

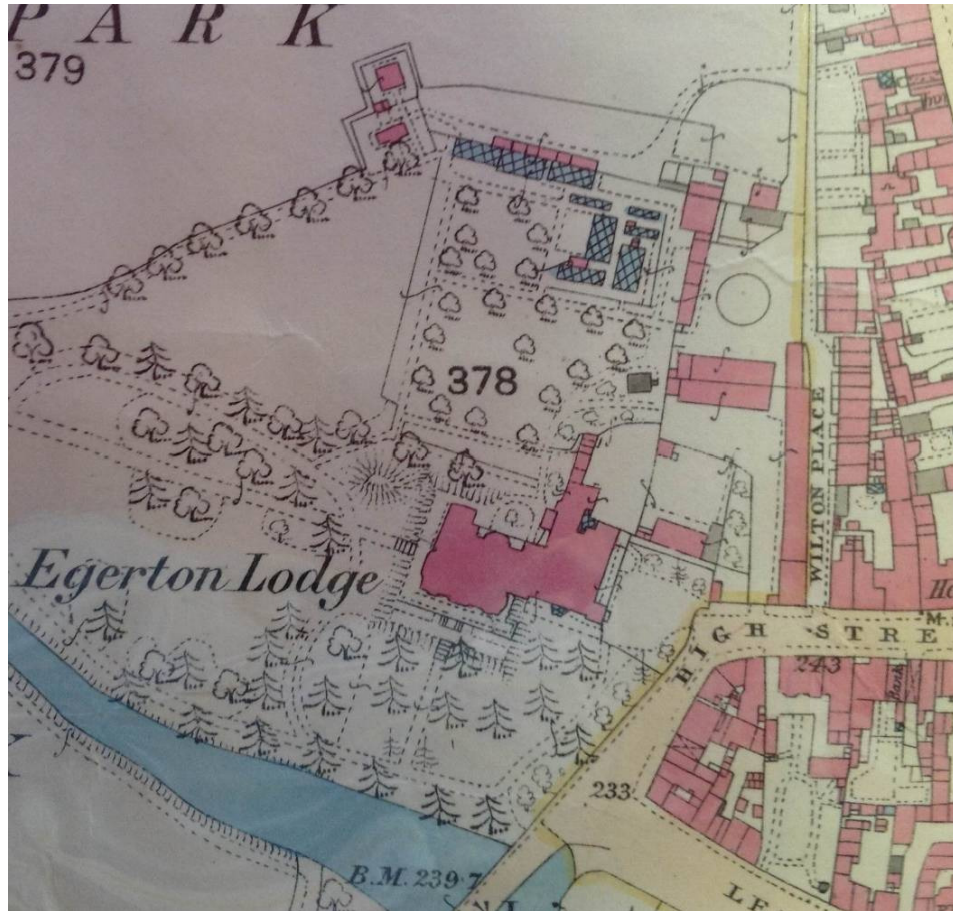
**Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust
Walled Kitchen Garden Register**

Name of House:	Egerton Lodge			
Address:	Wilton Road Melton Mowbray Leics LE13 0UJ			
Ownership:	Private x	Public	Institutional	Other
Grid reference: SK750194		Explorer Map No: 246		
Date original WKG created:	Thought to have dated from 1829-39 – when the estate underwent a major redevelopment.			
Other key dates in development:				
Around 1597	The first house was built on the site and was called Park House			
1829-39	The estate was sold to Sir Thomas Egerton, Earl of Wilton (1799-1882), who made extensive alterations and additions. James Wyatt is believed to have been engaged to build an extension to the existing house. This was built in sandstone, in a Jacobean style, with a symmetrical façade. There were gabled sash windows which overlooked gardens terraced down to the river. The main layout of the gardens was undertaken at this time. The work is believed to have been carried out under the supervision of James Wyatt and his son, Matthew.			
1840-1900	This was the heyday of Egerton Lodge as a hunting lodge, with an estate measuring a total of some 32 acres. As well as the formal gardens and the front park, there were pleasure grounds to the west and north of the Lodge. The kitchen gardens with associated buildings, the stables and garages were in the north east corner of the gardens. Wrapped round these, to the north was the back park, measuring approximately 8 acres.			
1868	First definitive record relating to the walled kitchen garden – Thos. Messengers installed a heating system for a forcing pit. The customer was a Mr. Milford, probably the Head Gardener. This would indicate that the WKG was operational by the late 1860's.			
1923	In January, Thos. Messengers installed a heating system (No 27 Quorn boiler and pipes) to heat the greenhouses for a Mr. A.V. Pryor DL JP. The boiler was ordered by the head gardener J. McLean.			

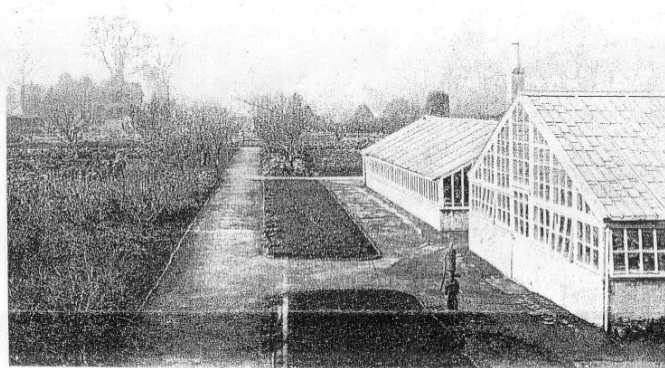
February 1928	The downfall of the Estate started. It was offered for sale by auction in three lots.		
1929	Melton Mowbray Urban District Council had purchased the main house, the Back Park, kitchen garden and ornamental gardens. These were sold to Melton Town Estate to provide a pleasure garden and also a War Memorial Garden. Park House was demolished along with the kitchen garden and all its associated outbuildings to enable the construction of a Wilton Road, a new main road from Leicester. However the 1930 OS map was obviously surveyed before the demolition and new road construction as these are still shown.		
October 1929	The Lodge became the new offices for Melton Borough Council		
1987	Egerton Lodge was sold by the Borough Council to become a private residential home.		
Size and brief description:	Approximately 1.2 acres. Rectangular ; Level site. Located in the north east corner of the pleasure grounds, adjacent to the stables and other outbuildings.		
Official Designations for garden (e.g. EH listing)	Designation: None	Reference:	Grade:

DESCRIPTION: CURRENT AND PAST	
Lost – now beneath Wilton Road	
Features: further information and current condition:	
Walls, doors, gates	There is some ambiguity between the 1884 and 1904 maps. There were definitely walls to the north and east, with back sheds and stables behind them. However the 1884 map appears to show a wall to the west which does not exist on the later map. The south side appears to be open. The image in the 1928 sale particulars shows an open aspect to the south. A small fragment of wall appears to remain on the north side of Melton Library.
Glasshouses	Six glasshouses (according to the 1928 sale particulars, all fitted with heating apparatus.
Frames	The 1884 map appears to show frames
Pits	Yes – see Thos. Messenger order. Also mentioned in sale particulars.
Hotwalls/furnaces	No

Heating pipes/boilers etc.	Yes – supplied by Thos. Messenger – see entries above – 1868 and 1923	
Backsheds, workrooms, stores	Yes, mushroom house, fruit stores, potting shed specifically mentioned in sale particulars.	
Gardener's house, cottages, bothies	Yes – detached gardener's lodge with six rooms. Note: the 1911 Census provides the name of the then head gardener – Henry Smith who lived in the gardener's lodge with his wife and son.	
Wells, ponds, tanks, towers	None visible	
Planting	Sale particulars mentioned that gardens were well cultivated and were planted with a variety of choice fruit trees.	
Other key features	None	
Any other information:	None	
Date site visited	July 2013	
References:	Leicester and Rutland Record Office: OS Maps 25" = 1 mile: XX5: 1st edition 1884, 2nd edition 1904, 1930 DE2121-41 Thos. Messenger customer records listing components for heating system (1868) DE2121-51 Thos. Messenger order book: boiler to heat greenhouses (1923) Photograph from Loughborough Monitor & News 24 January 1929, showing (partial) demolition of Egerton Lodge Melton Carnegie Museum: Box file relating to Hunting Lodges – Egerton Lodge folder: Photocopy of Sales Particulars for Egerton Lodge – 1928 Also copy of report (undated) on Egerton Lodge and Grounds believed to be by Jenny Dancy, who was employed by Leicestershire County Council and worked for the Museums Service. 1911 Census Return	
Researched by:	Sue Blaxland, Sarah Bailey, Karen Gimson	
Record Compiled by:	Ditto	Date: February 2014



OS MAP: 1884 – shows Walled Kitchen Garden in NE corner of Pleasure Grounds.
The glasshouses and frames are cross hatched in blue.



THE KITCHEN GARDENS.

The Extensive Kitchen Gardens

are well cultivated and are planted with a variety of CHOICE FRUIT TREES
in full bearing.

They are well equipped, having a
Detached Gardener's Lodge
containing Six Rooms,

Six Glass Houses all fitted with Heating Apparatus,
FORCING PITS, MUSHROOM HOUSE, POTTING SHED,
FRUIT STORES, TOOL -SHED, etc.

Sale Particulars with description and illustration of Kitchen Garden - 1928

Loughborough Monitor and News 24 January 1928
showing (partial) demolition of Egerton Lodge



Egerton Lodge with Park House to the right and formal gardens in the foreground



Modern Image of Egerton Lodge with War Memorial Garden in the Foreground

