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ROTHAMSTED
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The Gardens of Rothamsted Manor - Management Plan

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Appendix B - Archive and Sources

Rothamsted Research

Rothamsted Research (2003) *Appendix B - Archive and Sources* ; The Gardens Of Rothamsted Manor - Management Plan, pp 49 - 49

APPENDIX B

Archive and Sources

Archive

- a) HALS (Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies), in Hertford. HALS holds the Wittewronge Collection, which comprises family and estate papers dating from the Wittewronges' purchase of the estate in 1623. The material is extensive for the 17th and early 18th Centuries, but thins out to give only a very sketchy record for the 19th and 20th Centuries. There is virtually nothing on John Bennet Lawes and the experiments, or on 20th Century developments. HALS also holds historic maps of the area (1623 Estate Map, 1838 Tithe Map, OS maps 1884).
- b) IACR Rothamsted Library - holds the archive of the research station and the Lawes Agricultural Trust from the mid-19th Century onwards.
- c) Other - there may still be records in the hands of the Lawes family.

Secondary Sources

- a) Of published works, by far the most useful is the history of the Manor and its occupants by D.H.Boalch, a former librarian of the Research station. This was first published in 1953. There is a great deal of material in this book that does not appear to be drawn from the two principal archival sources listed above. This suggests that other primary sources may exist.
- b) Sir John Wittewronge's 'Weather Diary was published in 1999 with useful commentary. This provides a valuable but partial picture of the estate from 1684-1689.
- c) The only document to specifically examine the history of the Manor Gardens and surrounding landscape is *The Gardens and Landscape of Rothamsted Manor - An Historical Report*, Adrian Cook, 2001 (unpublished), copies of which were distributed to interested parties at Rothamsted, and deposited at HALS and the Institute library.
- d) Useful information may be found in periodicals such as *Country Life* (1906) and *Gardeners' Chronicle* (1875), in *County Histories*, and in publications about the experimental station.