

Aerial view of the walled garden in 1949



The Walled Garden



ROTHAMSTED
RESEARCH

The present walled garden occupies an area that is approximately half that of the original 17th century garden. It was reduced in size at about the same time as Sir John and Lady Caroline Lawes added the great drawing room to the manor, in 1863, so that the coming-of-age of their son, Charles, could be celebrated in suitable style in the following year.

The walls of the garden are red brick, and are Grade II listed. The lower part of the east wall is the oldest section of brickwork in the garden and dates from the 17th century (or perhaps even earlier). The north wall and the upper part of the east wall probably date from the late 17th century although they may have been altered later when

the lean-to building was constructed outside the walled garden to the north. The west wall is middle 19th century with early 20th century ornamental additions echoing the Dutch gables of the house.

It was a working kitchen garden with fruit trees and cultivated beds, a fruit room, peach house, tomato house, potato store, potting shed, pit house, frames, bird cages, and an arched walk of trained apple trees. The latter became old and neglected, and was removed in the 1970s.

The walled garden is not currently cultivated, and is mainly used by the gardeners for storage, but it is hoped that it will be refurbished over the next few years.



Aerial view of walled garden in 2018

Current use of this space by Rothamsted gardeners

