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ROTHAMSTED
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The Gardens of Rothamsted Manor - Management Plan

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B4 Opportunities

Rothamsted Research

Rothamsted Research (2003) *B4 Opportunities* ; The Gardens Of Rothamsted Manor - Management Plan, pp 25 - 25

B4 Opportunities

The following are opportunities for the site associated with changes to the management of the gardens. It is assumed that these opportunities should reflect a commitment to the potential of the gardens *as gardens* rather than, for example, the opportunity to save money by reducing the gardens' maintenance budget, or turning the walled garden into a car park. It is also assumed that it is intended to keep the Manor House as an integral part of the institute rather than, for example, leasing it as a luxury hotel.

- To enhance and 'add value' to the Manor House in terms of its setting, its potential to generate income, and its potential future uses.
- The gardens, in combination with the Manor House, add greatly to Rothamsted's potential to engage public interest and to encourage public access.
- To create a unique and valuable educational resource.
- To present the history of the site and the institute with immediacy and interest. This could be done through a combination of adjacent locations including the house, the walled garden, the soil store, and the classical fields.
- Within an estate devoted to the specialised scientific study of particular characteristics of plants, the Manor Gardens present a special opportunity to illustrate and celebrate wider aspects of our relationship with the Plant Kingdom.
- To restore an important piece of local history and landscape.
- To improve local biodiversity and increase wildlife value.
- To enhance an environment and create a high quality place, of value to the institute, its visitors, and the wider public.
- This is a time when considerable funds are being made available for capital projects associated with the 'heritage' through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Funding associated with conservation and restoration of a 'heritage asset' is particularly directed to projects which offer enhanced public access and educational opportunities. In this context the classical experimental fields and farm would be as eligible for consideration as 'heritage' as the Manor House and Gardens. If the HLF's agenda is accepted by the Trust and institute, Rothamsted should be very well placed to make a successful bid for funding.
- This is a time when there is great public interest in gardens and in environmental matters generally. There could therefore be considerable support for a garden project at Rothamsted.
- To tap the abilities, enthusiasm and efforts of staff and local people through a volunteer programme and 'Friends' group.