

Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust
Walled Kitchen Garden Register

Name of House:	Burley on the Hill The walled kitchen garden is now a private residence called Tower House.			
Address:	West Road Burley on the Hill LE15 7FL			
Ownership:	Private X	Public	Institutional	Other e.g. commercial
Grid reference: SK882103			Map No: Explorer 234 - Rutland Water	
Official Designations for the house and garden (e.g. HE listing)	Designation: Historic England: Burley on the Hill	Reference: List No. 1000380 List No. 1073792	Grade: Grade I (house) Grade II (grounds)	
Date original WKG created:	Late C18 th /early C19 th Some time after Repton's red book of 1795 and certainly before 1874.			
Other key dates in development:	<p>1694 – 1705: the current Burley House was built for Daniel Finch, the 2nd Earl of Nottingham to replace an earlier building, which was fired in the Civil War. The stable block from the earlier house survived and was incorporated into the new layout.</p> <p>1795: George Finch, the 9th Earl, used Humphry Repton to modernise the house's surroundings, which resulted in a characteristic 'Red Book' of his recommendations. A principal feature of these was the replacement of a series of south facing terraces (built around 1697 according to Pearl Finch (Finch, 1901)) with a single terrace and associated stone retaining wall, extending 30 m from the house and 256m long. This required the removal of an existing kitchen garden, which seems to have originally been a C18th melon ground, from the west end of the</p>			

	<p>old terraces.</p> <p>A fruit garden of around one acre was subsequently created around the original melon ground, below the west end of the new terrace.</p> <p>1990s: Burley House was split up into individual apartments and around the same time Tower House was built within the walls of the kitchen garden.</p> <p>Two new houses were also built on the site of the fruit garden.</p>
Size and brief description:	<p>The 1884 first edition OS map shows a walled kitchen garden of 2.825 acres to the west of the house's west wing, behind a small plantation near the western boundary of the grounds. This enclosure remains substantially intact.</p> <p>There are mature trees sheltering the W and S sides, which also impose shade on the lower (southern) end of the garden.</p> <p>The overall shape may be described as an irregular trapezoid on a N-S alignment – presumably to suit the terrain and the confines of the plot. The gently sloping area to the N and E of the site contains two glasshouses, with cultivated plots in front and the modern residence beside. A further brick building built into the N garden wall at the W end has been converted for accommodation. The garden wall between this building and the entrance has a 'crinkle- crankle' outline and appears to be original.</p> <p>The ground to the S and W slopes away with progressive steepness and is currently laid to lawns and flowerbeds.</p> <p>The current entrance to the garden and the house is at the NE corner, off a small access road called West Road. The 1884 map shows a track running from this corner of the site along the outside of the north wall where there is an existing entrance doorway (now unused) which may be original.</p>

Current Use:	
<p>Tower House and its courtyard stands on the upper level near the current entrance. The adjacent land at the N end of the site contains a freestanding glasshouse and a south-facing lean-to vinery with a brick bothy range behind. Both glasshouses are currently used for growing on tender plants. The northern crinkle-crinkle wall has some espalier fruit trees trained against the south-facing side.</p> <p>To the S and W of the house, a grassed area has a few fruit trees and a pump-fed rill running down to a pond near the west boundary. There are open cultivated beds below the glasshouses and the current interior paths generally follow the original 1884 quarters style layout.</p>	
Features: further information and current condition:	
Walls, doors,	The majority of the walls around the E, S and W sides are in good condition and are around 6ft. 6" high, one brick length thick, with

gates	<p>stone copings and periodic buttresses.</p> <p>The N wall and part of the E wall near the entrance is a crinkle-crankle brick construction, 10-12ft high, one brick length thick with saddleback stone copings.</p> <p>The constituent bricks are 8.5 x 4.5 x 2.5" wide, laid in a variation of Sussex Bond with up to five stretchers for each header. The brick colouring is pale red with some variation in colour and some scorched bricks. The brickwork, height and deep curvature of the hemispherical recesses show similarities with one at Henham Hall, Suffolk, where Repton worked around 1791.</p>
Glasshouses	<p>The glasshouse nearest to the residence is a modern lean-to construction built on earlier foundations. Overall dimensions are 45ft by 19ft with a glazed roof sloping down to a 12ft high brick wall, which has a further 3ft of fixed glazing up to roof level. The brick sidewalls rise 3ft above internal floor level with fixed overlapping glazed panels above.</p> <p>The front wall has 2ft high glazed ventilation panels above the brickwork, pivoted about their centres. Internally, there is a central brick-built raised bed, halved lengthwise by a full-length solid partition. There are drop-down wooden benches along the long walls and slab paving around the perimeter walkways.</p> <p>The 1884 OS map shows that there was originally a full span glasshouse in this location, which was twice the current width. The existing high brick wall was a central divider but the structure to the south side has since been demolished, although it was still apparent on the 1930 OS map revision. The outline of the floor for this side can be seen in the adjacent paved area. The 12ft wall shows numerous in-fills, which suggest that the two sides were connected by doorways, and the wall is whitewashed on both sides.</p> <p>An article for the Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener in 1874 (G. Johnson & R. Hogg, 1874, 'Burley on the Hill') describes this glasshouse as "recently built to the gardener's instructions" with the N side a stove for growing heat-loving plants such as gardenias, gloxinias and orchids and the (now demolished) S side a cucumber house.</p> <p>The vinery, backed by a brick-built bothy range, lies to the west of the above glasshouse. The vinery itself is 11ft wide by 45ft long with a glazed partition dividing the interior into a 12ft section (at the W end) and a 32ft section. The structure is wood framed with internal ironwork, ventilation rods and vine bars. It was built by Messenger & Co. of Loughborough in 1909, probably to replace an earlier 45 x 12ft vinery that is mentioned in the 1874 article, and erected on the earlier base brickwork (Messenger file- LLRO). George Finch placed the order with Messenger when Captain Guest was the tenant and the then clerk of works at Burley, James Charlton, was responsible for the brickwork modifications. The vinery Messenger supplied was to their standard 9ft width so the construction would have required the external walls to be modified, to fit the shorter width with infill brickwork, evidence of which is visible.</p> <p>The S wall has arched openings at intervals at ground level, just</p>

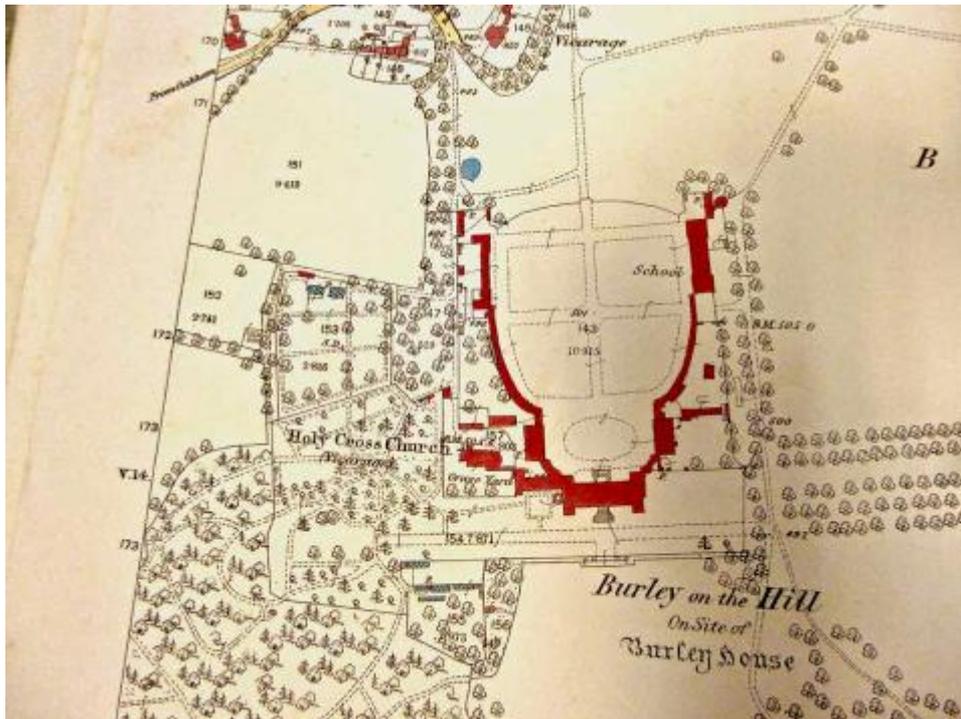
	<p>visible from the outside. This suggests that these arches were part of the earlier foundations, for externally rooted vines (the 1874 article mentions 5 different types of vine), a common feature in the early C19th. Only one of these arches is replicated by an internal opening in the current vinery.</p> <p>Another unusual feature is the brick-built raised bed against the back wall. Vineries of this period usually had beds at the front to plant the vines to grow up under the glass. Possibly, when built, only one vine was growing through the arched inlet and the bed at the back was used for other fruit such as peaches, nectarines or figs. It is not clear what the partitioned 12ft section was used for but there is no separate entrance.</p>
Frames	<p>None now exist but the 1874 article mentions around 50 frame lights for growing melons (presumably replacing the earlier Melon Ground). The 1884 and 1904 OS maps show a range of frames along the south-facing edge of the vinery.</p>
Pits	<p>None seen</p>
Hotwalls/furnaces	<p>See below</p>
Heating pipes/boilers etc.	<p>None seen</p>
Backsheds, workrooms, stores	<p>There is a bothy range, the same width as the adjoining vinery (11ft) but slightly shorter in length built of the same type of brick as the crinkle-crinkle walls.</p> <p>It incorporates a gardener's room and a mushroom house, which has a roof insulated with straw and a brick arched raised bed built against the wall adjoining the vinery. This range is not mentioned in the 1874 article and is illustrated as a glasshouse on the 1884 OS map. The second edition map of 1904 appears to show the range as a permanent structure with a range of glazed frames to the front of the vinery. Oddly, the third edition map of 1930 shows neither the frames nor the existing back-sheds.</p> <p>The mushroom house has a chimney at the west end adjacent to the vinery wall. This would have been linked to some form of heating system, possibly a hot-wall serving also the vinery. Heated mushroom houses back-to-back with vineries became popular from around the 1820s (Campbell, 2005). As there is, however, no mention of a mushroom house in the 1874 article, it may have been a later addition or conversion.</p> <p>The front (north-facing) wall of the range next to the mushroom house shows signs of several structural alterations, so it may have started life as some form of greenhouse(s) and been converted to its current format sometime between 1884 and 1904.</p> <p>All the OS maps show a small structure against the end wall (west facing) of the range, below the chimney. This has since been removed but may have been a peach case or a shelter for a stoke</p>

	<p>hole.</p> <p>The single storey brick building at the west end of the crinkle-crankle wall, now converted for accommodation, may have been a bothy or store.</p>
Gardener's house, cottages, bothies	See above
Wells, ponds, tanks, towers	The 1884 OS map shows a pump between the glasshouse and the vinery. This is not now visible nor shown on later maps but the third edition 1930 OS map shows a 'reservoir' to the east of the walled kitchen garden at a higher level. This would be to provide a water supply for Burley House, with possible connections for the adjacent kitchen garden.
Planting	<p>Current planting, outside the glasshouses, is that of a domestic garden.</p> <p>There is a detailed account from June 1874 of what was planted in the grounds of Burley House and the walled kitchen garden in that month's edition of J.C. Loudon's <i>Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener</i>.</p> <p>It records the walls of the kitchen garden were clad with trained peaches and nectarines and freestanding trees of apples and pears and standard plums elsewhere. The vinery housed five different vines and there were flowering annuals, ferns and orchids in the north-facing stove house with cucumbers in the south-facing side. There were also fifty frame lights for growing melons, early vegetables and salads but no mention of other vegetables in the quarters.</p>
Other key features	<p>The Journal correspondent refers to a small flower garden, called the Lower Terrace Garden, at the west end of the main terrace but at a lower level. This may be a remnant of one of the C18th terraces and in 1874 contained standard roses, peaches and figs against the walls and an old vinery set against the terrace wall. The correspondent suggested this contained vines planted a hundred years previously. A glasshouse is shown in this position in the 1884 OS map and is also shown on the 1903 and 1930 revisions. A photograph from the 1930s shows this garden still planted in very similar fashion and an aerial photograph of 1954, recorded in Britain from Above (although the photograph is reproduced from a reversed negative), shows a structure in the same position as the old vinery and the flowerbeds much the same as in the 1930s. The vinery is recorded as 'derelict' in 1983 (Burley Estate Site Plan, 1983).</p> <p>Below the Lower Terrace, the 1884 map shows a further enclosed garden of around 1 acre having a range of hothouses, 130 feet long, against the south-facing terrace wall with cold frames beyond them. A pump is marked near the southern boundary. This area appears to be the fruit garden recorded in 1874. The article notes that the range included a 50 feet long peach house, with peach trees trained against the terrace wall and young flat-trained trees in front, a 30ft long vinery with Muscat grapes, and a</p>

	<p>smaller greenhouse in between for growing cut flowers. The cold frames were used for growing on bedding plants for the many flower gardens and borders around the House – allegedly up to forty thousand per year. The remainder of this garden was given over to plum trees, gooseberries and raspberries. The full range of glasshouses is shown on all OS maps from 1884 to 1930 and the 1983 site plan shows all bar a small structure at the western end still remained.</p> <p>The area is now taken up by two private houses with domestic gardens.</p>
<p>Any other information:</p>	<p>Repton, in 1795, made various suggestions for a location for a new kitchen garden, his preferred being one behind the stables to the east (location D). He listed their respective attractions thus:</p> <p><i>'Various situations have been thought of for the kitchen garden, these I shall describe by reference to the map. The spot A, is too much exposed to the west winds, another at B is less objectionable, but it would be too far from the house, and not easily concealed from the plain. The spot at C, is still less objectionable, because it would be totally invisible from every direction and grow well embosomed and sheltered by wood....but the more I have considered the subject, the more strongly I am convinced that the best place for a kitchen garden is the spot marked D. The soil, the aspect, the shelter from west winds, contiguity to the stables, and easy distance from the house, together with its admirable connection from the door on the terrace, seem to render this in every respect the most eligible'. (Repton, 1795)</i></p> <p>As he predicted in his Red Book, his suggestions were not taken up and a new walled garden was built in location A to the west of the house (and well out of sight).</p> <p>Serpentine, or crinkle-crankle, walls were popular in Suffolk and Norfolk in late C19th due to influence from Holland, where they probably originated. They were supposed to create mini-suntraps for the fruit trees and offered more wall per yard of length, but a more prosaic benefit may have been that they saved a third of the bricks needed to build them, thus reducing the costs incurred by the Brick Tax of 1784-1851. It is also interesting that a form of crinkle-crankle wall was used in Italy for training melons.</p>
<p>Date site visited</p>	<p>30th March 2017</p>
<p>References:</p>	<p>OS Maps. 25" to 1 mile: Rutland V SE, first edition 1884, second edition 1904, third edition 1930.</p> <p>Burley Management Company. Burley Estate Site Plan, 1983.</p> <p>Plan of Burley on the Hill in 1783 (reproduced in Finch, 1901).</p> <p>Historic England Listing Notes: Burley, Rutland, LEN 1073792.</p> <p>G. Johnson & R. Hogg, 1874: 'Burley on the Hill', <i>Journal of Horticulture & Cottage Gardener</i>, Jan.- June 1874, London, pp 468 - 471 (reproduced from Biodiversity Heritage Library: biodiversity.org).</p> <p>Finch, Pearl (1901): <i>History of Burley-on-the-Hill, Rutland</i>,</p>

	<p>London, J. Bale, sons, & Danielsson.</p> <p>Harris, J (1995): <i>The Artist & the Country House</i>, p.56, London, Sotheby's.</p> <p>O'Hagan, M (1989): <i>Report on the Evolution of the Park at Burley on the Hill 1086-1864</i>, p.51, map no. IX, report for Vemak (Jersey) Ltd., held at Rutland Museum.</p> <p>Messenger & Co. archive: The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland, Wigston. LE18 2AH (LLRO).</p> <p>Repton, Humphry (1795): <u>The Red Book for Burley</u> (extracts)</p> <p>Campbell, Susan (2005): <i>A History of Kitchen Gardening</i>, London, Frances Lincoln Ltd, p.230.</p>		
<p>Researched by:</p>	<p>Keith Aldridge</p>		
<p>Record Compiled by:</p>	<p>Keith Aldridge</p>	<p>Date: 14th Dec 2017</p>	

PHOTOGRAPHS & PLANS



Extract from 1884 OS map showing walled kitchen garden to W of the west wing of the house and the fruit garden to the SW below the terrace.



Crinkle-crankle wall showing old entrance and covered bothy beyond



View of bothy range with vinery behind and mushroom house at far end



Interior of Messenger vinery