

Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust
Walled Kitchen Garden Register

Name of House:	Westbrooke House,			
Address:	Scotland Road, Little Bowden, Market Harborough, Leicestershire			
Ownership:	Private *	Public	Institutional	Other
Grid reference:	Map No: Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 223 1: 25000 scale, 1999 25 inch Ordnance Survey Maps, 1900 and 1926.			
Official Designations for the house and garden (e.g. HE listing)	Designation: Not designated.	Reference:	Grade:	
Date original WKG created:	<p>The bricks of the original WKG (A) and those of the house c.1887 suggest the WKG was contemporary with the house.</p> <p>Between 1900 and 1926 the O/S maps indicate that the WKG (A) was extended with a second section (B) containing a greenhouse to the NW of the original rectangular WKG. (See the new garden plan) (MM LBS)</p>			
Other key dates in development:	<p>1887 William West, a timber merchant, built the house.</p> <p>1919 June, Cyril Moseley's parents bought the house. (MM LBS)</p> <p>1957-1977 Cyril and Dorothy Moseley occupied the house and the WKG was in active use as a kitchen garden. (MM)</p> <p>1977 the house was sold. (MM)</p> <p>2014 the current owners redesigned the two parts of the WKG (see below).</p>			
Size and brief description:	<p>The WKG is located a very short distance to the west of Westbrooke House. Near to the NE of Westbrooke House were stables attached to outbuildings. (O/S 1900 & 1926).</p> <p>The earliest portion of the WKG, A, (see new garden plan) is rectangular and orientated at an angle so that the corners are at the four points of the compass. A later additional plot, B, abuts the NW wall; it is largely rectangular with the W corner cut off.</p> <p>Together the 2 parts of the WKG (A and B) are about 1.5 acres.</p> <p>During 1957-1977 the WKG was well cultivated. (MM). This is possibly confirmed by the post WW2 photograph AP where the two sections of the WKG appear cultivated with planting against the walls and two greenhouses – one in each section. At this date the planting just outside the SW and SE walls may have consisted of cultivated slips. Early maps suggest that slips may have been there from the outset. (O/S1900 & 1926).</p>			

	Just prior to 2014 the WKG was grassed over and contained island flower beds – see photo. (PRM). Both sections of the WKG were completely redesigned in 2014.
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Current Use: Today the original rectangular WKG (A) is in the form of a pleasure garden and the additional section (B) is a kitchen garden with fruit and vegetables.

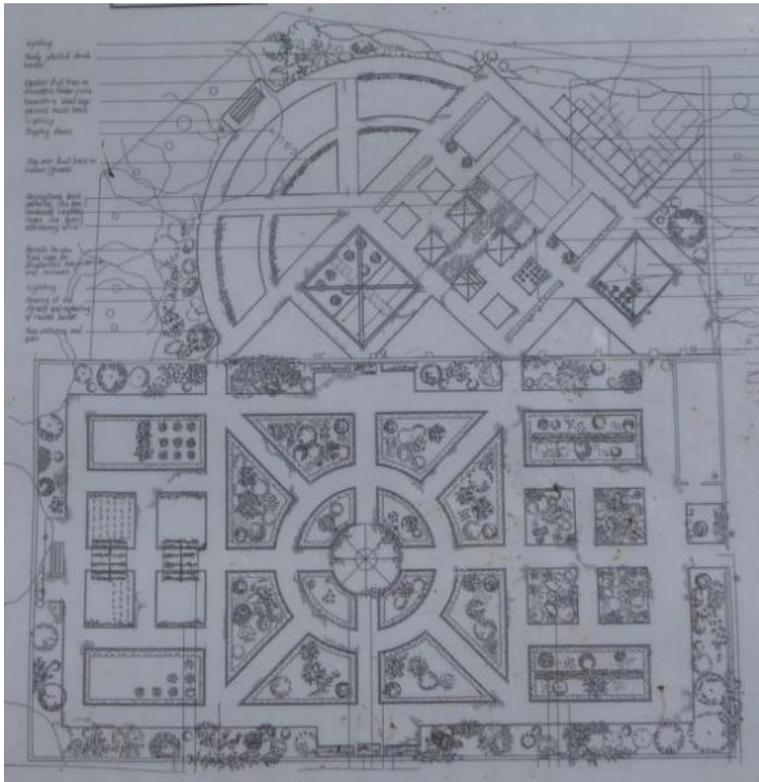
Features: further information and current condition:

Walls, doors, gates	<p>Walls The walls of the current pleasure garden (A) have survived and are all the same height. They are of machine-made red brick in Flemish Garden Wall bond. The internal face of the NE wall has a cornice composed of two projecting courses of brick oversailing a single billet course composed of header bricks. The internal face of the other three walls has a cornice consisting simply of a single course of brickwork oversailing a brick billet course. All these walls have stepped buttresses.</p> <p>More recently the NE wall of A has been extended to include garden B, replicating the brick bond, however the decorative internal billet cornice has not been included. All walls, old and new, have blue brick saddleback coping.</p> <p>The earliest evidence of section B is in O/S map 1926 and lines on the map suggest it was enclosed on all four sides. Whilst it shares the NW wall of the original WKG there is no surviving evidence to indicate the composition of the other three sides. Today two of these sides are bounded by fences and the third, NE side, consists of a newer wall. Lining the fences internally, are conifers to the SW and NW forming a shelter belt. There is no evidence of an earlier shelter belt, although O/S maps 1900 & 1926 indicate trees to the SE of the garden.</p> <p>Paths and Openings The first evidence of paths can be seen in the photo AP which shows both sections of the walled garden. In garden A a central path runs the length to an entrance in the NE wall. This path continues to the house. There is also a central cross path and a peripheral path. The only other entry shown is off centre in the NW wall towards the north.</p> <p>Photograph AP shows garden B with a central path running its length and other paths which are less defined. It is unclear how the garden at that time was bounded or the openings.</p> <p>Garden B had become a bit of wasteland prior to the redesign in 1914. Two sides were lined with conifers. The owners specified that they wanted flowers in garden A and then asked the designer for ideas regarding section B. The designer suggested an area for vegetable and fruit growing. (RW).</p> <p>More recently the NE wall of A has been extended northwards to include garden B, replicating the brick bond, however the internal</p>
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	<p>billet cornice has not been replicated. All walls, old and new, have blue brick saddleback coping.</p> <p>The redesigned gardens, pleasure and kitchen garden have been cleverly united by a complex system of cross and diagonal paths. For paths and layout see the plan of the new garden design. (NPRW)</p> <p>The O/S maps 1900 and 1926 do not indicate openings in the walls of the WKG. The AP photograph shows only 2 entrances in A: one in the centre of the NE wall and the other just off-centre of the NW wall.. There is also evidence in the brickwork between gardens A and B of an opening in the North corner of the NW wall by the glasshouse in section A. (Information from the owner).</p> <p>New openings in the side walls have been created at either end of the second and third main cross paths of garden A There is one other opening in garden B which is located off centre in the new wall towards the house. See plan of the new garden design.</p> <p>Today all openings are without gates or doors.</p>
Glasshouses	<p>The 1900 O/S map shows there was one glasshouse in the N corner of the original WKG, A. Amongst the changes revealed in the 1926 map is a second glasshouse towards the E corner of garden B. The AP photo shows a greenhouse in the same location in section A; but towards the N corner of section B.</p> <p>Today there are two greenhouses, one in each section towards the NE.</p>
Frames	In the new design there are Victorian style cloches in front of the glasshouse in garden B.
Pits	None
Hotwalls/furnaces	None
Heating pipes/boilers etc.	None
Backsheds, workrooms, stores	None
Gardener's house, cottages, bothies	None
Wells, ponds, tanks, towers	A well is located along the main avenue to the N of the house. Water is today siphoned from here to the garden.
Planting	<p>Photograph AP shows comprehensive planting in both gardens (A and B).</p> <p>Photograph PRW shows the WKG had become simply a pleasure garden.</p> <p>In 2014 the whole WKG was professionally redesigned and planted by Rebecca Winship to create a pleasure garden in A and a kitchen garden with raised beds in B.</p> <p>The owners chose this arrangement and preferred to keep the</p>

	conifers because they screened the housing estate beyond. The garden design for garden B is intended to distract the eyes of the viewer from the conifers by providing movement within the garden. (RW; NPRW).		
Any other information:	The garden was first opened as soon as it was finished in 2015 and has been open each year since.		
Date site visited	06/06/2018 and 26/09/2018		
References:	<p>Aerial Photograph, post Second World War, supplied by current owners, possibly c.1957-1977. AP.</p> <p>Little Bowden Society, <u>Little Bowden Buildings of Interest</u>, Leaflet for Awards for All, Undated, (Market Harborough Museum Records). LBS</p> <p>National Gardens Scheme, <u>The Yellow Book</u>, 2018. NGS</p> <p>Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 223 1: 25000 scale, 1999. O/S 1999</p> <p>Ordnance Survey Map 25 inch scale, 1900. O/S 1900</p> <p>Ordnance Survey Map 25 inch scale, 1926. O/S 1926</p> <p>Photograph, supplied by garden designer, Rebecca Winship, 2014. PRM</p> <p>Rebecca Winship, garden designer, supplied background information. RW</p> <p>Rebecca Winship, New Plans for the walled garden, 2014. NPRW</p> <p>Unknown Author, <u>Notes on the History of the House</u>, from discussions Wednesday 13th November, 1996 with Mrs Dorothy Moseley and her daughter Anne, (previous owners), and Andrew and Diana McGavin (owners of the house before the Moseleys) with additions by Kippa and Elise Allison (owners of the house in 1996). (MM)</p>		
Researched by:	Elizabeth Bacon, Gill Knight, Rowan Roenisch		
Record Compiled:	Elizabeth Bacon, Gill Knight, Rowan Roenisch	Compiled 17 th & 18 th October 2018 & February 2019.	

Illustrations for Westbrooke House WKG, Little Bowden, Leicestershire



2014 Design for Westbrooke House WKG, Rebecca Winship.
Section B is the upper portion of the design with curving
left-hand element (now the kitchen garden). Section A is the
lower rectangular pleasure garden (see discussion on the form).



Post WW2 Aerial Photograph of Westbrooke House WKG



Photograph of Westbrooke House WKG just prior to redevelopment in 2014



Westbrooke House WKG showing contemporary pleasure garden and original central wall with stepped buttresses.



NW corner new kitchen garden at Westbrooke House showing boundary screening hedge, greenhouse, raised beds and cloches.



Original NE Wall of the WKG at Westbrooke House showing the brick bond, cornice and coping.