

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

Name of House:	Osbaston Hall			
Address:	Osbaston Leicestershire CV13 0BW			
Ownership:	Private			
Grid reference: SK42375 04512		Map No: OS Explorer No 233 – Leicester & Hinckley		
Official Designations	Designation: Historic England 7th November 1966	Reference: ID: 1361278	Grade: II*	
Date original WKG created:	Unknown but evidence of existence shown on OS 6" Map, 1885			
Other key dates in development:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The original manor house dates from late 16th or early 17th century. • Mid 17th Century - manor acquired by the Wrightson Family and then by the Mundy family when Philippa Wrightson, heiress, married Frances Mundy. • 1750 - manor house rebuilt by Wrightson Mundy (grandson of Philippa Wrightson), High Sheriff of Derbyshire and MP for Leicester in 1737). There is a discrepancy regarding dates: the Historic England listing gives 1720. However, the 1978 sales catalogue gives the date as 1750. • 1766 - estate sold by Noel Clarke Mundy. • 1787 - The Hall, together with the Lordship of the Manor, was purchased by Josias Cockshutt-Twistleton. • 1828 - estate acquired by Thomas Cope, High Sheriff of Leicestershire. Thomas Cope was created the first of the Cope Baronets of Osbaston. • 1967 property purchased by the Hon. Jonathan Guinness, 3rd Baron Moyne. <i>(Ref: Sales catalogues May 1967 and 1978)</i> • 1993 property purchased by Peter de Lisle. <i>(Ref: Henton H497 – dates on reverse of a photograph of Osbaston Hall in this collection at the LRRO listed the dates of ownership of the Hall)</i> 			

Size and brief description	
	<p>The site is an elongated rectangle lying to the south-east of the Hall, parallel with the village street. It is oriented north-west to south-east and is narrower at the west, broadening to the east. The site is level. The soil, described in the sale particulars of 1967, is a rich light loam.</p> <p>The sales catalogue states that the estimated acreage is 1.09 acres. (<i>Ref: Sales Catalogue, Osborne & Partners and Shakespear, McTurk & Graham, May 1967</i>)</p>
<p>Current Use: It remains a kitchen garden which is still partially cultivated. It contains fruit trees, soft fruit, vegetables and perennial plants (<i>Ref: site visit 2023</i>).</p>	
Features: further information and current condition:	
Walls, doors, gates	<p>The garden is surrounded by red brick walls, with heights varying from 6ft to 15ft.</p> <p>The walls are made up of a mixture of machine and hand made bricks, with stone and cement copings. The oldest bricks possibly the same date as the house. These measure: 9 1/4" x 2 3/4".</p> <p>The brick bond varies, but in the oldest part, are one header followed by two stretchers. (<i>Ref: Figure 2</i>)</p> <p>Part of the wall was re-built in the 1960's by Mrs Guinness.</p> <p>There are five entrances to the WKG - four wooden and one composite. (<i>Ref: Figure 3</i>)</p> <p>(<i>Ref: Site visit 2023</i>)</p>
Glasshouses	<p>Lean-to Vinery and Peach House:</p> <p>The 1967 sales catalogue describes "a lean-to vinery and peach house 66 ft long containing 7 productive vines, 2 peaches and nectarine with heating installed and adjoining stoke hole, also an apple room."</p> <p>The 1978 sales catalogue describes one heated span greenhouse 30 ft long; one lean-to greenhouse 40 ft long.</p> <p>A photograph taken on a site visit in 2012 shows lean-to and 3/4-span greenhouses, so there are discrepancies in the catalogues and it is correct to state that, against the south wall, there were originally three adjoining glasshouses: 2 lean-to houses and one 3/4 span house. (<i>Ref: Figure 4</i>)</p>

Glasshouses, continued	<p>One lean-to has recently been restored with new ironwork and glazing on the existing brick base. (Ref: Figure 5)</p> <p>The other lean-to base has been retained and there are plans to rebuild it. (Ref: Figure 6)</p> <p>There are some training wires in the greenhouse.</p> <p>The 3/4 span has been removed but retains its pipework and base. There is evidence of white paint on the walls confirming the position of the former glasshouse. (Ref: Figure 7)</p> <p>There are also two small modern span houses in the northeast of the garden.</p> <p>To the southeast of the greenhouse and surrounded by an old yew hedge is a sunken span glasshouse, measuring approximately 13ft x 32ft, built in two sections. It is built 4ft below ground level and is entered via steps down from ground level. It has brick walls up to ground level, glass sides from ground level and a glass roof. The stages were made of slates, some of which still remain. (Ref: Figures 8 & 9)</p>
Frames	No evidence.
Pits	<p>No evidence - however, the sunken glasshouse described above is referred to as 'a melon pit' by the owner.</p> <p>There is also some debate as to whether this kind of structure could be used for pineapple cultivation. However, this would require arched openings for manure application. (Ref: Norfolk Gardens Trust Magazine, Spring 2022)</p>
Hotwalls/furnaces	No evidence of hot walls.
Heating pipes/boilers etc.	<p>In the back shed behind the lean-to glasshouse, there was a coal fired boiler with evidence of a stoke hole. This was replaced with a Henry Wilson oil-fired boiler, with 600 gallon oil tank by Mrs Guinness. This is no longer in working order. (Ref: Figure 10, also Site visit 2023 and 1978 Sales Particulars, Osbaston Hall, Ref H1974/M974, Leicestershire & Rutland Records Office.)</p> <p>Heating pipes are still in evidence.</p> <p>There is a furnace outside the door of the sunken greenhouse, connected to piping, both closed and open, which runs along the staging. The purpose of the open pipes was to keep the air moist.</p>

Backsheds, workrooms, stores	There is a large backshed behind the North wall of the lean-to greenhouse. The 1967 sales catalogue describes it as 'an apple room'. The storage racks are still in place. It is still used as a storage area for produce from the garden. (Ref: Figure 11)
Gardener's house, cottages, bothies	There is no evidence of any of these.
Wells, ponds, tanks, towers	There are two water pumps, one outside the lean-to glasshouse with an extensive underground rainwater fed tank. The other water pump is inside one of the lean-to glasshouses. (Ref: Figure 14)
Planting	<p>Current general planting of vegetables, fruit and ornamental plants.</p> <p>There is a grapevine in the lean-to house which, unusually, is planted inside the house in a contained brick edged bed. Its roots are fed through the wall to the outside. This may be one of the original seven grapevines. (Ref: Figures 12 & 13)</p> <p>There are two fairly recent kiwi fruit plants in the former 3/4 span house. (Site visit 2023)</p> <p>Other planting includes a Doyenne d'Ete pear, nectarines and peaches, damsons and greengages, apples and cherries. There are some existing very mature fruit trees, and mature yew trees and box hedging. The Yews have now been hard-pruned. Prior to this they had been clipped to form hedges and archways to divide the garden into separate "compartments" (Site visit 2023).</p> <p>The 1967 sales catalogue describes the kitchen garden as 'still partly cultivated with a rich, light loam and having raspberry beds, asparagus beds. The kitchen gardens contain 40 apple, pear and plum trees and a lean-to vinery and peach house, 66ft long, containing 7 productive vines, 2 peach and nectarine.'</p>
Other key features	None
Any other information:	<u>Sundial</u> : The 1967 sales catalogue describes "an interesting feature of a sundial with glass cover on an ornamental pedestal with Latin inscription." It is understood the sundial was removed by the previous owners.

Date site visited	The site has been visited over a number of years, most recently in April 2023.
References:	<p>Map OS 6", xxix.SE. National Library of Scotland. https://maps.nls.uk (accessed on line 7/6/2023)</p> <p>Historic England, Grade II, List Entry 1361278 first listed 7th November 1966. https://historicengland.org.uk (accessed on line 7/6/2023)</p> <p>1967 Osbaston Hall estate, with photo & plan. Auctioneers - Shakespear, McTurk & Graham. DE4674/2062, Leicestershire & Rutland Records Office</p> <p>1978 Sales Particulars, Osbaston Hall, Ref M974, Leicestershire & Rutland Records Office</p> <p>Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Management Plan Osbaston Conservation Area 2009. Accessed on line 8/6/2023</p> <p>Norfolk Gardens Trust Magazine, Spring 2022: article relating to the sunken greenhouse at Holkham Hall.</p> <p>Site visit discussions with owner, Peter de Lisle and gardener, Flick Rohde.</p>
Researched by:	LRGT Research Group
Record Compiled by:	Sarah Bailey, Sue Blaxland, Sheila Burnage, Fliss Hector, Judith Hibbert.
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Figure 1: General View showing planting, Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden, 2012
(Photo: Sue Blaxland)



Figure 2: Corner of east wall, Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden, April 2023. (Photo: Sheila Burnage)



Figure 3: Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden, view of north gate, April 2023.
(Photo: Sheila Burnage)



Figure 4: Lean to vinery and peach house at Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden, showing lean to and three-quarter span houses, 2012. (Photo: Sue Blaxland)



Figure 5: Restored lean-to house at Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden. April 2023. (Photo Sheila Burnage)



Figure 6: Site of three-quarter span greenhouse, Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden. April 2023. (Photo: Sheila Burnage)



Figure 7: Pipe Work in unrestored greenhouse at Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden. April 2023. (Photo: Sheila Burnage)



Figure 8: Sunken span greenhouse (Melon House) in Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden. April 2023. (Photo: Sheila Burnage)



Figure 9: Interior of sunken Span house in Walled Kitchen Garden at Osbaston Hall. 2012. (Photo: Sue Blaxland)



Figure 10: Henry Wilson boiler in potting shed in Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden, April 2023. (Photo: Sheila Burnage)



Figure 11. View of potting shed at Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden. April 2023. (Photo: Sheila Burnage)



Figure 12: Restored Greenhouse interior showing vines at Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden. April 2023. (Photo: Sheila Burnage)



Figure 13: Vines in renovated greenhouse at Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden. April 2023. (Photo: Sheila Burnage)



Figure 14: Water pump in unrestored Greenhouse at Osbaston Hall Walled Kitchen Garden. April 2023. (Sheila Burnage)