

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

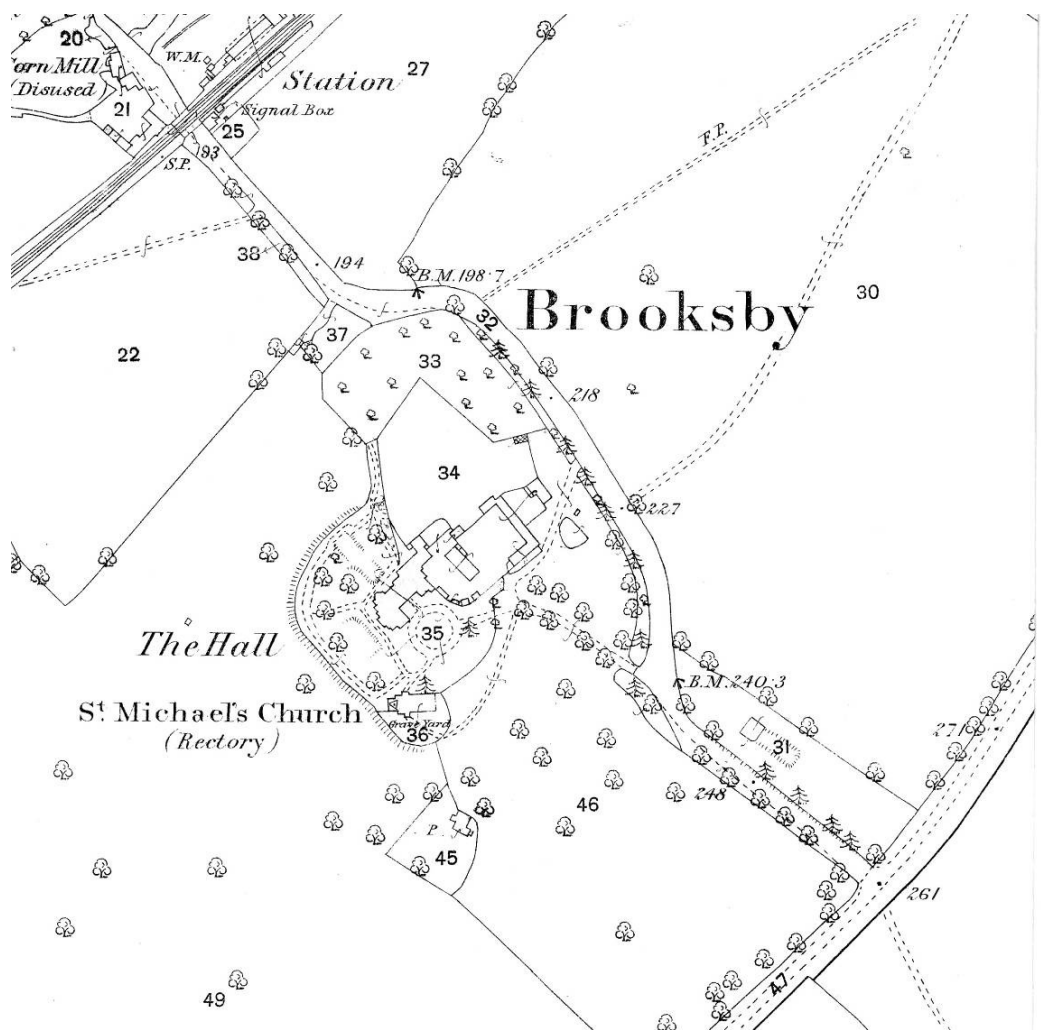
Name of House:	Brooksby Hall (now Brooksby Melton College)			
Address:	Brooksby, Melton Mowbray Leicestershire LE14 2LJ			
Ownership:	Private	Public	Institutional x	Other
Grid reference: SK671161		Landranger Map No: 129		
Date original WKG created:	First appears on Tithe Map dated 1848 as an area divided by paths.			
Other key dates in development:				
1884	1 ST Edition OS map XIX.14 25" to 1 mile shows walled kitchen garden as a parcel of land numbered 34. No paths or other details are shown. It lay to the north-east of the Hall.			
1903	2 nd Edition OS map XIX.14 – 25" to 1 mile shows walled kitchen garden bisected with a single path approximately north to south. There is a pond or well in the middle. The size is given.			
1904	The estate was put up for sale and the sale particulars included a description of the walled kitchen garden: "There is a very productive walled-in kitchen and fruit garden surrounded by brick walls and well-stocked with dwarf espalier fruit trees, and containing a lean-to tomato house and a tool and potting shed". Also, to the south of the Hall (not in the kitchen garden) was the gardener's cottage, a bothy and two span glass houses, for grapes, peaches, tomatoes and cucumber, a potting shed and stoke hole.			
1906-7	Captain (later Earl) Beatty who was leasing the Hall at this time, commissioned Thos. Messengers of Loughborough to construct a plant house stove and pit as well as foundations for greenhouses for a peach house and vinery, presumably within the walled kitchen garden.			
1911	The 1911 Census shows that there were three gardeners employed at the Hall: Albert Edward Smith, George Crofts and Cyril Victor Seddon.			

1935	The Brooksby estate was again put up for sale. The estate agents' particulars refer to a "productive kitchen garden with glasshouse including two peach houses, fig house, 2-division plant house (and a) range of heated frames"		
1945	<p>A comprehensive survey of the condition of the Hall, Gardens and Park was carried out for the Leicestershire County Council who were proposing to purchase the Hall as an (Agricultural) Training Centre for ex-servicemen.</p> <p>This included a full description relating to the walled kitchen garden: walls, entrance gates and the fruit tree planting – see below under the individual elements of the garden.</p>		
1970-75	The walled kitchen garden and glasshouses were demolished to build the Buckingham Library/lecture room block. The demolition work was carried out in stages. One greenhouse still remained in 1973 and some of the walls were still standing in 1975.		
Size and brief description:	.974 acres. An irregular shape located to the north-west of the Hall.. A slight slope to the north-west.		
Official Designations for garden(e.g. EH listing)	Designation: None	Reference:	Grade:

DESCRIPTION: CURRENT AND PAST	
<p>The walled kitchen garden has disappeared and was replaced with a modern teaching block. However, one or two buildings which were within the garden still remain: A building now known as "Mole Cottage", which was originally a potting shed; the building alongside this, now used as gym, was a boiler house for the greenhouses and the small square building which still exists at the 'pinchpoint' between the Villiers Restaurant and the Stable Bar was originally an apple store.and formed part of the south wall of the walled kitchen garden.</p> <p>The house which was formerly the head gardener's cottage still exists and is behind the church.</p>	
Features: further information and current condition:	
Walls, doors, gates	<p>Described in 1945 survey as follows: "7-9ft brick walled coped on north and west with buttresses at regular intervals around entire length, ivy covered on exterior. Five access gates: north and west are 3 feet high, wrought iron with ornamental decorations; wood on inside. Two on the south and one on the east are framed, ledged and braced. The painting has decayed."</p> <p>All lost except for a piece of brick wall alongside the Villiers Restaurant which formed part of a pump house within the west wall.</p>

Glasshouses	Lost but included a lean-to tomato house (1904), 2 peach houses, a ighouse and a two division plant house (1935)
Frames	Lost – “a range of heated frames” (1935)
Pits	Lost – Thomas Messenger commissioned to build a stove house and pit (1906-7)
Hotwalls/furnaces	None
Heating pipes/boilers etc.	Boiler house – still exists
Backsheds, workrooms, stores	Potting shed – still exists Apple store – still exists
Gardener’s house, cottages, bothies	Gardener’s house – still exists – see above. Bothy no longer existing
Wells, ponds, tanks, towers	Well or pond shown on 1903 map – now lost.
Planting	<p>“dwarf espalier fruit trees” (1904 sale catalogue)</p> <p>“The gardens are well laid out with gravel paths, weedy and the plots are bordered with box hedges, gappy in places and require trimming.</p> <p>... planted interior face of the brick wall: 10 plum, 14 apple, 16 pear. Also 14 plum, 29 apple, 11 pears on wire, post supports in the various borders.</p> <p>... vegetable plots – planted with cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, lettuce... annual weeds, required hoeing.” (1945 survey)</p>
Other key features	None
Any other information:	The history of all the gardens at Brooksby Hall has been researched by the Trust. A full report is available on the Reports and Papers page of this website.
Date site visited	To survey all the gardens – November 2008
References:	<p>Leicester and Rutland Record Office:</p> <p>Tithe map - 1848 (Ref: Ti/49/1)</p> <p>OS Maps 25” = 1 mile. 1st edition 1884, 1903</p> <p>Leases, sale catalogues, correspondence, Brooksby Hall Estate – 19th and 20th century – Ref DE1826</p> <p>Installation of Plant House, Stove and Pit – Ref DE2121/104</p>

Researched by:	Sue Blaxland	
Record Compiled by:	Sue Blaxland	Date: March 2014

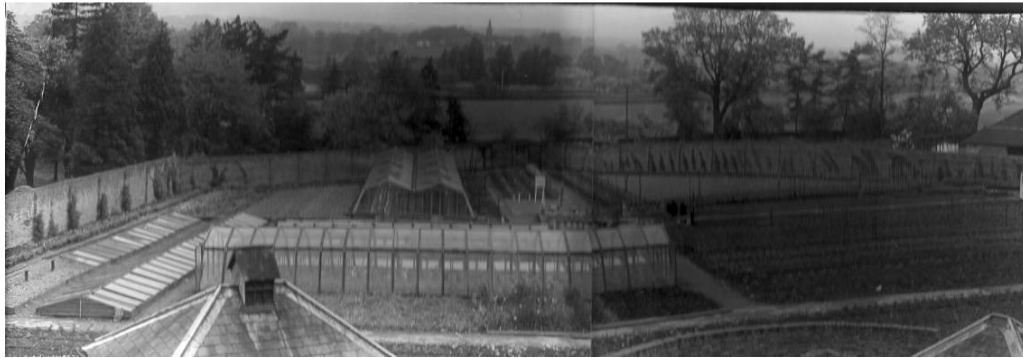


1st Edition 1884 OS Map: Walled Kitchen Garden is area numbered 34



Above: Glasshouses with Hall in the background – looking north
 Below: Beds, paths and glasshouse – looking south-east
 Both images undated but believed to be 1950's





Above: Panoramic View of Walled kitchen garden, looking south c. 1950's
Below: View of remaining greenhouse with Buckingham teaching block in foreground: 1975
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