

Tower Hill
Woodland
Walks

The Den

Somerset Lodge

to
St Nicholas'
Chapel
20 minutes walk
from Tea Room

WC



Tea
Room

Cholmondeley Castle
private

Bluebell Walk

White Screen
Gates

Private Areas

The
Glade

Memorial
Mosaic

Daffodil
Walk

Orchid
Meadow

Orchid
Meadow

Rose
Garden

Ha Ha

CAR EXIT

Folly
Garden

Laburnum
Grove

Lavinia Walk



Legend



Car Routes



Gravel Paths
wheelchair access
with care - gradients



Private

not to scale

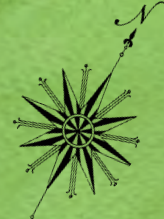
One Way Traffic Flow

Temple
Garden

Silver Wedding
Arboretum

Ha Ha

CAR
PARKING



Bickerton Road

COACH
PARKING



Lakeside Walks
Picnic Area
Play Area
W.C.s



C FAMILY HISTORY

The Cholmondeley family have resided in this part of Cheshire since Norman times. The first member of the family to take the name was Robert le Belward, who became the 1st Lord of Cholmondeley in around 1200.



ST NICHOLAS CHAPEL

Little is recorded about earlier dwellings on the site, but around 1570 Sir Hugh Cholmondeley (1514-1596) built a new house in the timber-framed Elizabethan style, which lay about half a mile to the north-east of the present castle. This was damaged during the Civil War, when the family took the Royalist side. Following the Restoration, Hugh, 1st Earl of Cholmondeley (d. 1724) engaged William Smith of Warwick to make alterations and encase the house in brick; however, the building had fallen into disrepair by the end of the 18th century and was eventually demolished. Only the stone gate piers and a small part of a wing remain.

The present castle was built on a much higher elevation by George, 1st Marquess of Cholmondeley (d. 1827) to his own design, using local sandstone. It has since been home to successive generations.

The office of Lord Great Chamberlain came to the 1st Marquess through marriage into the Ancaster family, and is now held by David, 7th Marquess. The Lord Great Chamberlain is responsible for Royal affairs in the Palace of Westminster, and one of his principle roles is receiving the Queen when she arrives for the State Opening of Parliament.



CHOLMONDELEY

The Cholmondeley family chapel lies around half a mile to the north-east of the Castle Gardens, and can be visited either on foot (c. 20 minutes) or by car on open days.

The oldest surviving part of the chapel dates from the 15th Century, and the building was restored and encased in brick in 1717. The North and South transepts were added in 1840. There is a fine 17th Century carved oak screen, and rare examples of early Flemish stained glass, which were collected by the 1st Marquess. The Chapel is still used for services and family occasions.

THE GARDENS

The gardens were originally laid out in the early 19th Century using architectural elements from the formal garden of the Old Hall, which had recently been demolished. However, they gradually fell into decline, and were only properly restored and replanted by the late Lavinia, Marchioness of Cholmondeley, who came to live here in 1947 with her husband, Hugh, 6th Marquess. She set about creating 'a garden of great romance', introducing many specimen trees and shrubs, including rare magnolias, camellias and rhododendrons. Her legacy is continued today with new developments in the Rose, Temple and Folly gardens, and the Lavinia Walk, a fitting tribute to Lady Cholmondeley's life and work in the garden.



THE MERE AND LAKESIDE WALK

The Deer Park Mere and Nature Trail gives visitors the opportunity to enjoy the tranquillity and beauty of the surroundings, with magnificent views of Cholmondeley Castle. The Mere has an extensive bird and waterfowl population and the wildlife is monitored and recorded with the help of the Nantwich Natural History Society.

INFORMATION

Caution should be taken around the grounds owing to irregular ground levels, including shallow but sheer drops, tree roots, rabbit warrens etc., with sensible footwear required at all times. Pathways may become slippery with some areas restricted for wheelchair access. If assistance is required, please ask a member of staff. Avoid parking or resting below trees. There are water hazards within the grounds and vehicles sharing routes and moving around the site, so children/vulnerable persons should be supervised at all times. In the event of an accident or incident please report this immediately to a member of staff.