

Hertfordshire Record Society

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The Hertfordshire Record Society is pleased to publish:

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Humphry Repton's Red Books for Panshanger & Tewin Water

with an Introduction by Twigs Way

In 1799 the 5th Earl Cowper, Peter Leopold Francis Nassau Clavering-Cowper, and his distant cousin Henry Cowper commissioned landscape gardener Humphry Repton to submit plans for 'improving' their three connecting estates of Tewin Water, Panshanger and Cole Green. Repton was also asked to draw up plans for a new house on the north side of the river Mimram. He visited Tewin Water in May 1799 and Panshanger in June 1799, and subsequently produced 'red books' for both estates. Although there were delays in the building of the new house, work started straightaway on the landscape improvements recommended by Repton. Much of the Repton's designed landscape has now been destroyed but the Red Books for Panshanger and Tewin Water provide evidence of his schemes.

The sketches in Repton's original Red Books comprise watercolours with overlaid flaps: the flap is closed to show the 'before' scene and lifted to reveal the 'after' scene. This edition has full-colour reproductions of each sketch both 'before' and 'after'. The Introduction by Dr Way outlines Repton's work, his design principles and the practical application of them.

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