

Chawton House Gardens

1. The South Lawn

During the period 1763-1780, the house's formal gardens were swept away to be replaced by parkland in the English Landscape style popularised by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The South Lawn, and the views to and from the house, have been reinstated in this style.

2. The Library Terrace

This terrace was built c1905 by Edward Austen's grandson, Montagu Knight (1844-1914) and bears evidence of the influence of Sir Edwin Lutyens who was a close friend. The principle Lutyens details are the step risers made from old tiles and the two circular millstones, with tile insets.

3. The Upper Terrace

The Upper Terrace was built in 1901 and provides views across to the house and St Nicholas Church.

4. The Rose Garden

Montagu Knight divided Edward Austen Knight's walled garden into two in the 19th century. He created this rose garden and installed the ornate iron gates.

5. Elizabeth Blackwell Herb Garden

This section is inspired by Elizabeth Blackwell's *A Curious Herbal*, one of many fascinating books in our collection. A guide to different plants and their medicinal uses, Blackwell undertook this ambitious project to free her husband from debtors' prison. It was published in 1737-1739 to great acclaim enabling his release.

6. The Shrubbery Walk

In Jane Austen's time, it was typical for a manor house to include a shrubbery walk like this circular route, where the ladies of the house could take their exercise.

9. The Ha-Ha

The ha-ha, a typical eighteenth-century feature, discreetly prevents sheep grazing in the fields from approaching the house – although they do occasionally find a way through!

8. The Lime Avenue

The Lime Avenue was planted by Montagu Knight during the second part of the nineteenth century. The views along the Lime Avenue are very impressive, especially in the early spring when it is carpeted with snowdrops, daffodils, and then bluebells.

7. The Wilderness

Dating back to the seventeenth century, a 'wilderness' is a wooded area that appears natural but is in fact deliberately planted. The desirability of a wilderness survived the transition to the English Landscape style, and it remained a feature of eighteenth-century garden design. Having a 'wilderness' part of the garden was fashionable in Jane Austen's era and a wilderness is referred to in *Pride and Prejudice*.



Please keep left at the entrance and follow the one-way routes.

You can picnic on the South Lawn. 1