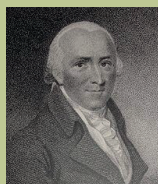


Old Catton Village Wheelbarrow Trail

Approximately 2.5 miles



2018 marks the bicentenary of the death of one of Britain's greatest landscape gardeners, Humphry Repton.



This walking trail is just one of many events taking place in Norfolk and across the country this year as part of the Repton 200 celebrations. The historic village of Old Catton has strong connections with Repton – Catton Park was his first commission as a landscape gardener.

The Old Catton Village Wheelbarrow Trail will take you past many historic buildings, which would have been standing during Repton's time in Norfolk. The trail allows you to locate a number of wheelbarrows outside these buildings all decorated by different local community groups, which will be on display between May 7 and 13, 2018.

Route & Historic Building Information

Catton Hall and Park – In the 1770s Norwich merchant, Charles Buckle, purchased the land and built Catton Hall on a prominence sufficient to give him views of Norwich Cathedral. Catton Hall was considered one of the most important houses in the village because of the social aspect it brought to the village. In 1778, Buckle enlarged the park land to the south of the hall by securing the legal right to divert outwards the road that formed the western boundary. In 1788 his daughter Frances married Jeremiah Ives, a prosperous Norwich textile merchant and the house was then passed to the newlyweds -possibly as a wedding gift. Jeremiah Ives wanted the grounds of the hall to adopt a more gracious appearance and hired Humphry Repton to landscape it. The line of oak and beech behind Spixworth Road remains evidence of Repton's work today.

Route

Starting at Oak Lane car park, head into Catton Park. Hayman Lodge will be on the left and is where you will find the first wheelbarrow. Follow the path north

through the centre of Catton Park until you reach the black gate at the exit to Church Street.

Stay inside the park for the next two wheelbarrows. Turn left and follow the boundary until you reach the village hall (the former orangery), the wheelbarrow will be placed in the car park area. From this point turn around and walk back along the boundary, carry on past the exit to Church Street and continue until you reach the back of the thatched roofed Holiday House where another wheelbarrow is placed in the garden.

Holiday House –

This is possibly a Cottage Ornee, a small, picturesque house in a country setting, primarily in the late 18th and early 19th century. It is associated with Humphry Repton's first commission for the design of Catton Park. In the 19th century the house had many gothic features such as the doors and stairs. Humphry Repton was also known for adopting a gothic style in some of his commissions such as Barningham Hall here in Norfolk and Donington Park, Leicestershire.



Turn back and go through the exit gate into Church Street. Turn left and follow the path until you reach Parkside Drive (near the cat on the barrel village sign) go into Parkside Drive and on your left is Repton Pond. You will find another wheelbarrow here.

Repton Pond –

The small garden with its pond and clamshell fountain, is believed to be a small surviving remnant of the formal gardens of Catton Hall, designed by Humphry Repton for Jeremiah Ives as part of the grand landscape design for Catton Park.



The pond was restored by a group of Old Catton Society members, who dredged it, replanted the flower beds and replaced the trees. Although it is only a small pond frogs, common newts, and at least three species of damselfly can be found there.

Return to Church Street, cross the road to the timber-framed Manor House. You will find two wheelbarrows near here.

The Manor House – This is the oldest house in Old Catton. It was built during the 16th century for the priors of Norwich and in 1605 it was extended further. In the 1890s the well-known Norwich architect Edward Boardman was hired to repair and restore to the original Tudor design. A new wing was added on the north side in a similar style.

Continue along Church Street past the Manor House until you reach the end of street. Turn right onto St Faith's road and follow it until you approach Garrick Green on your right. Head down Garrick Green and on your left is Garrick Green Infant School (previously a part of the Catton Park estate), where another wheelbarrow can be found.

When leaving the school, cross the road and continue down Garrick Green, turn right into Blacksmith Way, keep on the right hand path until you reach the Church Hall car park, turn into the car park and through the gate into the churchyard. Head towards the church to find two more wheelbarrows, placed in the front and back of the churchyard. Feel free to explore this medieval church. On exiting the churchyard into Church Street, turn left. Here a wheelbarrow can be seen in the front garden of 68 Church Street.

68/70 Church Street – This T-shaped house was formerly The Magpie Inn which opened in 1830. It stands east to the church in the centre of the village.

The house was regarded as one of the larger and wealthier dwellings in the village because it had at least six hearths on which hearth tax had to be paid. Over the years, extension work has taken place and it has since been divided into two dwellings.

Continue on Church Street, past the school, to the end of Church Street that meets with Spixworth Road. Turn left onto Spixworth Road and here on your left is Anna Sewell House.

Anna Sewell House - This was the home of Anna Sewell, 1867-1868, the author of Black Beauty, one of the

top ten bestselling novels for children ever written. This is a Grade II listed building and still retains a number of original features – outer appearance, sash windows with gazing bars, cobbled floor to the lobby and some black pantiles. An old Victorian conservatory was built by Isaac Sewell and used as a summer house, but it has since been demolished and replaced.

Turn around here and walk south on Spixworth Road past Church Street. With the deer park and the war memorial on your left hand side, continue past the Maids Head and on your right will be The Old House with another decorative wheelbarrow.



Old House – This old house was the home of Revd Richard Hart, Vicar of Old Catton and his six children, and three servants in 1861. The house went on to be occupied by another Reverend before passing on to Samuel Gurney Buxton of Catton Hall and then Mr Richard Jewson, Lord Mayor of Norwich in 1917. The Jewson family were well known in the area and founded the Jewson timber and building merchants. Doris Jewson, lived in Little House next door.

Continue your route on Spixworth Road and on your right you will reach the next wheelbarrow in the forecourt of Catton Place.

Catton Place – Formerly known as The Firs, this three storey country house was built by Robert Rogers, a successful wool merchant in 1758. The name 'The Firs' came from the Wellingtonia trees which were highly fashionable at the time. These were planted in the grounds of Catton Park and are still prominent today.

As you carry on down Spixworth road another wheelbarrow will be found on your left, outside The White House. Cross the road here.

The White House (previously The Beeches) – The White House is a Grade II listed building that was known as The Beeches during Repton's era. Built in the 19th century, this late Georgian-style house potentially has



an older core, on the site of an old farmhouse from the 1700s. The house has since undergone updating and many structural repairs.

Take the next left onto George Hill. Continue on George Hill until you reach a large white house on your right where the last wheelbarrow will be positioned in the front garden.

The White House, George Hill – This 19th century house has a possible earlier core. A set of late 19th century cottages (No.16-24) follow, the unity of these have been destroyed, although not irreversibly, by an assortment of modern windows.

Head back down George Hill towards Spixworth Road. Turn left at the junction and take the first right down Oak Lane. Follow Oak Lane until you reach the car park on your right.

To contact Broadland District Council regarding the Repton 200 celebrations call 01603 430496 or email visit@broadland.gov.uk or visit norfolk.humphryrepton.org.uk

For more information on the history of Old Catton or to purchase the 'Historic Houses of Old Catton' publications contact the Old Catton Society www.oldcattonsociety.org.uk

This trail was made possible with help from the Old Catton Society, the Old Catton Horticultural Club and Woodgate Nursery.