

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

Name of House:	Husbands Bosworth Hall			
Address:	Theddingworth Road (South-east side) Husbands Bosworth LE17 6NL			
Ownership:	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Institutional <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Grid reference: SP647 843	Landranger Map No: Landranger 140			
Date original WKG created:	There has been a kitchen garden at Bosworth Hall since before 1785. There is a letter from the chaplain to the family in France, which refers to 'the planting of trees round the kitchen garden' and it is dated 20 th February 1785.			
Other key dates in development:	Husbands Bosworth Hall is made up of 2 distinct dwellings, the older part is Tudor in origin and faces SE, the later part was built c1789 and faces NW. The 2 are linked by a Victorian Gothic wing c1870. The renovations at this time included the laying out of the park and a shrubbery. A WKG may have been created as part of this work. There were originally 2 walled gardens. One was on the other side of the road, now the A4304, and is now pastureland although some parts of the walls still exist and there is an outbuilding dated 1829.			
Size and brief description:	The site of the remaining WKG is 1.566 acres but this includes a triangular field to the NE, the stable yard and the R.C chapel to the SW. The WKG is kite shaped and sits NW to SE. It has walls on 3 sides and a hedge along the SE edge and part of the SW edge. It is close to the house and situated on the far side of the stable yard. The paths are laid out much as they were in 1886. They subdivide the northern two thirds of the garden into 4 sections. The southern end is open and the glasshouses are situated in the SW corner.			
Official Designations for garden (e.g. EH listing)	Designation: EH listing	Reference: 1360723	Grade: II*	
Survival/current use:	Parts of Bosworth Hall are currently let to tenants and they have been allocated sections of the WKG. However much of the work on the site is carried out by the owners.			
Features: further information and current condition:				
Walls, doors, gates	The walls are mainly Sussex or Flemish garden wall blend. The coping varies and includes soldier brick, red rounded saddleback and blue angular saddleback coping. There is a short wall projecting into the garden that would have provided protection to the NW side of the lean-to glasshouse. The main entrance is through a wrought iron gate in the hedge in the SW corner. There are wooden gates at the far end of the hedge allowing access to the St Mary's RC Chapel that is next door. There are 2 wooden doors, one, disused, is next to the site of the lean-to glasshouse and would have given access to the boiler house. The other is in the N corner and leads into the stable			

	yard.
Glasshouses	<p>Two glasshouses were supplied by Messenger & Co. prior to 1886. One was a lean-to built along the southern end of the NW wall 67ft x 17ft. This had 3 compartments one of which was a peach house and another was likely to have been a vinery. They were heated using a boiler house situated outside the WKG on the other side of the wall. Only the tiled floor of part of this greenhouse remains and this includes a sunken water tank. There is still evidence of whitewash on the wall in this area. There is now a small modern greenhouse on part of the site. The second glasshouse is still there and sits opposite the aforementioned, near enough to share the heat source. It is a WNW-SSE aligned, 2-compartment, stand-alone, span structure, c. 40ft long x 18ft. wide, sitting on a low (10-12 course) brick wall. One external door opens inwards on the W end and there was a replacement roof on the W compartment when we visited. Since then the rest of the roof has been replaced because the weight of the glass threatened to damage other parts of the glasshouse. There is original iron staging in both compartments and much of the original ventilation system still remains. There is a modern glasshouse that abuts the NW wall at its far end. This houses the toilet for the chapel.</p>
Frames	<p>On the 1886 and the 1929 OS maps a substantial frame is shown to the South of the freestanding glasshouse. There is no frame there now. The records of Messenger & Co. show that in 1877 2 cucumber boxes were supplied 20ft x 7ft 6in and 18ft x 5ft 9in.</p>
Pits	<p>In 1875 Messenger and Co. provided heated pits 36ft x 7ft 3in</p>
Hotwalls/furnaces	
Heating pipes/boilers etc.	<p>There is evidence that the original lean-to glasshouse and the East compartment of the second glasshouse were heated. The source of heat was a boiler situated in a lean-to shed on the outside wall of the garden.</p>
Backsheds, workrooms, stores	<p>There are buildings backing on to the NE and SE walls but only 2 of these open into the WKG. One towards the N end of the NE wall houses a pigswill oven. The door into it from the WKG was installed by the current owners. They were surprised by the drop in level from the WKG to the floor of the outhouse. (i.e. 5 steep steps) It is now used for storing garden equipment. The other is between the NE wall and the start of the hedge and has a pitched roof and a window. It is now used as a potting shed.</p>
Gardener's house, cottages, bothies	<p>There is a gardener's cottage across the road (now A4304) from the West corner of the main WKG, it is dated 1874. The land behind the house would have abutted the second WKG mentioned earlier.</p>
Wells, ponds, tanks, towers	<p>There are 2 big ponds to the NE of the WKG. 2 pumps are marked on the OS maps, one by the site of the original lean-to glasshouse and another opposite to it near the S corner of the garden.</p>
Planting	<p>In 1959 the owners found many aged espalier apple trees in the WKG. A few of these can still be seen today. The WKG is currently used to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables.</p>
Other key features	<p>The difference in level between the WKG and the neighbouring field on the NE side is interesting. It seems likely that the ground</p>

	within the WKG was levelled when the walls were built.		
Any other information:			
Date site visited	6 th November 2013		
References:	OS maps 25" = 1 mile 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd editions, 1886, 1900 and 1929 English Heritage: www.english-heritage.org.uk/national-heritage-list-for-england . Jeff Guy – information regarding Messenger glasshouses at Bosworth Hall Catalogue of Turville Constable-Maxwell manuscripts – held at the Leicester City Record office		
Researched by:	Rowan Roenische, Elizabeth Bacon and Gill Knight		
Record Compiled by:	Gill Knight	Date:	8 th April 2015



Backshed on the NE side of the WKG now used as a potting shed. Beside this the wall is replaced by a hedge



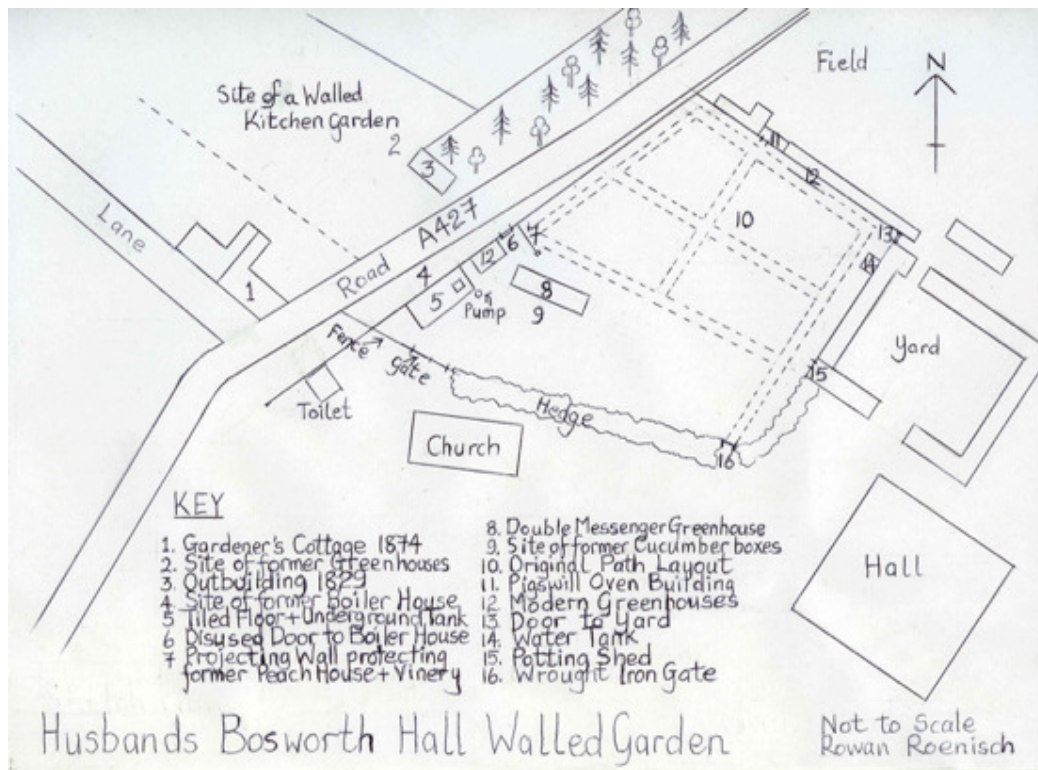
The NE and NW walls meeting in the Northernmost corner. A modern lean-to glasshouse is shown and the door into the backshed housing the pigswill oven



This is the projection from the NW wall that provided protection for the peach house and vinery. The door led to the boiler house situated against the wall on the outside of the garden. The glasshouse would have abutted the door and traces of whitewash can be seen on the back wall.



A side view of the original Messenger glasshouse built c.1879. The position of the 2 compartments is indicated by the change in the roof i.e. the replacement roof is at the door end and the original one at the far end.



This plan shows the unusual orientation of the WKG and the position of some of the main features identified in the text.