

Dyrham Park, Gloucestershire West Garden Project

Teasdale
Environmental Design

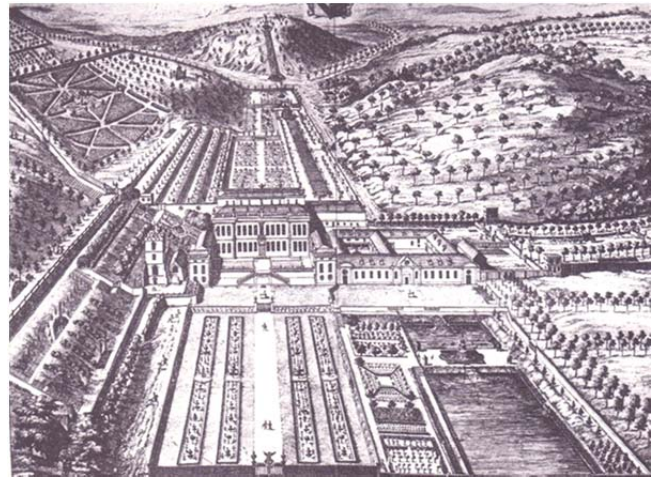
Client: The National Trust
Project dates: 2001 - 2011

The West Garden of Dyrham Park is much-loved by the many people who visit it year on year. However, by 2001 it was growing old and depleted. Over the years, many of the older and original trees and shrubs had died and the garden was becoming emptier.

The underlying landforms date from the late 17th century. They represent the remains of a formal, Dutch-style garden comprising rectilinear 'rooms' and water gardens which exploited the existing streams running through the site. By 1800, much of the formal garden had been cleared away and replaced by a new 'layer' under the direction of Charles Harcourt Masters. Humphry Repton may have influenced some details of the design. During the Victorian period, the garden was gradually over-planted with trees, shrubs and exotic flower borders. In 2001, with the loss of many of these older plants, the National Trust recognised that a critical point had been reached at which it was time to start renewing the fabric of the garden.

The Trust began a project to re-establish some of the 18th century compartments illustrated in an engraving by Kip of 1712, but is not intended to recreate an eighteenth century garden. Those compartments occupying the upper levels of the garden have respected as bold formal spaces, with a consistent history as the formal setting to the mansion.

The sunken garden, containing ponds dating from medieval times and an eighteenth century cascade, have always been treated as a space apart. This area offered the opportunity to create a new 'layer' - a contemporary garden of quite different character from the surrounding spaces - but still respecting the surviving historic features and spirit of this lovely part of the garden.



Dyrham Park, as engraved by Kip, c.1712



Model of the new design

