

WELCOME TO WOBURN ABBEY AND GARDENS

Woburn Abbey

Woburn Abbey has been the family home of the Earls and Dukes of Bedford for nearly 400 years and is home to the 15th Duke and his family today. They are delighted to share Woburn Abbey, its wonderful treasures and fascinating history with you.

At the Visitor Centre

Purchase a guidebook or audio tour to unlock further secrets about the history of Woburn and to make the most of your experience.

Please request a free house tour booklet on either 'The Ladies of Woburn' or 'Woburn in the 17th Century' and the free quiz booklet for children aged 6-12 years.

Woburn Abbey Gardens

When the 6th Duke inherited Woburn he commissioned Humphry Repton in 1804 to create designs to improve the gardens and park. Follow the Garden Trail Information Boards to find out more about the Abbey Gardens and the redevelopment work over the past five years to recreate and replant Repton's original features and themed garden areas.

EXHIBITIONS FOR 2011

Repton Exhibition

Last year was the 200th anniversary of the completion of Humphry Repton's designs chosen by the 6th Duke. Find out more about this famous landscape gardener and his achievements at Woburn.

Staff and Servants

Take a closer look at those employed by the Earls and Dukes of Bedford from the 16th century to the present day. We have drawn on Woburn Abbey's historical archives to create an exhibition that reveals who the people 'below stairs' were; how they ensured this great house functioned successfully, their positions, wages, uniforms and even their medical histories.



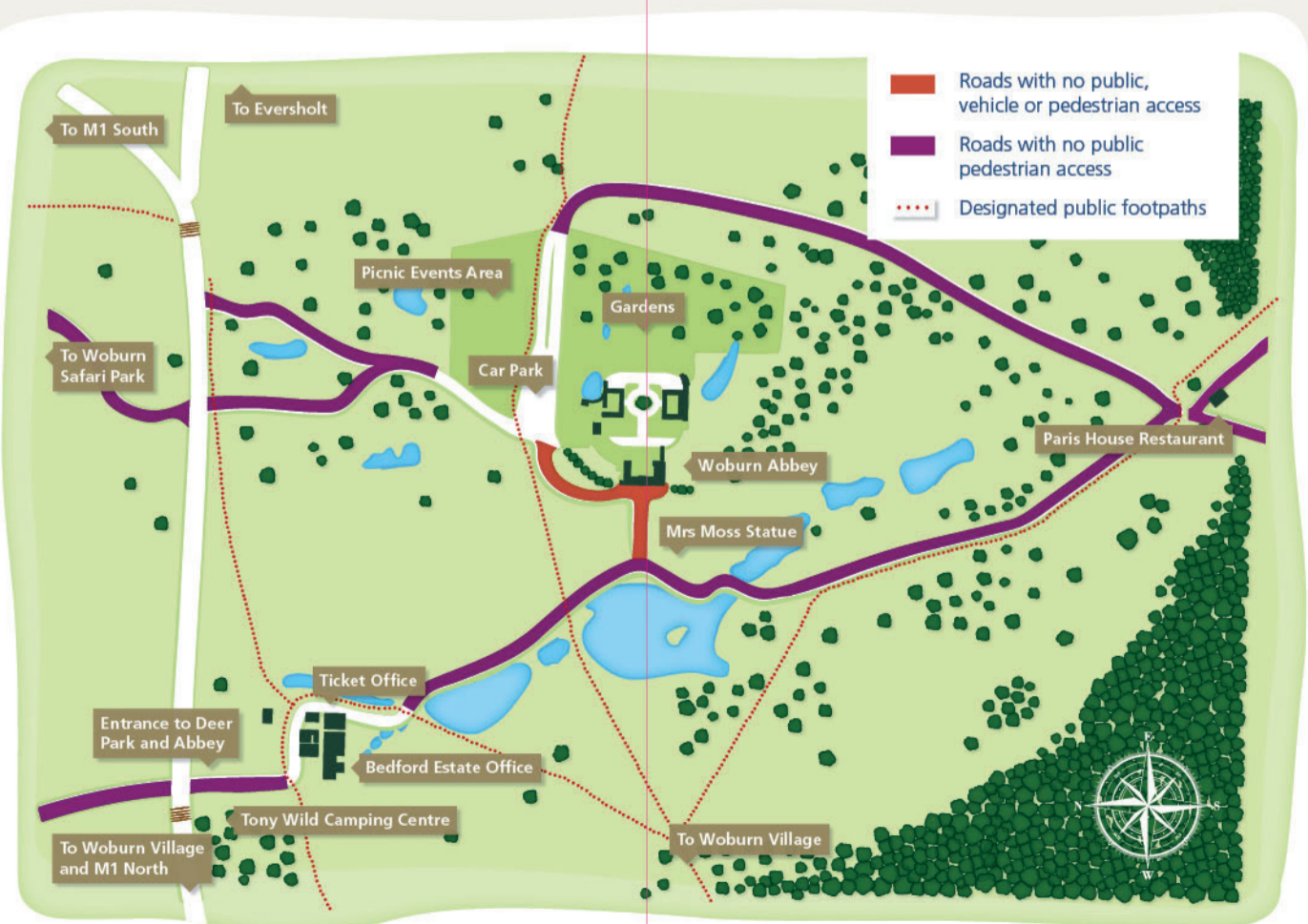
Woburn Abbey Tour Booklets



Home of Afternoon Tea



Paintings by Canaletto, The Dining Room



WOBURN DEER PARK

On your drive through the Deer Park you may see many of the nine free roaming species of deer. The Red Deer and Fallow Deer are native to Britain and the seven other species originally came from Asia.

The largest herd of Milu (commonly known as the Père David's Deer) can be seen here. Originally from China, this species was saved from extinction by the 11th Duke, who brought them back to Woburn. In 1985, the Marquess of Tavistock, later the 14th Duke of Bedford, gave 22 deer to the People's Republic of China, to reintroduce this species to the former Imperial Hunting Park in Beijing. Their herds now number several thousand.

Look out for the Sika, Axis or Chital Deer, the Barasingha who graze in the area around the Paris House Restaurant and the rare Rusa Deer. Small Muntjac and Chinese Water Deer roam individually.



Milu (Père David's Deer)