

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

Name of House:	Braunstone Hall (now Winstanley House)			
Address:	Hinckley Road Leicester LE3 1HX			
Ownership:	Private	Public	Institutional	Other x (Hotel)
Grid reference:	SK556034	Map No: Explorer 140		
Official Designations	Designation: Historic England	Reference: Stables and Walled Garden west of Braunstone Hall 1200562	Grade: II (listed 14 March 1975 amended 2010)	
	Historic England	Braunstone Hall 1200536	Grade: II (listed 23 Feb 1955)	
Date original WKG created:	The walled kitchen garden was in existence in 1789 (Throsby). This is earlier than the date of 1792 which is quoted in park guide books and leaflets produced by Leicester City Council.			
<p>Other key dates in development:</p> <p>1364: The Hastings family inherited the settlement of Braunstone and become one of the foremost families in the area.</p> <p>1650: The Winstanley family purchased various lands from the Executors of the Hastings family, including the “empaled park in Braunstone”</p> <p>1775: Clement Winstanley had inherited the estate from his father in 1770 and commissioned a local architect and builder, William Oldham, to construct the present Hall. The stables and walled kitchen garden are believed to have been constructed around this time.</p> <p>1789: John Throsby visited and described the walled kitchen garden as having “hot houses of considerable magnitude and the garden walls planted with choice fruit trees”</p> <p>1887: According to the report produced by Plincke Landscapes, there was a suggestion that the garden had become disused in its original form. The notation suggests neither a kitchen garden nor a regularly laid out orchard but rather woodland, or perhaps an informal orchard. However, this is contradicted by the 1881 and 1904 OS maps which show a formal quartered garden.</p> <p>Early 1920's: Transcript of an interview with Rosemary Poore (nee Winstanley),</p>				

<p>describes considerable and varied fruit cultivation. (The interview was carried out around 2005. See appendix for details)</p> <p>1925: Following a public enquiry in 1924, Leicester Corporation received permission for compulsory purchase of nearly 1,000 acres of the Winstanley estate for housing purposes.</p> <p>Late 1926: Major Winstanley agreed to sell “the Mansion House and Parklands and Plantations known as Braunstone Hall”</p> <p>1928: The land was acquired by Leicester Corporation’s Parks Committee.</p> <p>After 1928, according to the “Short History of Braunstone Park” the garden was used as holding beds for trees and shrubs before they were distributed to the various parks in the City.</p> <p>In 1982: the walled kitchen garden was cleared, re-designed as an ornamental garden and opened to the public on 22nd May 1983 by Councillor R.A. Flint JP. It included a parterre, lawns, alpine garden (1981), water feature and rockery (1986), herbaceous border (1988) and herb garden (1991)</p>	
Size and brief description:	<p>The garden is approximately 1½ acres in size. It lies to the west of Braunstone Hall and is accessed via the stableyard through a central archway with a pedimented gable above. It is rectangular in shape (the long sides running east to west) and slopes gently towards the west.</p>

Current Use: As an ornamental garden open to the public on selected days	
Features: further information and current condition:	
Walls, doors, gates	<p>The garden is enclosed with brick walls on the north, west and south sides. The east wall is formed by the back of the stable block. The walls are predominantly constructed of English Garden Wall bond and are topped with blue saddleback copings. The height is approximately 9 feet.</p> <p>There are four entrances into the garden: on the east side, the main entrance is through an archway from the stable block. There are two single gates: one on the north wall (in the north east corner) and the other in the south-east corner of the west wall. There are double gates in the north-west corner of the west wall (not believed to be original). No doors are shown on the OS maps.</p> <p>On the outside of the north wall are stepped buttresses. (See photos)</p>
Glasshouses	<p>Throsby (1789) refers to “hot houses of considerable magnitude”.</p> <p>The OS maps (1887, 1904, 1931 and 1951) show one rectangular glasshouse outside the garden in the south-west corner at right angles to the wall. There is no remaining evidence of this. The photo of gardener, John William Rodwell, shows a glasshouse in the background, believed to be this one.</p> <p>A document (undated but post 1983) from the Braunstone</p>

	History Group states that a conservatory type greenhouse was used to raise seedlings and accommodate tender plants. This would appear to have been part of the development of the ornamental garden. It no longer exists.
Frames	On the 1887 map there is a separate enclosed area shown outside the west wall which could contain a cold frame.
Pits	No evidence
Hotwalls/furnaces	No evidence
Heating pipes/boilers etc.	No evidence
Backsheds, workrooms, stores	No evidence
Gardener's house, cottages, bothies	There is no evidence of a head gardener's house, cottages or bothies. However, Rose Winstanley recalled the name of the Rodwell family who had been head gardeners at the Hall. Copies of photos of him and his son are attached to this report. These are from the archive of the Braunstone History Group.
Wells, ponds, tanks, towers	There is no evidence of water provision within the original walled kitchen garden. However, the present day garden has an ornamental pond.
Planting	<p>The 1888 OS map shows a quartered garden with perimeter paths. These are lined with trees. Rosemary Winstanley listed the fruit that were grown in the walled kitchen garden in her childhood.</p> <p>The 1983 redesign had colourful flower beds with annuals set in two lawns to each side of a wide path, a parterre and a rock garden. Shrubs and perennials are planted in the beds round the perimeter. Sadly, with reduction in funding, the garden is no longer maintained to this standard.</p>
Other key features	None
Any other information:	None
Date site visited	2008 for research for UK Database of Parks and Gardens 16 th March 2018 to visit site and 29 th May 2018 to visit exhibition on the history of the Winstanley Family, organised by the Braunstone History Group.
References:	Throsby, John. 1789 "Select Views in Leicestershire, from Original Drawings: Containing Seats of the Nobility and Gentry, Town Views and Ruins, Accompanied with Descriptive and

	<p>Historical Relations” Pub. 1789</p> <p>Plincke Landscape Document L37.01/CH/rw “Braunstone Park, Leicester: Draft Historical Evaluation” produced for Leicester City Council as part of a feasibility study for the regeneration of Braunstone Hall. February 2003.</p> <p>Varman, Pat: Parks Information Officer. “A Short History of Braunstone Park” Pub. Leicester City Council (no date of publication but post 1996)</p> <p>The Walled Garden at Braunstone Hall. Document provided by the Braunstone History Group. Undated.</p> <p>Ordnance Survey Maps 6” XXX1 S.W. 1st edition 1887, 2nd edition 1904, and subsequent editions: 1920, 1931, 1944, 1952</p> <p>Accessed from the National Library of Scotland website: www.nls.uk</p>	
<p>Researched by:</p>	<p>Sarah Bailey, Sue Blaxland and Karen Gimson</p>	
<p>Record Compiled by:</p>	<p>Sarah Bailey, Sue Blaxland and Karen Gimson</p>	<p>Date: 31st August 2018</p>

Appendix

Transcript of interview with Rosemary Poore (nee Winstanley) 1914-2006

“When the fruit was ripe in summer, the Kitchen Garden doors were kept locked but we were adept at getting on to the roof of a cart shed and dropping down the other side where we made pigs of ourselves taking peaches, strawberries, cherries, nectarines, gooseberries and (my favourite) luscious juicy apricots. I vividly remember once I was under a strawberry net with my brother when along came Henry Rodwell, our very dear head gardener – we was carrying his horrible club that he used to kill the birds with. He stood and looked at us – caught red-handed and said “you be mighty big blackbirds”!!! He never would get us into trouble. He, his brother George, and his son, Willy, were with us for years and his family I believe before him.”

Rosemary was the daughter of Richard Norman and Catherine Winstanley, the last owners of Braunstone Hall prior to its compulsory purchase by Leicester Corporation in 1925. She was interviewed by Braunstone History Group when she visited the Hall shortly before her death in 2006.



Photos courtesy Braunstone History Group



General view looking down the walled kitchen garden from the entrance. Photographed September 2008



Entrance to walled kitchen garden from stableyard
September 2008



Entrance into walled kitchen garden
from stableyard (west-facing wall)
March 2018



Exterior of north wall, showing stepped buttresses