

## A little bit of history...

Think Wimpole estate has always looked this way? Think again! In 1302 land surrounding the moated manor house at Wimpole was divided into strips and, alongside a small deer park, was farmed by local families.

From 1640, when Thomas Chicheley began building the present house, the estate saw successive owners come and go over 300 years, each

making their mark on the landscape. Some of the best designers and gardeners of their day were employed to change the layout of the park again and again.

Today, thanks to your help and support, the National Trust works to maintain this important Grade I Listed parkland, for ever, for everyone.



# Wimpole Walks

## What will you discover?

Beyond the formal gardens lies Wimpole's beautiful parkland and countryside. With a comprehensive network of public and permissive paths, you're free to explore the estate 365 days a year, rain or shine!

Arable fields, rolling wooded hills with breathtaking views, and open grassland grazed by livestock, are all waiting to be enjoyed.

Follow our five recommended routes with this guide or explore the estate in your own way.

## What to look out for each season...

### Spring

Summer birds such as swallows and swifts arrive on the estate. Look out for emerging cowslips and bluebells.



### Summer

Spot different species of butterfly and dragonfly. Enjoy the golden fields ready for harvest.



### Autumn

It's the fungus season! How many types can you find? Hedgerows are busy with feeding birds.



### Winter

See barn owls at dusk, plus buzzards and red kites looking for pickings. Don't miss thousands of starlings gathering over the South Avenue at sunset or dusk.

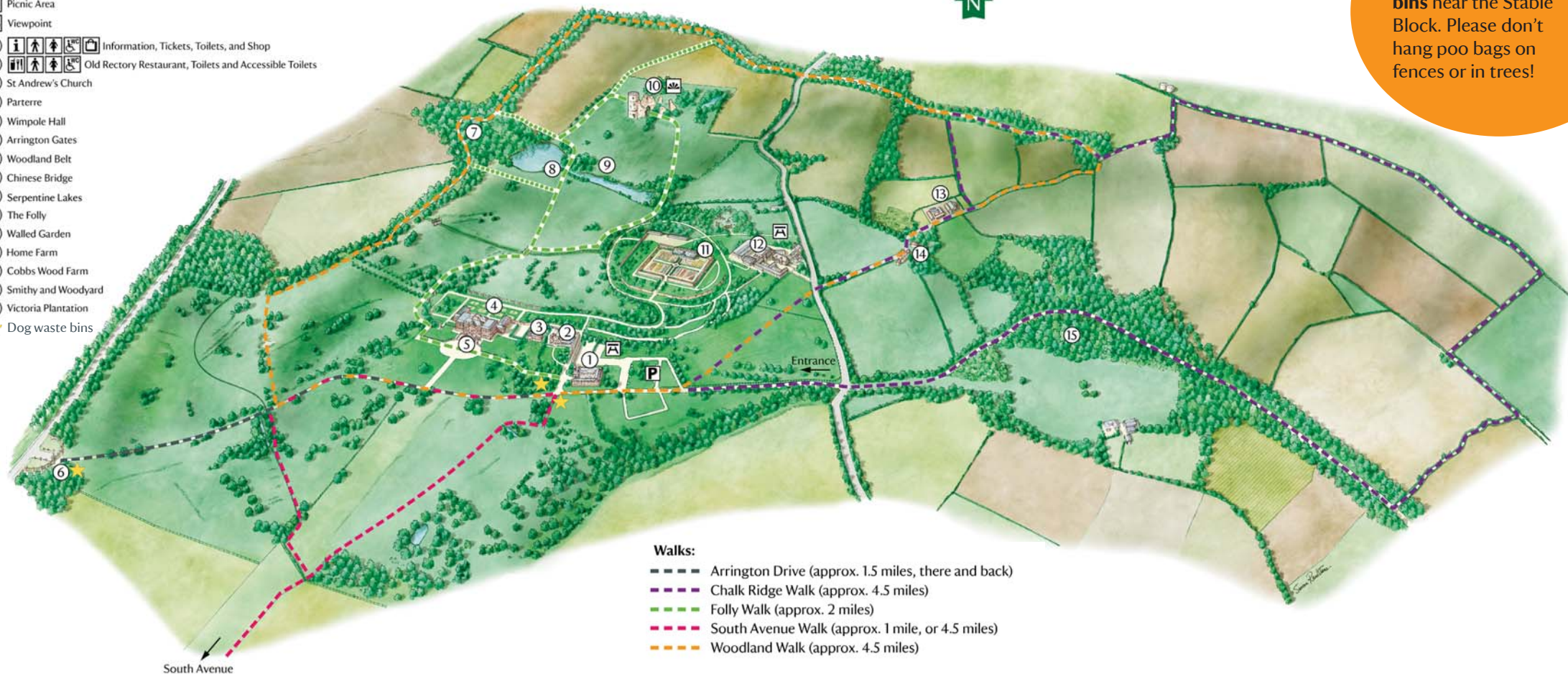


## Please follow the Countryside Code at Wimpole

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Be considerate to other people using the estate
- Protect the natural environment; wildlife, plants and trees
- Close all gates behind you (we have livestock grazing in many fields)
- Keep your dog under effective control and always on a lead in livestock fields
- Always clean up after your dog and use the bins provided
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences and hedges
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Leave no trace of your visit; take your litter home or use the bins provided
- Do not light fires

There are **dog poo bins** near the Stable Block. Please don't hang poo bags on fences or in trees!

- Key:**
- Car Park
  - Picnic Area
  - Viewpoint
  - Information, Tickets, Toilets, and Shop
  - Old Rectory Restaurant, Toilets and Accessible Toilets
  - St Andrew's Church
  - Parterre
  - Wimpole Hall
  - Arrington Gates
  - Woodland Belt
  - Chinese Bridge
  - Serpentine Lakes
  - The Folly
  - Walled Garden
  - Home Farm
  - Cobbs Wood Farm
  - Smithy and Woodyard
  - Victoria Plantation
  - Dog waste bins



- Walks:**
- Arrington Drive (approx. 1.5 miles, there and back)
  - Chalk Ridge Walk (approx. 4.5 miles)
  - Folly Walk (approx. 2 miles)
  - South Avenue Walk (approx. 1 mile, or 4.5 miles)
  - Woodland Walk (approx. 4.5 miles)

### Arrington Drive (allow 45 minutes)

A buggy friendly walk, perfect if you have puddle-loving little ones in tow. The Arrington gates were once the main entrance to the estate, built by the 4th Earl of Hardwicke in 1851.

### Chalk Ridge Walk (allow 2.5 hours)

From the top of the ancient Mare Way, enjoy some impressive views across some of Wimpole's arable fields and beyond. Start on the main drive before returning via Cobbs Wood Farm.

### Folly Walk (allow 1 hour, plus time to explore)

Probably our most popular walk. Head straight through 'Capability' Brown's North Park and enjoy the views from the Gothic folly.

### South Avenue Walk (allow 30 minutes - 2.5 hours)

Take in the magnificent South Avenue, originally designed in the 1720s by Charles Bridgeman for Edward Harley, 2nd Earl of Oxford. Start by heading south of the Stable Block and walk the entire length of the avenue (please be careful when crossing the road) or circle back when you reach the gate if you want a shorter walk (please note this shorter route is not way marked.)

### Woodland Walk (allow 2.5 hours)

The woodland belt - once a 'ride' to be enjoyed on horseback - is now a haven for wildlife and is home to many of Wimpole's rarest residents including the Barbastelle bat. Start in the car park before heading north-east.