



Walled Kitchen Garden Register

Name of House:	Wanlip Hall			
Address:	Church Road Wanlip Leicestershire LE7 4PJ			
Ownership:	Private ☒	Public ☐	Institutional ☐	Other ☐
Wanlip Hall was demolished c 1939, having failed to sell in 1934, following the death of owner, Lady Augusta Palmer. The site is in private ownership. The walled kitchen garden was located at some distance from the Hall, to the south, and fragments of wall and back-sheds remain in a housing development				
Grid reference: SK 62111		Map No: OS Explorer No 246, Loughborough		
Official Designations	None			
Date original WKG created: There was an old hall which had a castle-like appearance. This is illustrated in John Throsby's "Select Views in Leicestershire" of 1789. See illustration below. In 1626, the Wanlip estate was purchased by William Palmer of Staffordshire. He was a well-connected alderman of the City of London. The Estate remained in the ownership of the Palmer family for the next three centuries. The reconstruction and refurbishment of the hall started around 1750 when the Great Barn and the old hall were demolished and a new hall was built (see illustration below) A plan in the Wanlip History book (<i>Ref: "A very fine thing: the story of Wanlip: a closed Leicestershire Manor" Smith, Michael</i>) shows a kitchen garden to the north of the hall, but it is not known if this was ever created, The reference for this plan is listed at the back of the book with an LRRO reference of 3D42/40/14. Unfortunately, this could not be traced at the Record Office (LRRO). In 1782, John Seagrave was appointed to survey the estate. The kitchen garden does not appear on this plan (<i>Ref: "A very fine thing..." Smith</i>)				



Throsby engraving of old hall



Engraving of new Georgian Hall

In 1831, Alexander Gordon, head gardener at Lowesby Hall visited gardens in Leicestershire and wrote an article about them for the *Gardeners' Magazine*. He mentioned the kitchen garden at Wanlip Hall. (Ref: *Biodiversity Library.org – Gardener's magazine 1831*)

The Walled kitchen garden appears on the 1885 OS map.

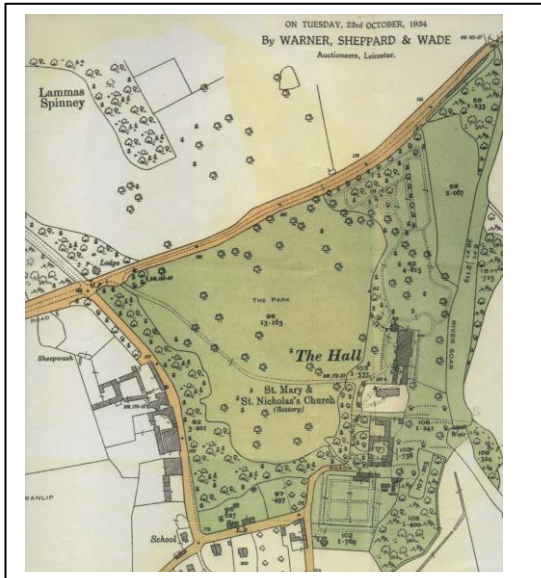
Also in 1885, the owner of the Hall, Sir Archdale Palmer, was in correspondence with glasshouse manufacturer, Thos. Messenger, so the WKG clearly existed by this date.

So the garden is likely to have been created in the early 19th century

There are no other known significant dates in the development.

Size and brief description:

The overall size of the gardens is described in the sale particulars of 1934 as “about 1¼ acres” so the walled kitchen garden was possibly around ¾ acre including the “slip” garden outside the walls. It was a square quartered garden with an entrance in the north wall. (See 1885 OS map from sale particulars, below) The slip garden” was on the east side of the main garden, outside the walls.



OS map 1885 showing Wanlip Estate, including the walled kitchen garden – taken from sale particulars of 1934
Ref: LRRO DE4674/483

Current Use: The Hall was demolished in 1939 but remnants of the kitchen garden walls and back sheds remain. The walls form part of garden walls in a housing development and the back sheds have been converted to private dwellings.



Left: Section of garden wall. Centre: Detail of garden wall from outside, showing brick bond. Right: Back sheds converted to dwellings.

Features: further information and current condition:	
Walls, doors, gates	See above. The brick bond of the accessible walls is partially Flemish bond with alternating courses of headers and stretchers. The base of the wall is constructed of Mountsorrel granite. The coping is of flat paving slabs. Alexander Gordon states that the walls were of clay (i.e. brick) and were wired. No details are known about the entrance door into the garden and this would have been demolished along with the north wall when houses were built.
Glasshouses	Alexander Gordon mentions glasshouses on his visit in 1831. The 1885 map shows a large (possibly lean-to) glasshouse on the south-facing wall inside the walled kitchen garden. The sale particulars of 1934 (<i>Ref DE4674/483</i>) mention a lean-to vinery and tomato house in the main garden and lean-to and span glasshouses in the slip garden. Also, in 1893, Thos. Messengers gave an estimate for the "Construction of a plant house for Sir Archdale Palmer, Wanlip Hall" and subsequently acknowledged receipt of a deposit of £8 18s 0d (<i>Ref:LRRO - DE2121</i>) In October 1895, a handwritten note in the Messenger files, shows the dimensions of "fishtail" glasses front and back. This would imply that it was for a span glasshouse.
Frames	Correspondence in the Messenger files in 1895 refers to "painting old cold frames. The sales particulars of 1934 refer to "eight forcing frames"
Pits	None mentioned
Hotwalls/furnaces	No mention and no evidence of hot walls
Heating pipes/boilers etc.	Quorn boiler (Messengers) listed in sales particulars (1934) for main garden Robin Hood Junior Boiler (Foster & Pearson) for the glasshouses in the slip garden.,
Backsheds, workrooms, stores	These are listed in the 1934 sales particulars as follows: "potting place, apple room, furnace chamber..." in the main garden and "separate furnace chamber, independent boiler, store place and closet" in the slip garden
Gardener's house, cottages, bothies	There was a gardener's cottage located to the north of the estate, close to the current slip road off the A46 signed to the village of Wanlip. It is illustrated in the Wanlip history book.
Wells, ponds, tanks, towers	Water cistern and pump listed in the 1934 sale particulars.
Planting	Alexander Gordon described the crops in the glasshouses as

	"very indifferent and those in the frames the same"
Other key features	None
Any other information:	None

Date site visited	May 2025	
References:	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Record Office (LRRO): Wanlip Hall Estate: Sale particulars for sale by auction 23rd October 1934. Ref: DE4674/463 "A very fine thing: the story of Wanlip, a closed Leicestershire Manor" - Smith, Michael for Birstall and District Local History Society. 2008. ISBN 0 9513607 8 7 Biodiversity.library.org Gardeners' Magazine 1831	
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