

THE PARKLAND

AT BOSWORTH HALL HOTEL



The parkland landscape which exists today was originally established by the Harcourt family who acquired the land shortly after the Norman conquest.

In 1589, the estate, which at the time was known as the 'Southwood', was purchased by the Dixie family and in 1665 the family were granted the permission to enclose 400 acres to make a park for 'stags and other wild beasts'. These 400 acres included the whole of the present-day country park.

The deer herd that was introduced into the Park in the 17th century was the only known herd of pure-bred black deer in the country and at one time the largest in Europe.

Sadly the black deer have all gone now, they remained in the park until they were sold in 1918, however the Northern end of the park, around the Wood House is now home to Reeves' Muntjac Deer. They can be seen along Sutton Lane, usually just before or after sunset.

Picture 1: Showing the park in the early 18th century from a point close to where you are standing.

Picture 2: This shows herd amongst the newly planted trees dating from the late 19th century.

Photographs kindly loaned by the Market Bosworth Society's Oakley Collection.