INTERPRETATION PLAN

THE LANDSCAPE and GARDENS
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1. Introduction

This HLF project ref. PF-06-01847/2 has been grant approved under the Parks for People East of England Provision.

The vision for the restoration of the grounds and pleasure gardens at Moggerhanger Park will enhance the historic fabric of the site to create a visitor attraction of historical significance with ease of interpretation.

The landscape and garden buildings will concentrate on providing a high-quality park setting for Moggerhanger House and recover the late 18th century Pleasure Grounds, shrubberies, walled garden with an orchard, and Garden Wood.

The project also aims to undertake a variety of community involvement plans, such as increasing the "ownership" by the local community in their use of the park and extending the range of uses the park currently has.

Finally, the project aims to improve visitor appreciation through a number of strategies including improving the park for disabled visitors, providing suitable accommodation for the garden department and volunteers, setting aside part of the park for large scale events and providing an area for visitor car parking.

In compiling the Interpretation Plan, the Moggerhanger House Preservation Trust (MHPT) Trustees have relied upon the guidance set out in "Thinking About….Interpretation" dated February 2009, published by HLF, together with Heritage Focus Issue 3, Winter 2010 "Interpretation for All".

2. Aims

The principal aims relating to this Interpretation Plan are:

- The Learning Aim: To help people understand the story of Moggerhanger House and its surroundings over the last 200 years, as it moved from private ownership to public service.

- The Participation Aim: To help a wider and more diverse audience become involved in enjoying and developing activities associated with Moggerhanger Park and its heritage.
The three main ways that the Learning Aim will be met are by:

- Providing strategically placed interpretation boards, supplemented by more in-depth information provided in leaflet form and by guided tours by well-trained volunteers;

- Encouraging students to learn aspects of garden design, gardening, coppicing, pruning and rural crafts;

- Holding events and activities which will involve and attract people from Bedfordshire and its environs, in particular local schools (such as Moggerhanger, Northill and Blunham who already involved) and other clubs to learn about Moggerhanger through the passage of time.

The Participation Aim will be delivered by:

- Creating opportunities for people to volunteer and train as Tour Guides for all the elements of the estate – the House, the gardens and the grazing;

- Ensuring that the grounds and garden continue to be freely available to our local communities for their activities as they have been since the days of Park Hospital

- Developing new, wider and diverse audiences for Moggerhanger as described in our Audience Development Plan.

It is intended that the local schools, particularly at Key Stage 3, will be able to participate in active education through the Slavery Exhibition and the historical exhibitions concerning the development of Moggerhanger already onsite being supplemented by the Parks for People opportunities, together with the formation of the "Friends of Moggerhanger" group which will participate in the on-going fundraising, once the Parks for People capital funding has been expended.

The Head Gardener together with the Friends of Moggerhanger will plan a series of events throughout the year. Moggerhanger has become the focus of village life with events such as its outside theatre and bonfire night, and this year it will extend to the Jubilee celebrations when they light one of the beacons.

3. Effective Interpretation

The definition of interpretation has its origins in the museums sector, and Miss Helen Dorey, one of the MHPT Trustees, has expertise as Deputy Director of the Soane Museum in London. Her skills will help to deliver what has become a universal feature of the presentation of heritage sites to the public in the UK.
It is understood that interpretation in this sense is a specialised form of communication for people visiting Moggerhanger Park. To connect with our audience, we will:

- Provoke their attention by using our website to link with other websites, sending emails and flyers to interested parties;
- Seek to deliver a life-changing experience for those who become interested in the moral and ethical values of the reformers of the nineteenth century such as the Thorntons and their cousin William Wilberforce;
- Ensure the website is interesting and meaningful because of the strong link to relevant human values; it will be well-organised and easy to use and understand. Tell the story of Moggerhanger Park over the last two centuries as it evolved from a sporting lodge to a country house, became a school, was used as a sanatorium, nearly fell down and has now been rescued as a heritage site.
- Communicate stories surrounding the Thornton family life and Moggerhanger Park.
- Promote understanding about what it might mean to apply the lessons learnt by society from the life and times of the great reformers who were connected to the Thornton family and would have been encountered at Moggerhanger Park. The resulting personal connections and meanings are intended to be the main way in which visitors’ beliefs, attitudes and behaviours can be encouraged to change.

It will therefore be important that the interpretation ultimately delivers the underlying story of the evolution of the house and park as the primary message that is conveyed to anyone upon arrival until they depart at the end of their visit to Moggerhanger Park.

4. Interpreting the Heritage Asset of Moggerhanger Park

“Through interpretation, understanding: through understanding, appreciate; through appreciation; protection” Tilden, Interpreting Our Heritage, 1957.

The story of Moggerhanger will span two hundred years. The first hundred years as a house, then the next hundred years as a school, as a hospital, then its decline into ruin followed by its rescue as a heritage site.
The Thorntons

Underlying the whole of the interpretation will be an understanding of the Thornton family and their friends. The MHPT Trustees believe that this is something, once understood and appreciated, that will have continuing benefits for all who visit Moggerhanger Park into the future. It is intended that the MHPT Trustees, together with the Moggerhanger family of other organisations such as Family Matters Institute, Home Farm Ltd, Moggerhanger Park Ltd and Harvest Vision, will model a “family” lifestyle on the site, in seeking to deliver the following message through interpretation, namely:

“To tell the story of the Thornton family and their friends” - To communicate that this particular family and its connections through friendship, both within the aristocracy and the means of working relationship with those who worked the grounds, house and farm, will convey events that happened in late Georgian / early Victorian England that can be applied to assist in delivering well-being to all who visit Moggerhanger Park. In this way, it is hoped that such experiences will assist many in applying the values of the Thornton family and friends to some of the issues facing 21st Century UK society.

Wilberforce and the anti-slavery movement

This theme can reach the Afro-Caribbean community through the family connections between the Thorntons and William Wilberforce and their role in the abolition of slavery. An exhibition to commemorate the abolition is laid out in the stables and was funded by the HLF. The Thorntons lived at Moggerhanger until they sold the estate in the 1850s. Interestingly, the wealth of one of the next owners, Richard Mercer who had bought Moggerhanger in 1888, was based on extensive estates in Jamaica where large numbers of slaves would have worked. This could be most thought-provoking. It also shows that slave owners were here in Bedfordshire, not just in Liverpool and Bristol.

Culture and Heritage

Moggerhanger is an outstanding work by one of England’s greatest architects, Sir John Soane, and the setting was designed by Humphry Repton. Like all the best houses in Bedfordshire, Moggerhanger sits on the Greensand Ridge which extends diagonally across the county. The collaboration of Soane and Repton is rare and makes Moggerhanger an extremely important heritage site.

The Sanatorium

Moggerhanger was bought by the Bedfordshire County Council in 1919 as a sanatorium for the “great white plague” – tuberculosis and later continued as a hospital until the 1990s. It is important to the local community who have memories of its use as Park Hospital and the
interpretation of the site will build on the oral history project that has been carried out by the Trust and volunteers. The hospital use led to extensive conversion of the building and its surroundings, but many of the Soane features survived as they were merely covered over and the structure of Repton’s landscape remained intact. Understanding the period of occupation by the hospital is of modern relevance as we are threatened by a resurgence of this disease which was thought to have been eradicated in Britain.

**Ecology**

The Trust will build on the relationship it has established with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds which is based at a neighbouring property at Sandy. In addition, the rich biodiversity of the site will be interpreted, allowing visitors to understand the presence of bats in the icehouse and badgers in Garden Wood.

5. Benefits of this Interpretation

The delivery of this interpretation of Moggerhanger Park will:

- Help people to learn about the specific historical heritage of Moggerhanger. Interpretation will support formal education in the local area directly to schools, but also for all visitors who will be able to learn new skills, which is intended to be in-situ at the home, gardens and farm. In this way, the interpretation will be developed, so that staff and, more importantly, volunteers will be able to learn more about the history and asset that is Moggerhanger Park, as they continue to care for it over time;

- Enhance our visitors' enjoyment and the meaning of their visit, better connecting them with the natural and cultural qualities that they will encounter when considering the interpretation of Moggerhanger Park.;

- Enable local people to become involved in presenting Moggerhanger to the public, fostering a sense of community ownership and stewardship by connecting the local culture with its history;

- Promote a conservation ethos, for instance by reinstituting sheep grazing, and encouraging visitors to support the on-going work and that of other conservation bodies, both at Moggerhanger Park and in the wider area;

- Encourage visitors to behave in a more responsible way, for example by not dropping litter, but more proactively in offering the key qualities that the Thornton family held, particularly in their wider friendship group which it is believed strongly present manners such as respect, honour and hard work as key qualities in establishing good family and friendship life;

- Encourage return visits and “word-of-mouth” promotion, particularly in the local area, but over time to a wider and wider potential audience. To achieve this, particular emphasis will be placed on seasonal activities, such as the snowdrop weekends,

- At a strategic level, it is thought that the specific “historical symmetry” of the events of late Georgian / early Victorian England and the present UK societal situation will offer a unique insight, and therefore provide a very distinctive heritage insight that may draw international tourism, especially from the US and other nations interested in UK societal development and application to 21st Century issues.
6. Equal Access

It is essential to make sure that all needs of current and future visitors are considered and that, wherever possible, any potential barriers to their access and understanding are removed.

In preparation for this Interpretation Plan, the MHPT Trustees employed the services of Karen Ross MSc, PgC, NRAC, to compile a comprehensive Access Audit. The HLF have been supplied with a copy of this report. This Access Audit will be taken into account when delivering the interpretation.

- **We intend to remove intellectual barriers** by making the content of interpretation straightforward to understand. For instance, the "master walk" will only reveal small pieces of information, piece by piece, as one walks, or is guided, through Moggerhanger Park.

- **Removal of sensory barriers** will be undertaken where practical. Different ways and means of enabling matters to be seen and heard, as well as explained, will be offered wherever possible.

- **Physical barriers** will be removed, so that access heights for children and levels for people in wheelchairs have been considered to the latest UK standards throughout.

- **Cultural barriers** will be removed, so that those from different cultures will be able to appreciate the significance of the Thornton family and friends' network and its impact upon late Georgian / early Victorian British culture. Given the strong link with the Clapham Group, and the already extant slavery exhibition and walk-through history of Moggerhanger House Exhibition, the Parks for People Interpretation will be of particular interest to the African-British and African-Caribbean-British community.

- **Financial barriers** will be reduced, making entry free where possible for the vast majority of visitors. Parking charges, entrance charges and further charges will therefore be kept to a minimum and, wherever possible, discretionary.

- **Organisational barriers** will be minimised by seeking to make visits and events available during the week and the weekends, with as varied timings and reasons to visit as possible.
Compliance

Under the Disability Discrimination Act, all recently carried out works under the Parks for People grant have been fully complied with. The advice at [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) and in particular the guidance "Thinking about improving your project for disabled people" have been complied with. This will mean that provision of larger, well-defined signage for people with impaired vision and provision of disability awareness training for all staff and volunteers who will have contact with the public have been, or will be, undertaken in the Moggerhanger Park signage delivery and volunteer training responsibilities.

7. Understanding our Audience

The MHPT Trustees have taken full cognisance of the HLF Guidance Note "Thinking about Audience Development".

In compliance with same, it is intended that this Interpretation Plan will provide interpretation for a range of common audiences:

- **General Visitors** – We will layer the interpretation so that it offers something for everyone regardless of their knowledge, ability or interest in Moggerhanger Park.

- **Local People** – Using the house and grounds in this way will help to establish Moggerhanger in the affection of local people, generating a sense of loyalty and involvement. In particular, the surrounding villages of Blunham, Everton, Willington and Moggerhanger will be able to interpret the particular local significance of the Park and we will encourage them to volunteer to help as time goes on.

- **Children** – The new play area outside the relocated Garden Room will provide activities and games for engagement with parents, carers and guardians using the catering facilities in the new Garden Room. It is intended that the timber-based play equipment is fully in keeping with the heritage of the site and gives great emphasis upon "simple play".

- **Repeat Visitors** – There will be a concerted effort to provide changing displays on a rotational basis that will offer something new to those visitors who regularly come to experience Moggerhanger Park. It should come to be a regular place of resort and recreation for local residents.

- **Specialist Interest Visitors** – As will be obvious from some of the statements already made, Moggerhanger Park offers a very wide spectrum of opportunity for specialist interest. Such specialist interest foci are:
  
  o The landscape design of Humphry Repton
  
  o The landscape’s relationship to the architecture of Sir John Soane;
  
  o The “historical symmetry” of late Georgian / early Victorian transition in British culture and the situation in the 21st Century;
  
  o The Thornton friendship with the Clapham Group and the abolition of transatlantic slavery;
The Countryside provides and the opportunity for Forest Schools, Activity Camps and other rural crafts skill workshops to take place. These could be made available to disabled and disadvantaged children and adults.

For all of these interest groups it is anticipated a specialist volunteer workforce will be grown to attend to the more detailed interpretation i.e. in-depth material, such as printed factsheets, that will need to be made available to such visitors.

- **Formal Learning Groups** – In particular Key Stage 3 of the National Curriculum will be partnered with for the delivery of Black History Month, Slavery as part of the History Curriculum, within the English Baccalaureate, and the intent to deliver such material into Key Stages 1 and 2 in partnership with Act4, an educational charity. It is also intended to partner with Barnfield College (Luton and Bedfordshire) and Q3 Academy (Birmingham) in seeking to offer higher and / or adult education opportunities as well. These will centre upon delivery of practical training in construction, catering, hotel and stately home management, apprenticeships with regard to farm trades and other such unique learning opportunities.

8. The Interpretation Plan

The MHPT Trustees set out the following Activity Plan:

Celebrating the 1812-2012 200th anniversary of the completion of the house, gardens and farm it is intended to launch the Park into the imagination of the local area this Autumn, together with a wide variety of UK-wide invited guests, some of whom who will have Thornton Family links through the good offices of the Trustees of MHPT. It is thought that the bi-centenary offers a unique opportunity to present the "historical symmetry" of the unique historic asset that is Moggerhanger Park.

For instance, key themes to communicate in this "historical symmetry" would be:

- **Economy**: The South Sea bubble (1726 and following) / The global financial crisis, starting in 2008.

- **Politics**: Rotten boroughs scandal 1750's onwards / the political expenses scandal of 2009 / 10.

- **Society**: Transition from agricultural economy to industrial revolution / movement from industrial – manufacturing economy to financial services / IT revolution.

- **Family**: The decline of family life in early towns and cities from rural enclosures i.e. Hogarth and his paintings and writings / atomised and individualistic living patterns of 21st Century UK. The rise in alcoholic intake, particularly gin, leading to destruction of family life / binge drinking and family breakdown today.

- **Transformational ideas**: the formation of many small "societies" from the Thornton family and friends, i.e. the Clapham Group / Today’s emphasis upon reimagining localism in 21st century Britain, all of which will be set within the context of the Thornton family and their friends.

- **Our Audience** - It is clear that Moggerhanger Park will have a wide and deep appeal across the whole spectrum of: age-range / position in society / abilities - and therefore a
unique distinctive of provision for our audience will be the very wide-ranging nature of the offer.

The Main Theme and Topics.

- **The Thornton Family and their Friends.** This will be modelled ultimately by the formation of "The Moggerhanger Family" of organisations onsite. The wide-range of positions in society represented by the Trustees' work across all organisations will offer a "microcosm" of the audience appeal and explain the nature of the "spectrum of variety and depth" that the Thornton family and friends historical distinctive brings to the 21st century UK culture.

- **Friendship** – The formation of “Friends of Moggerhanger” and a strong volunteer workforce will explain the nature of friendship, as a means of sustaining wellbeing and building community. It is hoped over time that this will move from local to regional to even national and international dimensions through the delivery of the message of the Thornton family and their friends.

- **Gentry / Artisan relationships** - It is particularly intended to offer a “model” for consideration, namely that between the aristocracy and the artisans that lived side-by-side at Moggerhanger in late Georgian / early Victorian Britain. It is thought that the workers on the land (and the house and farm) and the gentry of the house offer a wonderful counterpoint to what was normative in those days. It is understood that the Thornton family, through their strong Christian ethos, modelled a different relationship between gentry and aristocracy. With the rise in popularity of ITV1 programme *Downton Abbey*, (albeit early 20th Century), it is considered that the relationship between master / servant may be of interest to our visitors at Moggerhanger Park. For instance, the strong Protestant work ethic of the Clapham Group as friends of the Thornton family, the three generations of Thornton family commitment to the Bank of England and the banking sector generally, when compared with the hard work of manual labour to the land by the artisans, can offer a very positive counterpoint to the well-researched and recorded general profligacy and decadence of Regency / Georgian culture and the positive move towards philanthropic early Victorian endeavour.

- **Connections** – The Thornton family friendship with those within the Clapham Group led to many connections into Parliament and subsequent policy. The formation of small "societies" as engines of change can be communicated into the 21st century UK cultural requirement for a return to localism. These societies will be referred to and thereby enable connections to be made with 21st Century ideas for the re-finding of “civic space” and the need for high-levels of self-sacrificial voluntary organisations. The opportunity to consider the Thornton family and friends' model as a solution, albeit in part, to required societal transformation as times of austerity in the West become the norm, will be fascinating to develop with expertise of historians which will enable Moggerhanger Park to have a "think tank" input into parliamentary committees.

To summarise the objective of a visit to Moggerhanger Park would be as follows:

"To deliver a life-changing experience, whereby an invitation will be given to the visitor to consider what they have learnt from the Thornton family and friends and their connections. Can this ignite interest in application of the same values into 21st century UK society?"

In this way, by considering the Thornton family and their friends “model” it is hoped to engender a sense of wellbeing and hope in our visitors, that by similar personal activity by them individually and corporately, 21st Century UK society, having been through similar
times 200 years previously, may, once again, see a very favourable societal transition - from austerity to philanthropy, care and beneficial transformation.

9. The Delivery of the Interpretation

This will be predominantly undertaken by provision of leaflets, factsheets, signage and walkways. A master walkway throughout the whole of Moggerhanger Park will have various sub-walkways which will be identified and have key "subset" messages corroborating the overall theme. The continuing education, delivery of service with sustainable business models, provision of Christian weddings, on-site marriage receptions and business conferences will enable visitors to engage with a "living example" of the outworking of the home, gardens and farm to "flesh out" the reality of what The Moggerhanger Family and friends are offering in relation to what the Thornton family and friends offered 200 years previously.

At the third level of interpretation it is anticipated that under the advice of the Learning Advisory Service of the Historic Houses Association, the MHPT Trustees will be able to provide on-going educational opportunities on the site over the medium - long term. This will also be enhanced by partnership with Barnfield College / The Q3 Academy and Family Matters Institute onsite for Forest Schools' initiatives that have been mentioned previously.

All of this can be continuously evaluated by feedback forms which will take the form of evaluation sheets that visitors can fill in. These will be monitored and form the basis of future policy to increase impact for our audience.

MPL has also commissioned a new website with additional functionality which will give us the capability of encouraging greater use of the facilities and participation in the activities. It will also help us to connect with the Friends of Moggerhanger and attract volunteers. There will be an online booking facility for events.

The Content

The sections above have explained the thinking behind the MHPT interpretation of the story of Moggerhanger Park.

This section now presents the "master walk" through Moggerhanger Park. Please note that it is intended that this "master walk" will be able to be sub-divided into smaller walks, so that repeat visitors can sample rather than always engage with only part of the whole "master walk".

The Master Walk

The Entrance

First impressions count and a poorly presented entrance will deter visitors. It is essential that this looks smart and inviting.

The site has lost its principal entrance from the Bedford Road and today you enter by a secondary entrance next to Home Farm. The new curved design for the Home Farm entrance will be set back from Park Road. This is intended to open up Moggerhanger Park to the village and will be more welcoming, providing a new miniature village green just outside the gates.
A large single sign will read:

Moggerhanger Park
House, Gardens and Farm
Welcome to the story of the Thornton family and their friends

Leaflets

This will be the main method of communicating the interpretation to the visitors. They will be made available in the car park, the starting point for most visits. Everyone loves a beautifully hand-drawn map that they can keep as a souvenir and it can take round the site visiting numbered interpretation spots where they can put the text into context.

There are many historic paths which have been made accessible in line with the Access Audit. There are a number of benches, and reservations for the parking of vehicles used by people with disabilities, placed at significant places where the visitor can relax and read, and reflect.

Signage

The signs directing visitors around the park, pleasure grounds and woodland are listed with their locations on the plan "Moggerhanger signage locations 111027".

The historical details to be used in the interpretation boards can be drawn from the report "Moggerhanger House, Bedfordshire" produced by Martin Drury in 2006, commissioned by the World Monuments Fund. The "Moggerhanger Park Conservation Plan" will also be used as a reference throughout to ensure that all parts of the Implementation Plan accord with the conservation constraints contained therein.

The Master Walk will be signposted in stages.

The Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust have suggested the following wording for the interpretation board for The Close:
“Moggerhanger Park contains a mosaic of habitats rich in wildlife. In summer the grassland is studded with wild flowers and on a warm sunny day it’s alive with insects. The mature trees provide shelter, nest sites and feeding opportunities for birds and in the evenings you may be lucky enough to see bats hunting around the tree canopy. Six different species of bat have been found feeding and roosting in the park and in winter some hibernate in the historic ice house. The surrounding woodlands and hedgerows shelter the park and themselves provide a home for badgers and hedgehogs which venture out at night to search for food in the parkland. MHPT have started a long term programme of restoration of this historic parkland. Grazing by sheep is a traditional part of wood pasture management and will gradually increase the variety and number of wildflowers in the grassland. The trees are being carefully managed to ensure they continue to grace the park for centuries to come whilst ensuring that they also continue to provide homes for a rich variety of wildlife.”

They also suggested that it might be worth mentioning one or two species such as Bullfinch, Lady’s Bedstraw, Salad Burnet, Barbastelle or Pipistrelle bat or that they could be illustrated around the board.

As the entrance to the main car park, a board will introduce Humphry Repton as one of the friends of the Thornton family. This will refer to the fact that he was engaged by the Thornton family to surround the Sir John Soane house with his landscape design. Mention will be made of the way in which he sought to enhance the beauty of the family home, and his use of different species of plants to reinforce perspective.

Reference could be made to the running water (aquifer) running under the house and gardens and refer to the hope that the visitor will encounter the life of the Thornton family and their friends, which will flow out from the visit into their lives.

Visitors can walk from the car park to the gardens past the Coach House and can enter the Groom’s House where there is a complete interpretation of the history of Moggerhanger Park.

The newly renovated Coach House and the Ice House will be signposted and the leaflet will have explanations of how they were used in Georgian times.

At this point a sub-walk to the gardens will be highlighted, but the master walk to the house will be encouraged.

Relevance of the next five sections

The following five sections (until “The Woodlands”) are not strictly part of the Parks 4 People application but are included for completeness. Aspects of the interpretation of these parts of the Park are relevant to the overall visitor experience.

i. The House itself

Generally, information throughout the House would be crisp, with headline paragraphs of key time milestones and be used to raise questions that can be asked of the staff / volunteers serving / meeting the visitors.

The friendship of Sir John Soane to Godfrey, Henry and Stephen Thornton will be highlighted. The exhibition in the courtyard will be referred to for the next stage of the master walk, but at the point of reception in the house, a statement as to Sir John Soane being the
Architect for the Bank of England and 10 Downing Street will be mentioned, in relation to how the Thornton family and friends were connected to Government. This means of communication of the Thornton family and friends values will be referred to in the reception area, which became the model for the British Red Telephone Box ceilings, and seek to communicate in a lateral way that the House was an inspiration for the future then – and can be again today. Guided tours will be arranged, using the volunteer base and friends of Moggerhanger, to emphasise these aspects.

For the casual visitor, reference will be made to the Clapham Group, as a key example of the friendship connections that the Thornton family struck with people of similar desire to see the "reformation of manners" in Georgian society. Reference will be made to their success in the obvious change in national zeitgeist by early-mid Victorian times.

One of the key elements to be identified will be the abolition of transatlantic slavery, and reference will be made to the current exhibition for details.

Mention will be made, in particular, of two members of the Clapham Group;

ii. William Wilberforce and his “reformation of manners” object.
As the current exhibition makes clear, Wilberforce’s commitment to the abolition of slavery object is well known. For this reason, it is thought the "reformation of manners" object would be good as the main emphasis within the house. There is mention of Wilberforce visiting Moggerhanger from Hull on occasion. There is also, in Wilberforce's diaries, mention of his walking on Clapham Common with Stephen Thornton’s cousin, Henry, who was one of the best friends of both Wilberforce and Soane.

iii. Thomas Clarkson and his particular emphasis upon anti-slavery education
This will be mentioned in relation to St. Johns College Cambridge, with which is hoped a scholarship from Moggerhanger Park will be formalised in the near future.

A picture of the statue of Wilberforce and Clarkson at St. Johns College will be taken and blown up for this purpose and situated in the Main Entrance Hall near the staircase.

Reference will be made to Godfrey and Henry Thornton in relation to the Bank of England and point people to the need for a reconsideration of banking in our own day to a return to the honour of "my word is my bond".

Also, mention will be made to the counterpoint of Charles James Fox, who was not a Godly man but rather given to self-indulgence. However, he became a "co-belligerent" on the issue of the abolition of transatlantic slavery and this principle could be expanded upon as an example for our day.

iv. Food and friendship
Within the house, meals will be offered in "The Kitchen", using the model of Sir William Kitchener, another friend by association with the wider group of Thornton Family friends. The emphasis will be upon a “friendship atmosphere” and joining The Moggerhanger Family for a meal, in the same way as the Thornton family would have with their friends.

The “Cook's Oracle” and other relevant historical information concerning Sir William Kitchener will be made clear in the signage. To this end, it is intended to revive Kitchener's “Committee of Taste” to sample and subsequently commend the Menu. This will be an invitational dinner, on each occasion of extending the menu, and will be especially prepared for potential on-going donors and friends of Moggerhanger Park.
It is also hoped that these facilities, together with overnight accommodation, will have educational benefit in the partnership with Barnfield College and their hotel and catering students.

v. Thornton Family Prayers

Reference will be made to pamphlets setting out the Thornton family commitment to Christian household prayer. Indeed, as a motivation for social change and friendship with purpose, the historic Christian faith seems to have been a key distinctive value system within the Thornton family and their friendship circle and this will be highlighted throughout the “master walk”, where appropriate.

The Woodlands

Once the house has been visited, encouragement to visit the woodlands will be made as the next stage of the “master walk”.

An interpretation board will explain that the Pleasure Gardens are where the ladies of the house would walk and would include these woods. The trees in Garden Wood date from the eighteenth century but Sycamores are now the dominant standard tree with a few large specimens of Oak, Ash and Field Maple. The understory is part coppiced hazel, with Butcher’s Broom, Daphne Laureola, Philadelphus and Lonicera. There is a rich flora of British natives in Garden Wood which is famous for its Snowdrops and Bluebells.

The historic path through the wood will be reinstated with way-markers and eight benches where walkers can relax and reflect.

Reference will be made to the fact that working of the land and woods by labourers and foresters was an ancient British tradition and explain how woods were managed by coppicing and how the coppice was used. Today students from the neighbouring Shuttleworth College are working in partnership with MHPT and are doing the coppicing work and preparing a rotational plan; this will be interpreted to visitors as part of the living landscape.

Another interpretation board will be placed where there is a 'Burst' view out of Garden Wood along the western boundary, typical of Repton, which affords a surprise view towards the Village of Cardington with its giant wartime airship hangars which once housed the R101 and across the Vale of Bedford.
Forest School's training, To Practitioners, will also be referred to as part of the on-going work with the woodland areas and any partnership with Bridgewater College in Somerset will be mentioned at this point. Reference will be made to the larger opportunities for this at Home Farm, on leaving the House and Gardens – see below.

The Gardens

On walking around this part of the master walk, one will finish at the new location of the Garden Room, where it will be possible to explain the story of the hospital history of the Park. There will be a series of black-and-white photographs depicting the scene when Moggerhanger was a Sanatorium.

Whilst this is fully explained in the extant exhibition, it is anticipated that reference to Park Hospital as a place for healing may be helpful.

By the mid-Victorian period, Florence Nightingale had become an inspiration to Victorian society and this could be used as an example of how the reformation of manners had taken place through the Thornton family friends link with the Clapham Group.

The Garden Room and its future use will connect the link with Thomas Clarkson, friend of the Thornton's, and the potential use of the Garden Room as an Education Resource Centre.

Paintings in the house show a very happy family life at Moggerhanger during the Thornton's time, and today the Garden Room with its café and playground will be a place to enjoy as a family.

Reference will also be made at this point to another Humphry Repton board, which will talk about the walled garden, the vegetables grown for the whole household and the story of the orchard where old Bedfordshire species of apple and pear will be planted, together with wild flowers. Locals will be able to participate in Apple Days and the pruning of the fruit trees in partnership with Shuttleworth College.

From here the visitor can walk up the Filbert Walk and turn right onto the South Lawn which is planted with 18th century specimen trees on the perimeter of the south lawn, spaced to line up with the vertical members of the south verandah when viewed from the central window. Some of the original trees, a Cedar, a Copper Beech and a Plane still survive from
the Thorntons’ time, and later trees include a beautiful *Magnolia Acumiata* and a tall *Wellingtonia*. These help indicate the walk guests would have taken to be shown the grounds and walled gardens.

Historically the most important views are to the south across the lawn towards the eastern length of the Greensand Ridge and to the distant landscape of the hills between Royston and Baldock.

At this point the master walk will have been completed and a final reference will be made to Home Farm, which would be "worth a visit" on leaving Moggerhanger Park, at which point the initial entry sign will lead any visitor to Home Farm, which will itself be subject to a separate Implementation Plan coinciding and overlapping with the single vision of the Thornton family and friends identified in the house and gardens.

**10. The Cost of the Plan**

There is a small amount of money for signage, but this does not include the cost of interpretation boards.

If more money becomes available we can expand the number of boards. We have put the cost of three boards below as these funds have been agreed, but more boards would be beneficial to the visitor experience.

Free interpretive items:

- The use of an in-house TV studio, to produce DVD's and MP4 "memory sticks" as souvenirs / gifts (cost to be borne by Christian Ministries).

- The new Website has been commissioned and paid for by MPL.

**Additional costs of interpretation:**

- Interpretive boards £1,200 each x 3 (Close, 2x Garden Wood) £3,600
- Guide Tour and Trail leaflets, 10,000 print run £3,000

  **Total** £6,600

30 March 2012