

**BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**KELVEDON HATCH**

**GREAT MYLES**

**Grid Ref: TL 563 011**

The remaining feature of the landscape designed by Richard Woods c1771 is the bridge over the sheet of water which was a dammed tributary of the River Roding.

### **HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT**

Great Myles was formerly owned by Miles de Munteny and in 1566 the estate was purchased by Thomas Luther. Luther's sons jointly held the manor from 1587 to 1627 and the house remained in the Luther family for several generations. The c1700 Map of Kelvedon Hatch (ERO D/DFa P1) has a small watercolour of 'Milesea' in the top right hand corner. It shows the mansion with twelve latticed windows across the front and two grand entrances: one centrally and another to the left of the central one. The house, yards, gardens and orchards covered six acres and Miles Wood covered twenty-one acres. The total of the land owned by the Miles estate at this time was two hundred and thirty-one acres. When Richard Luther inherited the estate in 1729 he converted the house into an imposing Georgian mansion by enlarging and beautifying it: his son, John Luther, inherited the estate in 1762.

Landscape designer Richard Woods (1715-1793) was commissioned in 1771 by John Luther to make 'a new river' and form the ground on both sides (at a cost of £600), then to build a brick bridge over the new piece of water, and finally to provide 'a collection of plants to furnish the ground about the water' (at a cost of just over £53). A tributary of the Roding was dammed to provide a sheet of water in front of the house. The bridge was built of red brick and some stone and cost £250 to build. In 1778 Richard Woods was also commissioned to draw up the Kelvedon Hatch Highway Diversion Plan to remove two sharp bends that cut into the Luther land. The road was diverted through land belonging to Kelvedon Hall and John Luther purchased this land from the owner, John Wright. The original line of the road is shown on Chapman & André's 1777 Map of Essex Plate CVII.

On John Luther's death in 1786 the estate passed to John's sister, Charlotte, the wife of Henry Fane. An inventory dated 1787 refers to a summer house in Myles's Wood and the 1800 map of Kelvedon Hatch, surveyed by William Moore, marks 'Icehouse Field'. In 1805 the summer house is mentioned again in 'Deeds of ground used as shrubbery or walk to Mansion House called Myles with the summer house thereon'. The estate continued in the Fane family but was never occupied by them and by the 1820's the estate was in the possession of John Fane, Member of Parliament for Oxfordshire. The house was advertised to be Let or Sold being described as 'This beautiful family mansion called Great Myles....the stables are excellent and will accommodate 22 horses....the gardens are also extensive, walled in and well stocked with choice fruit trees.... The Park containing about 150 acres of rich Meadow Land is well timbered and highly picturesque, with a beautiful sheet of water in front of the mansion, which stands on a pleasing elevation.' The house was leased out after it failed to sell and in 1842 a further attempt was made to sell the property. Again the estate failed to find a buyer and subsequently was demolished: the remaining service wing was converted into accommodation along

with the stable block. This accommodation was occupied by farm labourers but remained in the ownership of the Fane family. In 1943 the site of the former mansion, the service wing, stable block and clock tower, outbuildings and farm, were sold by Francis Luther Fane to James Parrish. In 1946 a new lake had to be excavated as the shallow hand-dug one had silted up. The site remains the property of the Parrish family.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

### **LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM SETTING**

The remaining converted stable block sits in agricultural land between the A128 and the Stondon Massey Ongar Road.

### **ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES**

The converted stables are approached from the A128 Brentwood to Ongar road following a winding drive passing agricultural buildings. A lodge is at the entrance.

### **PRINCIPAL BUILDING**

Mansion demolished c1842. Converted Grade II late C18 stable block of red brick surrounded by agricultural buildings.

## **REFERENCES**

### **Books and Articles**

Cowan, J 1984 *Kelvedon Hatch Our Village Past and Present* The Old Village Pump Press, Stondon Massey pp 5-11

Cowell, F 2009 *Richard Woods Master of the Pleasure Garden* The Boydell Press pp197-199

George, Phil 2014 *Kelvedon Hatch 1840-1920 A Guided Tour* The History House pp 98-99

### **Maps and Images**

c1700 Map of Kelvedon Hatch Essex Record Office D/DFa P1

1777 Chapman & André's Map of Essex Plate CVII

1778 Highway Diversion ERO Q/RHi 3A/5

1800 Map of Kelvedon Hatch ERO D/DFa P6

c1830 Notice to sell Great Myles with print of house and grounds ERO D/DFa E33

c1831 Lease of Great Myles ERO D/DFa E34

1838 Tithe Award Map for Kelvedon Hatch ERO D/CT 197

1862-78 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25" ordnance survey map sheet LIX 2

1898 6" 2<sup>nd</sup> edition ordnance survey map 59NW

### **Archival Items**

1787 Inventory of Great Myles ERO D/DFa E43/1

1805 Deeds of shrubbery with summer house ERO D/DFa T11

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