

#### 4. AFRICAN HUT

Maurice Egerton, the last private owner of Tatton, who died in 1958, had extensive estates in Kenya.

During WWII he was unable to visit his estates, but instead consoled himself with his gardens at Tatton. Here, just off the Broad Walk, he built the 'African Hut', a circular structure with a thatched roof carried on ten rustic timber posts, a cobbled floor and a circular seat set around its central post. It acts as a summer-house.



#### 5. JAPANESE GARDEN SHINTO SHRINE & TEA HOUSE

One of the most striking elements in the garden design of Tatton is the Japanese Garden laid out for Alan de Tatton Egerton between 1910 and 1913, probably under the influence of the Anglo-Japanese Exhibition held in London in 1910. The garden, originally laid out with the help of Japanese craftsmen, follows the plan of a tea-garden, with a small Shinto Shrine brought from Japan, and a thatched Tea-House. The site was that of a series of former pits where marl was dug to put on the land. These, remodelled, provided the necessary

water-features. The whole layout embodies the highly-symbolic use of particular trees and plants, as well as the use of water.



The garden was restored in 2001. Because of its fragility and scale the garden is not normally open, except at set times for guided walks, but can be enjoyed from the outside, looking in.

#### 6. CHORAGIC MONUMENT

At the end of the Broad Walk is a little circular Classical monument with six fluted columns, set on a high plinth. Its design is based upon that of the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates in Athens. Lysicrates was the winner of a choral competition in 334 BC and his monument, drawn and published in 1762, quickly



became a favourite, partly because it was Classical architecture on a conveniently small scale. It was ideal as a basis for a garden folly and numerous versions of the monument exist. Designed by William Cole of Chester in 1820 to commemorate Wilbraham Egerton's tour of Europe it forms a visual full-stop at the southern end of the Broad Walk.



#### 7. MERCURY

Below the Italian Gardens is a small pool where Turn Mere was drained to create more garden land. This contains a lead statue of Mercury, the postman of the gods, recognised by his winged hat and heels (for greater speed) and the caduceus or wand in his hand.

#### 8. ITALIAN GARDENS

After the freedom and informality of English landscape gardening there was a return during the 19th century to so-called 'Italian Gardens'. These



were formal, with terraces, gravelled walks, beds forming patterns and wide borders. The Italian Garden at Tatton was designed by

Joseph Paxton of Crystal Palace fame in 1847. There are two large beds, surrounded by low beech hedges, flanking a fountain known as Neptune, which is in fact a Triton (a bearded man with a fish tail, blowing on a conch shell), added in 1887 in time for the visit of the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra. The whole garden is skilfully terraced down the hillside towards the hollow originally occupied by Turn Mere and ends in a terracotta balustrading at the bottom (also added in 1887). The garden layout can best be appreciated from the mansion, as was intended.



The south front of the house forms a backdrop to this garden. The main block is made up of a centre of two storeys and five bays wide, with a portico on four giant columns and

windows at each end of Adam type. Rosettes and swags carved on the stone between first and second floor levels break up the flat surfaces. To the west is a two-storey extension with rows of columns, plain below and decorated above, the lower part by Lewis Wyatt, the upper by George Stokes in 1860.

#### 9. CONSERVATORY

Built as a conservatory for Wilbraham Egerton to the design of Lewis Wyatt in 1818, but later converted to use as an Orangery reflecting the current interest in citrus fruits. Orange trees were grown in pots and could be taken out into the garden in summer. In winter the Orangery made a pleasant walk. Its building involved setting back and rebuilding the southern wall of the kitchen garden.



Restoration of the building took place in 1994 and won an 'Europa Nostra' award. It now houses plants introduced into this country before 1820.

#### 10. FERNERY & SHOW HOUSE

Known originally as the Palm House, this building was designed by George Stokes, son-in-law of the great Paxton, in 1859. It has brick walls and a glazed roof carried on a cast-iron structure. The roof was raised in the late 19th century to accommodate the growth of the New Zealand and Australian Tree Ferns. Adjoining it and linking it to the Conservatory is the Show House, a small conventional greenhouse-type building designed for showing off selections of exotic plants.



#### 11. SOUTH LAWN FOUNTAIN



This fountain, added to the South Lawn of Charlotte's garden in 1847, consists of three bowls of progressive size in artificial stone, arising from acanthus pedestals.

#### 12. CHARLOTTE'S GARDEN



Charlotte's garden, designed in 1814 and laid out 4 years later, is overlooked by a small domed semi-circular arbour or summer-house with a curved seat, the whole backed by a trellis and with wire-framed sides to support roses. On the lawn near Charlotte's Arbour

stands the Four Winds Urn, an elaborate stone urn decorated on one side with winged female busts and on the base with four ugly human faces at the corners, perhaps symbolising the Four Winds of Antiquity. At the corner of the L-shaped border stands the Acanthus Bench. This massive stone bench is made up of a number of pieces and has a

heavy leaf scroll along its back, acanthus leaves upon its feet, and a small armorial device in the centre. It probably dates from the 19th century.



# TATTON PARK

## DISCOVER GARDEN ARCHITECTURE & STATUARY

### A SELF-GUIDED TRAIL



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# DISCOVER GARDEN ARCHITECTURE & STATUARY

## ROUTES

- Main Route
- - - Wheelchair Access to Tower Garden. The Rose Garden is 'Sunken' so there is no wheelchair access.
- - - Just over half way between the Choragic Monument and the African Hut by an open glade there is an alternative route to the Mercury Pool. This route is not suitable for Wheelchairs.

## KEY

- 1 Orchard & Vegetable Garden Wall Urns
- 2 Rose Garden
- 3 Tower Garden
- 4 African Hut
- 5 Japanese Garden - Shinto Shrine & Tea House
- 6 Choragic Monument
- 7 Mercury
- 8 Italian Gardens
- 9 Conservatory
- 10 Fernery & Show House
- 11 South Lawn Fountain
- 12 Charlotte's Garden

- Lawns and open spaces, Grass paths
- Trees, Rhododendrons etc
- Water
- Gravel and all weather paths
- Flower beds & borders
- Buildings
- Glass Houses
- No Access



The gardens of Tatton Park have developed over a long period of time and include features of many different dates. They illustrate changing fashions as well as the tastes of the owners.

The gardens surrounding the mansion were the pleasure grounds of the Egerton family and their guests, and were intended to combine room for walks, sports and conversation, with opportunities for showing off spectacular views, rare plants, or fruits out of season. Over time, the gardens took nearly 50 acres from the surrounding parkland, which originally ran almost up to the house, to create a range of garden styles.

The parkland and surrounding estates of some 8,000 acres (now much reduced) provided the distant prospects from the house and from selected points in the garden, while creating a buffer against the outer world. At Tatton an unusually wide variety of buildings and gardens survive, reflecting the taste of successive Egertons. An extensive programme of restoration is under way, to bring back many of the features to their original use.

## I. ORCHARD & VEGETABLE GARDEN WALL URNS



Three walled gardens, two of which have been restored, originally provided fruit and vegetables for the house. South-facing walls traditionally gained most of the sun, but north-facing walls were in shade most of the time and were often heated in spring and autumn by furnaces

whose flues ran through the thickness of the wall and emerged as chimneys.

At Tatton the wall separating the orchard garden from the pleasure ground beyond was built in 1818 and has horizontal flues which run at four different levels. As the chimneys would have been seen from the pleasure grounds as well, they are disguised as a series of classical Coade Stone urns set on top of the wall. From the vegetable garden other ornamental urns are viewed on an unheated length of side wall and are of cast iron with scroll patterns, dating from about 1850-60.

## 2. ROSE GARDEN

Anna, Lady Egerton had the rose garden laid out around 1911 in a formal style which looked back to Tudor times, but included an Italian device - the pergola, or open-topped passageway - over which roses were trained. This has stone columns to support it. The urns near the entrance are of cast iron dating from the 1880s, one with a relief

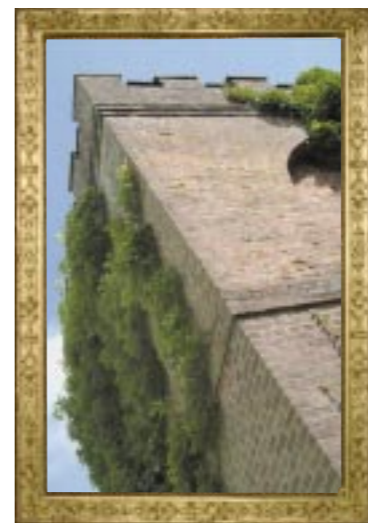


showing Greek warriors and the other the Maenads - the drunken followers of Bacchus, the Greek god of fertility and wine.

The Lion Pool is a private bathing pool with a tiled base, named after the two lion statues in front of it. In the back is a spout in the form of a human head from which water trickles. The stone bench has gold glass mosaic pieces let into its back, in the Byzantine style. The Tea House, a semi-circular summer-house with a circular stained-glass window, is of the same date as the Rose Garden.

## 3. TOWER GARDEN

The brick Tower is something of a mystery. It is of two storeys with superimposed blank Gothic arches on each side. Probably late-18th century in origin it once stood near the boundary of the park, before the gardens were extended.



Tradition declares that it was used for watching against sheep-stealing in the park but it seems far too elaborate for such a use.

There was quite a fashion for cold baths from the mid-18th century, usually set at a distance from the house. The building may have

combined this function with that of prospect tower, the upper storey containing rainwater tanks. It was modified in 1916 after Lady Egerton's pool was built in the Rose Garden nearby, and two round windows echo that of the Tea-House.

At the edge of the garden is a semi-circular Verona marble bench with ends in the form of winged lions. A small lead statue of Fame, the hundred-tongued Roman goddess of news and rumour, stands in the middle of the garden in the form of a winged female with two trumpets. Two lead cisterns, brought from Rostherne Manor, can also be seen in the garden. One, triangular in shape, has the date and initials T/GP 1765 while the other, rectangular example has L/PM 1640.

If you have been inspired to learn more about the gardens at Tatton please visit our website

[www.tattonpark.org.uk](http://www.tattonpark.org.uk)

Here you will find an extended version of this leaflet with links to other related sites including:

[www.gardenhistorysociety.org](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org)

[www.georgiangroup.org.uk](http://www.georgiangroup.org.uk)

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