

**Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust
Walled Kitchen Garden Register 2023**

Name of House:	Stoughton Grange			
Address:	Gartree Road, Oadby, Leicester Leicestershire LE2 2FB			
Ownership:	Private *	Public	Institutional	Other
Grid reference: SK6322002040	Map No: O/S 25" Explorer: Leicester & Hinckley			
Official Designations for the house and garden (e.g. HE listing)	Designation: LODGE COTTAGE Designation Type: Listing Grade: II	Reference: Heritage England List UID: 1073688	Grade: Grade: II	
	SOUTH LODGE Designation Type: Listing Grade: II List UID: 1361552	List UID: 1361552	Grade: II	
Date original WKG created:	<p>The surviving East wall of the WKG is dated in burnt brick headers, 1765. It matches the brickwork of the West and North walls. This occurs after change of ownership of the estate to the Kecks in 1737.</p> <p>There is also documentary evidence of a very productive WKG in June 1831. GM</p>			
Other key dates in development:	<p><i>The following abbreviated history is taken from HE:</i></p> <p>Between 1042-1066 the earliest record of a moated Grange known as 'Stoctone'.</p> <p>1068 land granted to Hugh de Grandmesnil and later inherited by Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester, founder of Leicester Abbey.</p> <p>1157 estate renamed Stoughton and given to the Abbey.</p> <p>15th century Abbott Penny erected the current Grange to southwest near Gartree Road.</p> <p>1538 the Abbey and estates surrendered at the Dissolution.</p> <p>1560 the estate was granted to John Harrington. It was subsequently purchased by Thomas Farnham, Chancellor of the Exchequer and then, through marriage, passed into the hands of the Beaumont family. During this time the house was redesigned in Elizabethan style.</p> <p>After 1737 the Beaumont estate was inherited by the Keck's via marriage.</p> <p>Prior to his death in 1786 Anthony James Keck partially remodelled the house in Gothic Revival style.</p> <p>In 1820 under the ownership of George Anthony Legh Keck, the estate gained three Gothic Revival lodges. Their surviving son,</p>			

	<p>George Anthony Legh Keck lived at Stoughton Grange until his marriage in 1802 when it became his second home. The first home being Bank Hall in Lancashire.</p> <p><i>The following chronology is taken from HB pp. 61-69:</i></p> <p>1871 -1912 Harry Leycester Powys Keck owned Stoughton Grange.</p> <p>1882-3 He added an Elizabethan/Italian style façade with towers to the western garden front before moving to Surrey and leasing the property to Mrs Belleville who kept horses.</p> <p>1912 the estate passed to Harry Leycester's nephew who never lived there.</p> <p>1913 the c.500-acre estate was offered for sale by Warner, Sheppard & Wade, but largely remained unsold.</p> <p>1919 some of the estate was bought by The Co-Operative Wholesale Society. Concentrating on milk production, the main dairy and farm buildings were located at what was then known as Stoughton Grange Farm – adjacent to the house.</p> <p>1925-6 the unoccupied and unsold house, Stoughton Grange, was demolished.</p> <p>1930 the WKG containing vegetable gardens, orchard, and glasshouse to the South of the manor house was sold and a house called 'The Pantiles' was built, designed by Pick, Everard, Key & Gimson. The South wall of the WKG (which faced Gartree Road) was demolished and rebuilt with double gated entrance further south of the original WKG South wall and closer to the Gartree Road.</p>
<p>Size and brief description:</p>	<p>The WKG measures c. 0.7 acre and is rectangular, the longer sides running East/West.</p> <p>The WKG is slightly off a strict North/South axis being tilted northeast to southwest. It is unclear if the land slopes. An article of 1830 states 'the garden's situation was low'.GM</p> <p>The 1886 O/S map shows Stoughton Grange located to the South and East of its long driveway towards the village of Stoughton. The garden front of the house faced South East.</p> <p>To the South West of the Grange are nineteenth century stables and Farm Buildings with the WKG directly to the East. Only 3 WKG walls survive. The South wall has been replaced closer to the Gartree Road by a new garden wall and entry (see above).</p> <p>Footpaths ran directly from the Grange to a Frameyard and to the East of the WKG.</p> <p>The 1886 O/S map suggests there were slips around 3 sides of the WKG (W N. & E.) The North slip was probably a Frameyard as it is shown with a series of frames and a long, lean-to glass house on the South face of a boundary wall to the North. SC. This wall had lean-to buildings along its North face lining an extant lane between it and Stoughton Grange. The Farm buildings form its Western boundary, whilst the East side was open to the Pleasure Garden to the South of the Grange.</p>

Current Use: A 1930's house (The Pantiles) and its pleasure garden have been built within the site of the original WKG. The rebuilt south wall nearer to the Gartree Road is linked by extensions to the West and East walls.

Also surviving, part overgrown and part belonging to the garden of the 1930's house, is the site of an original Frameryard, its wall to the North and the raised site of its lean-to buildings.

Many of the Stoughton Grange Farm Buildings to the West of the original WKG survive and are currently being used for commercial activities:

A new 2-acre Kitchen Garden utilising the outer side of the East WKG wall was created in 2021 by the Steam-in-Billy Company which has acquired the land around the WKG including the former site of Stoughton Grange, the lake, woodland, and fields for commercial and recreational purposes. The company is developing walk ways; a new farm park, woodland wedding venue; short stay holiday chalets in the nearby fields; formal gardens on the site of the demolished manor house; and a restaurant, public house, gin distillery, and farm shop within the restored farm buildings - with the aim of sourcing produce locally, including from its own adjacent new farm and kitchen garden. BA

Features, further information and current condition:

Walls, doors, gates

Without access to the interior of the WKG or Frameryard, we have only been able to confirm details of the outer sides of 3 original WKG walls and the north wall of the Frameryard.

The outer faces of the 3 WKG walls are built of Flemish Garden Wall bond in clamp fired bricks, unevenly burnt and of uneven form. They measure nine and a quarter, by four and a quarter, by two and a quarter inches. The bricks are pre-industrial so correspond to the late eighteenth date.

Today the WKG walls have pantile drip sills and blue saddleback coping.

The 1886 O/S map shows paths in the slips around the periphery of the garden.

In 1831 the WKG walls were described as wired and flued and the gardener complained that the wires were '*injurious for young shoots of fruit*' trees. It was also stated that '*no expense was spared in forming the gardens.*' GM. Today the exteriors of all 3 WKG walls retain signs of plant wiring.

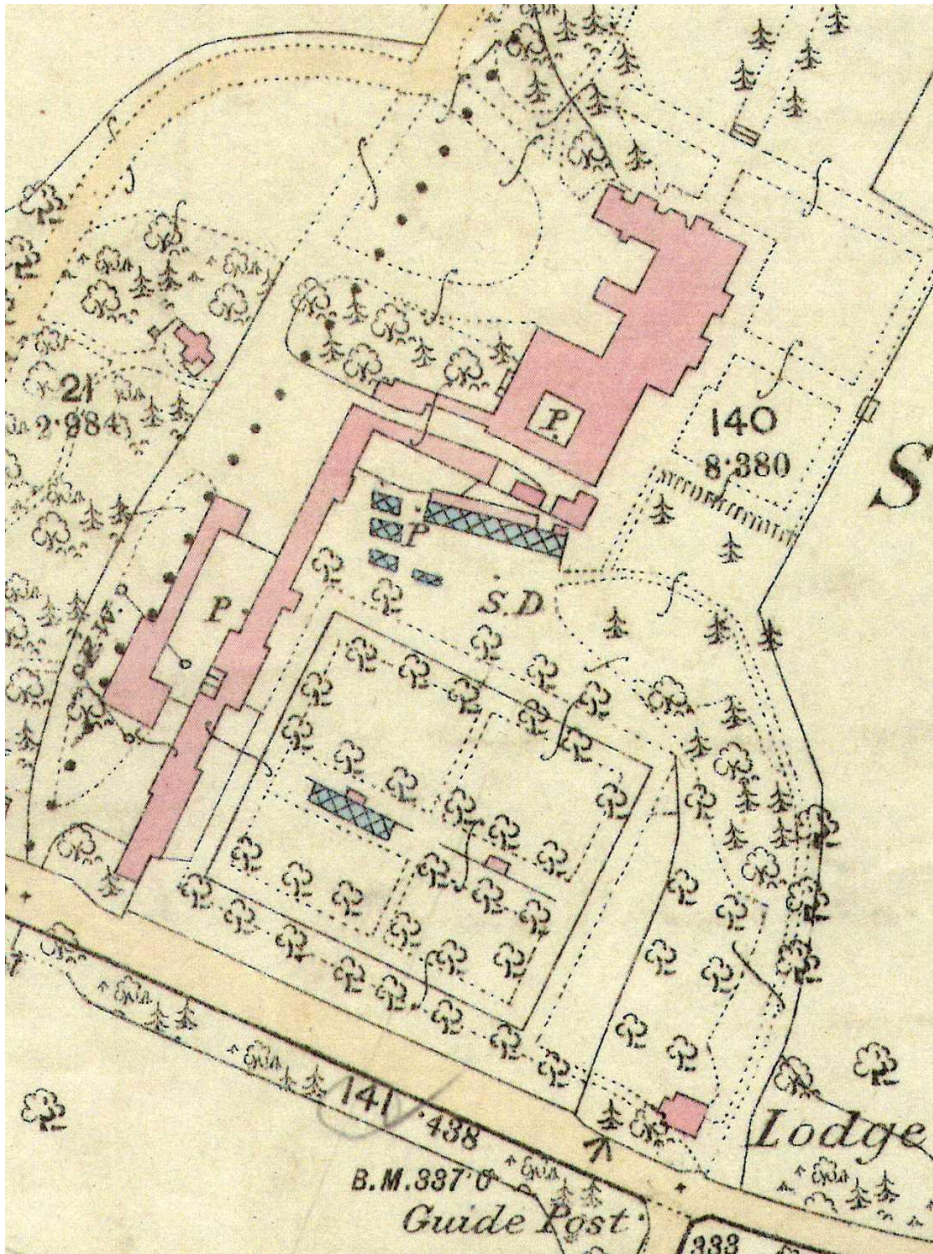
The earliest O/S map, 1886, indicates the WKG had an interior peripheral path and central cross paths. The central East/West path is broader with two short walls located centrally alongside each half. The map shows the central wall to the West had a lean-to glasshouse facing south, with a small lean-to building on the north side. The short central wall to the East has just a small building to its north.

	<p>Today there are signs in the brickwork of 2 openings approximately centrally located in the WKG walls - one a blocked entrance gateway in the East wall; the other a blocked opening in the West wall.</p> <p>The North wall of the Frameyard, to the North of the WKG, differs in form to the WKG walls. The bricks are well puddled with sharp edges, not over- or under-burnt and they are half an inch thicker than the earlier WKG bricks. This suggests industrial production and hence a later date than the walls of the original WKG. The coping consists of flat slabs.</p> <p>This wall and its associated lean-to buildings, appears on the 1886 O/S map. The bond is English Garden Wall bond which may reflect a date when the Domestic Revival was fashionable and thus may coincide with alterations to The Grange in 1882-3.</p>
<p>Glasshouses and Frames</p>	<p>The 1886 O/S map shows two large glasshouses. The longest was a lean-to located South against the Frameyard's North wall; the other a lean-to South of the central, short West wall within the WKG.</p> <p>4 smaller glasshouses or frames (one being very small) were located to the West in the Frameyard. The earliest of these to disappear from maps was the smallest frame. 1902/4 O/S map.</p> <p>By 1930 only the Frameyard long, lean-to glasshouse is shown on the O/S map.</p> <p>The 1970 O/S map, shows a new single, long glasshouse sited in the garden of The Pantiles against the WKG North wall.</p>
<p>Hotwalls/furnaces Heating pipes/boilers etc.</p>	<p>There are hints, but no hard evidence, of heated walls and boilers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The <u>Gardeners Magazine</u>, 1831, clearly stated that, at that time, the WKG walls were flued and they were growing geraniums all year round in one glasshouse – both points suggest heated glasshouse/s. GM b. As shown on maps, the two small lean-to buildings against the short walls of the E/W central path of the WKG may have been boiler houses, (see below). 1886 O/S map. c. We have noted one chimney, just about visible on the WKG North wall, but its date and function cannot be ascertained. d. The North face of the North wall of the Frameyard has a fireplace within it, but this may just have heated a lean-to building.

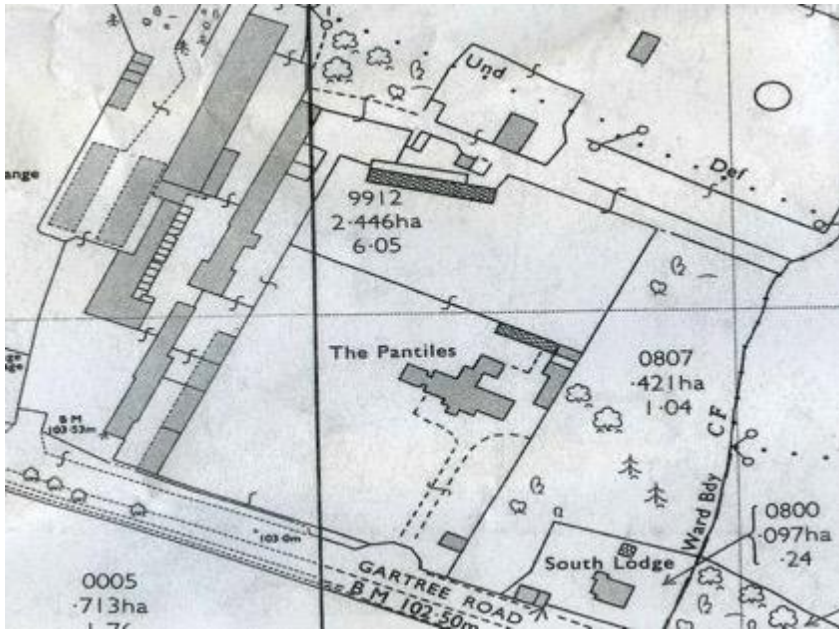
	e. Occupants of the 1930s 'The Pantiles' have recalled seeing soot from WKG wall flues. GD.
Backsheds, workrooms, stores, bothy	<p>Backsheds and a bothy may have been amongst the buildings lining the North of the Frameyard North wall. Its North face bears traces of a row of lean-to buildings including, plaster, paint, construction holes and a fireplace. Also surviving are the raised foundations of the buildings which retain metal-framed openings on the top and along the outer long side giving access to spaces within the raised foundations - the function of these structures is unknown.</p> <p>As mentioned, the 1886 O/S map shows two very small buildings to the East and West along the East/West central path of the WKG. They are each located against the North of two short walls, one of which had a greenhouse to the south. These small buildings may have been sheds or boiler houses (see above b.).</p>
Gardener's house, cottages,	On the Gartree Road there were two lodges built in the 1820s either side of the WKG and the farm buildings. Helen Boynton describes the one to the East (called South Lodge) as the head gardener's cottage. HB. 1970 O/S map.
Wells, ponds, tanks, towers	There are three pumps shown on early O/S maps. One is located in the Frameyard. The second is in the central yard the stables attached to the Grange; and the third for the farm buildings to the West of the WKG.
Planting	<p>In June 1831, the WKG is described as containing vegetable gardens, orchard, and conservatory. <i>'No expenses were spared in forming the gardens. The walls are flued and wired...the situation of Stoughton is low, and the fruit trees have suffered severely from excessive moisture'</i> so the gardener, Mr Frost, made a drain the depth of the wall's height under the walks in front of the borders all round the garden, and the trees are evidently in an improving state. There is a very spacious conservatory here, and a superior collection of the <i>Gernaniaceae</i>. GM. We are unclear as to which glasshouse was described as a Conservatory with Geraniums.</p> <p>Shelter belts were originally located to the East and to the West of the farm buildings and WKG.</p>
Other key features	The current head gardener of the new enterprise told us that 2 old tunnels had been found possibly permitting gardeners to reach The Grange kitchen unobserved by the owners. BA. One of the tunnels was also known to the occupants of The Pantiles. GD.
Any other information:	Further information would be welcome.
Dates site visited	4/02/2021; 7/09/2021; 24/08/2022; 19/10/2022; 18/11/2022;
References:	Allingham, Billy and his head gardener: discussions regarding redevelopment of Steamin-Billy Grange Farm from 2021. BA. Boynton, H. <u>South East of Leicester</u> , 2004. HB <u>Campbell, Susan, A History of Kitchen Gardening</u> , London, 2005. SC

	<p>Donaldson, Gill – her father recalled soot in the walls when the family lived at The Pantiles in the 1950s & 1960s. GD <u>Gardeners Magazine</u>, June, 1831, entry on Stoughton Grange under Leicestershire estates. GM <u>Heritage Gateway</u> - https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx Accessed 21/09/2022 <u>Historic England Research Records</u>, Stoughton Grange. See Heritage Gateway on www. Accessed 24/11/2021. HE <u>Leicester Mercury</u> article '<i>Its All Down on the Farm</i>' 12/03/2022 LM Ordnance Survey Maps 1886, 1902-4, 1930, 1970 Pevsner, N. & Williamson, E. <u>Buildings of England, Leicestershire & Rutland</u>, 1984. NP <u>Sale Catalogue</u>, Warner, Sheppard & Wade, 9th July 1913. WSW</p>		
Researched by:	Elizabeth Bacon, Gill Knight, Rowan Roenisch		
Record Compiled by:	Elizabeth Bacon, Gill Knight, Rowan Roenisch	Date: March 2023	

IMAGES SEE BELOW:



1886 O/S 25-inch Map showing the site of Stoughton Grange to North, the farm buildings to West & the WKG to South. The eastern lodge is South.



1970 O/S 25-inch Map close-up of WKG



WKG East Wall with date, 1765, & blocked entry



WKG West Wall with blocked entry



Glimpse of WKG North wall also showing nails for plant support wiring.



North wall of Frameyard seen from the North Showing plaster & holes for lean-to buildings