

Of course all old buildings have to have a ghost and East Carlton Hall is no exception. The Lavender Lady as she is known, manifests herself with the smell of lavender. It is thought that she was one of the past Lady Palmers but little is known of the history surrounding the haunting. She does not seem to be confined to the Hall itself as unaccountable lavender scent has been noticed in the Coach House, now the Heritage Centre and even sometimes in the grounds of the hall.

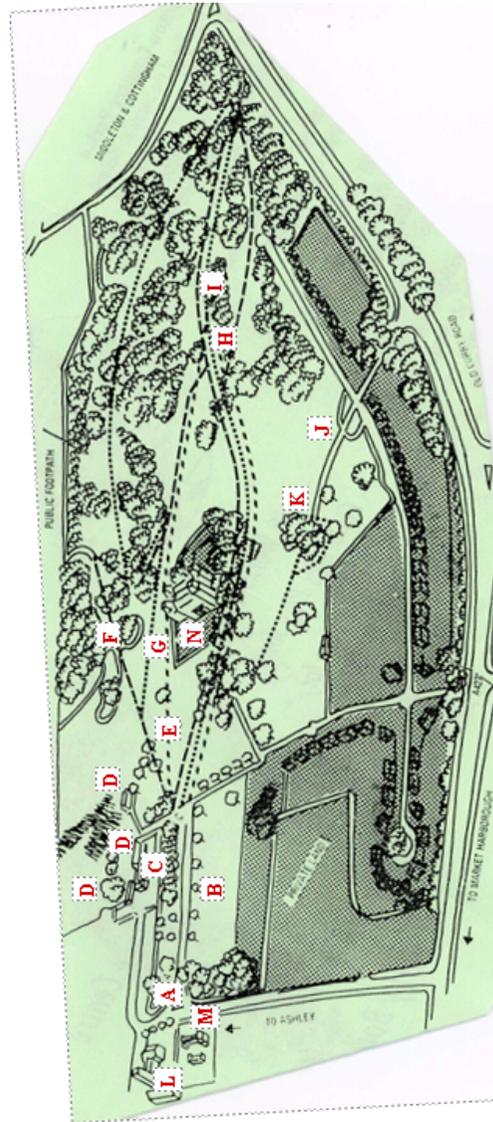
J. Bridges. The History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire, 1761
Victoria County History, 1906
N. Pevsner & B. Cherry. The Buildings of Northamptonshire, 1973



Corby Borough Council
 East Carlton Country Park
 East Carlton
 Nr. Market Harborough
 Leicestershire
 LE16 8YF
 01536 770977



www.corby.gov.uk/eastcarlton



Key:

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|----------------------|---------------------------|
| A—Main Entrance | H—Ironstone Outcrop |
| B—Parking Area | I—Butterfly Garden |
| C—Heritage Centre | J—Pedestrian Access |
| D—Campsite | K—Boled Lime Tree |
| E—Play & Picnic Area | L—Church |
| F—Ponds | M—Almshouses |
| G—WWII Shelter | N—Hall (Private Property) |

East Carlton Country Park



East Carlton Hall



East Carlton Country Park



East Carlton Country Park was formally the deer park surrounding the hall, which was the country seat of the Palmer family until the 1930's.

The present hall, constructed in 1870, was designed for the Palmer family by E.P. Law of Northampton. It is in an Italianate style with French pavilion roofs. Law was responsible for the design of a number of buildings in the area including the former Rectory on the western side of the village.

The previous hall, built in 1775, was designed by John Johnson of Leicester. This was in the Palladian style and was built at a cost of £7,000. Remnants of the foundations of this hall are still visible in the cellars of the present structure. The cellars are still equipped with the domestic brewing utensils once common in a country house before the turn of the century.

In his *'History of Northamptonshire'*, published in 1761, Bridge states the *'Sir Jeffrey Palmer, Lord of the Manor, hath here an old mansion-house'*, this would indicate that the hall then standing was of some age in 1761 and was rebuilt in 1775. It is likely that this original hall was of timber construction although little information is available.

There was another hall at Carlton, as it was then known, called the West Hall. Little is known about this hall.

Bridge mentions *'a mansion, now ruined, pertaining to West-hall Manor'* (History of Northamptonshire 1761). It is thought that this ruined mansion was probably located to the rear of the church, although another possible location is nearer to what are now the main gates.

Carlton came to the Palmer family in 1408 through the marriage of William Palmer to Anne, the daughter of Nicholas Warde, the then owner of Carlton.

Geoffrey Palmer, a descendant of William Palmer *'declined the King's cause'* and was imprisoned in the Tower of London. He was appointed Attorney General in 1660 after the Restoration and was created a baronet on the 7th June 1660.



View of Old Hall

In the 1920's the Hall and the park were leased to the Firth family of Sheffield steel fame. It was sold to Stewarts and Lloyd in 1934 and housed the offices of Stewarts and Lloyd when they evacuated them from the danger zone around the steel works. The air raid shelters that serviced the hall still exist although it is said that these were for protecting documents, not the staff!

Immediately after the war it was used as accommodation for management trainees and company guests.