

# Harlaxton Manor



by Lucy Williams

Harlaxton Manor has stood as one of Lincolnshire's most striking and theatrical country houses for nearly two centuries, dominating the surrounding landscape with its architectural ambition. Completed in the mid-19th century and built between 1832 and 1848 for a wealthy landowner, the manor arguably has stood and remains one of the most visually impressive historic buildings in the region.



Surrounding the house are extensive grounds, gardens and parkland, including formal terraces, an Italian garden, and one of the largest walled gardens in England. These landscaped surroundings enhance the sense of isolation and the spectacle of the Manor, as well as creating a clear contrast to that of the market town of Grantham. Overall, the Manor's greenery and setting allow its identity as a secluded yet commanding presence within the Lincolnshire countryside to be understood.

The house's overall architecture incorporates a dramatic mix of Gothic, Elizabethan, Jacobean and Baroque styles, resulting in a bold appearance that is both imposing and ornate and a distinct reflection of its history. This overall fusion of influences

has earned Harlaxton Manor its Grade I listed status, marking it as a building of exceptional national importance and interest.

Over the course of the 20th century, Harlaxton Manor experienced significant changes in ownership and use. During the Second World War, it served military purposes before later passing into the ownership of the Society of Jesus. Since 1971, it has been home to Harlaxton College, the British campus of the University of Evansville, and continues to function primarily as an academic institution, rendering it unable to be accessed by the public. However, the Manor hosts occasional open days and events, such as at Christmas or during the summer, allowing visitors limited access to its interiors and grounds; these

events remain limited despite this and so are often ticketed and not open for general visits. Harlaxton Manor stands today as a remarkable example of Victorian ambition and creativity. Its complex architecture, layered history, and vast presence make it one of the most important and prominent historic buildings associated with Grantham. Though largely reserved for education and not as compliant with visitors, it stands as a symbol of heritage and grandeur within the local landscape of Lincolnshire.

## Future events:

4th and 5th April:  
**Spring Open House with Golden Easter Egg hunt**  
2nd and 3rd May (approx):  
**Bluebell Walk**  
29th and 30th August:  
**Summer Open House**

Tickets available via website, other dates to be announced soon.

Harlaxton Manor, Harlaxton, Grantham, NG32 1AG  
[www.harlaxton.co.uk](http://www.harlaxton.co.uk)

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