

# National Trust - Wimpole - Significant Dates

- ~500 BC – Iron Age – Archaeology of farm settlements in new car park and north of Belts.
- ~100 AD – Roman – Ermine Street was the Roman road from London to York.
- 1086 – Mediaeval settlement of Wimpole mentioned in the Domesday Book
- 1428 – Wimpole acquired by Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury - in family 250 years!
- 1638 – Benjamin Hare map – Bennell End and Thresham End still present
- 1640 – Sir Thomas Chicheley, wool merchant, MP, built 7 bay central block of Wimpole Hall
- 1658 – Chicheley forced (by high living) to sell the estate for £51,000 to John Cutler, Grocer
- 1689 – Elizabeth Cutler marries Charles Robartes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Radnor
- 1707 – Kip and Knyff drawing – formal gardens all round (with fountain)
- 1710 – Radnor sells to John Holles, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Newcastle
- 1713 – Marriage of Henrietta Holles to Edward, Lord Harley (Earl of Oxford)
- 1714 to 1721 – Rebuild by Gibbs for Harley book collection. Chapel 1724 (Thornhill)
- 1720 to 1725 – Charles Bridgeman plants South Avenue of elm trees, redesigns gardens
- 1740 – forced (by buying too many books) sale of estate to Philip Yorke, Earl of Hardwicke
- 1742 – Flitcroft unified redesign of South front
- 1748 – Parish church demolished and rebuilt to Flitcroft design
- 1752 – Walled Garden (Greening)
- 1760s/70s – Capability Brown – curved woodland Belts and 'serpented' lakes
- 1772 – 'Gothic Tower' on Johnson's Hill (Folly)
- 1790 – John Soane – Yellow Drawing Room, bath, etc. 1794 Home Farm including barn
- 1801 – Humphry Repton – gardens enclosed again
- 1842 – Victorian extensions by Henry Kendall – front porch, conservatory, kitchens
- 1851 – Stable block by Henry Kendall
- 1843 – Visit of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Earl of Hardwick was Lord-in-Waiting.
- 1894 – Sale by Champagne Charlie (slow horses & fast women) to Lord Robartes (Bank)
- 1936 – Captain George and Elsie Bambridge as tenants – buy in 1938 (Kipling money)
- 1942 to 1945 – USAF 91st Bombardment Group flying B-17 Flying Fortresses.
- 1944 – 1960 USAF Hospital near Arrington Gate
- 1953 – Demolition of Kendall Conservatory and kitchen/servant wings
- 1976 – Mrs Bambridge bequeathed 2,400 acres to National Trust. (peak was 11,000 acres)
- 1977 – Dutch Elm Disease – replanting avenue with lime trees.
- 2008 – Film "Easy Virtue" starring Colin Firth and Kristin Scott Thomas at Folly
- 2019 – New car park and visitor entrance, 2020 - Multi-Use Trail
- 2022 – 90,000 trees planted

Point 1 – by church

- Point 2a – in front of house

- Point 2b – at Avenue

- Point 3 – at Bennell End

- Point 4 – at Ha Ha

- Point 5 – at Folly View

- Point 6 – at back of house