

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

<b>Name of House:</b>	Withcote Hall		
<b>Address:</b>	Bridle Rd Withcote Oakham, Leicestershire LE15 8DP		
<b>Ownership:</b>	<b>Private *</b>		
<b>Grid reference:</b>	<b>SK 796058</b>	<b>Map No:</b> O/S Explorer 233 Leicester & Hinckley 1:25000 scale	
<b>Official Designations</b>	<b>Designation:</b> Historic England (formerly English Heritage)  Listed Building 1951	<b>Reference:</b>  190653	<b>Grade:</b>  II*
<b>Date original WKG created:</b>	Date unknown but machine made-bricks and major works by Rev. Henry Palmer suggest a date probably in the mid nineteenth century. The walled garden appears on the first edition O/S map c.1885-6.		
<b>Other key dates in development:</b>			
<p>Early 16<sup>th</sup> century Hall owned by William and Catherine Smith and early Tudor private chapel. Pevsner.</p> <p>1506 William died. Catherine's second husband was Roger Ratcliffe. Pevsner.</p> <p>1744 Chapel restored. Pevsner.</p> <p>Early 18<sup>th</sup> century Withcote Hall rebuilt (incorporating earlier building) by Matthew Johnson, Clerk of the Parliament, married to a Palmer (from Carlton Curlieu). He had bought the estate from the poet, Lord Rochester, who had been given it by Charles II. Pevsner.</p> <p>1723 Matthew Johnson died. Pevsner.</p> <p>Late Georgian and early Victorian period Reverend Henry Palmer (of Carlton Curlieu) extensively restored the house. 1836 stables built (dated). Pevsner &amp; memorial tablet in chapel.</p> <p>1856 Reverend Henry Palmer (of Carlton Curlieu) died aged 77 years. Memorial tablet in chapel.</p> <p>1907 Colonel Frederick Palmer died. Memorial tablet in Chapel.</p> <p>1926 estate sold. <u>Sale Catalogue</u>.</p>			

<p><b>Size and brief description:</b></p>	<p>The whole site of the WKG is approximately a 1.5 acres. It is essentially a rectangle with curved corners at NE and the NW and a block of stables filling the SE corner. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition O/S map shows greenhouses and frames in 2 locations: northeast alongside trees, possibly an orchard; and in the south, between the stables to the east and west of a domestic-looking 2-storey building (see below).</p> <p>The <u>Sale Catalogue</u> 1926 describes the WKG: ‘Excellent WKG with conservatories, peach house, cucumber house and forcing house. Also a range of brick and slated buildings consisting of bothy, potting shed, tool house, fruit chamber and mushroom house and also a brick-built and slated store chamber. Adjoining there was an orchard drying ground.’</p>
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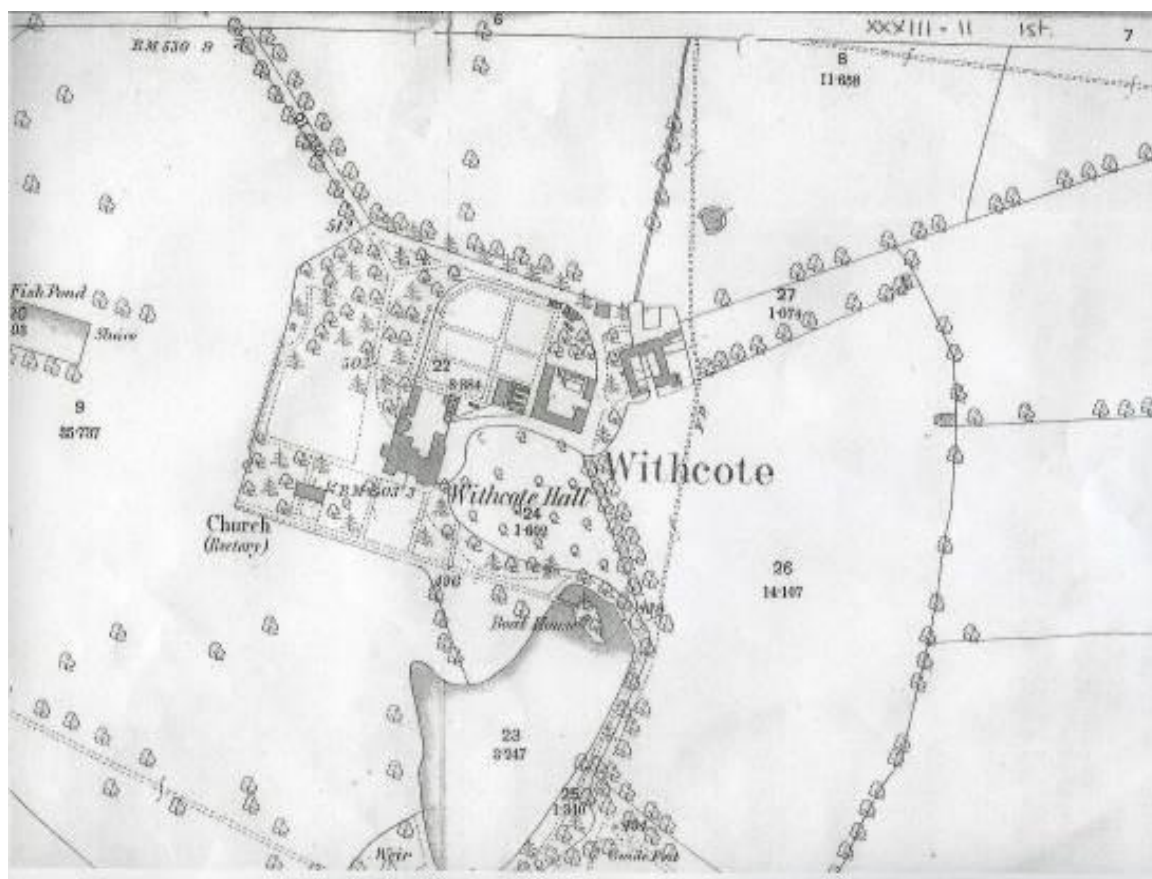
**Current Use:** As seen from the public footpath the WKG no longer functions as a kitchen garden but is partially utilised for farm storage and machinery.

**Features: further information and current condition:**

<p><b>Walls, doors, gates, paths</b></p>	<p>The walls are built of coursed and squared rubble ironstone. The interior of the wall is lined with red machine-made bricks in Flemish Garden Wall bond. The walls are protected from the weather by saddleback coping with a projecting slate drip-course below.</p> <p>The 1<sup>st</sup> edition O/S map suggests two entries in the west wall of the WKG and a third southern vehicular entrance adjacent to and west of the stables. Today there is one small wooden gate in the west wall, the broad entry by the stables survives and there is a wide entry towards the north east corner where the wall has collapsed but which shows signs of a former brick gate pier.</p> <p>Within the WKG the earliest O/S map indicates a peripheral path as far as the stable block and ‘orchard’. The garden is further subdivided by an almost central north south path and two east/west paths – one more or less central, the other subdividing the southern half of the garden. These paths are not marked on later edition maps.</p>
<p><b>Glasshouses and frames</b></p>	<p>The 1st edition O/S map shows two glass houses and a cold frame towards the north east. In the 2nd edition O/S map just one glasshouse survives. By the 3rd edition there is only the cold frame.</p> <p>The 1st O/S map indicates within the walled garden, between the stable block and the ‘dwelling’, a further L-shaped glass house and two cold frames. In the 2nd O/S map the L-shaped glasshouse has become two separate glasshouses. By the 3rd edition just one glasshouse and one cold frame are shown alongside a second cold frame now located on the site of a former</p>

	<p>small building.</p> <p>The first three editions of the O/S map indicate a large glass building near the main house which is probably a conservatory. By 1930 the conservatory appears a little shorter in length.</p> <p>We have not been able to match any of the glass houses shown in O/S maps with those listed in the 1926 <u>Sale Catalogue</u> (see above).</p>
<b>Backsheds, workrooms, stores</b>	<p>Without more information and access it has been impossible to link any buildings mentioned in the <u>Sale Catalogue</u>, 1926 (see above) with surviving buildings or those shown in maps. It is possible that some of the stable buildings or buildings around the hall yard may have had functions related to the WKG.</p> <p>Today a single storey shed or outhouse is attached to what appears to be a surviving 'dwelling' (see below) – however this shed does not appear on the early O/S maps.</p>
<b>Gardener's house, cottages, bothies</b>	<p>Currently, to the west of the stables there is a two-storey building with windows and chimneys which may have been a head gardener's cottage, but the 1926 <u>Sales Catalogue</u> makes no reference to such a building. Nevertheless this building does appear on the 3 earliest O/S maps with a range of greenhouses and frames between it and the stables (see above).</p> <p>The <u>Sale Catalogue</u> 1926 refers to a bothy but we have no evidence of its original location or survival</p>
	<p>Second and third edition O/S maps show a central well; the 2nd edition O/S map also indicates a pump located near to the glasshouses adjacent to the stables but it is not marked on the 3rd edition.</p>
<b>Planting</b>	<p>We have no indication of original or later planting. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition O/S map indicates trees in the north east corner of the WKG, possibly a small orchard which no longer survives. There is mention of an 'orchard drying ground' near the WKG in the 1926 <u>Sale Catalogue</u>. We have not been able to verify its existence.</p> <p>Early maps show a small area of mixed deciduous and conifer trees beyond the west wall which may have sheltered the WKG. Some trees survive today.</p>
<b>Date site visited</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2015 and 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2016
<b>References:</b>	<p>Evidence of surviving features could only be observed from the Leicestershire Round Public Footpath</p> <p>Google Aerial Maps, 2015</p> <p>Historic England/formerly English Heritage</p> <p>Leicestershire Record Office</p>

	Memorial tablets on internal chapel walls 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition 25 inch O/S maps Pevsner, Nikolaus <u>Buildings of England: Leicestershire</u> , 1984 <u>Sale Catalogue</u> , 1926	
<b>Researched by:</b>	Elizabeth Bacon, Gill Knight, Rowan Roenisch	
<b>Record Compiled by:</b>	Elizabeth Bacon, Gill Knight, Rowan Roenisch	Date: 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2016



First Edition O/S Map, 1886, of Withcote Hall and WKG



Exterior view from north of WKG ironstone wall



Saddleback coping and slate dripcourse



Brick lining of wall and possible gate pier



Western wooden gate into the WKG



Vehicular entrance adjacent to the stables