

# A WALK IN THE GARDEN

The original policies at Mellerstain were landscaped by William Adam in 1725. When the new house was first designed, 3,500 acres were laid out with broad walks, classical statues and a lake in the form of a Dutch canal. The formal gardens we enjoy today were designed in 1910 by Sir Reginald Blomfield in an Italian style sympathetic to the 18th century layout. Situated to the south of the main house Blomfield planned a series of Italianate terraces with herbaceous borders and yew trees. Steps lead via a crypto porticus to the lower terraces and a sweeping stretch of lawn descends to the lake.

The view from the terraces over the lake to the Cheviot Hills is enchanting, accompanied by the sounds of the woodland and waterside drifting up into the stillness of the garden. There are secret places and arbours where you are welcome to sit among the scented flowers and absorb some of this lovely place.

Look back from the lawn to the main building designed by Robert Adam in his 'castle' style; note how well the building complements the designed landscape. On the neatly manicured lawns Mercury stands sentinel, he is one of the oldest residents here having been one of the original statues included in the 1725 plans but gardening was a part of Mellerstain life long before William Adam introduced his classical design. Grisell Baillie in her famous Household Accounts records many purchases of seeds and trees for the gardens here in the first quarter of the 18th century.



# MELLERSTAIN

House & Gardens

# MELLERSTAIN GARDEN GUIDE



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Welcome to Mellerstain House gardens. The lines indicate the routes you can take as you explore the gardens. A full circuit of the south gardens and lake is a delightful amble down through the wooded Glen to the beautiful picnic areas by the River Eden, cross over the footbridge and walk round the lakeside beside the rushing weirs. Emerge from the trees onto the wide garden lawns and a superb view of Mellerstain House greets you framed by terraces of summer flowers. Look and listen, many species of birds and mammals and an abundance of wild flowers and plants are supported by the diverse habitats here at Mellerstain.

The north parkland route guides you up to the thatched Tea Cottage with its little parterre garden, along The Ride and back around to the Play Park. In early summer the air is filled with the sound of songbirds proclaiming their nesting sites high in the branches of the stately broadleaf trees. See the guide book for an article about the wildlife at Mellerstain written by the present Earl of Haddington.

