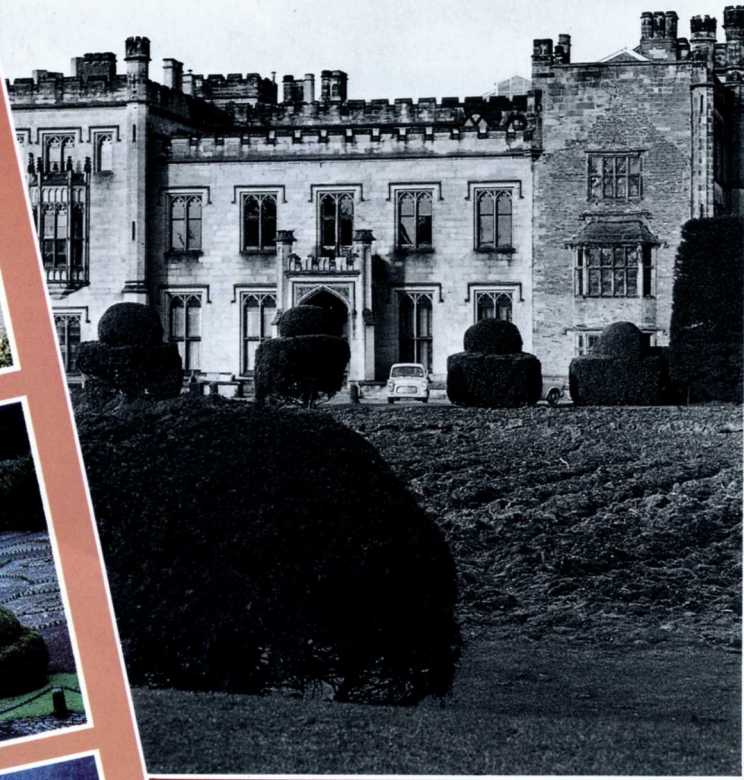




RESTORATION OF THE GROUNDS



A new parterre is established on the site of the Mon Plaisir Garden.

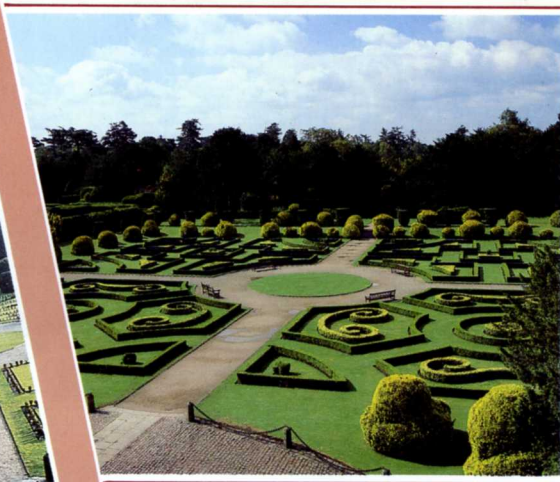


PHOTO: HEATHER ANGEL

The park and gardens of Elvaston were well maintained through the early years of this century right up until the 11th Earl left for Ireland. During the war and in later years, although the lawns were kept mowed, work on trees and shrubs was left.



Before.



After.

of an Elizabethan knot garden, on their background of immaculate lawn, are well established. Beyond the parterre garden are many of the original topiary yews together with William Barron's Moors' Arch.

William Barron was undoubtedly a major influence on planting style during the mid 1800s, and Elvaston Castle Country Park stands as the most complete example of his work remaining to the present day. In October 1990 English Heritage listed the gardens and grounds of Elvaston as 'outstanding'; an indication of its unique historical importance.

Since 1969, the management committee has continued to maintain and improve the grounds and buildings, providing a wide range of facilities which include a caravan and campsite, tea rooms and a gift shop. Much of the country park and its facilities have the added advantage of being accessible to the disabled.

There was a time, too, when it was thought that the park and gardens would be destroyed in order to recover the valuable gravel which lies beneath.

With the passing of time the gardens, and in particular the topiary, began to show signs of neglect. In 1969, immediately after they bought Elvaston, Derby Parks and the County Council put into action a plan to restore the grounds which were to be opened to the public just twelve months later. An extensive programme of tree surgery began. The avenues were cleared of scrub, bringing light and air to magnificent specimen trees, now over one hundred and fifty years old. Many of the golden and green yew trees were pruned and restored. The bower garden unfortunately had deteriorated beyond any hope of restoration and it was decided to uproot all the conifers. A new parterre garden was designed on the same site to the south of the castle. Now, twenty years on, the scroll patterns of green and yellow box, reminiscent



Clay Jones and the BBC TV *Gardeners' World* team filming in the Old English garden.

Restoration work has included the setting up of a museum, 'The Working Estate', giving a glimpse of life as it was for craftsmen, labourers, and their families, some eighty years ago.