



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Institute of Continuing Education

Madingley Hall and Estate

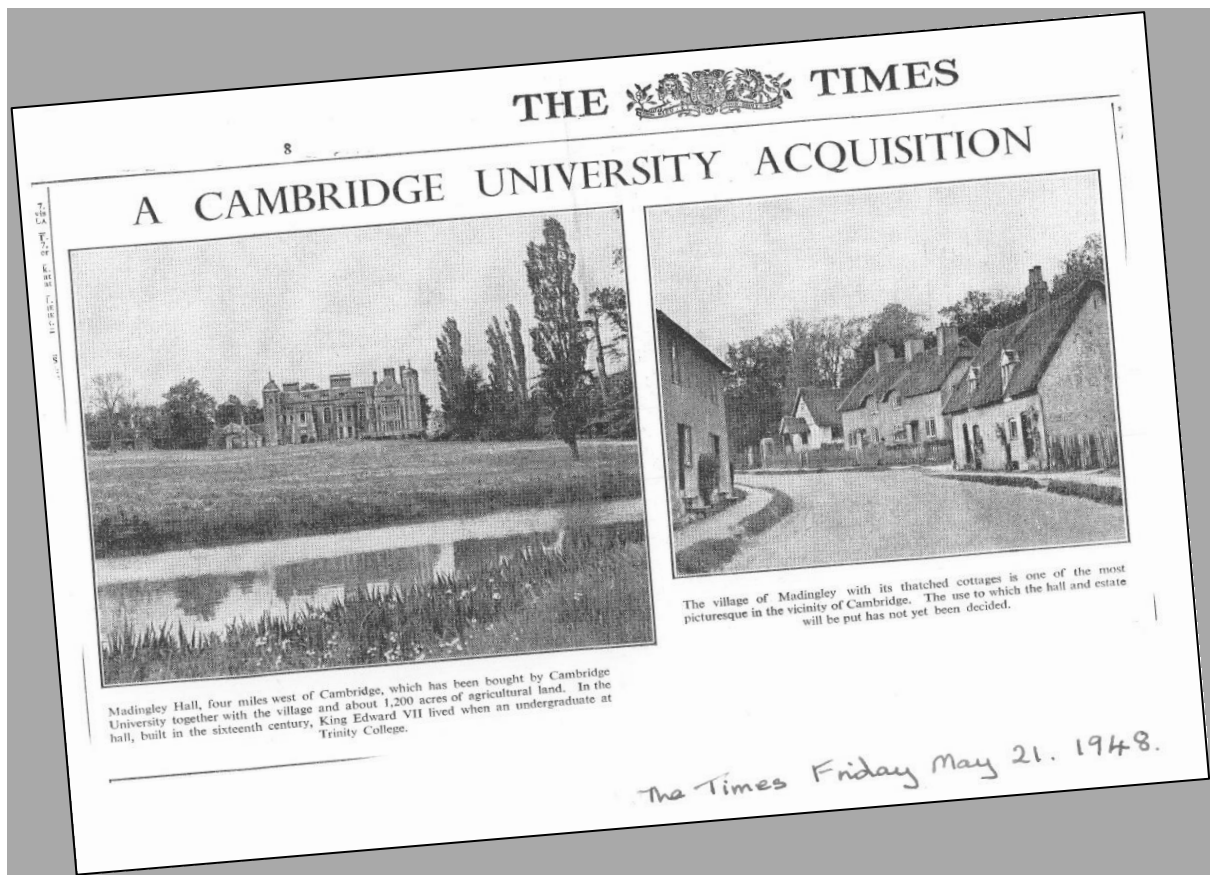
Celebratory Booklet and Walk

**The 70th Anniversary of
University of Cambridge Ownership**



Madingley Hall

The Chancellor and Masters of the University of Cambridge purchased the Madingley Hall Estate from the personal representatives of the late Ambrose Harding in 1948.



The sale included thirty six houses (including Avenue House, the Grange and the Manor House), six farms, The Three Horseshoes, the Village Hall, an estate Yard, a Blacksmith's Shop and 505.85 hectares (1,250 acres) for £50,000.



The conditions of the sale, states the purchasers "will not remove or deface or cause to be removed or defaced the Harding Coat of Arms from any of the places on the said estate where they are now placed".

Between 1948 and 1951 the whole stable block was completely rebuilt to provide study bedrooms. When the Hall came into use in 1951 it had two purposes. In term time it was a residence for a community of postgraduate students and visiting scholars; in vacation it was used as a residence for adult students on short courses. A former postgraduate student says it was "a wonderfully eclectic mix of people of all ages from many countries and many disciplines. A distinguished academic acted as Warden and presided over dinner in the dining hall. Each November, a Madingley Ball was held.



1948 before demolition

In 1975 the University's Board of Extra-Mural Studies, as it then was, was given full-time use of the Hall as a residential centre for adult education. There was a thorough refurbishment of the Hall, a new office block, the Dart Building, was added to the Hall as the Board's administrative headquarters and the Coach House which had been used as a garage was converted into a library with specially built window frames.

The Wayper Room to the west of the courtyard was built in 1985. Between 1992 and 1995 the Tower Wing was added to the south-west corner of the courtyard providing an additional 25 ensuite rooms and the courtyard bedrooms were re-arranged to provide every room with a shower and WC. The Terrace Bar was built on the north side of the Hall on the site of the former kitchen yard, giving access to the Terrace and North Garden in 1995.



1950 Rebuilding Works

Today, the Institute provides part time postgraduate masters courses, diplomas, certificates and non-accredited courses in a wide range of disciplines. The Hall also hosts conferences, dinners, and offers bed and breakfast accommodation.



Pergola and round lawn in late 1980s

Half of the walled garden was made into a car park in 1985. In the area between this car park and the Hazel Walk a new landscaped garden was created from 1983 featuring a Alpine Bed, Medicinal Border (which includes aromatherapy and perfumery, culinary and dye plants), Round Lawn and The Sunken Garden. A range of mixed borders contain both familiar and unusual plants.



Rose garden in the 1970s

Lancelot 'Capability' Brown

In 1756 the 4th Baronet Hynde Cotton employed Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to remove the Dutch Garden and replace it with naturalistic parkland. To the east, Brown's contract specifies the finishing of the whole lawn down to the road to a natural easy level and the construction of a new coach road (the present drive). The creation of the Lower Pond, the enclosed vista beyond with the road sunk and the blending of St Mary Magdalene Parish Church into the landscape is credited to Brown.

To the north, Brown laid out a lawn, removing trees to ensure it was large enough and graded to natural levels. Preparations for tree and shrub planting and the construction of a gravel path were undertaken. This is the present circular path dividing the north garden from the woodland. In 1755 the Coach House and Stable Yard, now the Courtyard, were built, followed in 1757 by the purchase of the Old Schools Archway from the University, which was installed next to the south east turret the following year. A catalogue of 1757 lists the fruit trees planted at Madingley in the kitchen garden, which can be viewed in a small exhibition in the gallery in the Hall.



The University Farm

The majority of the Madingley Estate purchased by the University in 1948 is now managed by University Estate Management. The farmland is managed as part of the University Farm and is split between grass and maize production which supports the University's dairy herd and sheep flock, and the growing of cereals and oilseeds. The primary purpose of the University Farm is to serve as a teaching resource for the Department of Veterinary Medicine. The dairy unit was relocated to Park Farm, Madingley in 1997. Much of the ridge and furrow parkland surrounding Madingley Hall is used for grazing by the University's sheep flock.

Woodland surrounding the Hall

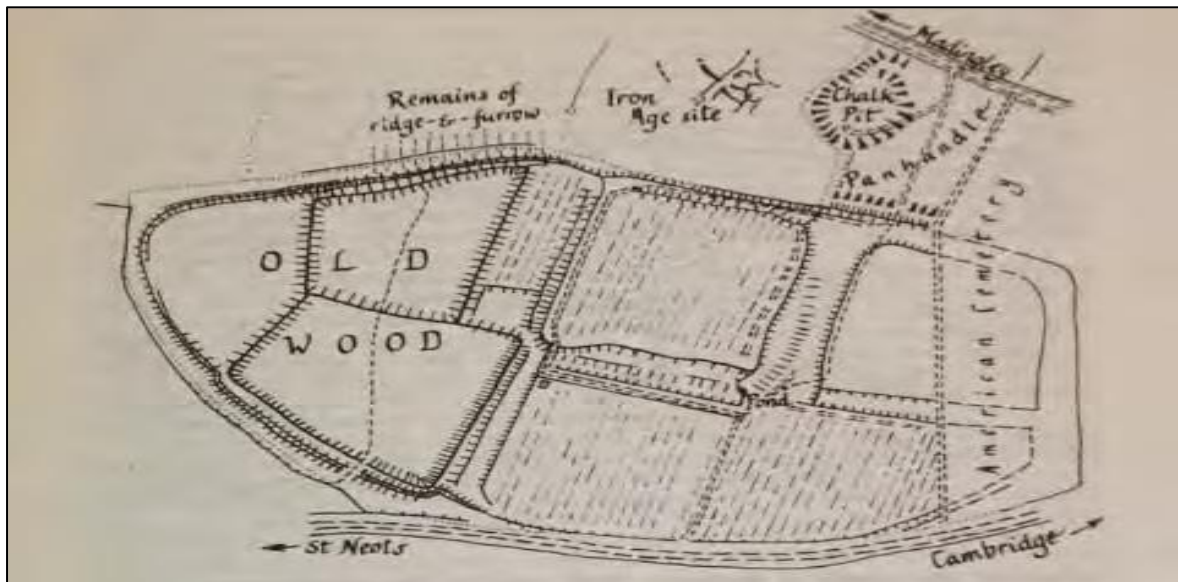
Much of this woodland has evolved over time particularly from Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's period in 1756-17. The Hynde Cotton accounts show several purchases of trees and shrubs at this time. It is likely that planting around the perimeter of the Park including, planting plantations to the west of the Hall and framing the east 'View' dates to this period. Colonel Harding expanded woodland cover in the early 20th Century, extending both the plantation which encloses the park alongside the old village street to the south east of the Hall and the plantation to the north east of the Hall.

800 Wood

Officially opened to the public by the then Chancellor of the University, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, in April 2009 to mark the University of Cambridge's 800th anniversary. The 10 hectare (24.71 acres) new woodland created from agricultural land was designed to complement the adjacent Madingley Wood which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Wood has been planted with 15,000 trees using thirteen native species including ash, hazel and oak, and areas adjoining the SSSI have been fenced off to naturally regenerate with colonising species from the SSSI. A woodland path in the shape of a figure of eight marking the 800th anniversary runs through the wood. The Wood has been designed to retain views east across to Ely cathedral. Cambridgeshire is one of the least wooded counties in the United Kingdom with Britain one of the least wooded countries in Europe. 800 Wood is a positive contribution to the local environment and inheritance for future generations.

Madingley Wood

Madingley Wood is an ancient woodland of 16.8 hectares (41.5 acres). It is closed to members of the public but is used by University departments for research. Generations of ecologists have undertaken research for over 350 years, one of the longest periods of botanical records of any wood in Europe. The Domesday Book refers to Madingley having “grove for fences” which was the way it described woods in West Cambridgeshire. In 1612, reference is made in a leaseback agreement from Sir William Hynde which indicates a coppice wood producing wood from coppice stools with timber from standard trees. In the 17th Century, half of the wood appears to have been grubbed out and it is only the western third of the present wood which appears to be medieval. The eastern area had reestablished as woodland by 1849. The northern end originated as a field with a chalk pit and is shown as a neglected plantation by 1886. The Wood is an ash, maple, and hazel wood with standard oaks and a tendency to be invaded by elms. Much of the recent research and study was undertaken by the late Professor Oliver Rackham with his colleague Dr Coombe for whom this information is reproduced in their article in *Nature in Cambridgeshire*, issue No 38. Ecological science was founded at Cambridge and Madingley Wood plays an integral part both in the past and for the future.



Earthworks of Madingley Wood drawn by Professor Oliver Rackham

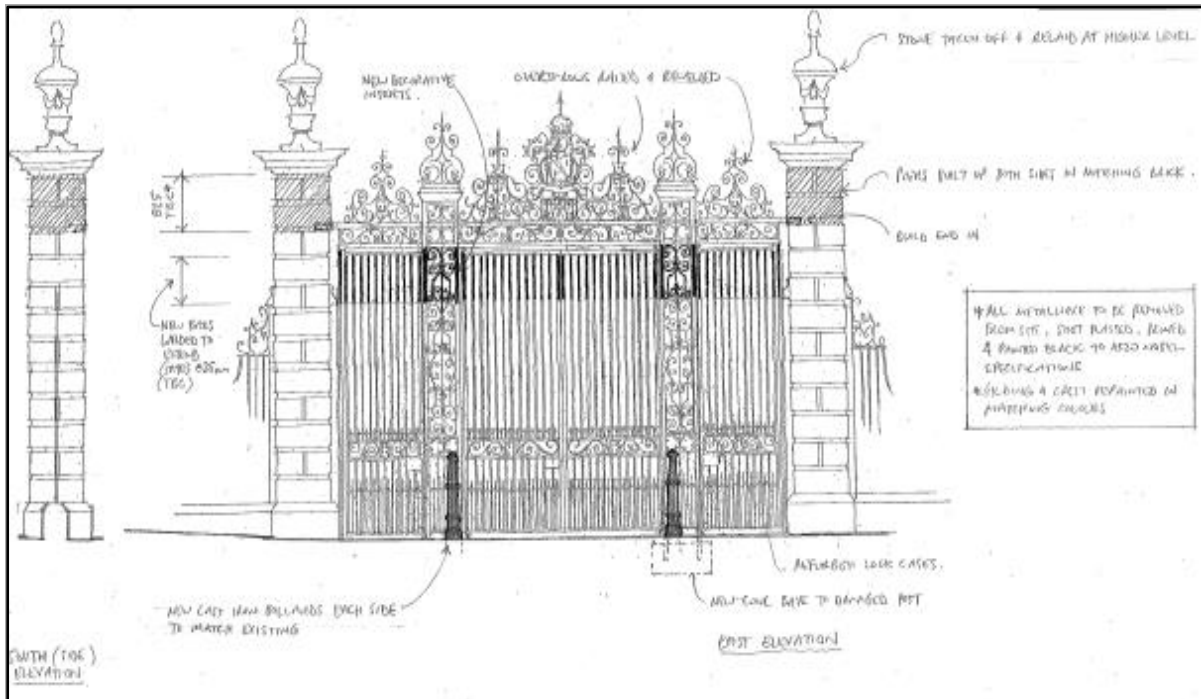
The Cambridge American Cemetery

The 12.3 hectares (30.5 acres) of the Cambridge American Cemetery was previously part of the Madingley Hall Estate and interments commenced in 1943. In 1954 the University gifted the land to the United Kingdom Government who in turn made the land available to the United States Government and the American Battle Monuments Commission for as long as it may be required for that purpose. Archival correspondence exists confirming the arrangements between the United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Sir Anthony Eden Foreign Secretary in 1954. Also in 1956, between HRH The Queen and President Eisenhower.

Madingley School

In 1844 Lady Cotton and her son Sir St.Vincent gave the site north of the Cambridge Road for a National school, managed by the lord and vicar. The plain grey-brick structure (the very pretty clay tiles on the roof are said to have been made with clay from the Madingley Brick pits in The Avenue) with a teacher's house and a single classroom to hold 72 children was enlarged c.1890 and again c.1912, and remains in use as a school today. During the 20th century the School received weekly visits from the vicar who lived over the road at The Vicarage and there were also close links with Madingley Hall - Mrs Harding would invite the children to visit her at Christmas to receive a present. However, in 1976 the county council decided to close the school when the headmistress, who had served since 1943, retired (Mrs Gwen Ruddell MBE - much loved, who is buried in the churchyard by the Church Lane footpath). When the building was sold in 1978, the villagers acquired it with help from an anonymous benefactor (the fight to save the school was followed by the national press). After that it was run as a village co-operative until it became a private pre-prep in the 1990s. It is now part of the Stephen Perse Foundation.

The Entrance Gates



In 2016, work to heighten and restore the gates and strengthen the Sham Bridge was undertaken to provide sufficient room for the Fire Brigade to bring a large lorry mounted turntable ladder on to the site. The gates were originally installed by Colonel Harding who is quoted as saying “At the end of 1908, my wife and I were so weary of the workmen and of the expenses of the restoration, that we determined to let things rest awhile at the Hall, proceeding only with the removal of the ruined lodge and the common field gates that formed the squalid entrance, completed in 1909. The new Lodge and the gates were designed by Oliver, Gate ironwork (was) by Edwin Goddard of Lambeth” (The Hardings at Madingley 1905-1942, edited by Lionel Munby). R.D. Oliver was Colonel Harding’s architect. Richard Hillman Iron Works undertook the restoration of the iron work with great diligence and care and surely Colonel Harding would be pleased to see them in their restored condition 107 years on.

The Church of St Mary Magdalene

Research has traced the earliest recorded mention of a church in Madingley to 1092, so there has been a church on this site for nearly nine hundred years but most of the present building dates from the thirteenth century. This Grade 2* listed building stands at the end of

the old village street, the remains of which can be traced in the landscape to the west of the building. The street disappeared in the mid-18th century as a result of the 'Capability' Brown design commissioned by Sir John Hynde Cotton, and the church now appears to be part of the parkland of the Madingley Hall Estate.

The fortunes of the Hall and Church have been closely intertwined over the centuries and are reflected in the number of family monuments erected in the Church. The church plan includes a west tower, nave with north aisle and north and south porches and chancel.



There is a fine arcade of pillars of arches in early Decorated style leading into the nave, which also features a beautiful 14th-century arch at the western end.

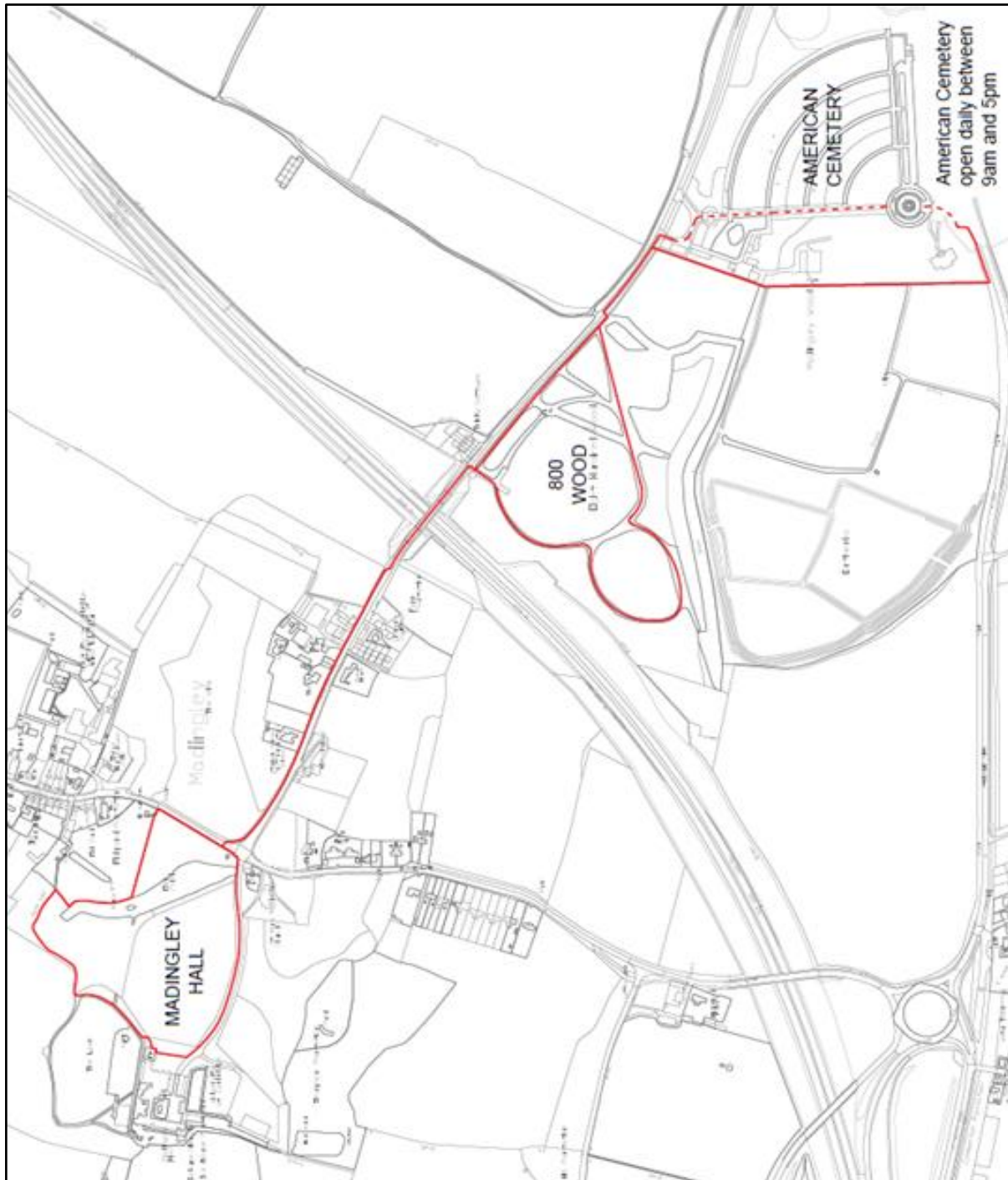
The 15th-century carved figures (or cherubim) in the tower were defaced by order of William Dowsing and are described by Trevor Cooper as "among the most significant artefacts of iconoclasm in Cambridgeshire".

The door leading into the South Porch, with its very fine contemporary iron hinges, is probably late 12th-century. Just inside

this door stands the war memorial, recording the names of sixteen Madingley men who lost their lives in the Great War 1914-19. For so small a village this was a heavy toll: five of them came from one family.

70th Anniversary Celebratory Walk

Distance: Full Walk 2.4Km /1.5miles
Guide Time: 45 – 90 minutes
Difficulty Mostly flat, gravel, grass, and hard paving
Footwear Stout walking shoes



The Institute of Continuing Education is grateful for the text and photographs of Madingley Church and School kindly supplied by Mrs Sue Baldwin and University of Cambridge Estate Management