606.

The first major threat to Enfield Chase came in the mid-17th century. Soon after Charles I was executed in 1649 plans were made by the new Parliament to dispose of the royal parks, forests, chases and manors in order to provide funds to pay the army. In 1650, at which time the Earl of Salisbury was Master of the Game, a survey of the land was carried out, which found the Chase to contain 7,900 acres, valued at £4,742 8s per annum. The deer were valued at £150, oak timber at £2,100 and hornbeam and other wood at £12,100. While the sale of Enfield Chase remained under fierce discussion, it was decided to sell the three lodges, as well as Old Park and Theobalds Park. The division of the Chase, shown in a Survey of 1656, allotted 3,399 acres to commoners, 140 acres for roads through these



Fig. 4b. Detail of fig. 4a above showing a hunt.

The Old Park estate had once extended to the town and had included Enfield Manor House and its grounds, but over the years it changed hands many times, sometimes expanding, sometimes diminishing, parts of the land passing into different ownership. It had a long history pre-dating Enfield Chase and the Domesday Survey, with evidence of early settlement and a pre-Roman hill fort. By the time of the 1650 survey the estate covered 553 acres and included a ranger's lodge. On his restoration to the throne, Charles II granted the estate to General George Monck, Duke of Albemarle, in recognition of his support. It later reverted to the Crown on the death of his successor's wife, and William III then granted it to the Earl of Portland in 1689, by which time it had been converted into tillage, so could no longer be used for deer. In the 1740s the Old Park estate covered around 230 acres.

ENCLOSURE OF ENFIELD CHASE AND DEVELOPMENTS POST-1777

In 1777 Enfield Chase, then ca 8351 acres, was enclosed and divided by Act of Parliament: the fringes of the Chase were assigned to neighbouring parishes, and farms and the remaining area divided into lots and leased as farmland. The King kept 3,218 acres, 313 acres were retained by the three lodges, and the rest was distributed to freeholders of neighbouring parishes. Under the Act, 1,732 acres were allotted to Enfield Parish, the greater part of which, some 1,530 acres, remained waste over which the inhabitants had common rights, defined as

‘Herbage, mastage for swine, green boughs to garnish horses, thorns for fences and crabs and acorns gathered under trees’. The remaining 200 acres were leased out and cultivated. In 1801 enclosure finally took place as a result of a further Act ‘for dividing and inclosing the open and common fields, common marshes, and lammas grounds, Chase allotment, and other commonable and waste lands within the Parish’. As a result the Chase was no longer used for hunting, and from then on became largely farmland. In 1937, at around the time London’s Green Belt was established, the land was conveyed to Middlesex County Council.

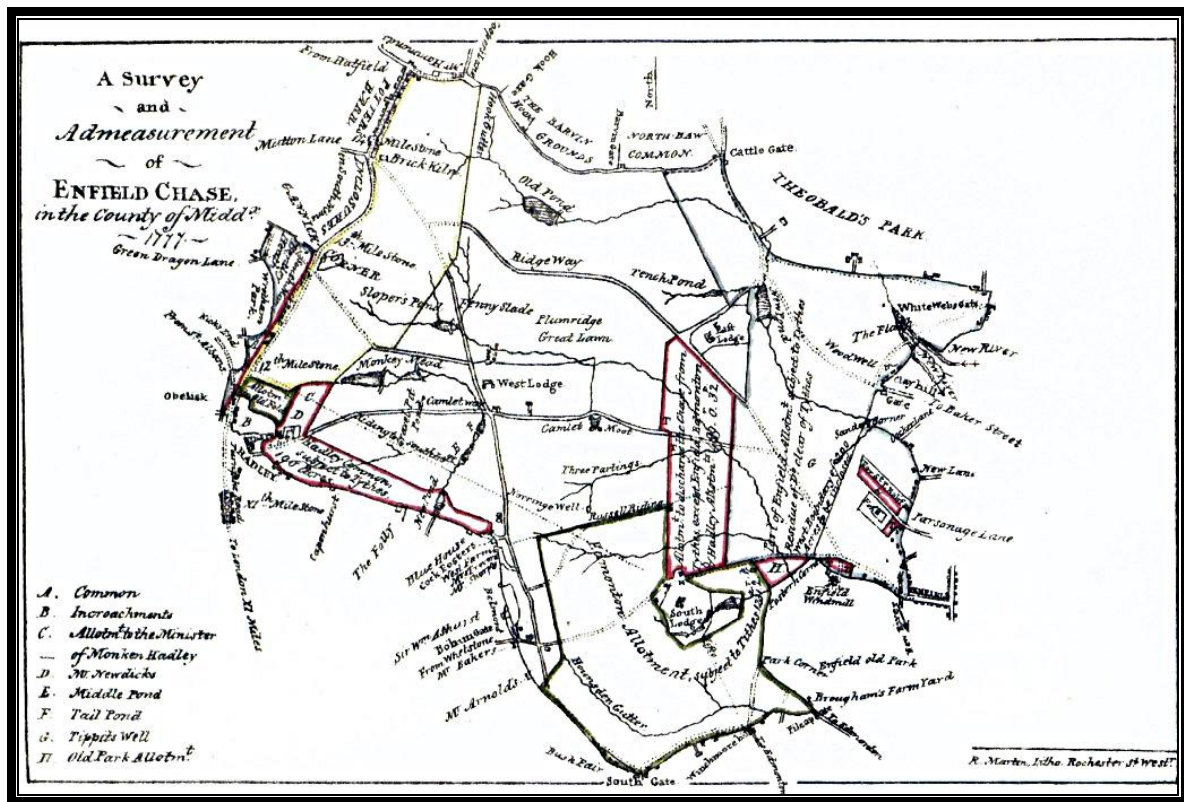


Fig. 5. A plan for the division of Enfield Chase, 1777.

The 1777 Act had provided that the deer should have the protection of the ancient park laws, as a result of which a small part of the Chase was earmarked as a miniature enclosure for them, the principal portion of which became Trent Park. Otherwise, the remaining deer, said to be ‘very numerous’, were taken to Luton Park in Bedfordshire, the estate of the Earl of Bute. The last red deer was allegedly shot by William Mellish of Bush Hill Park (d. 1838), a Tory MP for Grimsby and later Middlesex, who was Director of the Bank of England.

Old Park was allocated around thirty acres in lieu of rights of common under the Enclosure Act of 1777. At some point after 1736 the estate was bought by the Clayton family,

who later disposed of it in three main portions: in 1811 thirty-four acres to the east near Enfield were sold to Thomas Cotton; in 1825 the bulk of the rest, together with the lodge, went to Mrs Winchester Lewis; and after 1826 some land in the bend of the New River was bought from the Clayton estate by James Farrer Steadman to add to the grounds of Chase Side House, built on the south side of Church Street in Enfield in 1830.

Mrs Winchester Lewis went on to sell much of her land, but kept the house and fifty-nine acres in the south of the park, which her son-in-law, Edward Ford, inherited. He was a local antiquarian, co-author of a comprehensive *History of Enfield* (1873) and owned a considerable library. He added to Old Park House, and his collection of statuary and mediaeval fragments included two 15th-century corbel heads, which he installed on the clock turret of the 18th-century stables.



Fig. 6. Old Park House.

Thomas Cotton's land became the Chase Park estate, which was bought in 1822 by a Mr Browning, who built a mansion where the Magistrates' Courts now stand in Windmill Hill. In 1832 the estate passed to Browning's son-in-law, William Carr, who had previously purchased fifty-six acres of adjoining land from Mrs Winchester Lewis. The New River Company formed the ornamental water known as 'Carr's Basin' on which William Carr had the right to fish and use a boat. This remains as the stretch of the New River on the western

boundary of present-day Town Park, where it broadens out and surrounds a tree and shrub-covered island. In 1859 Francis Bryant Adams purchased the seventy-six-acre Chase Park estate for £15,000.



Fig. 7. Chase Park House (no date).

James Farrer Steadman's widow at Chase Side House, Enfield married a William Everett. In the Everetts' time Chase Side House was described as a 'handsome villa' overlooking 'about five acres of pleasure grounds [. . .] and a prospect of the park-like scenery of about thirty acres to the south'. William Keane in *The Beauties of Middlesex* (1850) described Everett as 'a gentleman of considerable taste in all that belongs to the departments of horticulture, floriculture, &c.'. The kitchen garden contained an extensive vinery and cucumber pit, and his pleasure grounds led to St Andrew's Church along a 'winding walk [. . .] bounded, on each side, by festoons of roses hanging from pillar to pillar for some considerable distance, until it enters the shrubbery to the gardener's cottage and to the orange-house'. After Mrs Everett's death in 1865 the Chase Side House estate was purchased by Phillip Twells MP, a banker for the City of London, and it remained in the Twells family until the death of Mrs Twells in 1898. Part of the estate was purchased in 1894 as the site for the town hall of the newly established Enfield Urban District Council, which replaced the local board. In 1910 Enfield's Central Library was built on the site of Chase Side House, facing outwards, the aim still being to build on the green space behind. However, the scheme was then abandoned, Library Green was laid out as part of the landscaping of the east part of Enfield Town and the Library opened in 1912. The Council also bought twenty-three acres of the Chase Side House land for a recreation ground.

As a result, the present Town Park is a surviving fragment of these successors to the Old Park estate, along with Bush Hill Park and Enfield Golf Courses. Bush Hill Park Golf Course was laid out in 1921, and what remains of Old Park's mansion is now the clubhouse, the oldest part of which dates from ca 1705. The New River Loop passes through the site and divides Bush Hill Park Golf Course from Town Park. Carr's Lane, a public footpath, runs through the course, which is otherwise for club users only. It can be seen across the New River Loop, although this view affords no sight of the house.

Enfield Golf Course to the west was laid out in the early 20th century, although the Club itself was established in 1893. Salmon's Brook winds its way through the heart of the course, and by the seventeenth green is the moated site of what may have been a keeper's lodge of the Old Park estate, although its origin is not known. A square moat surrounds a tree-covered mound, and a Roman coin of Antoninus Pius has been found there. Until the late 19th century the area was still largely fields, with Old Park Farmhouse to the east, although as the town of Enfield grew houses were beginning to be built to the north-east, south of Windmill Hill. Until the late 1960s the farm remained as yet undeveloped near the golf clubhouse.

DEVELOPMENT OF ENFIELD TOWN

The connections with royalty, together with the proximity to London, had brought the gentry to Enfield from the 17th century onwards, and the process accelerated after the break-up of the Chase. Fine houses were built, some of which remain today, including 17th and 18th-century buildings in Gentleman's Row close to Chase Green, which was formerly part of the woodland that became Enfield Chase in 1136. It was included in the portion allotted to Enfield villagers as compensation for the loss of their common rights in 1777. This portion was itself enclosed in 1803 except for ca 12 acres, which were placed under the management of the church before being transferred to Enfield Urban District Council in 1898. As a consequence Chase Green constitutes the first public open space in Enfield. There is a fragment of oak woodland to the west, and at the south end of the Green is part of the late 19th to early 20th-century landscaping of the east part of Enfield Town, which included Chase Green Gardens, Town Park and Enfield Library Green. At the south end of Chase Green is the Cenotaph Garden with a war memorial featuring a Grecian-style sarcophagus inscribed 'To Our Glorious Dead'. To the north of Chase Green, at Nos. 87 and 89 Chase Side, are two houses that were tenanted by the essayist Charles Lamb and his sister Mary

from 1827 to 1833, opposite which is Gloucester Place, a row of houses dating from 1823 fronted by a strip of green.

Adjacent to Chase Green are Chase Green Gardens, sometimes called New River Gardens after the New River Loop that flows through them. These gardens have good planting of willow, cedar, beech, holly, laurel and yew with roadside lime trees, and lead into a riverside walk beside a terrace of cottages, River View, with the water crossed by two picturesque 19th-century iron bridges. The New River is significant in Enfield as it passes through many of the estates and properties. The New River Company was set up in 1606 by Act of Parliament and work began in 1609 with financial backing from James I; it was completed in 1613. It was engineered by Sir Hugh Myddelton, a goldsmith by trade, who as a member of the House of Commons Committee considering water shortage in London offered to undertake a scheme to bring water thirty-eight miles from Amwell Springs in Hertfordshire through Enfield to Islington. During the building works Myddelton lived at the top of Bush Hill at Halliwick House, now demolished, but Myddelton House was named after him when the last governor of the New River Company, Henry Carrington Bowles, built his house in Bulls Cross in 1818.



Fig. 8. Myddelton House, 1821.

The New River enters Enfield parish at Bull's Cross in the north and leaves at Bush Hill in the south. It included the full course of Cuffley Brook through the Whitewebbs estate,

and crossed the valley at Salmon's Brook at Bush Hill where there was a lead and timber aqueduct. Another loop followed the course of Pymmes Brook through the Arnos Grove Estate, with an additional loop further south. The Whitewebbs, Arnos and Tottenham loops were abandoned when the New River was straightened in 1859 and in 1890 the portion around Enfield village was piped underground, thereby making this stretch redundant. In all, the Enfield Loop constituted around five miles of canal. It was saved from being infilled by a public campaign to preserve it for its ornamental value and it is essentially a linear lake today. The New River Loop Restoration Project began in 1998 to restore the historic watercourse, bridges and railings, and regenerate the timber banks of the River.



Fig. 9. New River or New River Loop before 1900
Gentleman's Row can be seen in the distance.

THE LODGES OF ENFIELD CHASE

West Lodge

West Lodge, now West Lodge Park Hotel, was built in the 1830s on the site of the West Bailey Lodge. When this was sold in 1650 the house was a three-storey brick-and-tile building with outbuildings and a small garden plot, with eighty-five acres of land and 662 trees valued at £131. The lodge was occupied from 1673 by the Rt Hon. Henry Coventry, who had been made Charles II's Secretary of State in 1672 and appointed keeper of West Bailey Walk in 1673. In July 1675 he was granted all the offices of Enfield Chase to become Chief Ranger. His West Lodge gardens were admired by John Evelyn, who visited him in the summer of 1676, describing the estate as 'a very pretty [*sic*] place, the house commodious, the

Gardens handsome, & our entertainment very free'. At that time the three lodges of Enfield Chase were, he said, the only habitations in the area – 'prety retreates for Gent: especially that were studious & a lover of privacy'.²

Coventry resigned as Secretary of State in 1680 and retired to West Lodge in poor health. He was granted permission in 1685 to cut glades through the Chase, ostensibly to aid the king's hunting, but bringing much profit from the sale of wood. He died in 1686 and the office of Chief Ranger passed to Adam Viscount Lisburne, with West Bailey Walk going to Sir Rowland Gwin.

In 1689 West Lodge was leased by William III to Sir Robert Howard, and in 1718 the lease was purchased by James Brydges, Duke of Chandos, in whose family it remained until 1808. His son Henry, the second Duke, took over as Chief Ranger on his father's death in 1744; Henry's son James, the third Duke, followed him in 1771. After the latter's death in 1789, his widow lived in the Lodge until 1808 after which the property remained vacant and subsequently fell into disrepair. By now many of the trees had been felled on the Chase and deer had disappeared, with much of the land turned over to farming.

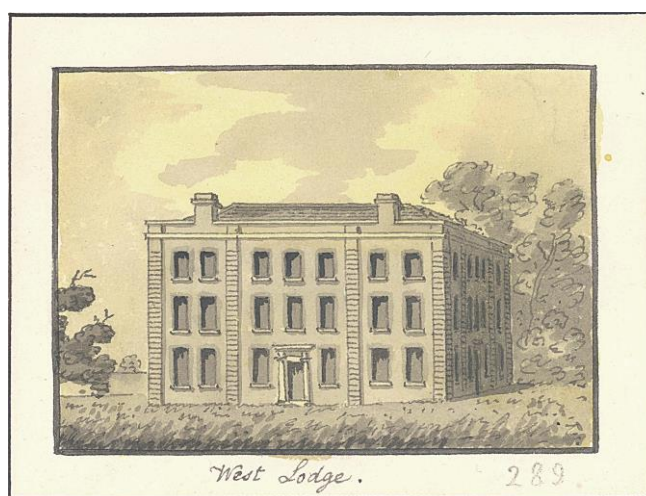


Fig. 10. West Lodge (no date).

West Lodge was rebuilt by Archibald Paris in the 1830s, but the earliest part of the current building is the two-storey south range, probably dating from the 18th century. From 1838 it had a number of private owners, including the Cator family, who planted fine trees that survive today, as do those contributed by Dr Alfred Mosely, a diamond merchant and philanthropist who acquired the property in 1890. Among them are numerous fine conifers, including swamp and Monterey cypress, Cedar of Lebanon, coast redwood and Wellingtonia.

² *The Diary of John Evelyn*, edited by E. S. De Beer (London: Everyman's Library, 2006, p. 561).

In 1916/17 the Lodge was used as a nurses' rest home, but in 1922 it was leased by Mr North Lewis, who converted it into a hotel, renamed West Lodge Park, which opened in 1924. The north wing was added, and around this time the double avenue of European lime trees was planted along the driveway that leads from two Neo-classical lodges at the entrance gates. In 1945 the hotel and surrounding lands were acquired by Edward Beale of Beale's Ltd. Little remains of any parkland planting, but there are remnants of terraces on the lawn to the east where a pair of elegant urns marks the short flight of steps leading to the Arboretum and its notable collection of specimen trees and shrubs, planted around a network of paths and glades. Beale's Arboretum was founded by Edward Beale in 1963 in association with the Greater London Council's Arboricultural Advisor Derek Honour and Frank Knight, Director of the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley. It was established on a ten-acre field that had previously been sublet to a farmer, the main planting taking place after 1969. A pinetum has more recently been laid out. There are now over 800 varieties of trees at West Lodge, including collections of the *Eleagnus* group and native hornbeams for the National Council for the Propagation of Plants. The Beales have retained the best of the 18th and 19th-century trees, such as a Killarney Strawberry Tree thought to date from 1747 and the English oak standing in what is now the front car park, planted in 1760 to commemorate the coronation of George III. In front of the hotel is a small lake, once a fish pond for the lodge, with a fine willow.

South Lodge

In 1635 sixty-five acres were enclosed for South Lodge. When the lodge was sold under the Commonwealth in 1650 its land included an orchard, a 'meanly planted' garden and fifty-eight acres of land containing 735 trees. From 1669 the property was leased by Sir Henry Bellasyse, and comprised the house, large barns, stables and coach houses, a garden and large orchard, with seventy-five acres of meadow and pasture and a rabbit warren. In the late 17th century Sir Basil Firebrace, Master of the Game, Ranger, and Bailiff of the Chase, lived at South Lodge. Later, when General Pepper's lease on Enfield Chase was purchased by the Duke of Chandos in 1727, the Lodge was tenanted by a Mr Cravenburgh.



Fig. 11. South Lodge.

The grounds of South Lodge are of particular interest for their development in the mid-18th century. In 1747 the Rt Hon. William Pitt, later Earl of Chatham, inherited the lease together with £10,000. He improved the house and laid out parkland and pleasure grounds in the surrounding fields. His transformation of the sixty-two-acre estate included enhancement of two existing lakes with a wooded island and rustic bridge. Among his other embellishments were a hexagon seat, a Chinese seat, a temple of Pan, an arch, a gateway and a pyramid that according to carpenters' bills for 1748 was '16 ft square and 21ft Perpendicular'. In 1749 a circular garden seat was made to go next to the house and a greenhouse was built at a cost of £160 15s. Pitt's efforts were much praised in his day: Gilbert West called the Arcadian grounds 'a little paradise', and the Temple of Pan was particularly admired. Mrs Montagu waxed lyrical about it, together with the 'shady oaks and beautiful verdure', and Thomas Whately praised it for the perfection of its location in the landscape. George Mason, writing in the second edition of *An Essay on Design in Gardening* (1795) also commended Pitt, suggesting that he anticipated the later taste for the Picturesque.³

Pitt was only an occasional resident here and after he left in 1752 South Lodge was owned by the Sharpe family and then by Thomas Skinner, Alderman of London and Lord Mayor in 1794. By this time the estate had become somewhat neglected, but Skinner restored it 'to its original beauty', according to W. Robinson, who in his *History and Antiquities of Enfield* (1823) described 'this enviable spot': 'the plantations, which are well wooded, are laid out

³ Michael Symes, 'William Pitt the Elder: The Gran Mago of Landscape Gardening', *Garden History*, 24:1 (Summer, 1996), pp. 126--136 (pp. 128--9).

with great taste, and two fine pieces of water add much to the beauty of the scenery; the views from different parts of the grounds towards Epping Forest, and adjacent hills, are rich and extensive.⁴

By 1911 a preparatory and boarding school had been established at the mansion. Suburban housing was later built over the grounds for Laing's South Lodge Estate of 1935 to 1940, when the lodge itself was demolished.⁵ A plaque on a house in Merryhills Drive commemorates the approximate location of the house and Pitt's residence there.

Boxer's Lake Open Space is a relic of the 18th-century landscape park and was originally one of three lakes or fishponds on the estate. Approaching the lake from the west, between the two sides of Lonsdale Drive lies a lozenge of woodland that marks the site of former fish ponds, through which a stream still runs and opens out to Boxer's Lake. At the eastern end of the lake is another area of woodland with mature trees through which the brook continues. A number of paths run through the area, and a small sign in the railed children's playground is all that indicates the name of this public open space. Another lake was once situated north of the house by the north-west boundary of the estate. Further north, the name of South Lodge Farm is a reminder of the area's history.



Fig. 12. Boxer's Lake.

What is now a small pond by a road called Lakeside was the third lake within the 18th-century landscape park, once a larger body of water until the coming of suburban development. Today the pond is surrounded by trees, including mature and ornamental species such as Monkey Puzzle. Edward Ford enumerated the many fine trees found on the

⁴ W. Robinson, *The History and Antiquities of Enfield*, 2 vols (London: John Nichols & Son, 1823), I, 230.

⁵ See Michael Ann Mullen's South Lodge contribution.

South Lodge estate in his time, many of which were likely to date from Pitt's tenure. He lists two impressive cedars of Lebanon, an old Spanish chestnut, two fine deciduous cypress trees on the banks of a lake, and a ninety-eight-foot high silver fir that was struck by lightning in 1868.⁶

East Lodge

For the past 100 years, Botany Bay Cricket Club has played on land that was once part of the grounds of East Bailey Lodge. Although a private house named East Lodge exists today, it is not on the site of the original keeper's house. The first East Lodge was occasionally used by Charles I as a hunting seat. In 1650, when it was sold, the grounds comprised thirty-eight acres in which there were seventy-three trees and a garden containing fruit. The house was demolished when a new one was built in 1668. It was subsequently leased by Alexander Wedderburn (1733-1805), Lord Chancellor and Earl of Rosslyn, and became known as the Red Lodge to distinguish it from a nearby White Lodge built in the late 18th century. Both houses were demolished in the 1880s and the present East Lodge is on the site of this White Lodge, rather than the older building. Cedars of Lebanon are visible in the grounds near the house today, and in 1873 Edward Ford remarked on a particularly fine specimen over ninety feet high, with a sister tree.⁷ East Lodge was also formerly known for its great willow trees. The hamlet of Botany Bay in this area probably dates from the time of the Enclosure of Enfield Chase in 1777. It may have been so named after Botany Bay in Australia, deemed equally remote. East Lodge Lane was one of the new roads required under the Act, to be provided at the cost of the Crown except where the road crossed land allotted to one of the parishes.

ROYAL CONNECTIONS: ELSYNG PALACE, FORTY HALL AND ENFIELD MANOR HOUSE

Elsyng Palace

When Elizabeth I inherited Enfield Chase after the death of her father, among the royal properties in the Manor of Worcesters included in the bequest was Elsyng Hall (confusingly also referred to as Enfield House), its site now within Forty Hall Park. The area appears to have been inhabited since the 13th century, and by the 1570s there were several settlements

⁶ Edward Ford and George H. Hodson, *A History of Enfield in the County of Middlesex* (Enfield Press: 1873), pp. 170, 171, 175, 178, 183.

⁷ Ford and Hodson, p. 173.

there. During the mediaeval period a portion of land adjacent to Turkey Brook became the site of Elsyng Palace, first mentioned in 1381 as belonging to Thomas Elsyng, a Citizen and Mercer of London. In 1413 it was owned by Sir John Tiptoft, whose descendent was Earl of Worcester, hence the name of the Manor. Elsyng bordered Enfield Chase, and owing to this proximity to the monarch's hunting grounds it attracted royal visitors. Henry VIII used the estate as a base for hunting and his children spent part of their childhood there. In 1540 it was given to Henry VIII by the Earl of Rutland, and it was here that Elizabeth and Edward reputedly heard of their father's death and Edward's accession to the throne in 1547.

During her reign, Elizabeth visited Elsyng a number of times: Edward Ford refers to one such occasion in 1596, found in the memoirs of the Earl of Monmouth, when she visited Elsyng from Theobalds (at that time owned by Lord Burghley), and after dining shot buck in the park. However, it appears that even then the great house was falling into disrepair, although attempts were periodically made to restore and maintain it, and works continued to be done in the gardens in the first half of the 17th century. In 1641 it was sold for £5,300 by Charles I to the Earl of Pembroke, who probably lived there until his death in 1650.

Forty Hall

By 1656 Elsyng Palace had become part of the Forty Hall Estates. Sir Nicholas Raynton, a wealthy haberdasher who became Lord Mayor of London in 1632, had purchased land in the area in 1624, and between 1629 and 1636 had built Forty Hall at the top of the hill, south of Elsyng Palace. The name apparently derived from Sir Hugh Fortee, the owner prior to Sir Nicholas. There was some suggestion in the 18th century that Inigo Jones was responsible for the house, but this is unlikely.

Sir Nicholas was succeeded by his great-nephew, also Nicholas, who was responsible for extending the grounds, purchasing the land that held the remains of Elsyng Palace. He laid out the park, including its double avenue of lime trees that led north from the house down towards Turkey Brook. A depression confirms that the brook was at one time widened to form a basin on the line of the avenue, which formerly continued on the far side of the water. The main drive continues as a lane westwards from the stables across farmland towards the New River, which almost encircled Forty Hall; the remains of two loops survive in the grounds. Again, there is no evidence for the suggestion that Le Nôtre may have been involved in the park. It was at this time that the old Palace was demolished, and all that remains today are some raised humps in the ground near the fishing lake, and brick foundations and drains excavated in the 1960s.



Fig. 13. Forty Hall and the old gateway.

In 1691 Raynton's garden was described in *A Short Account of Several Gardens near London* by John Gibson, who wrote:

Mr. Raynton's garden in *Endfield* is observable for nothing but his greenhouse, which he has had for many years. His orange, lemon, and myrtle trees, are as full and furnished as any in cases. He has a myrtle cut in shape of a chaire, that is at least six feet high from the case, but the lower part is thin of leaves. The rest of the garden is very ordinary, and on the outside of his garden he has a warren, which makes the ground about his seat lye rudely, and sometimes the coneys work under the wall into the garden.⁸

Early 17th-century sources had referred to the Palace's 'courtyards, gardens, orchards and the field adjoining called the Walks', as well as to a Portland stone sundial, an arbour and latticed seats, but these were presumably cleared when the house was demolished. However, a complex of earthworks at the north-west corner of the park may indicate the structure of 16th-century water gardens, comprising ponds, canals and islands, and fishponds (similar to Hatfield's Wilderness) accompanying the former Palace. The 1773 and 1787 sale catalogues make reference to these, the latter suggesting that 'to augment the natural beauties of the Vale in front of the Home, a Magnificent Lake could be easily formed' out of the 'running Brook and successive Ponds'. In 1811 Daniel Lysons remarked upon the remains of fishponds, including those near Forty Hill where the stream joins Enfield Wash.

⁸ J. Gibson, 'A short Account of several Gardens near London [. . .] upon a View of them in December 1691', in *Archaeologia: or Miscellaneous Tracts relating to Antiquity*, 1770-1992, Jan. 1796, 12, *British Periodicals*, pp. 181--191 (p. 189).

The main entrance to Forty Hall is situated on Forty Hill, where there are a number of fine houses dating from the 18th century onwards, when the area began to attract the wealthy. The Forty Hall estate changed hands many times before being sold in 1895 to H. C. Bowles for his eldest son, Sir Henry Ferryman Bowles, who owned Myddelton House. It remained in that family until 1951 when it was purchased from Derek Parker Bowles by Enfield Urban District Council, who subsequently opened the grounds to the public and in 1962 began restoring the house and outbuildings. The Hall became a museum containing items of local historical interest. The house is surrounded by just under ten acres of ornamental grounds, consisting of the fragmentary remains of the 17th-century garden overlaid with 18th-century and later developments. To the south of the house is a rectangular lawn with a 17th-century Cedar of Lebanon and other specimen trees, including a Wellingtonia, various shrub and herbaceous beds, grass areas and a large ornamental pond that dates from the 18th century. At the western end of the pond is a wooded area within which is a mound formed from the spoil from the lake. Among the fine trees enumerated in the *History of Enfield*, Edward Ford lists a number at Forty Hall, such as a horse chestnut at the entrance that J. C. Loudon had described in his *Arboretum et fruticetum britannicum* (1838) as a 'magnificent specimen of a chestnut in its prime'.⁹

South-west of Forty Hall and the 17th-century stable block is a walled garden, formerly a kitchen garden, which retains its original north wall. In 1773 it contained fruit trees and was described as being 'capable of producing vegetables in vast profusion'; it is now planted with lawns, shrubs and flowering trees in beds. The grounds, including the drive and pond, are shown in much their present form on surveys of 1773 and 1787. Beyond the formal gardens the estate today consists of parkland, containing notable 18th-century oaks and sweet chestnuts north-east of the house, woodland, a fishing lake, a working farm, the site of Elsyng Palace and the earthworks and ponds that may have formed part of the Palace grounds.¹⁰

Enfield Manor House (Enfield Palace)

Elizabeth I also rebuilt the Enfield Manor House, which had reverted to a royal property in the latter part of Henry VIII's reign. It was eventually demolished in 1927/28, but it had stood on the site now occupied by Pearson's Department Store on the south side of the market place and Enfield's medieval parish church of St Andrew. In the late 1660s the Manor House was

⁹ Ford and Hodson, p. 174.

¹⁰ Since this paper was written, Forty Hall has been restored extensively with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and reopened to the public in June 2012.

leased for a private boarding school by Dr Robert Uvedale (1642-1722), who was Master of Enfield Grammar School near the parish church. Uvedale was a celebrated naturalist, considered one of the first botanists in Europe, who developed the modern sweet pea, and supplied seeds to Hampton Court in 1700 to 1701. He grew a renowned Cedar of Lebanon in the garden at the Manor House that survived until 1896. In his *History of Enfield*, Edward Ford referred to this tree as the ‘oldest cedar in England’, which he estimated was planted between 1662 and 1670.¹¹ Ford himself planted a seedling from the tree in Old Park in 1846. Gibson’s *Short Account of Several Gardens near London* (1691) included a reference to Uvedale:

Dr. *Uvedale* of *Enfield* is a great lover of plants, and having an extraordinary art in managing them, is become master of the greatest and choicest collection of exotic greens that is perhaps any where in this land. His greens take up six or seven houses or roomsteads. His orange trees and largest myrtles fill up his biggest house, and another house is filled with myrtles of a less size, and these more nice and curious plants, that need closer keeping are in warmer rooms, and some of them stoved when he thinks fit. His flowers are choice, his stock numerous, and his culture of them very methodical and curious; but, to speak of the garden in the whole, it does not lie fine to please the eye, his delight and care lying more in the ordering particular plants, than in the pleasing view and form of his garden.¹²



Fig. 14. Manor House (Enfield Palace), ca 1770.

¹¹ Ford and Hodson, p. 170.

¹² Gibson, p. 188.

OTHER PROPERTIES ON CHASE LAND: TRENT PARK, BEECH HILL PARK AND OAKWOOD PARK

Trent Park

Trent Park lies on land that was formerly part of Enfield Chase. The principal portion was granted to the King's physician Dr Richard Jebb as a reward for saving the life of the King's brother, the Duke of Gloucester, at Trento in the Austrian Tyrol: hence the name of his estate. Following the Enclosure Act of 1777 the deer park of ca 200 acres and a lake were laid out and an old lodge was converted into a villa, which was known as Trent Place. The grounds were improved and the house extended in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, again in the mid-19th century, and it was largely rebuilt between 1894 and 1931.



Fig. 15. Trent Park House.

The estate had a number of owners after Jebb's death in 1787. From 1813 the possessor was John Cumming, who was responsible for improvements to the house and grounds, allegedly spending some £20,000. In 1833 it was the property of a banker, David Bevan, whose son Robert Cooper Lee Bevan renamed the estate 'Trent Park', and carried out many improvements, including rebuilding much of the house. By the mid-19th century the deer park covered around 700 acres and the whole estate ca 3,000 acres, with a seven-mile ride around its perimeter. In 1909 Robert Bevan's son Francis sold the estate to Sir Edward Sassoon, merchant banker and MP for Hythe. On his death in 1912 he was succeeded by his son Philip, who rebuilt parts of the house again and laid out new formal gardens and pleasure

grounds. These contain various fine monuments and sculptures, including some that were brought from Wrest Park in the 1930s.

After Sassoon's death in 1939 the house was requisitioned as an officers' prisoner of war camp. After the War the house with 200 acres of land became the Trent Park Teachers Training College, then Middlesex Polytechnic in 1974 and finally Middlesex University in 1992.¹³ The entire estate had been compulsorily purchased as Green Belt land by Middlesex County Council in 1951, subject to the life tenancy of Sassoon's cousin Hannah Gubbay. In 1965 the responsibility for the park came under the Greater London Council (GLC) with the college under the London Borough of Enfield. When Hannah Gubbay died in 1968 most of the land became a public park, Trent Country Park, which opened in 1973. After the demise of the GLC in 1986 the parkland too became the responsibility of the London Borough of Enfield.

An avenue of limes planted in the 1840s remains, at either end of which are a number of the early 18th-century monuments brought by Sir Philip from Wrest Park: a tall stone column with a pineapple finial inscribed to the memory of Jemima Crewe, Duchess of Kent, and a short obelisk with a melon finial inscribed to Henry, Duke of Kent. The woodland, some of which dates from before 1606, has fine specimens, including oak and hornbeam, with some birch, hazel, beech, holly, sweet chestnut and plantations of Scots and Corsican pine, Western hemlock and larch. Within the country park is Camlet Moat, whose origin is unknown but was once thought to have been the site of the original Manor House of Enfield, described as such in Sir Walter Scott's novel *The Fortunes of Nigel* (1822).

Beech Hill

To the west of Trent Park is Hadley Wood Golf Club, which was laid out on the former landscape park at Beech (also Beach) Hill, also once part of Enfield Chase. When the Chase was enclosed in 1777, a 152-acre parcel of the land was given by the Crown to Francis Russell, the surveyor who acted for the Duchy during the assignment of allotments. In 1781 he built Beech Hill Park, a seven-bay brick-fronted mansion with good views down Beech Hill. After his death in 1795, an article in the *European Magazine* in May 1796 described the landscaped grounds as 'truly picturesque'.

¹³ Since this paper was written, Middlesex University has vacated Trent Park and the former campus is being developed as a housing estate of ca. 262 houses and flats, planning permission for which was granted in 2017.

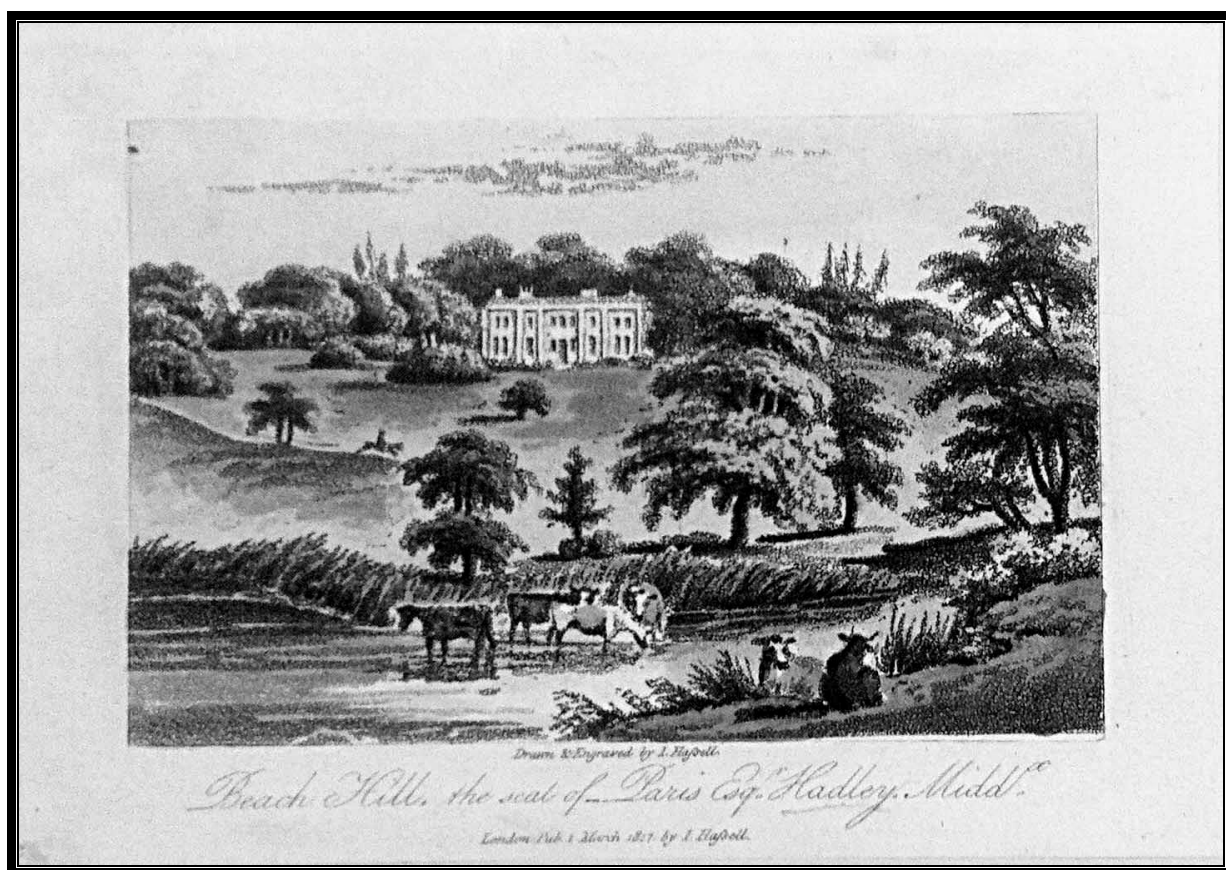


Fig. 16. Beech Hill Park, 1817.

In 1800 the estate was purchased by Archibald Paris, who held leases on other lands belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster, including Greenwood to the west and Monkey Mead to the north. In 1841 General Sir Edward Barnes became owner of Beech Hill and in 1845 cleared the last woodland, selling the timber to the Great Northern Railway for sleepers and fencing. Although the railway opened its main line in 1850, it did not provide a station at Hadley Wood until 1885, and the spread of London's suburbia was slow to reach the area, which even now retains a rural air. A plan to develop housing over much of Hadley Wood in the late 19th century was only partially completed and in 1922, after an abortive attempt to break up the estate for building, much of the land was leased to Hadley Park Golf Club and converted into a golf course. Fishponds of the former estate survive within the grounds. In addition to the 18th-century mansion, which now serves as the golf clubhouse, the 19th-century stable range remains to the north.

Oakwood Park

Another remnant of Enfield Chase that remains as open space is Oakwood Park, once part of the land allocation of 1,231 acres to the Parish of Edmonton. In 1870 Samuel Sugden, a

homeopathic chemist, purchased the land and renovated the farmhouse within the estate, renaming it Oak Lodge and adding a walled garden, orchard and ice well. The house was demolished after the First World War. In 1927 Southgate Urban District Council purchased ca sixty-four acres to create a public park there, naming it Oakwood after the Lodge. Facilities provided at the time included a square pond for model yachts, with an island and four corner beds, overlooked by a brick half-timbered pavilion. Tennis courts and a large children's playground were constructed, and a pitch and putt course opened in 1964. From 1945 an avenue of scarlet oak trees was augmented annually by the current Mayor, and an avenue of poplars was planted to commemorate the coronation of King George VI in 1937. The former yachting pond is now being gradually transformed into a wildlife area by the Friends of Oakwood Park.

CONCLUSION

The historic estates in and around Enfield Chase have played an important role in safeguarding open space in the area. Their ready-made parkland could be used by developers and local authorities to enhance the new commuter estates by providing space for public parks, sporting facilities and green areas, where fine old trees could be preserved, as was also the case along the new streets and in gardens. Finally, as settings for some of the great houses that have survived and have acquired new uses, their remnants act as constant reminders of the vanished royal landscape of the hunt.

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Figure 9: Image courtesy The Enfield Society.