

Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust
Walled Kitchen Garden Register

Name of House:	Wistow Hall			
Address:	Kibworth Road Wistow LE8 0QF			
Ownership:	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Institutional <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Grid reference:	SP 639958	Map No: Landranger 140		
Date original WKG created:	Circa 1820			
Other key dates in development:	<p>Wistow Manor was bought by the Halfords in 1603 which is the approximate date of the H-plan house. In 1814 the house passed to Sir Henry Halford, Royal Physician. He carried out extensive improvements to the house and the estate and this may have included the creation of the walled garden.</p> <p>The WKG is recorded on an estate map c.1830-40 but no vinery is shown. The first record we have seen of the vinery is in the 1st edition of the OS map published in 1886. There has been little structural change since then although the area is now used as a garden centre.</p>			
Size and brief description:	<p>1.300 acres. Orientation: North/south.</p> <p>The north wall is curved and the east and west walls run straight from the curve on each side. There is no south wall and no evidence that there has ever been one. The west wall extends at a rightangle away from the garden. There is a vinery against the South side of this extension wall and a row of backsheds and a boiler house on the north side.</p> <p>The WKG is about 200 yards west of the house. There are trees to the north and east of the WKG which would have provided shelter and hidden the garden from the hall.</p>			
Official Designations for garden (e.g. EH listing)	Designation: English heritage listed building	Reference: Vinery at Wistow ID 191142	Grade: II	

DESCRIPTION: CURRENT AND PAST

The site is occupied by the Ken Bailey Garden Centre. Plants for sale are displayed in poly tunnels and in the open area within the garden. The vinery is used for rearing new plants. There are shops in the original backsheds and the boiler house is still home to the boiler used to heat the vinery.

Features: further information and current condition:

Walls, doors, gates	The walls are redbrick, English bond with a lime mortar and the coping is blue saddleback bricks. The back wall is about 12.5 ft high and substantial buttresses have been added on the North side to support it. The side walls are about 10ft high. There are iron brackets at regular intervals near the tops of the West wall and the western half of the North wall that were used to support protection for the plants against the strong early morning sun.
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	There are 2 symmetrically placed doors at NE and NW points. These are set at each end of the curved wall and are no longer used. There was an entrance near the top end of the east wall but now the main entrance is near the top of the west wall just before the extension wall for the vinery.	
Glasshouses	Vinery, Red brick with stone coping and glazed, lower edges of glass curved for better drainage. 1 high storey to support lean-to glazed roof. Continuous run of 9 paired 12-pane windows. Wooden framework. Below windows a brick wall with 18 small recessed blind frames. Cambered lintels. Glazed ends and dividing partition. The back wall is whitewashed and has 3 piers, possibly for flues. Full-length lean-to to rear with Swithland slate roof. Mainly 8/4 sashes and 4-panelled doors. 4 boarded windows or vents on main wall above this roof.	
Frames	The 2 nd edition OS map shows a frame along part of the front of the vinery. There is none there now.	
Pits	Unknown	
Hotwalls/furnaces	Unknown	
Heating pipes/boilers etc.	There is a boiler house on the back wall of the vinery and pipes within the vinery. A modern boiler is still housed there.	
Backsheds, workrooms, stores	There are 4-6 backsheds along the back wall of the vinery. They are brick built with Swithland slate roof. Some of the original dividing walls have been removed and the units are currently used as shops.	
Gardener's house, cottages, bothies	There are dwellings close to the WKG but we found no evidence of their original purpose.	
Wells, ponds, tanks, towers	Pond to the SW, about 100yds from the WKG, which remains.	
Planting	Original planting unknown. Currently plants are grown against the walls and within the garden area.	
Other key features		
Any other information:		
Date site visited	April 2013	
References:	OS Maps 25"= 1 mile 1 st and 2 nd editions, 1886 and 1904 Heritage Gateway website Wistow.com – History of Wistow	
Researched by:	Elizabeth Bacon, Rowan Roenisch, Gill Knight	
Record Compiled by: Gill Knight		Date: 17 th March 2014



The disused door in the North East side of the WKG showing the difference in height between the curved North wall and the straight side wall



The curved North all from the outside of the WKG showing the buttresses



The wall bracket in the foreground is one of a series equally spaced along the West wall and the western side of the North wall. These were used to support a shelter for the plants from the intense heat of the morning sun after a frosty night



The interior of the vinery showing the central partition and weights along the back wall that are part of the original mechanism to open areas of the roof



The roof of the vinery showing the lower edges of each pane of glass designed to provide better drainage



Some of the backsheds, now shops, that are behind the vinery. The lower lean-to at the end is the boiler house