

## Brief history

The long history of the estate is recorded in maps and documents and by evidence on the ground. The character of the estate's landscape reflects natural features such as geology but principally it reflects the pattern of social and cultural change through history.

A timeline can be traced back to the 12th century.

In medieval times:

- A deer park stocked with deer from Windsor, a royal park in the gift of kings
- A Tudor hunting park with improvements to drainage, woods and glades

In the 18th century it was laid out to reflect contemporary design:

- Avenues, a canal (formal lake) and temple, planting of fir trees in Black Park and the digging of Black Park Lake
- Later came a new Palladian villa style house, a lodge, a sinuous lake replacing the formal lake and planting of tree groups reflecting the influence of 'Capability' Brown

The 19th century saw consolidation and enlargement:

- Enclosure of adjacent heaths and commons
- Purchase of additional land by the Bateson Harvey family

Victorian times saw more changes under the Bateson Harveys:

- Dam raised on Black Park Lake, harnessing water power for saw and corn mills and an irrigation system
- New lodge and drive from George Green
- Replaced the temple with a memorial tower designed by Frederik Cockerell
- Created the rhododendron gardens, an arboretum, rock garden and orangery

20th century:

- Further planting
- Acquired by Buckinghamshire County Council
- London's greenbelt included the estate
- Areas were designated as country park
- Farmland and properties were let on long leases
- Woodland was managed under woodland grant schemes

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