

The Cascade

The canal embankment now blocks the intended grand view, but here you can see three of what we think were originally a cascading series of four linked ponds making up Great Linford Manor's water gardens.

Water Gardens

It is hard to imagine today, but in the 1760s this was part of the Great Linford Manor Pleasure Gardens. A string of ponds were fed by the Hine spring and linked by weirs and bridges. The arched entrance to the culvert under the railway may have been part of an original bridge over the stream.

A Lost Landscape

Two ponds survive in close to their original form. A third pond may have been lost under the canal embankment. The canal also cut off this fourth pond which fell into disuse. It was rebuilt with a carefully-engineered cascade in the 1860s as part of a railway compensation package for the estate.

A few original stones from the 1760s garden survive in the cascade arch, now a culvert under the railway. With the pond here isolated from the main gardens, the land between the two embankments was used for grazing until the planting of Blackhorse Wood.

Listen

Today you can hear canal boats and nearby roads ...

Try to hear only birdsong and cascading water, and imagine the original peaceful private garden.



Richard Woods also designed the gardens at Cusworth Hall in Doncaster, where a rustic arch survives.

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