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ROTHAMSTED  
RESEARCH

# The Gardens of Rothamsted Manor - Management Plan

[Full Table of Content](#)



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## Appendix C - Garden Inventory - 1942

### Rothamsted Research

Rothamsted Research (2003) *Appendix C - Garden Inventory - 1942* ; The Gardens Of Rothamsted Manor - Management Plan, pp 50 - 57

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Garden Inventory - 1942.**

This inventory was taken at the start of the army's requisition of the manor and gardens. It provides an informative and valuable 'snap-shot' of the gardens (and in particular the walled garden) at the end of the period in which the House was still a private residence. I am indebted to Kate Harwood for forwarding it. It came to light after I had completed the 2001 historical report, so it is included here instead.

TEL. 124 & 125 ST ALBANS.

**RUMBALL & EDWARDS,**  
INCORPORATED WITH  
SEDGWICK, WEALL & BECK,  
LAND AGENTS, (WATFORD.)  
AUCTIONEERS & ARCHITECTS.

*St Albans,*  
(58, ST PETER'S STREET.)

J. GRAHAM WEALL, F.S.I., F.A.I.  
W. POPE GENGE, F.S.I.  
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H. SOUTAR, F.N.A.A.  
G. W. DIXON, F.S.I. HS/LW. ENC:  
J. L. G. WEALL, B.A., F.S.I.

10th June 1942

Dear Sir,

Rothamsted - Harpenden,  
Requisition Herts/2011.

11 JUN 1942

Confirming our phone conversation of a day or two ago, we very much regret to learn that the draft Schedule of Condition sent to you was incomplete. We have now added the items attached to your letter of the 9th January last, and enclose a further draft which we trust you will now find complete. Some of the chattels listed in your Additions and Emendations have been deleted, presumably when Mr. Toombs went through the list with Mr. Moffatt, and we have therefore omitted these items accordingly. We now await your further observations.

Yours faithfully,

W. Barnicot, Esq.,  
Rothamsted Experimental Station,  
HARPENDEN.

*Rumball Edwards*

ROTHAMSTED HOUSE, HARPENDEN.

Schedule of Condition as at date of Requisition  
taken over by the Military Authorities -  
Cultivated Gardens and Grounds at Rothamsted House.  
Requisition No. Herts/2011 (Third Requisition).

Rumball & Edwards,  
Land Agents,  
St. Albans, Herts.

15th Dec 1941.

The property is assumed to be in good order unless  
otherwise stated.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

Tomato House.  
(Internally)

Windows	Sound and complete with all fastenings
Paint	In fair order
Floor	Stone paved all round, earth in centre,
Door	Glazed top panels, rim lock and key, Norfolk latch, shutting stile rotten.
Fittings	Wooden lattice staging in centre 5' wide. Ditto on one side and one return end, with shelve shelf over whole length of staging. Slate Shelf on opposite side and return end (no lattice staging). Staging nearly bare of paint. Staging on one side covered with slates, glass or zinc. One half tub. Three iron heating pipes on each side, Galv. iron water tank with pipe from gutter.
<u>(Externally)</u>	Brick footings and low wall - in order.
Paint	In fair order.
Fittings	Wooden water barrel.

Stove House.  
(Internally)

Windows	Sound and complete with fastenings except one cracked square of glass.
Paint	In fair order
Floor	Quarry tiles as laid on sides, earth under staging.
Doors	Panelled, two upper glazed. Norfolk latch, rim lock and no key.
Fittings	2'6" wooden lattice staging in centre 2'0" ditto on each side and return end to door - bare of paint. Three heating pipes on each side.
<u>(Externally)</u>	Brick footings and low wall - in order
Paint	Fair, wearing in places,
Fittings	Galvanised iron water barrel



PEACH HOUSE.  
(Internally)

Windows Sound and complete with fastenings except one square of glass broken.

Doors Pair of four panel double doors at entrance with top panels glazed. Norfolk latch, rim lock and key. Two barrel bolts. Internal door - 5 panel, 3 upper panels glazed. Mortice lock, two brass handles, no key. Pair of four panel double doors at opposite end, as above.

Floor Paved with red and black quarry tiles, bound sides - gravel centre.

Paint In fair order, worn in places.

Fittings Brick enclosed beds for Fruit Trees - whitened - soiled. Three iron heating pipes on each side in one house, five in the next. Two galvanised water tanks. Six Peach trees - growing well. Eight Fig trees - growing well.

(Externally.) Brick footings and low wall - in order.  
Paint In fair order, wearing.

STOKE HOLE.  
(Internally)

Windows Sound and complete with fastenings.

Walls Brick lime whitened - very dirty.

Ceiling Underside of roof.

Floor Concrete - sound

Doors Lugged and braced, norfolk latch, rim lock and no key.

Paint fair - dirty.

Electric Light Wall bracket, no bulb or shade iron wall switch.

Fittings One large saddleback boiler - not in use. One Beeston Domestic Boiler, complete with pipes connecting to greenhouses, 8" Pulley Block. Ten various stoking stools. Wooden ladder as fixed.

(Externally)

Walls Brick

Roof Slate

Chimney Top section of stack badly cracked. Iron feed tank for boilers as fitted. Wooden coke chute as fitted.

### OPEN WIRE FRONTED CAGES.

<u>Walls</u>	Wooden, matchboarded Seven front wire panels - all defective. Two places with no panels or doors. two pairs matchboarded doors 5'x 3'6" - each door tarred, with pair of iron hinges to each door - (need retarring, 1 hinge loose).
Roof	Tiled
Floor	Concrete - cracked.
Paint	In fair order - wearing.

### CONTENTS OF BIRD CAGES.

Eight large lead vases taken from garden, 21" high, 18" across.  
Twelve small ditto, 12" high and 13" across.  
Bird's Sundial on stone pedestal.  
Three terra cotta vases on small stone pedestals.  
One terra cotta vase on large 2 piece pedestal - large  
piece 15" square Top; small piece 12" sq. top.

### POTTING SHED.

<u>Windows</u>	Wooden sides and door - Sound and complete with all fastenings.
<u>Walls</u>	Brick whitened, damp stained in two corners and along wall by pipes.
Ceiling	Underside of roof.
Paint	Worn
<u>Doors</u>	Pair of ledged and braced doors with Norfolk lock, rim lock and key. Two tower bolts.
<u>Fittings</u>	Bench under window, approximately 50 seed boxes - various. Three shelves over bench, 5 bins under bench, wooden sides and fronts.

### FRUIT ROOM.

<u>Windows</u>	Sound and complete with fastenings centre one to open - perforated zinc.
<u>Walls</u>	Brick, whitened.
<u>Floor</u>	Concrete
<u>Ceiling</u>	Matchboarded
<u>Paint</u>	Fair order
<u>Door</u>	Four panel door, mortice lock, two brass handles, key and one escutcheon plate.
<u>Fittings</u>	Fruit staging as fitted to sides and centre. Ladder to left.

### LOFE OVER FRUIT ROOM.

<u>Windows</u>	Sound and complete with fastenings
<u>Walls</u>	Brick- whitened
<u>Floor</u>	Boarded.
<u>Fittings</u>	One shelf on wall.

### POTATO HOUSE COMMUNICATING.

<u>Windows</u>	Sound and complete with fastenings
<u>Walls</u>	Brick whitened - soiled.
<u>Floors</u>	Concrete
<u>Paint</u>	Worn
<u>Ceiling</u>	Underside of roof.
<u>Door</u>	Ledged and braced, norfolk latch, rim lock no key.
<u>Fittings</u>	Staging as fitted on two sides.



OUTSIDE OF POTTING SHED AND FRUIT ROOM.

Roof Tiled  
Walls Brick  
Fittings Lead Pump - in order.

BOILER HOUSE FOR MANSION (Already requisitioned).

Walls Brick whitened - dirty  
Ceilings Concrete - rough  
Fittings Sectional Britannia Boiler.  
Ladder.  
Electric light wall rose.

WOODEN SHED OVER BOILER HOUSE (Already requisitioned).

Corrugated asbestos roof Supported with railway sleepers  
and half boarded up sides and one door.  
Iron electric light wall switch.

PIT HOUSE.

Four sliding lights - sound and complete, (eight squares  
glass cracked)  
Walls Brick plaster rendered - plaster flaking  
badly.  
Floor Brick  
Door Lugged and bracked, norfolk latch  
Paint Wearing  
Fittings Two iron heating pipes.  
Slate beds to forcing staging.

OUTSIDE (AND STROKEHOLE ADJOINING)

Walls Brick  
Roof Part slated  
Fittings Loughborough Boiler - in bad order.

RANGE OF GARDEN FRAMES with removable lights.

Glass Two or three squares of glass broken.  
Walls Brick  
Frames Wooden  
Paint Worn  
Fittings Iron heating pipes

FRUIT TREES.

37 Various fruit trees on wall.  
18 " " " on central archway trained over iron  
arches.  
1 " " " on adjoining ditto  
24 " " " in Garden  
10 Rambler Roses trained over iron arches  
46 Iron arches.

PATHS.

Well kept grass paths and verges around orchards and  
through archway; edges trimmed. Gravel paths round  
greenhouses all in order.

CULTIVATED GARDEN.

Soil in good order - All cropped in 1941. Four asparagus  
beds very productive. One flowering crab tree.  
One Daphne flowering shrub. 6 Barbery shrubs.  
2 Lilac trees. Clipped laurel hedge around pit house (2 sides)  
14 clumps of peonies on border against wall.

Victoria Plum attacked  
by Silver leaf disease,  
Removed and destroyed  
30.5.42 Reported by  
J.R. Moffatt 12.6.42

WALLS.

Brick surrounding garden wall - in good order.  
Ornamental wrought iron gate leading to  
Rose Garden with wrought iron wings and arch.

NEW ORCHARD.

104 Fruit Trees, various - recently planted.  
Brickwork to wall in good order except near angle where  
pointing to top eight courses in bad order.

ROSE GARDEN.

20 Fruit trees various, on wall adjoining Kitchen Garden  
Brickwork to wall in good order.  
Five ornamental stone finials to brick pillars - one broken  
near house.  
14 Clipped Yew Trees.  
Rose beds in central lawn - 8 square beds and four round beds  
with shaped terra cotta edgings.  
Central terra cotta three-tier flower beds surmounted with  
ornamental vases.  
Four large terra cotta vases on stone pedestals.  
Eight small ditto brick do (one damaged and  
wired together).  
Circular marble Lily Pond with marble statue of lady.  
Brass sundial on stone pedestal.  
Lawns all in perfect condition and edges trimmed.  
Herbaceous border next Kitchen Garden wall - well stocked  
and tended.  
Low stone wall separating Rose Garden from Side Garden.  
Upright stones (six lengths) in bad condition.  
60 Rambler roses trained over iron arches over gravel  
path by woodland.  
Historic patch of land cropped with clover,  
surrounded by rabbit proof wire, supported by 15 iron standards.  
Stone seat set on raised stone base, with stone surround.

SIDE GARDEN.

Lawn in perfect condition and edges trimmed. eight clipped  
yew trees in lawn.  
Four rambler rose trees trained over iron arches around statue  
Seven rambler rose trees trained over iron arches.  
Two pairs wrought iron hand gates.  
Marble statue of child, on plinth.  
Marble fountain and bowl decorated with three heads on  
fountain, figures and ornamentations on bowl and base.  
Wall between Side Garden and Front Garden - brick footings  
and piers, and terra cotta open lattice panels between piers;  
brickwork badly in need of painting; terra cotta bricks below  
lattice badly flaking.

FRONT GARDEN (Part)

Lawn in perfect condition, edges trimmed  
Four clipped yew trees.  
One clipped yew trees in centre almost bare of foliage,  
clipped right back.

*Rambler Rose Trees  
trained over iron arches*



SEMI-CIRCLE ADJOINING SIDE GARDEN.

Rough Grass  
Double row of clipped Yew Hedge  
6 Clipped Yew Trees  
Pair of stone vases (one repaired at base) on stone plinths  
Two iron gates and grids adjoining Side Garden to semi-circle.

CENTRAL WALK LEADING TO CIRCLE.

Path between hedge and woodland on each side is clear  
but overgrown with short grass.  
Clipped yew hedge on either side  
Two stone vases.

CIRCLE.

Rough Grass.  
Double circle of clipped yew hedge.  
Marble statuary - 'Death of Circe' by Sir Charles Lawes  
Wittewronge, Bart. 1908.

WOODS.

Woods on either side of central walk contain ornamental  
conifers, rhododendrons and hardwoods.  
Hexagonal summer house with tiled roof - Several tiles off,  
woodwork dilapidated.

FENCES.

Iron hurdle fence between grounds and park.  
New concrete post and wire fence now being erected  
adjoining farm.

PATHS.

Paths in Gardens all gravelled - well kept.  
Paths in Woods all gravelled - overgrown with grass.

WALL SEPARATING ROSE GARDEN FROM WOOD.

Ditch on woodland side of wall cleared.  
Two terra cotta vases lying on sides - one repaired.

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The foregoing Schedule is agreed subject to marginal and  
other notes.

For and on behalf of The Lawes Wittewronge Agricultural Trust,  
and For The War Department.

Land Agents and Surveyors,  
ST. ALBANS, HERTS.

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