

# WALKING TRAILS

## MANSION HOUSE AND GROUNDS WALK

### Start point:

From BEECHE walk down the slope and start the walk at the crossroads.

### Stop 1

You are surrounded by specimen trees which were planted by the Lubbock family over 150 years ago. The tallest tree straight ahead is a Giant Sequoia planted in 1867. (right).



Giant Sequoia

Walk across to the edge of the lawns on your right. Follow the edge of the lawn until you reach stop 2.

### Stop 2

Here stood the original house at High Elms. This 'farmhouse' was purchased by the Lubbocks in 1808 and by 1841, when it was demolished, it had 14 rooms. It was replaced with a new larger mansion house further up the hill with terraced gardens.



The original house at High Elms c1820

Continue along the edge of the lawn for 200m. Walk through the arboretum, past the Old Well and straight ahead.



The Peter Pan garden with pond c1932

### Stop 3

In the early 1890s a series of ponds were built here. John Lubbock (4<sup>th</sup> baronet), was a keen geologist, and was trying to re-create his idea of an Ice age landscape. The ponds were used by the family for Ice skating in the winter. Here in the 1930s a 'Peter Pan garden', was built for the Lubbock children (above).

### Stop 4:

Either side of you stands a Yew hedge. Yew walk was set out in 1896, originally with flower borders, seen from the library of the house. You are at the bottom of Yew walk, looking up towards the former mansion house.

Walk up the hill to Stop 5.

### Stop 5

You are now at the corner of the former mansion house with the old courtyard in front of you.



The view seen by visitors to High Elms as they entered the courtyard

Built in 1842 by John William Lubbock (3<sup>rd</sup> baronet), it had over 60 rooms and 30 staff. High Elms was a hive of activity, attracting the A list of society such as Charles Darwin and William Gladstone.

As a leading anthropologist John Lubbock, MP, (4<sup>th</sup> baronet) collected artefacts and displayed them in the internal hall at High Elms.



Internal hall at High Elms c1880

### Stop 7



A view from the Grotto; of the Italian garden and terrace c1914

This flint construction is known as the Grotto and dates to around 1890. It was originally covered in shells and pebbles with a lime mortar finish, and looked along the Italian terrace; which is behind you.

For Stop 8 use the steps to reach the top terrace, or if using a wheelchair/pushchair, re-trace your steps to come round via the slope.

### Stop 8

You are now on the upper terrace at the Birthday shelter. Commissioned by Alice, Lady Avebury, in 1913. It was a present for her husband's 79th birthday. Sadly Lord Avebury died just a month afterwards. Alice wrote a poem which she had engraved into the shelter.



Birthday shelter with clock c1914

Leave this top terrace and turn right. Go straight ahead and then turn left. Go downhill until you reach stop 9. (Past Stop 10)

### Stop 9



Extract which reports the match, taken from 'A sporting almanac' written by the Lubbocks.

This is an Eton fives court. Built in the late 1850s, and used by the Lubbock children. The first recorded match, between the Lubbocks and the Normans was the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1860.

Re-trace your steps uphill to Stop 10.

### Stop 10

You are now in front of the old stable block. Completed in late 1842, the building on the right housed carriages and a temporary blacksmith's forge. The building on the left had stables, a hay loft and staff accommodation.



Alice Lubbock and children in carriage c1898

Go up the slope to your right, and around the back of the old stable block. Head for the gate straight ahead.

On entering the walled garden walk for around 100m until you reach Stop 11.

### Stop 11

The walled garden supplied the family with fruit and vegetables. During the 1870s John Lubbock (4<sup>th</sup> baronet) studied Springtails (Collembola), tiny soil dwelling animals, in this garden. He found several new species here.

There is also an aeroplane memorial to Eric Fox Pitt Lubbock a few yards on. Eric was a pilot killed in World War I; this marked the end of the golden era at High Elms and the house was never quite the same.

If you have not already tried the estate walk come back on a different day and try it out.

### Looking back to the past

Originally from Norfolk, the Lubbocks moved to London to be closer to their banking business. They purchased High Elms in 1808 as a country retreat. The Lubbocks left a real landscape legacy by ensuring High Elms was protected by Green Belt legislation allowing future generations to enjoy it. They remained here until 1938, when they sold the estate.

### Trail information

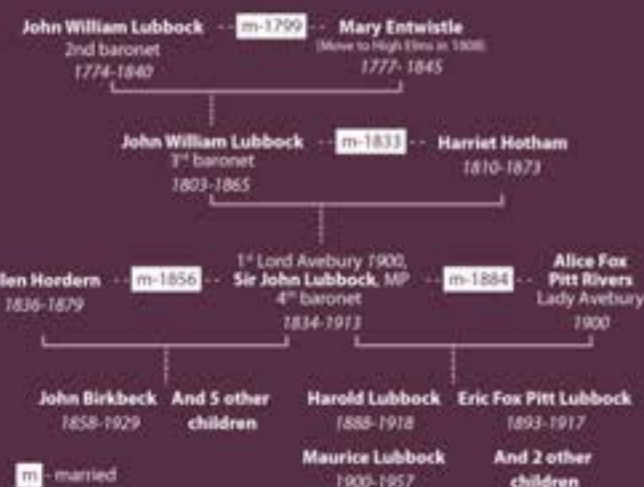
Mansion house and grounds walk (approx 1 hour, half a mile, wheelchair accessible)

A gentle stroll taking in the heart of the estate, including the original house site, and the former mansion footprint. Look for the black and yellow waymarker discs.

Estate walk (approx 3 and a half miles/allow 3 hours, a more strenuous walk with some gradual gradients)

Discover the former Lubbock estate and understand how they shaped it over time. Look for the black and yellow waymarker discs.

### Lubbock family tree (Abridged)



You are here



### Key

- Mansion house and grounds walk
- 1 Stop point
- P Car park



View of the rear of the house c1920

Walk across to the semi-circle of brickwork to your right, which marks the old library. Now head for the stone pillars that support wooden beams; walk across the old tennis courts to Stop 6.

### Stop 6

Between 1900 and the 1960s there was a tennis court here. The Summer house was built around 1910.

Back in the 1850s before the Summer house the Lubbocks played Croquet here with Charles Darwin's family.



Tennis courts and house c1950

Re-trace your steps and follow the waymarkers. Stop 7 is tucked in the corner of the lawn.

# ESTATE WALK

## Start point:

Walk down the slope from BEECHE. The walk begins by the notice board close to the car park.

Head across the picnic area and walk underneath Giant Sequoia, Coast Redwood and Cedar trees, planted in 1842.

Continue and turn right at the grave of Levi Boswell, the gypsy chief. Head for the large stone cross ahead.

## Stop 1

You are looking at Flint Lodge, originally known as 'New Lodge' built in 1841. It served as the entrance to the High Elms estate. The lodge, now a private residence, was home to the gatekeeper and his family.



Family stone cross c1914

## Stop 3

(Please note you will not see a numbered post here due to the nature of the area)

This stone cross commemorates many of the Lubbock family including John Lubbock, the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Avebury and his second wife Alice. The images on the cross relate to John Lubbock's interests: Avebury stones in Wiltshire, Archaeology, Bees and Wasps. He saved the Avebury stones from development, and when made a Lord in 1900, chose Avebury as his title.

Others mentioned here include Eric and Harold Lubbock, who were both killed in the first world war.

Facing the church follow the path towards the WW I memorial plaques. Look for Eric Fox Pitt Lubbock and his brother Harold. Head back to the field where you entered. Turn right towards stop 4 keeping the tree-line on your right.

## Stop 4

The land as far as the eye can see was owned by the Lubbock family until 1938. Look at the circles of trees in the field, known as 'roundels'. Planted by John Lubbock in 1896 (right).



Gate piers and ornamental trees set out in 1842

## Stop 2

You are now standing in the former Lubbock family burial ground.

This is the grave of Harold, Ursula and John Lubbock, (3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Avebury), enclosed with black railings. Behind you is the grave of John Birkbeck Lubbock, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Avebury. Most family graves were moved to St. Giles church, Farnborough village during the 1980s.



Harold Lubbock c1910

Continue uphill. Go through the gate and into the churchyard. Notice on your left the grave of Norman Lubbock, a son of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Avebury.

Continue forward through woodland until you reach Stop 5.

## Stop 5

North End farm nestles in the bottom of the valley below you, once part of the Lubbock estate. Today electricity pylons cross this valley. Originally planned to go through the middle of the High Elms estate in 1932, Alice, Lady Avebury objected and had them diverted.

### SHORTCUT ROUTE TO BEECHE/VISITOR CENTRE



Roundel

## Stop 6

Look for the glossy leaves of the evergreen Laurel trees here which provided cover for pheasants during the 19th century when High Elms was a shooting estate.

After 200 metres turn right and take a detour to Stop 7.

## Stop 7

You are now standing in front of a Denehole, which dates to the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Its primary use was for extraction of chalk, used to improve poor clay soils. There are two redundant deneholes on the High Elms estate. This one is now used by bats as a hibernation roost.



Cross section of a Denehole

Re-trace your steps back to the original path you were on and continue until you reach the road.

## Stop 8

Cuckoo Lodge (private residence) was built in the 19th century and was home to the High Elms Gamekeeper. In the 1911 census the gamekeeper was listed as Mr Richard Cope.

The trackway you are now standing on, was made using 'Blitz' rubble removed from East London during World War II. These trackways enabled access for forestry vehicles during the 1940s.

Continue uphill for 400 metres, then turn left. Continue to follow waymarkers until Stop 9.

## Stop 9

Beech Walk. These magnificent trees were planted in 1840 as a memorial for John William Lubbock, 2<sup>nd</sup> baronet by his son. Beech walk originally stretched down the hill to your right, a distance of over 200 metres!



Beech Walk

Turn left towards Stop 10.

## Stop 10

You are now standing on what was the former racecourse. Laid out in 1859 by John William Lubbock, 3<sup>rd</sup> baronet. Horse racing at High Elms became increasingly popular from 1860 to 1865, when thousands of people enjoyed a day out; the Royal Artillery band often played to give a sense of occasion.

## Stop 11

This is Clockhouse farm, c1769. Home to the estate manager John Ransom, in the 1820s. It became Clockhouse farm in 1826 when a bell and clock were added. The bell summoned workers in for meals. The white octagonal building was originally a granary, and later a pony gin to pump water from a well.



Pony gin pumping water

Walk downhill, cross the road diagonally to the right and through Clockhouse orchard. Re-cross the road and head into the golf course car park.

On entering the golf course car park head straight on and to the very back, look for the waymarker on the kissing gate.

Walk straight ahead onto the formal lawns and up to BEECHE.

Why not return on a different day and try the Mansion house and grounds walk which looks at the heart of the estate in more detail?

A 19th century gamekeeper



200m (approx.)

## Key

- Estate walk
- Estate walk shortcut
- 1 Stop point
- P Car park
- ! Caution: cross road carefully
- 🐎 Caution: horses on bridleyway

View across the valley to North End farm