

Boughton's North Front stretches in a broad panorama from the Stables (on the left) to the principal entrance, behind the arches of Ralph Montagu's 'English Versailles', with its twin wings (in the foreground). The West Front (on the right) conceals the old Tudor house

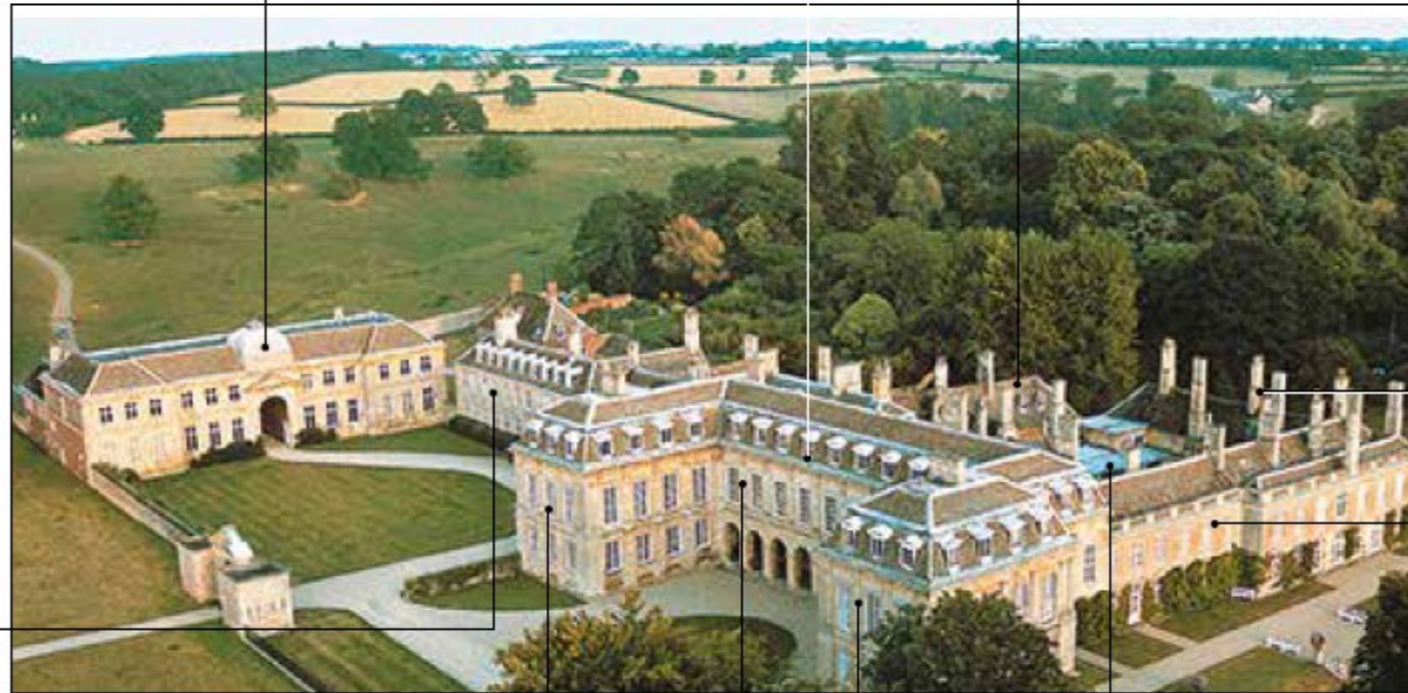
THE NORTH FRONT, 47
This grand entrance front was commissioned by Ralph, 1st Duke of Montagu, in the 1690s. The architect is unknown, but the Huguenot Daniel

Marot, who worked at Hampton Court Palace, probably played a part. The entrance is behind the arched Colonnade, above which are Ralph's splendid State Rooms

THE WORKING HOUSE, 172
Daily life still revolves around the Tudor kitchen. A maze of unsuspected courtyards leads

to the old servants' halls, and hidden staircases lead to the atmospheric attics, with their garret storerooms and simple bedrooms

THE STABLES, 190
Finished in 1704, this block, with its arch and cupola, was the final element in Duke Ralph's transformation of Boughton. It extends the North Front to form a distinctly Parisian square, once paved. The 1830 Buccleuch State Coach is still kept here



THE SOUTH SIDE, 160
Once site of the Tudor chapel, the South Side was converted by the 2nd Duke into living quarters in the 1720s, and filled with its distinctive painted panelling. The White Drawing Room upstairs looks out over the Rose Garden

THE DOWER HOUSE, 190
Once the Laundry, it became home to Elizabeth Montagu, Dowager 3rd Duchess of Buccleuch, and was lived in most recently by Sir David Scott, a cousin of the Duke, and his wife, the botanist Valerie Finnis, who created a famous garden there

THE NORTHEAST PAVILION, 88
One of the two wings, the Unfinished Wing, as it is known, is a shell with bare rafters inside – time and money ran out. It now houses the Chinese Pavilion and one of England's oldest billiard tables

THE STATE ROOMS, 50
The Great Apartment, built for formal entertainment culminating in a Bedchamber for the King. It remains unaltered after three centuries

THE NORTHWEST PAVILION, 72
Duke Ralph built these oak-panelled private apartments for himself and his wife. They occupy two floors, known as the Low and High Pavilions

THE FISH COURT AND GREAT AND LITTLE HALLS, 92
The Tudor halls were kept when Duke Ralph built his North Front, but he transformed them with splendid painted ceilings and tall windows

THE WEST FRONT, 120
In contrast to the North Front, intimate rooms full of surprises occupy two floors of the west wing of the Tudor manor house. These include Duke John's Library, the Boudoir, the Flower Gallery Bedroom and the Nursery