



was in about 1710 shows that elaborate walled gardens surrounded it and that visitors approaching from the South would pass through a large and imposing gatehouse. During the Second World War the

grounds and the Mansion were home to British Troops. The soldiers lived in huts in the grounds while the officers lived in the Mansion!

#### THE M25 MOTORWAY

The M25 Motorway opened in 1986. It was built to help drivers avoid London but sadly it did not avoid Belhus Park. In 1982 the M25 section through the Old Park was completed and split not only the land sections of the park but also the Long Pond into two sections and it is now difficult to appreciate the original effect of this once large expanse of water.

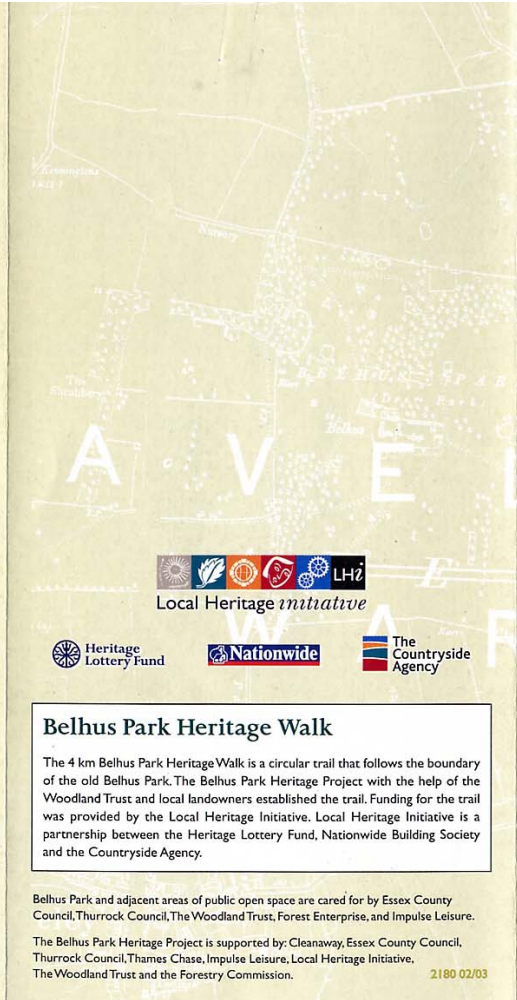
#### THE STENCH PIPE



Sewage from Belhus Mansion was taken through an underground pipe, which is still beneath the ground, to a point close to this ornate chimney. The chimney or 'Stench Pipe' was constructed early in 19th century to draw off foul air from the sewer to such a height that people could not smell it. The decorative bricks used in its construction may have been made from the brickworks that once operated in the Whitehall Wood which is now part of Belhus Woods Country Park. The Stench Pipe is now a listed structure and is protected by law.



The Belhus Park Estate Map of 1619




### Belhus Park Heritage Walk

The 4 km Belhus Park Heritage Walk is a circular trail that follows the boundary of the old Belhus Park. The Belhus Park Heritage Project with the help of the Woodland Trust and local landowners established the trail. Funding for the trail was provided by the Local Heritage Initiative. Local Heritage Initiative is a partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building Society and the Countryside Agency.

Belhus Park and adjacent areas of public open space are cared for by Essex County Council, Thurrock Council, The Woodland Trust, Forest Enterprise, and Impulse Leisure.

The Belhus Park Heritage Project is supported by: Cleanaway, Essex County Council, Thurrock Council, Thames Chase, Impulse Leisure, Local Heritage Initiative, The Woodland Trust and the Forestry Commission.

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# Belhus Park Heritage Trail

**Belhus Park** was once part of a large country estate surrounding Belhus Mansion. The foundations of the Mansion, which was knocked down in 1956, can still be seen near the Golf Club house.

The estate map of 1619 shows an elaborate formal garden and moat close to the house with a deer park and well-wooded landscape beyond. In the 18th century the famous Landscape Gardeners Capability Brown and Richard Woods revised the design of the park.

Since the end of the Second World War Belhus Park has had many changes. New housing has been built in it, the M25 split the park and the 'Long Pond' in two and a large part of it has been converted into a golf course. Important parts of the old Park still remain to be seen and the landowners in the area are working to protect these and to recreate the essence of this once great park for everyone to enjoy.

#### BELHUS PARK HERITAGE TRAIL

The 4km (2½ mile) circular walk follows the boundary of the old Belhus Park. Waymarker posts with arrows help guide you on your way and information points along the way help to explain some of the history of the park.

The trail can easily be reached by following the waymarked posts from the car park at Belhus Woods Country Park.

#### THE SHRUBBERY

The map shows the surviving 'shrubbery', originally there were three. The shrubbery appears to have been an idea of the Landscape gardener Capability Brown who was brought in the 1750s to revise the design of the park.

#### THE COOL HOUSE!



The Belhus icehouse was built in the mid 18th century by Sir Thomas Barrett-Lennard. The icehouse had a brick-lined well into which ice from the nearby 'Long Pond' was packed, and a brick dome roof. The whole structure was covered with earth as added insulation with a thick wooden door. Only the brick-lined well is left. The shade of nearby trees helped to keep the icehouse cool.

#### BELHUS MANSION

Belhus Mansion was built around 1520 in red brick, following the Tudor style of the time, and may have been built on or near the site of an even older house. A painting of the house as it

