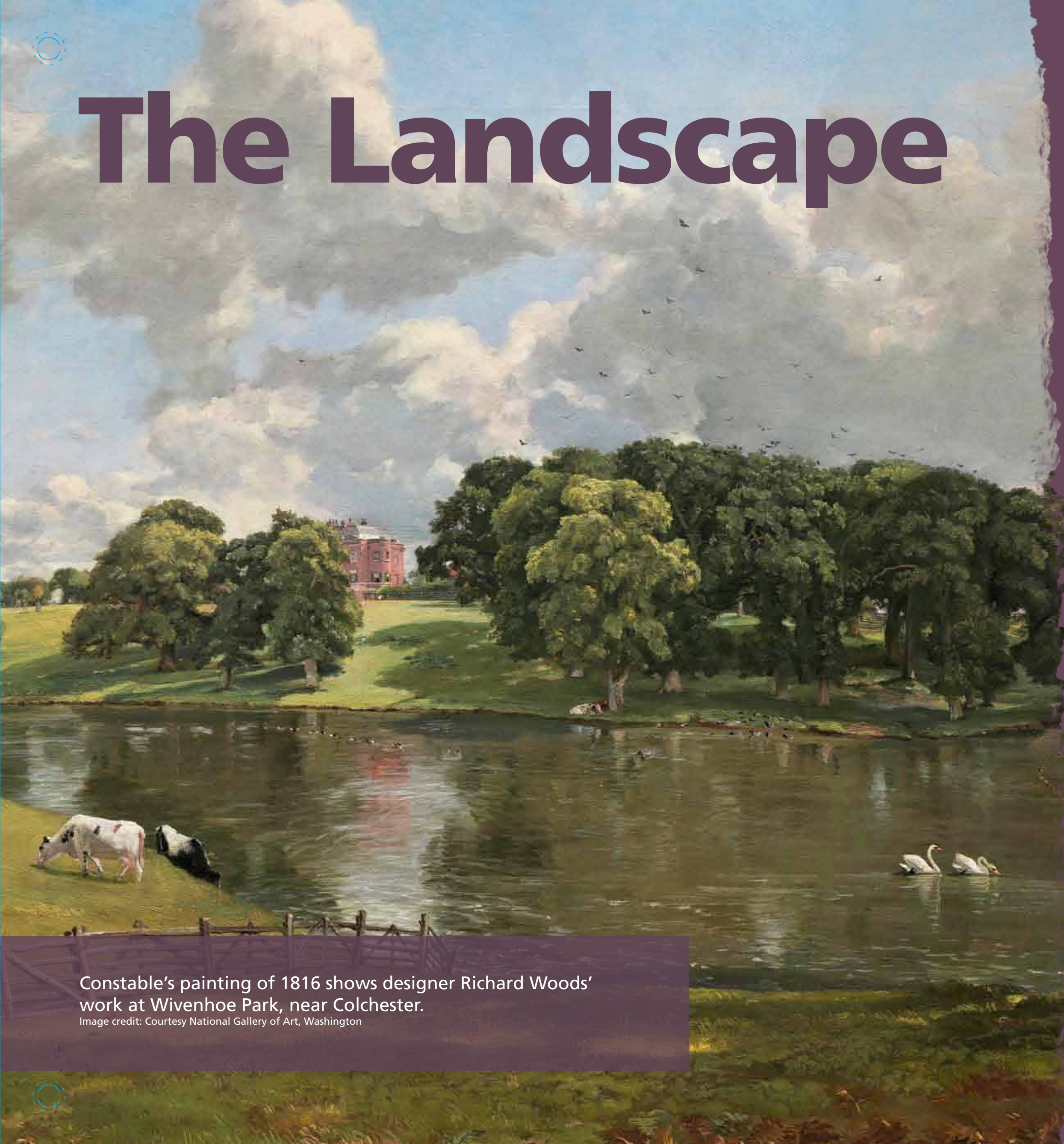


The Landscape



Constable's painting of 1816 shows designer Richard Woods' work at Wivenhoe Park, near Colchester.

Image credit: Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington

Garden Fashions

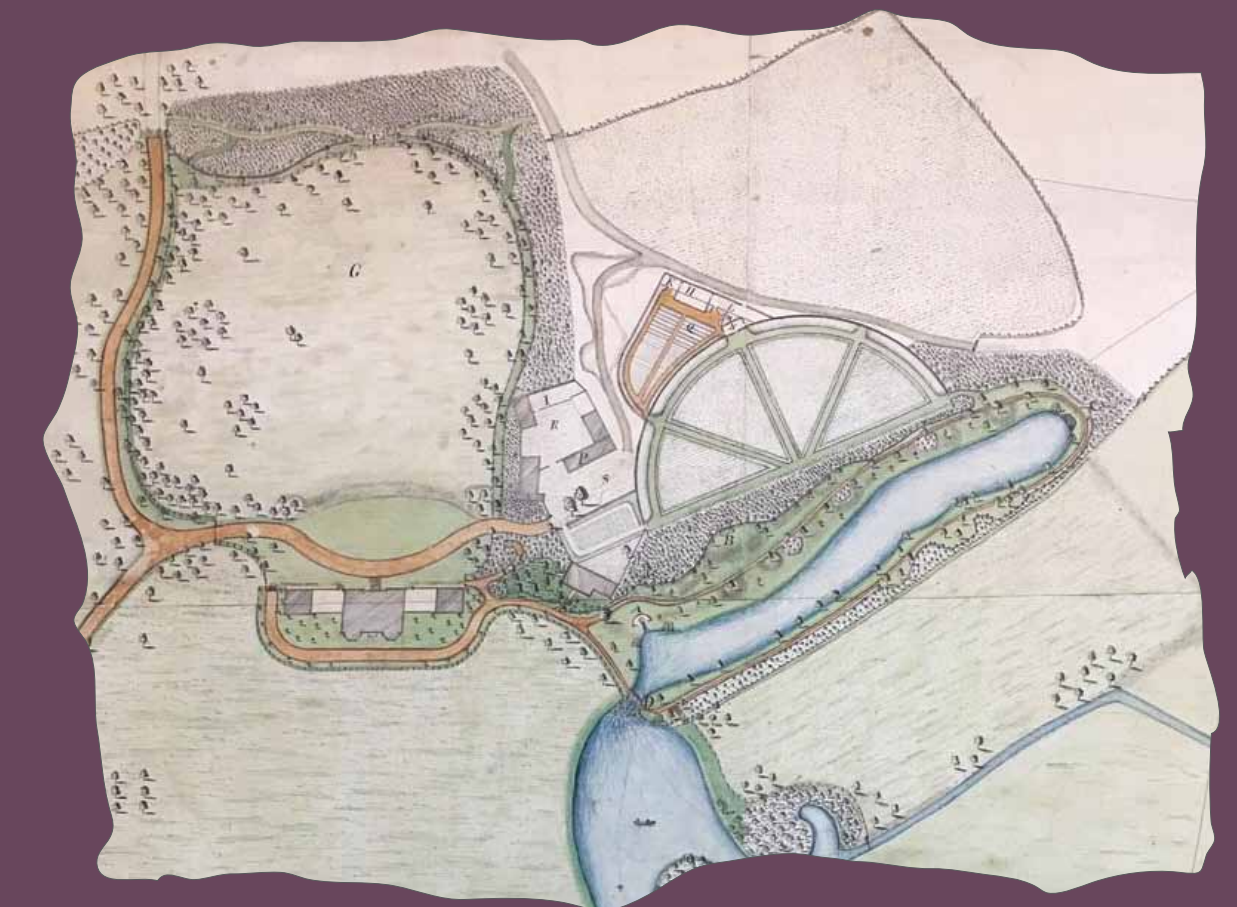
By the mid 1700s the Manor's formal gardens were outdated, so a designer was appointed to create a more fashionable and larger Pleasure Garden in the English Landscape style.



Perfecting Nature

This trend aimed to create an idealised pastoral landscape, composing views using water gardens, sweeping lawns, carefully placed groups of trees and classically-inspired garden buildings. At Great Linford a skilled designer incorporated a Wilderness garden, with a Doric summerhouse, fashionable planting and winding paths.

The identity of the designer is uncertain, but a good candidate is Richard Woods, a contemporary of Capability Brown, who specialised in the intimate settings of more modest estates. The garden is in his style and he was known to have worked locally at both Little Linford and Wavendon.



Designer Richard Woods produced a plan for Little Linford Hall in 1761, which included a 'light Doric alcove' that may have looked similar to the Doric Seat here at Great Linford.

Image credit: From the collections at Buckinghamshire Archives

