



## Welcome

Lara and I hope you enjoy our new garden map and guide. Whilst researching the history of the hall and garden we happened across a rare and unique map of the hall, park and gardens dated 1652 commissioned by the Wentworth family who built the Jacobean Manor House in 1610 and laid out a garden which was justly praised as one of the three greatest gardens in the county at that time. We felt this family and their enormous contribution to the history and design of the hall and gardens you see today deserved greater attention and it is with great excitement, with the help of celebrated garden historians and designers, we embark on a restoration that highlights both the best of the 17th and 19th century gardens as much as our own aspirations.

We will be striving to capture the grand designs of those who came before us and indulge our own on our journey to restore the gardens to their former glory and in so doing earn back such a prestigious accolade as one of the great gardens in the country. We very much hope you will be inspired by this rewarding project for many years to come.

*Somerleyton*  
Lord Somerleyton



## The 17th Century Gardens

This plan is a reproduction of the 1652 map of Somerleyton Hall & Gardens when the Wentworth family rose to prominence, bought and re-built the hall and laid out what was arguably a more impressive garden than William Nesfield's later plan.

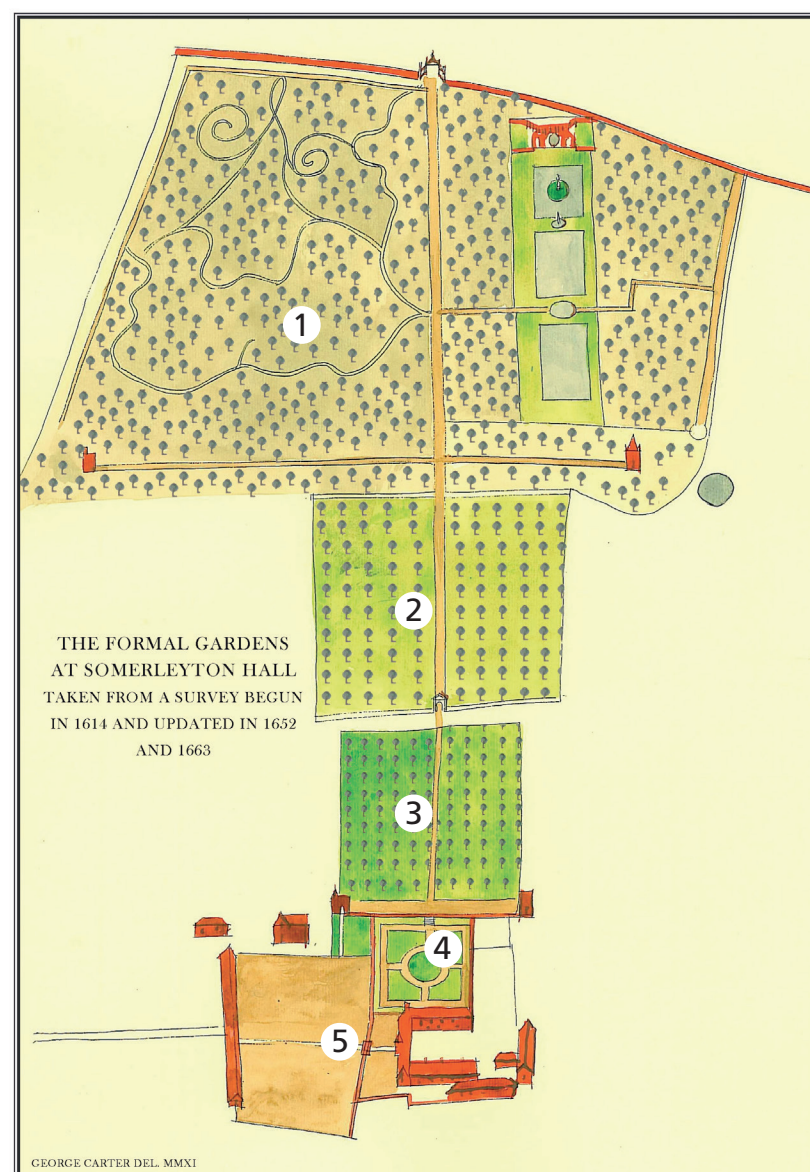
**Area 1** is the car park and surrounding woodland which was known as Image Park, a thoroughly Italianate idea of winding paths in a wood with grottos and statues.

**Area 2** was known as Firrendale in the mid-17th century and we know it was decimated by a storm in 1652. It shows the Wentworth's were at the forefront of garden fashion – Firrendale describes a fine collection of species fir trees which were only beginning to arrive in Britain at this time from the Americas and Asia.

**Area 3** was a formally planted orchard resembling an Elizabethan knot garden perhaps – this area forms the middle section of the garden where today you see most of the fine collection of species trees.

**Area 4** was once known as the banqueting lawn – bigger than today's sunken garden though similar in form – the cut away banks either side remain. From here house guests would enjoy entertainment below on what is now known as Atalanta's lawn.

**Area 5** shows the 17th century hall and forecourt (as shown in George Carter's drawing no 12 overleaf). The Jacobean Manor that the Wentworth's built had the same footprint as the hall you see today (minus the two towers) but the stables were to the south rather than the north as they are today. The Manor House was entirely encapsulated by Thomas's Victorian hall.







18



16



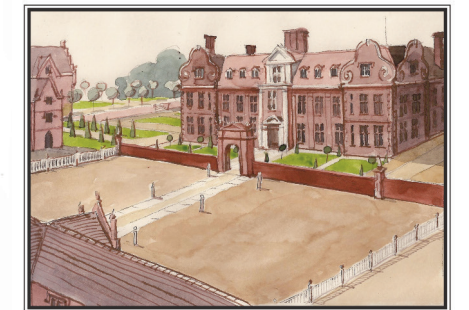
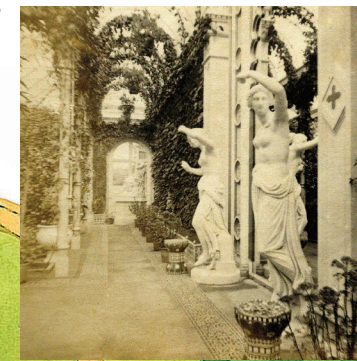
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12



10



11

1. Entrance, Kitchen Garden Restaurant & Shop.

2. The Kitchen Garden known as Firrendale in the 17th century, due to an early collection of fir trees, once served the hall with fruit and vegetables. The long herbaceous borders have been designed by Lady Tollemache to mark the 150 year anniversary in 2013 of the Crossley family living at Somerleyton.

3. Note the fine Victorian ridge and furrow glass houses attributed to Joseph Paxton.

4. Here admire the great Wellingtonia and Monkey Puzzle trees, behind you the famous Paxton Peach Cases.

5. The central border has been pruned back to reveal the mighty Cedar of Lebanon which pre dates Nesfield's Victorian garden and keeps watch over the hall below. Orientate yourself to appreciate the layout of the 17th century garden from here.

6. The Sunken White Garden was re-designed in 2012 by Verity Hanson Smith. Lady Somerleyton chose a white theme to reflect the many weddings that take place here each year. The Loggia and adjacent Orangery are all that remain of the former Winter Garden which covered the entire sunken (White) garden.

7. This is the site of the 17th century banqueting houses which stood on the raised banks behind and opposite where the dovecote now stands. Atalanta's lawn, as it is now known, will be redesigned in 2019/20 as illustrated above.

8. Remains of the Palm House which formed part of the Winter Gardens.

9. Sit here and enjoy this fine view across the Parterre and on up the avenue. Axes like these were a crucial part of 17th century gardens. To your left is the tunnel garden.

10. Nesfield's West Parterre was simplified after WW2 and re-designed along Nesfield's plan by George Carter. He has also illustrated how the hall looked in the 17th century (photo 12).

11. Old Lime Avenue and Entrance. This was the way into the hall until the mid-19th century.

12. West Facade of John Thomas's Somerleyton Hall (photo 12 illustrates this view in the 17th century).

13. Pinetum – this lawn comprises an exotic collection of pine trees. Towering over you is the massive Monterey Pine.

14. My Lady's Garden restored in 2018/19.

15. Nesfield's Maze planted in 1846 – time to get lost!!

16. Chapel Piece – Morton Peto's non-conformist chapel, demolished by the Crossleys. (photo 16)

17. The famous wrought iron Pergola with ancient wisteria and vines.

18. Don't miss this wonderful Lynn Chadwick sculpture entitled 'Stairs' loaned to Somerleyton by kind permission of Lady Somerleyton's aunt, Sarah Chadwick.

19. This area and the wood behind was known as Image Park – The Wentworth family had an Italianate wilderness of grottos, waterworks and statues – we will be re-opening a version of their idea in the next few years. Parking is available in this area.

20. Entrance to hall tours, WC and tour meeting point.

*The Somerleyton Estate has natural features such as tree roots, low branches, uneven surfaces and features such as open ponds and fountains. Please be careful and supervise children at all times. Our health and safety notice is published on our website and displayed within the admissions shop.*