

Turn End Garden



designed and made by Peter Aldington OBE RIBA www.turnend.org.uk turnendgarden@gmail.com

Turn End Garden - Visitor Information

Thank you for arranging a visit to Turn End Garden. We look forward to welcoming you.

ABOUT TURN END

The garden was created as an integral part of a 1960s house, one of a group of three designed by architect Peter Aldington, now listed at grade 2*; only 12 post war houses are so designated. In less than an acre, space is used to create an illusion of size. A house courtyard with a naturalised pool; a small woodland area around 100 year old apple trees; a curved glade leading to a series of garden rooms, sunken or raised, sunny or shady, geometric or informal, yet all harmonious and unifying irregular geography with the buildings. Turn End is still the Aldington's family home.

When bought in 1963 the land was densely overgrown to a height of 20 feet in places. It had once been a garden, and the attraction was the mixture of mature deciduous and coniferous trees, with some remaining ancient walls and a Victorian Coach House. In essence the design is of strong structures within, around and over which plants are allowed to develop. The small scale necessitates careful choice of plants and pruning. This is a garden whose character changes constantly with the seasons. The ground is carpeted by spring bulbs, while the summer brings enclosure, irises, herbaceous plantings, old roses, shrubs and climbers.

In 2017 the historic and design significance of the garden was recognised when it was listed on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest at Grade II. The intimate linkage of a building and its landscape is rare in a later 20th Century scheme and Turn End is the only post-war listed project where the house and garden were created by the same hand.

The garden and group of three houses is the subject of a book 'A Garden and Three Houses' in which the late Sir Peter Shepherd commented 'I know of no other garden which packs such riches into so small a space with such interesting and beautiful plants.'

Artist in Residence Heather Hunter regularly exhibits and works in her small studio at Turn End and she is often able to open her studio during public events and for group visits.

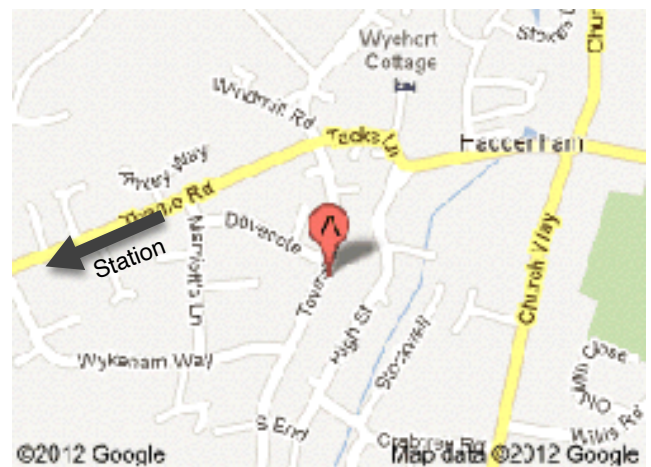
'The witty way in which Turn End is conceived as a series of walled enclosures, some open to the sky, others roofed... There is nothing else like Aldington's houses and garden at Haddenham in post-war British architecture'

Dan Cruickshank, RIBA Journal, Oct.1996

DIRECTIONS & PARKING

3m NE of Thame, 5m SW of Aylesbury. Turn off A418 to Haddenham. In the village centre, turn off Thame Road at Rising Sun pub into Townside. Turn End is located opposite Dovecote, behind a low white wall, under a large walnut tree and with a gravel entrance.

Turn End was created as a family home, as such there is no visitor parking on site. We are located in the historic centre of Haddenham village and there is free, but sometimes limited, on street parking on surrounding roads. **Please park with consideration for our neighbours, parking on wider areas of road and avoiding driveways.** We are a 10-15 minute walk from Haddenham & Thame rail station. Haddenham is served by Arriva bus 280 Aylesbury-Oxford.



If travelling by coach, we recommend that you approach via the wider roads of Thame Road - Marriotts Lane - Dovecote and disembark on Dovecote. As parking for large vehicles is limited in the vicinity, coaches may wish to park elsewhere during your visit.

FACILITIES

A small selection of books and home-grown plants are available for purchase. We can accept payment by cash or cheque on the day.

One unisex toilet is available at the entrance, via two steps.

ACCESS

The garden includes gravel and stone pathways, lawns, narrow archways and several steps, including steps to the photography studio. Please contact us for further information, we would be delighted to help facilitate your visit.