

**Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust
Walled Kitchen Garden Register**

Name of House:	Nevill Holt Hall			
Address:	Drayton Road Nevill Holt Leicestershire LE16 8EG			
Ownership:	Private X	Public	Institutional	Other
Grid reference:	SP81547 93788	Map No:	Landranger map no. 141	
Date original WKG created:	A WKG is shown on a plan of Nevill Holt dated 1661. We have found no records that pre-date this. The existing WKG is on the same site and at least parts of the walls are likely to be original.			
Other key dates in development:	<p>1302 Nevill Holt Hall built was built as a large manor house by Thomas Palmer.</p> <p>From the 15th -19th century it was owned by members of the Nevill family.</p> <p>1876-1912 the hall was owned and re-modelled by Sir Bache Cunard, owner of the shipping company.</p> <p>1919-1996 the hall was used as a preparatory school.</p> <p>2000 the hall was bought and restored by David Ross of Carphone Warehouse. He has built a theatre to seat 350 within the 17th century stable yard where he hosts the Nevill Holt Opera, a festival showcasing young British talent.</p> <p>There has been a WKG at Nevill Holt since before 1661 when it is shown on an estate plan. The only building then was a dovehouse.</p>			
Size and brief description:	<p>About 1 acre. The WKG at Nevill Holt is abutted by 2 further walled gardens, one to the West and one to the South. On the OS maps from 1886 and 1904 there is evidence of an orangery in the garden to the South but apart from this it appears to have been used as a pleasure garden. There is no evidence of how the garden to the West was used. It currently houses an old school building but it is being re-developed.</p> <p>The orientation of the WKG is North/South but slightly inclined towards the East. It has walls on all four sides and is situated within easy reach of the house. See Estate plan 1661.</p> <p>In 1886 there was a path on each side of the WKG running North South. These paths were linked by 3 East West paths, one at each end and one in the middle. The current paths follow the same pattern.</p>			
Official Designations for garden (e.g. EH listing)	<u>GARDEN WALLS,</u> <u>SUMMER HOUSE,</u> <u>GATE PIERS,</u> <u>GATES AND STEPS</u> <u>AT NEVILL HOLT</u> <u>HALL</u> <u>PREPARATORY</u> <u>SCHOOL AND FONT</u> <u>HOUSE</u>	Reference: List entry number:- 1294788	Grade: II	

DESCRIPTION: CURRENT AND PAST

The evidence suggests that the main WKG at Nevill Holt has been in more-or-less continuous use as a WKG since before 1661. It is currently used to grow plants for a cut flower business. In addition soft fruit is grown and some vegetables.

Features: further information and current condition:

Walls, doors, gates	<p>All the walls are mainly brick and of Flemish bond, with random burnt headers and in some places there is a stone plinth. The exact composition and height of each wall varies. The land slopes down slightly from West to East and this is reflected in the walls. The main door to the WKG is at the southern end of the East wall and opens on to the road.</p> <p>There is a doorway on the eastern side of the South wall that links the WKG with the walled garden to the South and one in the centre of the West wall that opens into the walled garden to the West</p>
Glasshouses	<p>In 1886 there was a range of glasshouses along the North wall. At the east end of this range there was a vinery. There was also a glasshouse, possibly an orangery on the north wall of the walled garden to the South of the WKG.</p> <p>In 1904 this 'orangery' extended the whole length of the north wall and had a rectangular extension in the middle.</p> <p>In 1929 The 'orangery' and the glass extension were not there. The glasshouses on the north wall of the WKG were still standing and there was also a range of lean-to glasshouses with span-roofed plant-houses along the East wall.</p> <p>Today there are still glasshouses in the WKG but they are new. They were built in the early 21st C largely on the footprint of the originals. In the vinery there is still a sunken path that would have assisted the harvesting of the grapes towards the lower end of the roof.</p>
Frames	There are now some frames in front of the glasshouse on the East wall but there is no previous evidence of their existence.
Pits	Unknown
Hotwalls/furnaces	Unknown
Heating pipes/boilers etc.	Unknown
Backsheds, workrooms, stores	<p>Since before 1886 there has been a row of 4 backsheds along the South wall of the main WKG. There are 3 of similar size with one door and window and a larger one on the end with 2 windows and a door. They are still used for potting and storage.</p> <p>In 1929 an open-fronted roofed storage area is shown adjacent to the largest backshed. This is still in use today.</p> <p>All the backsheds are brick built and have a single slate roof. The larger one may have been used as a bothy.</p>
Gardener's house, cottages, bothies	A gardeners cottage is shown on a map on the English Heritage listing site. It is situated beyond the Eastern end of the North wall. It also appears on the 1929 OS map.
Wells, ponds, tanks, towers	<p>In 1904 and 1929 a pump is shown in the North-East corner of the WKG and there is still a tiny lean-to roofed shelter in this corner.</p> <p>On the site visit we found a large water tank in the WKG with a</p>

	pump in one corner.		
Planting	The WKG is currently used to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables.		
Other key features			
Any other information:			
Date site visited	1 st May and 12 th June 2013		
References:	OS maps 25" = 1 mile 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd editions, 1886, 1909 and 1929 Leicestershire and Rutland Record Office: Doc. Ref: DE 221/14/9 Plan of Nevill Holt 1661. Copy redrawn from the original by Malcolm Saunders. Nicholas Pevsner and Elizabeth Williamson, Buildings of England, Leicestershire, Harmondsworth 1984 Wikipedia English Heritage: www.english-heritage.org.uk/national-heritage-list-for-england .		
Researched by:	Elizabeth Bacon, Rowan Roenisch and Gill Knight		
Record Compiled by:	Gill Knight	Date: 17 th March 2014	



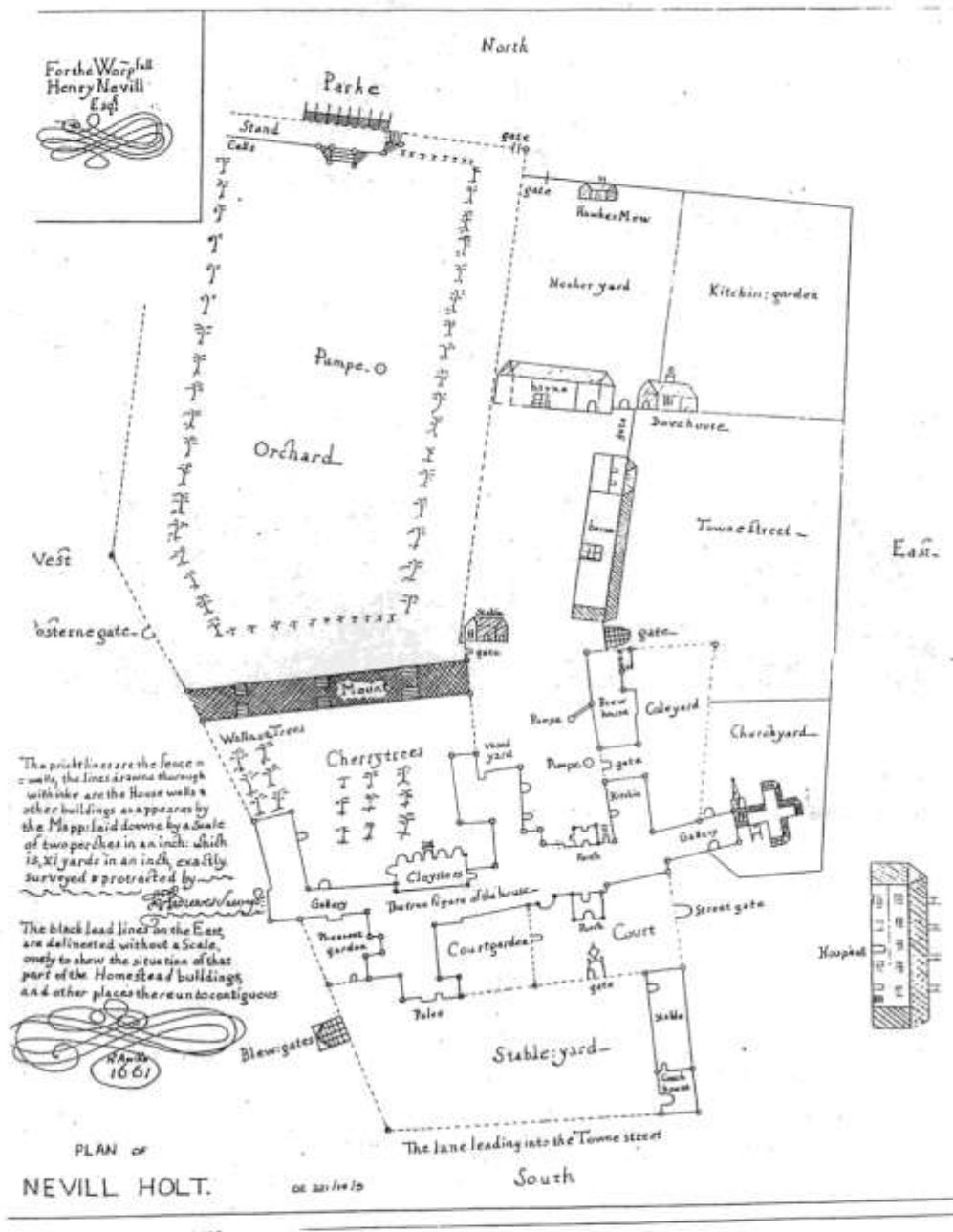
View of the glasshouses on the North wall of the WKG at Nevill Holt. The vinery is the separate glasshouse at the Eastern end. Beyond this is a small lean to brick building that may have housed the pump. The current planting is shown on all three photos.



This view is taken from the backsheds and shows the glasshouses on the Eastern wall of Nevill Holt WKG beside the main door into the garden from the street



This view of the WKG at Nevill Holt shows the backsheds and the open fronted roofed storage area along the Southern wall



Plan of Nevill Holt, 1661 (DE 221/14/9). Copy redrawn from the original by Malcolm Saunders

This is the earliest plan that we found of the Nevill Holt estate. It shows a Kitchen Garden in the same place that it exists today