

WALLED  
KITCHEN GARDENS  
*of the*  
ISLE OF WIGHT



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Front cover: *In the kitchen garden, Farringford* by Helen Allingham from *The Homes of Tennyson*, published in 1905 on a background of apricots and peaches from *Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris* by John Parkinson, published in 1629.

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ISLE OF WIGHT GARDENS TRUST

## WALLED KITCHEN GARDEN DETECTIVES

The Isle of Wight Walled Kitchen Garden Project and the results presented here would not have been possible without the help and energy of our volunteer Walled Kitchen Garden Detectives. Our many thanks are due to everyone who, armed with clipboards, old maps and cameras, went out looking for clues.



Top left and bottom right: garden history workshops at Northcourt and Farringford

Top right and bottom left: looking for clues in Bembridge and Billingham

*“Having become both expensive to maintain, and out priced by produce available from the supermarket, walled kitchen gardens were, until very recently, the most neglected department of our larger gardens. Like a disgraced member of an otherwise thriving family they were best forgotten. But their history, design, usefulness and beauty is something that is well worth investigating, and I salute the energy and dedication of the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust in producing this very valuable directory of the walled kitchen gardens on their Island”*

SUSAN CAMPBELL

AUTHOR, LECTURER AND CONSULTANT ON WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS



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## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The idea of a project on walled kitchen gardens came out of discussions at a meeting of the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust's Conservation Committee in early 2013. The timescale of 12 months was decided on to coincide with the Silver Jubilee of the Trust in 2014.

The Trustees and Management Committee of the Trust encouraged and supported the idea and an application was made for a small grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This was given final approval in January 2014. The first steps were to identify sites and to educate ourselves, and as many others as possible, about walled kitchen gardens.

A desktop study was carried out using old Ordnance Survey maps, from the 1860s to the 1940s, and modern aerial photography to identify definite and possible sites. This information and details of size, orientation and much else, was recorded on a database. Information sheets, with map extracts, were also prepared for individual sites in readiness for visits over the summer.

A series of educational events were also planned through the year. These started with two talks in April by walled kitchen garden expert Susan Campbell: one on the history of walled kitchen gardens and another on detective work.

These were followed by group visits to Island walled kitchen gardens, visits to learn how to use the Isle of Wight Record Office and Archaeology Centre and full day garden history workshops led by the Isle of Wight Heritage Services Manager, Richard Smout.



*Group visit with the head gardener  
at Barton Manor, East Cowes*

Rather more knowledgeable, and inspired to become Walled Kitchen Garden Detectives, the volunteers and project team then set out to check facts and look for clues on the ground. Owners were contacted for permission to make visits and other sites were checked out from public highways to see what evidence, if any, remained. In this way additional information was gathered at 69 sites and added to the database.

At the beginning of the project our best guess was that we might find perhaps 30 sites. This publication includes a gazetteer and information on the 98 sites identified by November 2014. Some are flourishing and others not so much. We hope that the project findings will provide information on this sometimes neglected area of both garden and Isle of Wight history. Anyone wishing to know more (or who can tell us more) is invited to contact the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust at [iwgtwkg@outlook.com](mailto:iwgtwkg@outlook.com).

## KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

We have defined a walled kitchen garden as a fully, or partially walled, garden used specifically for growing anything which might be termed 'produce', be it fruit, vegetables, flowers for the house or grape vines, at some point in its history and over 400m<sup>2</sup> in area (0.1 of an acre).

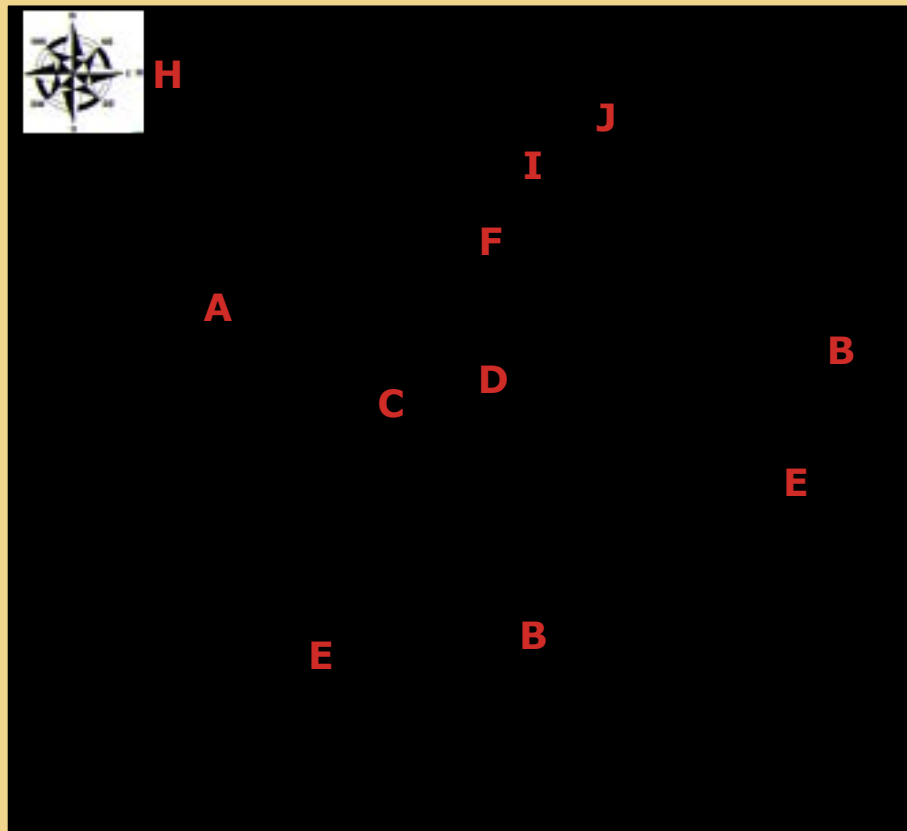
	Pre 1800	1800-1875	Post 1875	<b>Total</b>
Number of walled kitchen gardens identified	30	59	9	<b>98</b>
Number of sites visited as part of the project				<b>69</b>
Number surviving (walls and possibly structures intact)	17	16	1	<b>34</b>
Number with walls largely surviving but now developed	6	12	1	<b>19†</b>
Number where only partial evidence remains	4	19	6	<b>29</b>
Number lost where no evidence appears to remain	3	12	1	<b>16</b>
Number in at least partial production in 2014				<b>29</b>
Number with an area of less than 0.3ha (0.74 of an acre)	13	42	6	<b>61</b>
Number with an area of between 0.3ha and 1ha	15	16	3	<b>34</b>
Number with an area above 1ha (2.47 acres)	2	1	0	<b>3</b>
Number with walls built of stone	10	19	2	<b>31*</b>
Number with walls built using stone and brick	11	14	0	<b>25*</b>
Number with walls built of brick	3	10	5	<b>18*</b>
Number of kitchen garden walls with individual listed building status	8	1	0	<b>9#</b>

† this figure includes sites which have current planning permission for development

\* information available from site visits or documentary sources for a total of 74 walled kitchen gardens

# a further 23 unlisted kitchen garden walls, or the parts of them that remain, are associated with a house, or other building, which has listed building status

## TYPICAL FEATURES



### **A HIGH WALLS**

Built of stone, brick or the two combined with the warmer brick on the inside face. The walls provided a warm micro-climate within the garden, support for fruit trees and security.

### **B ENTRANCES**

Owners' entrances generally face towards the house and/or are in the south wall so that the garden was seen to best effect by visitors. Gardeners' entrances were plainer and often in the north or east walls.

### **C STRAIGHT PATHS**

Dividing the planted areas into practical squares or rectangles referred to as 'quarters' and often edged with small fruit trees or bushes.

### **D DIPPING POND OR WELL**

Often at the centre of the garden this could be both a practical and ornamental feature.

### **E PERIMETER BORDERS**

These allowed space for fruit trees to be trained on the walls both inside and outside the garden.



## OF WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS

### **F GLASSHOUSES**

Glasshouses were built on south facing walls for maximum sunlight and heated from a boiler house on the outside of the wall.

### **G SLIPS OR SLIP GARDENS**

This is the name for garden areas just outside the walled garden which were used for hardier fruit and vegetables.

### **H ORIENTATION**

An aspect slightly to the east of due south protected fruit blossom from thawing too quickly in the morning.

### **I POTTING SHEDS**

Outbuildings, often built against the outside of the northern wall, might also include seed and fruit stores, workshops and 'bothies' to house unmarried gardeners.

### **J FRAMEYARD**

Generally to the north of the walled garden this was an area for cold frames, glasshouses for propagating and hot beds for forcing plants into early growth and fruiting.



**H**

**A**

**I**

**J**

**C**

**G**

**E**

**G**

## DISTRIBUTION MAPS

The maps on the following pages show the distribution of Isle of Wight walled kitchen gardens under various headings, as detailed below. The map base gives the names and the outline of modern civil parishes. These parish names are also used for the gazetteer section of this publication.

### MAP 1 DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

Some 31% of sites date from before 1800. Some, scattered across the Island, are associated with early C17 houses such as Wolverton, Northcourt and Billingham in Shorwell. Others also reflect the building of new large houses on prime coastal sites, such as East Cowes Castle, Norris Castle and Osborne, in the late C18. The majority of walled gardens, 60%, were built in the period between 1800 and 1875 with only 9% built after 1875.

### MAP 2 DISTRIBUTION BY SIZE

Nationally, walled gardens with an area of over 1ha (2.47 acres) are rare and it is, therefore, not surprising to find that the Island only has three. These are at Apley Tower (Ryde), Nunwell (Brading) and Swainston (Calbourne).

The most common size, 61 out of 98, is below 0.3ha (0.74 acre) which is also the most common size on the mainland. Walled kitchen gardens between 0.3 and 1ha are uncommon elsewhere, but the Island has the surprisingly large number of 34 sites or 35% of the total.

### MAP 3 DISTRIBUTION BY MATERIAL

This map shows the materials that the garden walls were built from for the 74 sites where this information was available. Where walls were built in a combination of brick and stone, brick was often used on the inside face and stone on the outside. Brick was recommended from the early C17 onwards because it held the warmth from the sun better and was easier to fix nails to for training fruit trees. Nationally it is the most common material for kitchen garden walls.

On the Island stone was a readily available building material while brick was expensive and not easily available until the C19. This may explain why only stone was used at a surprising 31, or 42%, of Isle of Wight sites.

### MAP 4 DISTRIBUTION BY SURVIVAL

The map clearly shows that walled gardens have a greater survival rate in more rural areas of the Island. Losses are greatest in the popular coastal areas, such as Ryde, which also saw the greatest number of walled gardens built between 1800 and 1875. This reflects the development of the town in the C19. Sites marked as developed include those with current planning approvals.

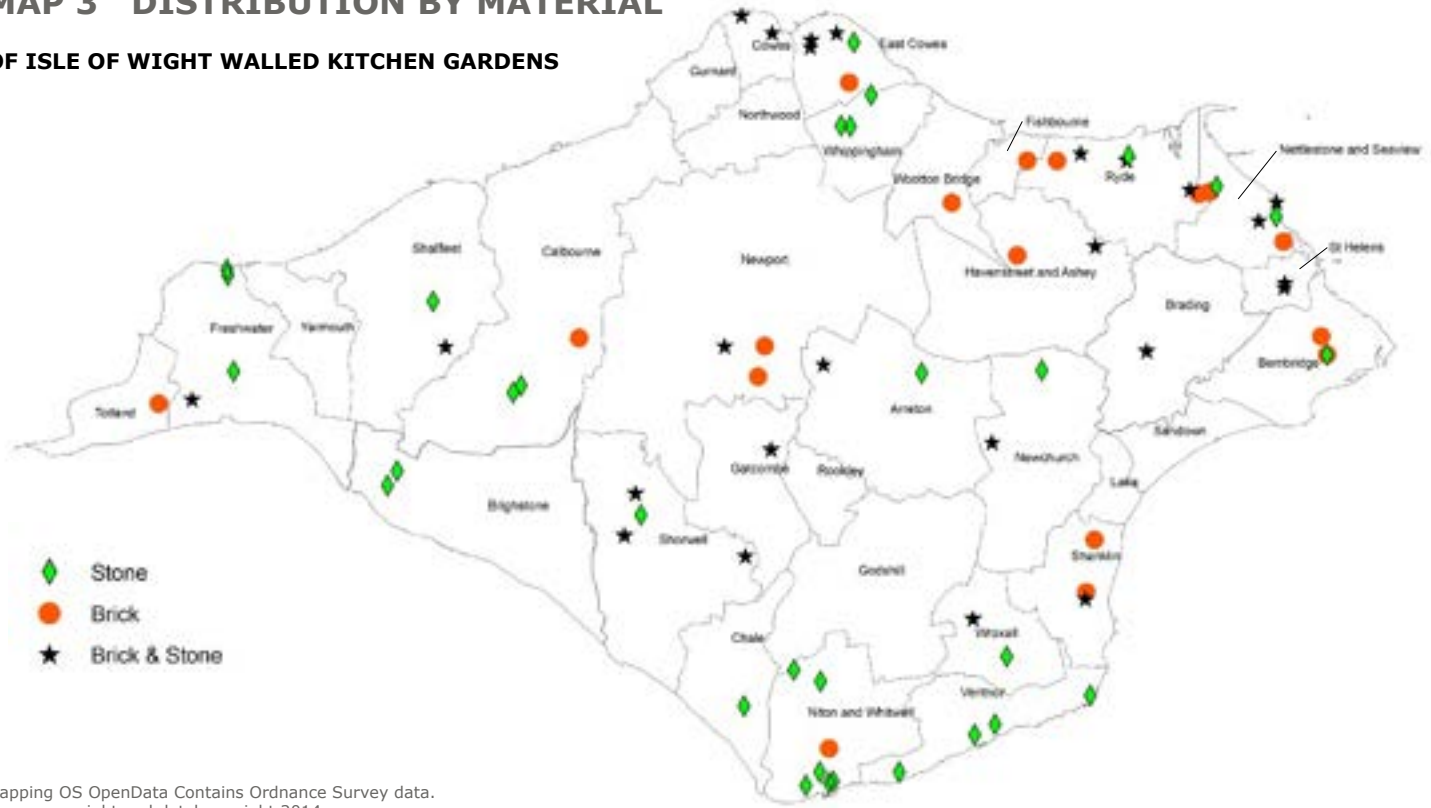


## MAP 2 DISTRIBUTION BY SIZE OF ISLE OF WIGHT WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS



# MAP 3 DISTRIBUTION BY MATERIAL OF ISLE OF WIGHT WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS

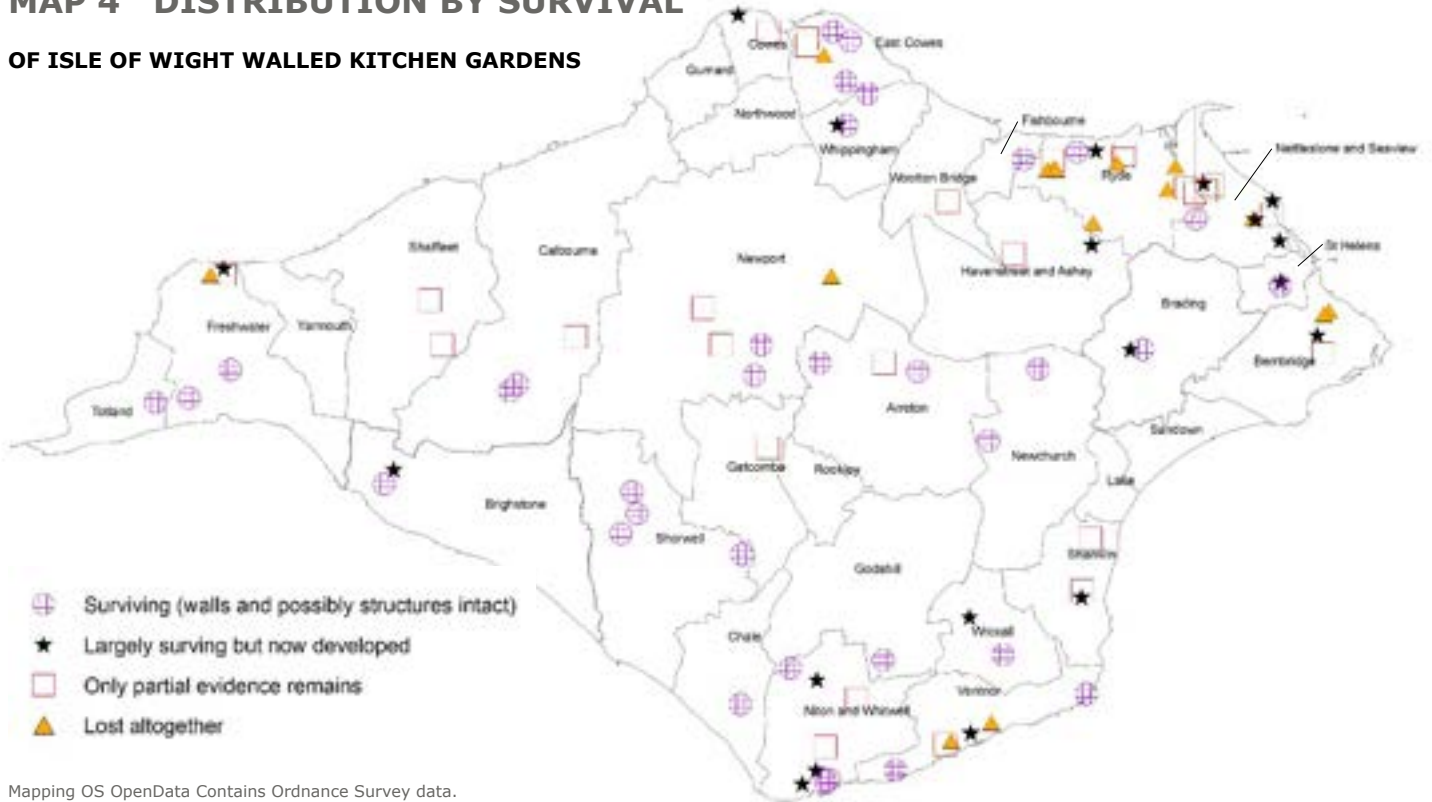
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Mapping OS OpenData Contains Ordnance Survey data.  
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# MAP 4 DISTRIBUTION BY SURVIVAL

## OF ISLE OF WIGHT WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS



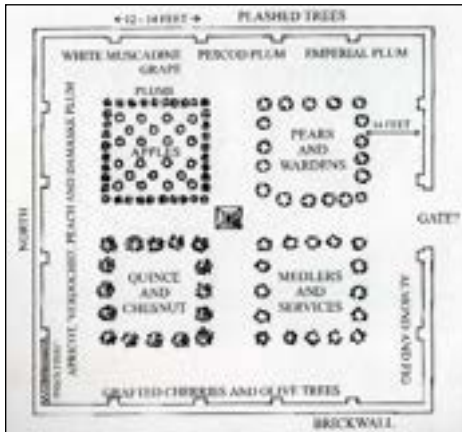
Mapping OS OpenData Contains Ordnance Survey data.  
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## EARLY ISLE OF WIGHT WALLED GARDENS

Growing plants for food in a garden is one of the most ancient forms of gardening, but building walled gardens was also to do with social aspirations, lifestyle, current gardening fashions and, not least, money. Garden walls are expensive to build. They provide a warm micro climate, protection from salt laden winds, frosts, rabbits and thieves, but also gave their owners prestige.

The Isle of Wight enjoyed a period of prosperity in the late C16 and early C17 when increased agricultural production made landowners wealthy. As Sir John Oglander of Nunwell observed "all the gentry full of money and out of debt". Substantial new houses were built, older houses were rebuilt or enlarged and gardens were laid out and planted.

*Practical work in a walled garden illustrated in The Gardener's Labyrinth, by Thomas Hill, first printed in 1577*



The advice in various books of the period provides information on gardening fashions and practice, which prosperous Isle of Wight gardeners may have followed or aspired to. In the gentry garden profit and pleasure were combined and this was particularly true of the orchard.

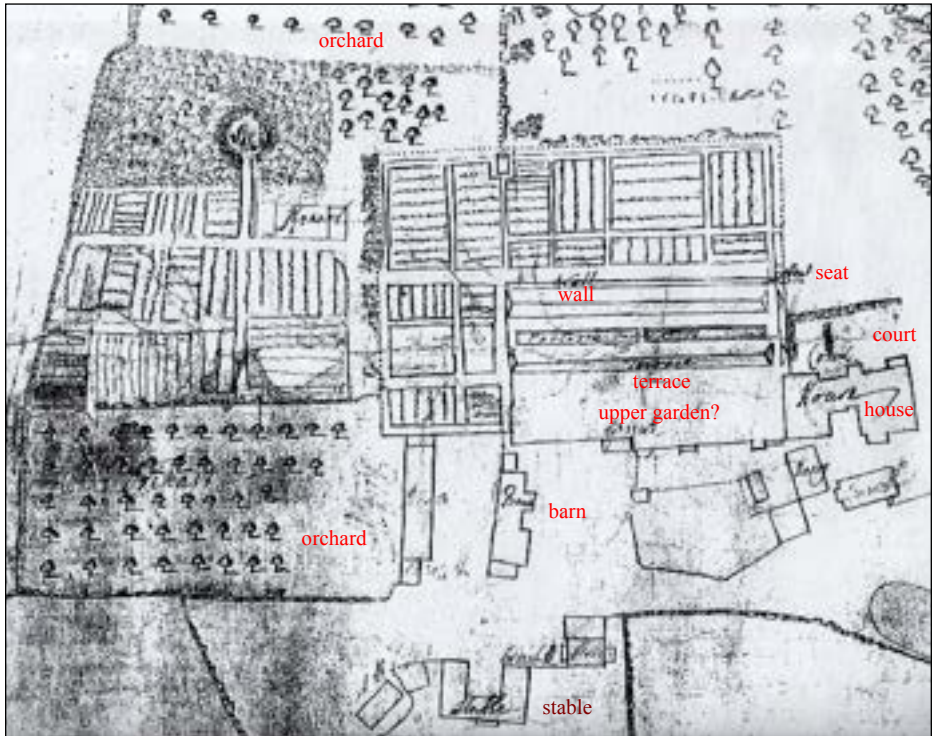
*Conjectural planting and design of an orchard based on Gervase Markham's The English Husbandman, 1613*

*From The Gardens of the Gentry in the late Tudor Period by Judith Roberts in Garden History 27:1, 1999*

The ideal garden layout of three parts was described by John Parkinson in 1629 (*Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris*): the flower garden 'for delight and pleasure' laid out next to the house and 'open upon the South' with on one side a kitchen garden and on the other side an orchard. He also advised that the kitchen garden should be placed away from the best rooms in the house: the scent of cabbages and onions 'are scarce well pleasing' and the results of the necessary harvesting could be 'little pleasant to the sight'. The original meaning of orchard was an enclosed garden and, for those that could afford it, Parkinson recommended walls of brick or stone as the 'profit of the fruit trees planted there against' would soon repay the charge.

## EARLY ISLE OF WIGHT WALLED GARDENS

The C17 gardens at both Appuldurcombe and Nunwell appear to have followed the late Tudor fashion for a series of open garden courts laid out around the house. These gardens, which were probably decorative as well as productive, are now lost, but documentary evidence provides clues to elements of early Isle of Wight gardens that do survive.



*Nunwell: extract from an estate map of 1748, before the C17 formal gardens were removed. Notes in red added for clarity. South is at the top.*

*Extract courtesy of Ms Fanny Oglander*

At Nunwell Sir John Oglander (1585-1655) recorded planting two orchards, one with apples and pears and the other with cherries, damsons and plums. In the 'upper garden' (possibly next to the house) he planted apricots, peaches and figs and in the court vines and apricots.

At Arreton Manor the high stone walls of a garden next to the house, with a substantial dovecote to one corner, date from the early C17 and are likely to have been built at the same time as the house in 1637-9. The present ground level within the garden is terraced with two main levels and a narrow terrace adjacent to the house. At Knighton Gorges in Newchurch the garden walls are thought to be C18, but may have earlier origins and an alcove in the eastern wall may have been for a seat overlooking the gardens, similar to the seat shown on the 1748 map of Nunwell.



## EARLY ISLE OF WIGHT WALLED GARDENS

At Wolverton Manor (Shorwell) the stone walled court to the main southeast front dates from the early C17 and is probably contemporary with the house. In this period the garden courts provided an orderly setting, acting as a buffer between the house and the wilder landscape, and were often laid out at the same time that the house was built.

Although the western and northern brick garden walls at Wolverton are C18, the layout shown on the 1864 OS, of house, forecourt and walled garden, possibly with a raised walk to the southeast, is typical of late C16 and early C17 garden layouts.

*Wolverton: the 1864 OS with the house towards the bottom left corner and fruit trees in the walled garden and on the moat platform*



The use of a moat, as a substitute for a wall or fence around a garden or orchard, was also recommended in early C17 gardening books. Raised walks allowed views down over a garden and out over the owner's wider estate. They might be 'sett with fruit trees' or edged with fruit bushes. At Billingham, also in Shorwell, a terraced walk runs along the inside of the western wall of the garden. The house at Billingham dates from 1647, but the original dates of the walls and terrace are uncertain.



*Wolverton: a conjectural overlay of the possible raised walk along the eastern side of the walled kitchen garden*

## 18TH CENTURY WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS

One very widely read book on horticulture in the C18 was *The Gardeners Dictionary* by Philip Miller, which was published in eight editions between 1731 and 1768. The kitchen garden was the place to grow choice fruits and Miller advised that it 'must be walled round', with the walls about 12 feet (3.6m) high, and that 'if it can be conveniently contrived so as to plant both sides of the walls it will be a great addition to the quantity of wall fruit'. Miller also advised that the kitchen garden should be on one side of the house 'so as not to appear in sight' and near to the stables for the 'conveniency of dung'.

When the formal gardens at Nunwell, (Brading), were swept away in the second half of the C18, the new layout appears to follow Miller's recommendations. The stables and walled kitchen garden were built to the west of the mansion and a 1773 Estate Map clearly indicates trees planted on both sides of the garden walls.

*1773 Estate Map of  
Nunwell*

*The walled kitchen  
garden is marked  
'garden' with entrances  
leading towards both the  
mansion and stables*

Courtesy of the Isle of Wight Record  
Office



The best material for building walls for fruit trees was brick. Miller considered that 'it is not only the handsomest, but the warmest and kindest for the ripening of fruit; besides that, it affords the best conveniency of nailing'. At Nunwell all the kitchen garden walls are in brick except for the outside face of those facing away from the house where cheaper limestone rubble was used.

On the mainland, during the later C18, the fashion for landscaped parkland rolling right up to the doors of the house often led to the walled kitchen garden being sited well out of sight, at perhaps half a mile (812m) or more from the house. On the Isle of Wight, as at Nunwell, owners generally seem to have preferred to keep their kitchen gardens closer at hand. Other C18 examples of parkland settings include Westover (Calbourne) and Gatcombe where walled kitchen gardens were built next to the stables but, respectively, only some 45m and 120m from the main house.

Another mainland fashion, particularly in northern areas, was for hot walls heated by built-in flues, to promote early fruiting. Possibly due to the milder climate, no examples of hot walls have been identified on the Island.

## 18TH CENTURY WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS

One exception was Appuldurcombe (Wroxall) where the late C18 walled garden was built away from the main northern approach and on the edge of the parkland, some 450m from the house.



At Norris Castle (East Cowes) the c.1799 kitchen garden, combined with a model farm, was built some 275m from the house. Here, however, the exuberant neo-medieval design, by James Wyatt, was not meant to be hidden, but to form an exciting feature on a circuit of the ornamental parkland.

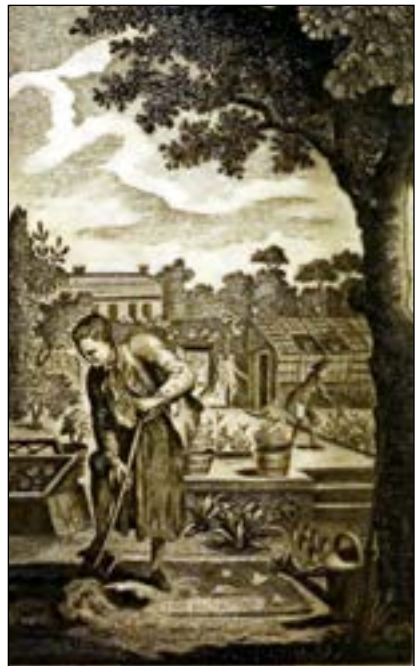
*A castellated corner turret of the kitchen garden within the parkland at Norris Castle*

Formal gardens were expensive to maintain. One result of the fashion for the more cheaply maintained landscaped parks, at whatever scale, was that owners had more money to spend in the walled kitchen garden. Philip Miller calculated that by the 1760s there were twice as many different plants grown in England than there had been in 1731. Many benefitted from being grown against a wall.

In the later C18 a popular source of information, on what to plant and on work needed in the garden throughout the year, was *Every Man his Own Gardener* by John Abercrombie, first published under the name of Thomas Mawe in 1767. It was aimed at 'gentlemen and young professors'. The 9th edition in 1782 listed plants 'only such as merit culture'. These included 23 types of peach and 36 different pears, including most of those known to have been growing at Appuldurcombe in 1780. By 1829 Abercrombie's book had reached its 23rd edition and listed 45 types of peach and 75 varieties of pear.

*The frontispiece to the 1782 edition of Everyman His Own Gardener*

*Note the main path leading to the owners' entrance facing the main house, a glasshouse, cold frame, exotic plants in half barrels and diligent gardeners*



## WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS 1800 to 1875

From the 1790s onwards substantial new houses were built on the Island as summer residences, often on choice landscaped sites with Solent or English Channel views. Over half (60%) of the walled kitchen gardens identified on the Isle of Wight were built between 1800 and 1875 and were mainly associated with these new houses. Popular areas for building were the coastal areas from Bembridge and Ryde, with good travel links to the mainland, and in the picturesque scenery of the Undercliff, from Niton to Ventnor, in the south.

Many of these new owners may have agreed with the prolific garden writer John Claudius Loudon who wrote in his 1822 *Encyclopedia of Gardening* that 'next to a badly designed, ill-placed house, a mis-placed, ill arranged, and unproductive kitchen-garden is the greatest evil of a country residence'.

On the Island walled kitchen gardens were carefully placed so as not to obstruct the sea views. Examples of this include the early C19 estates at Puckpool and St Clare (Nettlestone and Seaview) and Buckingham Villa (Ryde) where walled gardens were sited on the inland side of the main house and next to a public road.

There were many books and horticultural magazines, aimed at both owners and their gardeners, to provide advice. For example, in January 1851, the *Gardeners' Chronicle* provided a lengthy answer to a reader's question about fruit trees suitable for growing near the sea, including the best varieties of apricots and nectarines for a southeastern facing wall.



*From The Kitchen Garden by  
E S Delamer, 1855*



*The lady of the house in an advertisement for  
garden syringes: Gardeners Chronicle 1851*

For many, gardening was how they made their living. In the 1861 census 411 men on the Isle of Wight gave their occupation as gardener. This number was probably boosted by a number of women and boys who described themselves as gardener's wives and sons.

The mid C19 also saw gardening promoted as a genteel occupation with books and advertisements aimed directly at ladies.

## WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS 1800 to 1875

The English tax on glass was abolished in 1845, a process was patented in 1847 for cheaply producing large panes of glass in quantity, and systems for glass roofs were developed. The result was that glasshouses became much more affordable and, on the mainland, were considered an almost essential addition to a walled kitchen garden.

At Osborne new metal lean-to greenhouses were purchased from the firm of Henry Hope in Birmingham in 1854. Elsewhere, timber greenhouses erected by local builders and joiners, were probably more usual.

Brook House (Brighstone) and Appley Tower (Ryde) are examples of walled gardens which had extensive ranges of specialist glasshouses for peaches, orchids, vines and much else. These, however, seem to be an exception.

The evidence of C19 OS maps indicates that many walled gardens had only a modest provision of glasshouses, or none at all.

For example, Windcliff (Niton and Whitwell), Chale Farm and Wettlands (Newchurch) all appear to have had none, while Afton House (Freshwater) acquired only one modest lean-to glasshouse between 1862 and 1898.

The explanation may be due to the mild Isle of Wight climate, the particular owner's interest (or lack of it), or the fact that they were only resident in the summer months. Another factor may be better transport links, including the coming of railways to the Island from 1862, which meant that exotic and out of season produce was increasingly easier to purchase.



*Brook House: girls eating strawberries with the extensive glasshouses behind*

Photo courtesy of Brook Village History © 2014



*Osborne: the restored 1854 lean-to greenhouses in 2014*

At Osborne, in the later C19, the kitchen garden was largely used for flowers and house plants with produce sent from other Royal gardens. The second half of the C19 also saw an increase in market gardening on the Island. In the 1861 census 18 people recorded their occupation as market gardener (two as part-time combined with being a farmer and a blacksmith) while in 1891 there were 57.

By 1860 Edward Kemp, in *How to lay out a Garden*, could write that 'kitchen gardens are usually by no means as profitable as they are thought to be, and most must be regarded more as a luxury than a source of saving'.

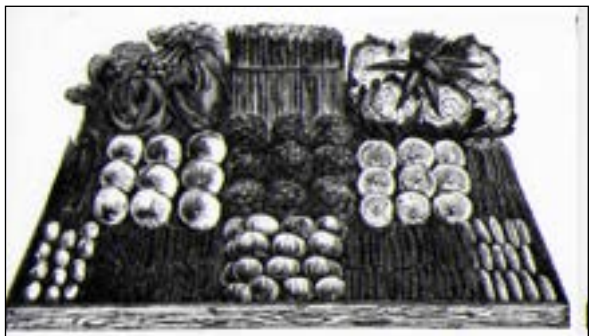
## WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS AFTER 1875

When the popular gardening writer Shirley Hibberd published *The Amateur's Kitchen Garden* in 1877, his aim was to include everything that might be needed by a substantial middle class household. The principles for a kitchen garden were simple and well understood: a rectangular plot walled on all sides, sloping slightly to the south, divided by paths into convenient sized plots, a deep loam soil and an abundant water supply. Anyone wanting to grow good fruit needed stone or brick walls at least eight feet (2.4m) high.

The years from 1800 to 1939 are regarded as the period when walled kitchen gardens were at the height of their productivity. On the Isle of Wight, while many walled gardens remained in cultivation, only nine (9%) new ones, including one substantial extension, appear to have been built after 1875. Some of these were added within the grounds of older houses. These tended to be part of wider garden landscaping schemes carried out by new owners such as the Thornycrofts at Steyne House (Bembridge) and the Atherleys at Landguard Manor (Shanklin). At both these properties other improvements included new entrance drives, lodges and coach houses with the kitchen garden providing a buffer between a public road and the pleasure grounds.

In the late C19 and early C20 major new landscaping works were also undertaken at Woodlands Vale (Nettlestone and Seaview) where, with a second compartment, the walled garden was more than doubled in size and its axial paths were extended outside the walls, linking it to the redesigned gardens around the house. At Steephill Castle (Ventnor) it was necessary to build a new walled kitchen garden when a new railway, opened in 1900, was built across the north of the Castle grounds.

The fruit and vegetables from the Island's many walled kitchen gardens were not just destined for consumption. Given the wearisome monotony and dreary dullness of much gardening work, Hibberd suggested that it was in an employer's interest to encourage the 'healthy excitement' of entering horticultural shows. These were held all over the Island, at venues such as Farringford (Freshwater) and Appley Tower (Ryde).



*A First Prize collection of fifteen varieties of vegetables from The Amateur's Kitchen Garden*

Certificates were awarded at shows by the Isle of Wight Horticultural Improvement Association and at the 1907 show of the newly formed St Helens Horticultural Society there were categories for 'Big Houses', 'Professional Gardeners' and 'Cottagers'.

The last completely new walled kitchen garden built on the Island was not, however, associated with a 'big house' but appears to be the three-walled garden at Quarr Abbey (Fishbourne), built in 1907-8.

## WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS IN 2014

The Second World War was a turning point in the fortunes of many Isle of Wight walled kitchen gardens. After the War, rising wages and readily available cheap fruit and vegetables made them even more of a luxury to maintain. Some properties, such as East Cowes Castle, were demolished and their sites redeveloped. Elsewhere walled gardens were sold off and found new uses. In Ventnor, the walled garden at Old Park was turned into a tropical bird park and the East Dene garden, filled with modern greenhouses, was used as a market garden. By 1972 the walled garden at Upton House (Havenstreet and Ashey) had become a scrap metal works and at Appuldurcombe (Wroxall) the kitchen garden is now part of a caravan park.

Of the 98 walled kitchen gardens identified on the Isle of Wight only 34, or roughly 35%, have not been subject to any form of modern development and remain largely intact in 2014. Some, such as Old Park and Osborne (East Cowes) and Quarr (Fishbourne) now have a new lease of horticultural life. Many others remain in at least partial productive cultivation, often combined with lawns and ornamental planting.



*Walled Kitchen Gardens in 2014, clockwise from top left: Barton in East Cowes, Puckaster in Niton, Wroxall Cross in Wroxall and Wacklands in Newchurch*

A further 19 sites, or 19%, remain with at least their walls substantially still standing, but have been developed. Mostly this has been for individual or multiple new housing in the second half of the C20.

## WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS IN 2014

Examples include Fairy Hill and St Clare, both in Nettlestone and Seaview, where high walls remain and form the outer boundaries of the new housing plots.

*St Clare: a 1950s view of Warners holiday camp with the still partly cultivated walled kitchen garden at the top left*



Site visits during the project found that at 46% of sites only fragments of walling (29) or no physical evidence (16) appeared to remain. Perhaps not surprisingly, the greatest losses were found for walled gardens built between 1800 and 1875 (31 out of 59). These were largely built in popular coastal areas which, remaining popular, saw the greatest pressures for new development in the later C20. The walled garden at The Lodge (East Cowes) is now below a supermarket car park.

*The Lodge: a fragment of the walled kitchen garden southern wall is now a feature at a supermarket entrance*

The future of some, now largely abandoned, walled kitchen gardens remains uncertain, but there is also good news. At two sites, Farringford (Freshwater) and Northcourt (Shorwell), exciting schemes are in progress for restoration of the walled kitchen gardens for new uses relating to education and tourism.



*Northcourt: the northwest corner of the walled kitchen garden before and during restoration of the gardener's cottage in 2014*



## ABOUT THE GAZETTEER

### SITE DESCRIPTIONS

The descriptions are arranged alphabetically for each modern civil parish with walled kitchen gardens. As an easy reference the names of sites which have survived and have not been subject to development are given in **black bold type**. Sites which largely survive but have been developed, generally with housing, together with sites where only partial evidence remains, are shown in **grey bold type**. Sites which have not survived are in light grey.

The site names are those given on the earliest map which shows the walled garden. Some properties have changed their names over the years and alternative, including current, names are highlighted in the entry description.

### HISTORIC MAP REFERENCES

1769 Andrews map: the full title is *A Topographical Map of the Isle of Wight in Hampshire, on a Scale of 2 inches to a Mile, from an Actual Survey*. A copy of this map can be viewed at the Isle of Wight Record Office. A second edition of the map (1775 Andrews map) can be viewed online (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53010266f/f1.zoom.r=.langEN>).

These maps, by land surveyor John Andrews (1736-1809), are not strictly accurate in the same way as later Ordnance Survey maps. Large houses are shown by small drawings of the main elevations and walled kitchen gardens are shown diagrammatically as a square outline containing smaller squares.

1793 OS: these maps are the Ordnance Survey's original surveyors' preliminary drawings prepared from surveys carried out in 1793-94. They can be viewed online (<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw/>).

Published OS maps: references in the site entries, unless otherwise noted, are to 25" Ordnance Survey maps, although extracts are not reproduced to scale. The dates given are the dates of publication.

### DESIGNATIONS

Where kitchen garden walls, houses or other structures are nationally designated as listed buildings for their special architectural or historic interest this is noted as LBI (grade I), LBII\* (grade II\*) or LBII (grade II).

More information, including written descriptions, on listed buildings, scheduled monuments (SM), and sites on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, is available online (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/>).

Some locally significant parks and gardens are included on the Isle of Wight Council's Local List and details can be found on the Council website, [iwight.com](http://iwight.com).

### ACCESS TO SITES

Please note that inclusion in the gazetteer does not mean that a particular site or garden is open to the public. The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust ask that the privacy of owners is respected at all times.

## ARRETON

### ARRETON

SZ 5337 8688 Size: 0.26ha (0.47 acre) Date: early C17

The roughly 3m high garden walls (LBII) at Arreton date from the early C17, or earlier, with a substantial early C17 dovecote at the southeast corner. The present stone house (LBII\*) was built by Humphrey Bennett in 1637-9, replacing an earlier dwelling. The house, dovecote and high garden walls are all built in stone rubble with ashlar quoins and stone detailing. In the C19 Queen Victoria admired the Elizabethan style of Arreton, comparing it to her similar house at Barton (see East Cowes).

The 1863 OS shows a rectangular walled garden laid out with regular paths and fruit trees immediately east of the entrance court and house, then called **Arreton Farm**. By 1898 the entrance court had been extended making the walled garden into a fat L shape. The natural ground level falls to the east and a low bank running north-south divides the garden into two level platforms with a further raised narrow platform next to the house. These changes in level appear to equate with north-south path and division lines shown on the 1863 OS.

The listed garden wall survives roughly 18m south and 4.5m west from the northeast corner of the garden. The shorter wall includes two small rectangular putlog holes which may indicate a previous structure adjacent to the wall. A further short section of the high garden wall also appears to survive on the eastern boundary where it adjoins the C17 dovecote, at the southeastern corner of the garden. The former walled kitchen garden, now with areas of modern formal planting, remains part of the private grounds of **Arreton Manor**.



*Arreton: outside views of the stone rubble eastern wall with angled stone coping and ashlar quoins and the C17 dovecote at the southeast corner*

## ARRETON

**GREAT EAST STANDEN** SZ 5245 8711 Size: 0.22ha (0.54 acre) Date: mid C19  
Although the house (LBII) here dates from the early C17, the earliest indication of a walled kitchen garden is given on the 1866 6" OS. This shows a roughly rectangular garden divided by paths into four quarters and with two outbuildings against the staggered southern boundary. The 1898 OS indicates piggeries built to the outside of the eastern wall.

The kitchen garden is understood to no longer be in cultivation, but with possible evidence of walls remaining on the western and northern boundaries. It remains part of the private grounds of the house, known from the late C20 as **Great East Standen Manor**.

**STANDEN HOUSE** SZ 5071 8711 Size: 0.19ha (0.47 acre) Date: late C18  
The house (LBII\*) was built in about 1750 for the Roberts family and the 1773 Andrews map indicates an enclosed productive garden and orchard to the east facing rear of the house. This garden area, which includes the evidence of a possible viewing mount and a south boundary wall with remains of a grotto, may relate to an earlier house on the site. Parts of the rear of the C18 house are thought to date from the late C17.

The first evidence of the present walled kitchen garden, to the northwest of the house, is a three sided enclosure on the 1793 OS which is open to the south. The 1864 OS shows the garden laid out with regular paths and planted with small fruit trees.

The north wall is built in red brick to the inside face and random coursed greensand stone to the outside with curved corners to the east and west walls, which are built entirely in brick. All of these walls are 3m high and adjoining the garden at the southeast corner is the C18 two storey Dairy Cottage (LBII). The southern dog-legged boundary is partly marked by a roughly 1.5m high brick wall and within the garden the 1864 path layout partly remains.



*Standen House: the garden layout on the 1864 OS*

The walled kitchen garden, partly in cultivation and partly laid to grass, remains part of the private grounds of Standen House.

## BEMBRIDGE

**BEMBRIDGE LODGE** SZ 6417 8787 Size: 0.38ha (0.95 acre) Date: early C19  
The house (LBII) was built in about 1820-30 and the walled kitchen garden, shown on the 1862 OS at the northeastern corner of the ornamental grounds, was possibly built at the same time.

The almost-square garden was divided into four quarters partly planted with fruit trees and with a small glasshouse on the inside face of the western wall backed by outbuildings on the outside. A dipping pond is indicated at the centre of the garden. In 1897 a larger glasshouse is shown and an entrance lodge, serving Bembridge Lodge, adjoins the southern corner of the walled garden.

By 1908 the entrance lodge and walled kitchen garden were detached from Bembridge Lodge, with the former serving a new detached dwelling built within the grounds. Ownership of the walled garden at this time is not clear, but it was possibly retained in the same ownership as the early C19 house.

The 1946 OS indicates that the walled garden had been divided into two plots and by 1971 each is shown occupied by a dwelling.



*Bembridge Lodge: the layout on the 1862 OS*



*Bembridge Lodge: the southeastern boundary wall on High Street*

The red brick Flemish bond brick walls, generally 2.3m to 2.8m, high remain except for half of the northwestern boundary which has been taken down.

The walled kitchen garden now forms the private gardens to two dwellings with the southwestern wall providing their road boundary on High Street.

## BEMBRIDGE

### EAST CLIFF LODGE

SZ 6449 8852 Size: 0.17ha (0.42 acre) Date: mid C19

The walled garden here is first indicated on the 1866 6" OS. The 1880 OS shows the house set within ornamental gardens and parkland extending to the shoreline to the north of what is now Love Lane. The rectangular walled kitchen garden is shown to the south of the lane with a glasshouse against the northern wall backed by an outbuilding, possibly a potting shed and/or boiler house. A small courtyard of domestic office buildings lies immediately to the east and a path, lined to one side by fruit trees, extends around the outside of the walled garden to the south and west.

The house, by then known as *East Cliff*, was rebuilt in 1923 and the walled kitchen garden is shown on OS maps up to 1971. By 1987 the area south of Love Lane had been developed for detached housing and no evidence of the walled garden appears to remain.

### HILL GROVE

SZ 6435 8843 Size: 0.21ha (0.53 acre) Date: early C19

The formerly listed early C19 house is attributed to architect John Nash. The 1880 OS shows ornamental grounds to the north and west of the house and indicates a walled kitchen garden to the south which is likely to be contemporary with the house. In the 1960s the house suffered a partial collapse, requiring some rebuilding, and is now in divided ownership. The former kitchen garden area is now occupied by a C21 residential development and no evidence of the walled garden appears to remain.

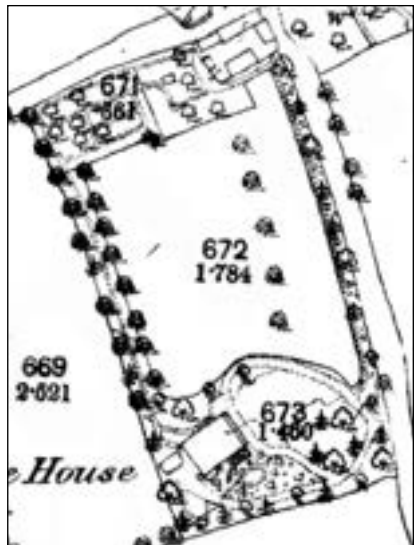
### STEYNE HOUSE A

SZ 6430 8737 Size: 0.12ha (0.29 acre) Date: early-mid C19

The layout of the grounds and the first walled kitchen garden at Steyne House (LBII), an early C19 dwelling extended in the mid C19, are shown on the 1881 OS.

The main entrance to the property was from what is now Hillway Road. At the northern end of the site, adjoining what is now Sandown Road, are the walled garden with fruit trees and regular paths, a further small orchard area and a small courtyard of domestic offices which very probably included the stables. This grouping was linked to the ornamental grounds around the house by tree lined perimeter paths along the eastern and western boundaries.

The only evidence of this walled kitchen garden which appears to remain is a wall on the line of its western boundary. The roughly 2.2m high wall is in rat trap bond red brickwork.



*Steyne House: the 1881 OS with the walled kitchen garden at top left*

## BEMBRIDGE

### STEYNE HOUSE B

SZ 6433 8737 Size: 0.24ha (0.6 acre) Date: late C19

In the later C19 the grounds were extended and the layout altered, probably under the ownership of marine engineer Sir John Thornycroft. The 1897 OS shows the entrance moved to Sandown Road and marked by a lodge. The second, larger kitchen garden is indicated, to the east of the lodge, with a glasshouse and a water pump. The western boundary of garden A, a brick wall, formed the boundary of the new kitchen garden which was extended to the east and south.



*Steyne House: the curving northern boundary wall on Sandown Road and viewed from within the former kitchen garden B*

The curving northern boundary to Sandown Road has an approximately 2.7m high uncoursed random stone rubble wall with a projecting brick coping. The outer face of the wall has shallow brick buttressing to the lower section only and the height of the wall may have been raised when the new kitchen garden was laid out. The eastern and southern boundaries of kitchen garden B were possibly never walled. The ground rises gently to the south with a hard surface tennis court set into the slope within low stone retaining walls at its southern end. The late C19 kitchen garden may have been laid out on a level in a similar manner.



*Sir John Thornycroft apples  
as illustrated in the Gardeners Chronicle in 1919*

The 1908 OS shows a small orchard area to the south of the kitchen garden. In the 1890s Lord and Lady Thornycroft raised a number of new apple varieties at Steyne House, including 'Sir John Thornycroft' and 'Steyne Seedling'. These gained the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit in 1911 and 1912 respectively.

The former kitchen garden remains part of the private grounds of Steyne House. Around the tennis court it is largely grassed with fruit trees along the northern boundary wall and an early or mid C20 greenhouse on the western wall.

## BRADING

### GROVE

SZ 5911 8748 Size: 0.4ha (0.98 acre) Date: mid C18

The almost square walled kitchen garden at Grove is shown on the 1793 OS with a group of farm buildings to the northwest. These include a stone rubble brewhouse and dairy (LBII), possibly dating from 1745, and a brick barn (LBII) dated 1775 suggesting that the date of the walled garden may be mid C18.

The 1882 OS shows the property named as **Grove Farm** and the layout of the walled garden which was divided by paths into four quarters and partly planted with fruit trees. A roughly 20m wide strip of ground outside the walled garden is also shown planted with fruit trees. The boundary of this outer land is marked by a double line and partly planted with a line of trees. A path running around the outside of the walled garden suggests that both sides of the walls were used for cultivation. Some small outbuildings are shown on the outside face of the northern wall.



*Grove: the 1882 OS*

It is understood that in the late C20 the walled garden was used as a plant nursery. The 1973 OS shows the walled garden, separate from the farm, as **Grove Gardens** with ranges of lean-to and detached greenhouses in the north of the garden. A modern two storey house, possibly incorporating earlier outbuildings, now straddles the centre of the northern wall with its private garden within the high stone rubble walls of the former kitchen garden. The boundary of the formerly cultivated ground outside the walled garden is now appears to be generally marked by hedging.

### NUNWELL

SZ 5945 8748 Size: 1.07ha (2.64 acre) Date: mid C18

The site of the present **Nunwell House** (LBII\*) was purchased by the Oglander family in 1552 and remained in the ownership of the family until about 1980. Diarist and Deputy Governor of the Isle of Wight, Sir John Oglander, lived there from 1607 to 1652. He rebuilt the house and laid out formal gardens, but the present walled kitchen garden (LBII) at Nunwell was the work of a later generation in the C18.

Following the fashion of the day the formal gardens were swept away in the later C18 to create parkland around the house and walled kitchen garden was built some 60m to the northwest. The walled garden is indicated on the 1769 Andrews map and also on a 1773 survey map of the Nunwell estate (IW Record Office OG/PP/13). The 1773 map shows the five-sided garden with entrances at the centre of the southern, eastern and northeastern walls and with small trees planted against both sides of the walls.

## BRADING



*Nunwell: the walled kitchen garden on the 1773 Estate Map and the 1873 OS*

Estate Map courtesy of the Isle of Wight Record Office

The 1873 OS shows the garden divided by paths into four irregular quarters with outbuildings against the outside face of the northeastern wall. Elsewhere a perimeter path runs round the outside of the garden, suggesting that both sides of the walls were still being used for cultivation. A small brick building (which still remains) is shown in the southeastern corner of the garden and a glasshouse on the outside face of the eastern wall. Further ranges of glasshouses were erected in the northern area of the garden in the late C19 and early C20, but none of these earlier glasshouses, nor the external outbuildings, survive.

The garden area between the house and the walled garden was redesigned in the 1960s. A wide gravel path, bordered by shrubs, leads in a direct line from the house to a rose garden and the walled garden entrance in the centre of the southeastern wall. The entrance has an elaborate wrought-iron gate and is in line with the main central path in the walled garden.

The walled garden is now partly cultivated with areas laid to grass. The garden walls are generally about 3m high with those facing towards the house in English garden wall bond red brick with a brick coping. The western and northern walls, facing away from the house, are in coursed Bembridge limestone rubble to the outside, with brickwork facing into the walled garden.

The Nunwell estate, now in divided ownership, is included on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens at grade II. The walled garden remains part of the private grounds of Nunwell House.



## BRIGHSTONE

**BROOK HOUSE** SZ 3918 8423 Size: 0.34ha (0.83 acre) Date: mid C18 or earlier Henry VII was entertained here in 1499 as the guest of Thomas and Joan Bowerman. The Bowerman family rebuilt the house (LBII) in the early C18 and a walled kitchen garden, indicated on the 1769 Andrews map, may be contemporary with the rebuilding. The 1793 OS shows the walled garden approximately 28m to the north of the house with woodland to the northwest and with a short direct approach through a small area of parkland to the east.



*Brook House: the layout on the 1863 OS*



*Brook House: Phil Jacobs working in the walled garden*

Photo courtesy of Brook Village History © 2014

In about 1857 both house and park were enlarged by Charles Seely, a successful miller, entrepreneur and politician from Lincoln. As shown on the 1863 OS, a new approach route was also created from the northwest with the walled kitchen garden partly shielded from view by a line of trees planted outside the eastern and northern walls. Ranges of glasshouses are shown within the walled garden which is laid out with regular paths.

Seely's son, another Charles, updated the garden in the 1890s. A visit to Brook House by some 50 members of the IoW Horticultural Improvement Society in July 1897 was reported in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*: '...a tour of the extensive hot-houses was made. The Peach-houses contain 3000 square feet of glass. Stoves, Orchard and green houses and vineries are all in good condition...the kitchen garden crops, with the exception of a few rows of Potatoes which were affected by disease, were very promising'.

In 1911 eight men and boys were working at Brook House including long time head gardener William Tribbick and William (Phil) Jacobs. On Tribbick's death in 1927 the *Isle of Wight County Press* reported that he was a very skilfull gardener, especially at indoor cultivation.

The grounds of Brook House are now divided and partly developed with late C20 detached houses, including one within the 2 - 3m high stone rubble walls of the former kitchen garden. A northern range of glasshouses remains together with the brick bases of the former eastern range. The whole of the former grounds of Brook House are included on the Isle of Wight Council's Local List.

## BRIGHSTONE

### **BROOK RECTORY**

SZ 3892 8384 Size: 0.14ha (0.35 acre) Date: mid C19

Although the house (LBII), former stable and stone rubble garden wall (jointly LBII) at Brook Rectory all date from the C18, a walled kitchen garden is first indicated on the 1874 OS, but may be earlier.



*Brook Rectory: the 1874 OS with the walled garden to the top*

The former Rectory Cottage is now in separate ownership, but the walled kitchen garden remains in the same ownership as the main house, now known as **The Old Rectory**. The stone rubble kitchen garden walls are approximately 2.4 - 3m high with a rounded stone cobbles coping and the garden is now largely grassed.

In 1874 the Rectory is shown set within a modest ornamental garden, with a small courtyard of buildings including stables and Rectory Cottage (now Badgers) to the north. Beyond these is the walled kitchen garden, divided by paths into four sections and planted with fruit trees. Rectory Cottage forms a part of the southern boundary and a small glasshouse is indicated on the outside of the southern wall.



*Brook Rectory: long time gardener Joe Morris who lived in Rectory Cottage*

Photo courtesy of Brook Village History © 2014

## CALBOURNE

### CALBOURNE RECTORY

SZ 4253 8654 Size: 0.2ha (0.48 acre) Date: C18

Next to the Parish Church, a small house is shown on the 1793 OS with an enclosed garden to the south of the churchyard. The house (now **The Old Rectory** and LBII) was rebuilt in stone in 1838 and the 1863 OS shows the roughly rectangular walled kitchen garden with some fruit trees. The western and adjoining part of the southern boundaries are shown in 1863 as irregular lines. It is likely that these boundaries, which are not shown on the 1898 OS, were never walled. A small courtyard of outbuildings lay to the south of the 1863 walled garden with an orchard to the southwest. A small glasshouse on the northern wall is shown on the 1909 OS.



*Calbourne Rectory: the 1863 OS and the SE corner of the walled garden in 2014*

The three sided walled garden together with the small courtyard remain as part of the private grounds of The Old Rectory. The walls are mostly in un-coursed stone rubble incorporating flint, slate, tile and brick and 2.1m to 2.4m high with a rounded coping of irregular stone cobbles. A tennis court occupies the western part of the walled garden and vegetable and flower beds are laid out between gravel paths in the eastern part with a hedge dividing the two areas.

### SWAINSTONE

SZ 4411 8782 Size: 1.03ha (2.55 acre) Date: late C18

The former manor house (LBII\*) with parts dating from the C12 and C13 is the oldest standing domestic building on the Isle of Wight. A large house was built by the Barrington family in about 1750 and altered by them in around 1790. The 1769 Andrews map indicates a walled kitchen garden at Swainstone, close to the house and incorporating a pond at the southeast corner. This garden is no longer present on the 1793 OS where a large kitchen garden is shown to the northeast of the house.

In 1840 *The Gardeners' Magazine* reported that the 'Swainston Seedling Strawberry', raised at Swainstone in 1838, promised to be a very valuable variety. The fruit resembled those of an Alpine, but were three or four times larger and were produced in extraordinary numbers during the whole summer. Specimens had been taken from the Isle of Wight to the Kensington Nursery in London with many ripe fruit in the first week of October.

## CALBOURNE



*The Swainstone Seedling Strawberry*

The Swainstone strawberry was recommended by the Horticultural Society of London as one of the six best varieties for cultivation.

Plants were taken from London to Massachusetts and in 1846 the *Horticulturist* magazine of New York reported it to have the very highest flavour, great beauty and be an excellent bearer, with fruits of three to four inches in circumference.

The Swainstone kitchen garden, some 240m from north to south, is shown on the 1863 OS laid out in a series of compartments along a track on the eastern boundary and planted with fruit trees. A small compound of outbuildings between the southern part of the garden and the house is shown on the 1898 to comprise a number of glasshouses and outbuildings.

The house, by then known as **Swainston**, was largely gutted by an incendiary bomb and fire in World War II and reconstructed in 1951. Since then it has been used as a school, a country club and, latterly, as an hotel.

In the later C20 the kitchen garden, with ranges of modern greenhouses, was run as **Swainston Nursery** producing flowers and vegetables mainly for local sale. This use has now ceased and the garden is understood to be mostly uncultivated.

A 27m length of brick wall survives midway along the western side of the garden and further research is needed to establish whether the remainder of the kitchen garden was also walled.



*Swainstone: the kitchen garden to the right on the 1863 OS*

The former grounds of Swainston, now in divided ownership, are included on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens at grade II.

# CALBOURNE

## WESTOVER

SZ 4232 8635 Size: 0.5ha (1.24 acre) Date: mid C18

In about 1760 a small house was built at Westover by Thomas Holmes of Yarmouth, Isle of Wight for use as a hunting box. The house is indicated on the 1769 Andrews map within an area of parkland and with two walled kitchen gardens, one to the west and one to the southeast of the house. On the 1793 OS the kitchen garden to the west is indicated and an enclosed, although possibly not walled, orchard to the southeast.

The house (now LBII\*) was rebuilt in 1813-15 to designs by architect John Nash. In the early C19 the approach and grounds around the new house were altered and the park extended, but the late C18 stable courtyard (LBII) and adjoining C18 walled kitchen garden (LBII) to the west of the house were retained. On the 1863 OS the walled garden is shown divided by tree lined paths into four quarters with a long narrow building within the north-eastern area. This building is shown as a glasshouse on the 1898 OS. Outside the western wall a service area with outbuildings is shown.

At its northeast corner the ground level of the walled garden is about 2m higher than within the stable courtyard. The stone rubble garden walls with ashlar quoins and stone coping range from about 3.3m to 4m in height with seven substantial angled brick buttresses to the outside of the northern wall. An entrance in the western wall leads to the former service area and there are also single entrances in both the northern and southern walls leading out into the grounds. The northern part of the walled garden is now laid out with a hard tennis court, areas for fruit and vegetable production and retains ranges of C19 glasshouses. The southern part of the garden now forms an ornamental flower garden.

*Westover: the 1863 OS with, from the left, the service area, walled kitchen garden, stable courtyard and house*



The walled garden remains as part of the private grounds of Westover, the whole of which are included on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens at grade II.

## CHALE

**CHALE FARM** SZ 4856 7788 Size: 0.26ha (0.63 acre) Date: late C18 or earlier  
The stone manor house, now known as **Chale Abbey** (LBII\*), is one of the oldest buildings on the Island. It was never a monastery but a house built in the 1330s by the Constable of Carisbrooke Castle, John de Langford, and possibly incorporated part of an earlier house. The house was altered and extended in the C15, C16 and C19 and close by is a C16 stone barn (LBII\*). The location of a garden in Chale belonging to de Langford and his wife Johanna, mentioned in a deed dated 1337, is not known.

The present walled garden lies to the north of these buildings on the opposite side of what is now Upper House Lane and is indicated on the 1793 OS. The 1863 OS shows the walled garden divided north to south at the centre. The eastern half is laid out with regular paths and with an orchard to the west. A further roughly triangular piece of ground to the east also has paths and orchard trees and a further orchard area is indicated to the south of the walled garden on either side off a stream.



*Chale Farm: the walled garden (top left) on the 1863 OS and walls at the northeastern corner*

In 2014 no evidence of paths or division appears to remain. The garden is enclosed by coursed stone rubble walls with an irregular stone coping. The walls to the north and east are 2.4m high, the western wall is 2.1m and the southern wall only 1.4m high. The northern wall has three small openings or 'putlogs', with a further one in the western wall, about 1.2m above ground level although no map evidence has been found of any structures within the walled garden.

The walled garden is now mainly laid to lawn with some old orchard trees in the northwest corner and is part of the private grounds of Chale Abbey.

## COWES

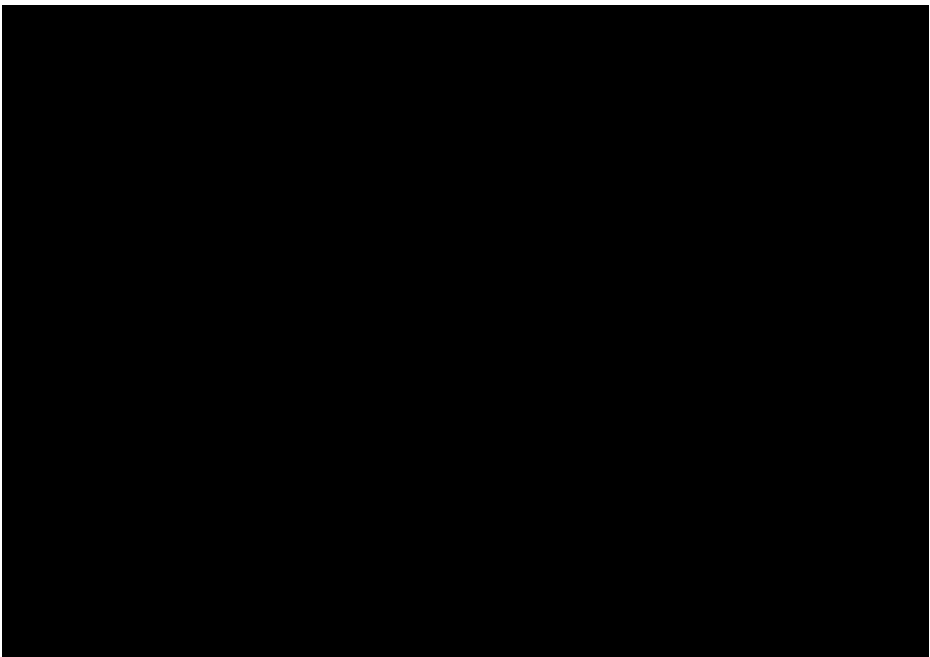
BELLEVUE

SZ 5779 8078 Size: 0.48ha (1.19 acre) Date: C18

In 1783 London merchant George Ward bought the Bellevue estate and by 1800 had built a house there. A plan of about 1817 shows the house, park and a kitchen garden to the south of St Mary's Church laid out with a grid of paths dividing cultivated compartments, some with fruit trees.

The house, renamed *Northwood House*, was extensively enlarged from 1837 onwards. The walled kitchen garden is indicated on both the 1844 Northwood Tithe Map and the 1865 25" OS. The walled garden as a whole was an irregular 'P' shape with five main compartments and, north of an internal east-west wall, a further long rectangular compartment containing ranges of glasshouses. A further glasshouse and a reservoir were sited outside the walled garden to the southwest. A lease of 1852 refers to vine, pine (pineapple) and peach houses.

The kitchen garden continued in cultivation into the 1920s. In 1929 the trustees of the Ward estate presented the house and grounds to Cowes Urban District Council and the pleasure grounds became a public park. The Council used the walled garden to grow produce for sale and during World War II it became allotments as part of the 'Dig for Victory' effort. The garden continued to be cultivated, producing shrubs and bedding plants, into the 1960s.



*Northwood House: the walled kitchen garden in 1928*

Photo: <http://britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EPW022955> © English Heritage

## COWES

By the 1970s the western part of the site was developed with sheltered housing and cultivation of the kitchen garden ceased. The roughly 2m high northern wall was partly demolished, with the remainder forming the northern boundary of the sheltered housing. The outer face of this wall is in Bembridge limestone ashlar and the inner in red brick and partially rebuilt. A short return remains of the western wall at the northwest corner of the former kitchen garden. On the eastern boundary the ashlar walls have been reduced to about 1m in height and form the boundary of the public park. Elsewhere the garden walls have been demolished and no evidence appears to remain.

In 2014 the west area of the former walled garden has been further developed with sheltered housing and the east area is generally grassed with no evidence of the former path layout remaining. Since 2010 the house and public park have been owned and managed by the Northwood House Charitable Trust.

### EGYPT HOUSE

SZ 5804 8237 Size: 0.32ha (0.78 acre) Date: late C19

The boundaries of the walled kitchen garden at Egypt House (LBII) are indicated on the 1793 OS and in 1795 the house was described as the residence of a Mr Collins who kept an elegant yacht. The 1865 OS shows the garden divided by paths lined by fruit trees with a small glasshouse on a northern wall which partly separated the productive area from the house pleasure grounds to the north.

The walled garden was retained when the house underwent a major rebuilding including a crenellated parapet and tower in about 1880. The site slopes down to the north with a 0.5m high east-west embankment sloping down on its northern boundary where part of a buttressed brick wall also survives. On the eastern boundary the generally 1.5m high coursed stone rubble wall remains and continues northwards as the road boundary to the pleasure grounds. The former kitchen garden appears to remain a part of the grounds of Egypt House, but is not cultivated.



*Egypt House: external view of the eastern stone boundary wall*

A 2012 planning approval for four detached houses to be built in the walled kitchen garden had not been implemented in August 2014. The approved scheme would retain the eastern stone boundary wall and include a new brick wall dividing the housing area from the pleasure ground of Egypt House.



## EAST COWES

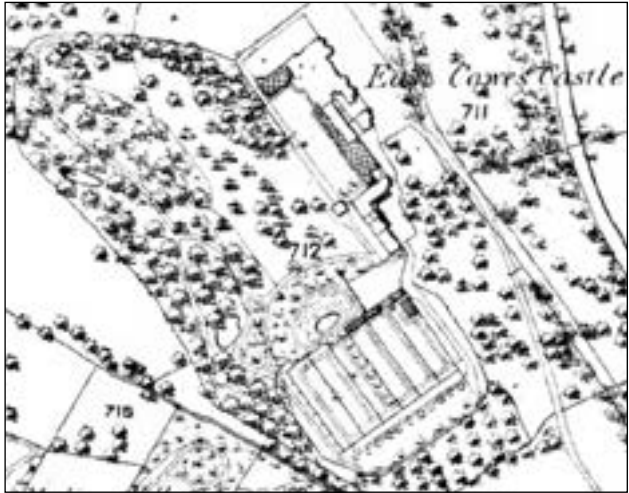
### EAST COWES CASTLE

John Nash built the Castle in 1798-1802 as his own retreat. By his death in 1835 it was a large Gothic fantasy.

The walled kitchen garden to the south is shown on the 1864 OS and appears to be laid out in narrow terraces with glasshouses at the northern corner.

Both the Castle and walled kitchen garden were demolished in the 1960s for residential development.

SZ 5082 9545 Size: 0.35ha (0.85 acre) Date: late C18



*East Cowes Castle: the 1864 OS*

### NORRIS CASTLE

In about 1799 James Wyatt designed both a house (LBI) and a combined farm and walled kitchen garden complex (LBI) for Lord Henry Seymour. Both are in the form of theatrical neo-medieval castles.

SZ 5153 9582 Size: 0.71ha (1.75 acre) Date: late C18



*Norris Castle: an undated aerial view of the farm and walled kitchen garden when it was clearly still in cultivation*

## EAST COWES

The combined farm and kitchen garden are arranged back to back about 275m south of the main house. To the northwest ranges of farm buildings on either side of the bailiff's house form the main front of the complex, facing onto a drive. These buildings and associated yard areas are enclosed by a stone rubble castellated wall. To the southeast the wall continues to enclose the large kitchen garden with square turrets at the corners. The main entrance into the garden is in the northeastern wall with double doors in a round headed opening have a further turret on either side.

The 1864 OS shows the kitchen garden divided by paths, some lined by fruit trees, into rectangular plots and with one large glasshouse on the northwestern wall and two smaller glasshouses within the garden in a symmetrical arrangement. Only the large glasshouse survives in poor condition and the walled garden is generally no longer cultivated.

The picturesque and unusual form of the castellated farm and walled garden is unique on the Island and of national significance. It is thought that the 58ha landscaped grounds of Norris Castle were probably designed by Humphry Repton. They remain in private ownership and are included on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens at grade II.

### OSBORNE

SZ 5141 9473 Size: 0.41ha (1.02 acre) Date: late C18

Although Osborne is mostly associated with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert the walled kitchen garden pre-dates their purchase of the estate in 1845. In the 1770s and 1780s Robert Pope Blachford, who had inherited a fortune, improved Osborne with a new house together with stables and the red brick walled garden. The garden was in full production in 1845 when Victoria "took Vicky, Bertie and Alice to the kitchen garden where they gathered gooseberries, raspberries and currents to their heart's content & were very good". In June 1846 she recorded that the fruit trees in the kitchen garden were covered with fruit.



*Osborne: the walled kitchen garden on the 1864 OS and an internal view with the eastern wall, heightened in the C19, and the original C18 southern wall*

## EAST COWES

The many improvements carried out by Victoria and Albert, apart from building a new Osborne House (LBI), including work to the kitchen garden.

Prince Albert bought many new plants and in 1850 the 3.6m high eastern wall was raised in height by 1.2m and the Portico (LBII) from the old house installed as a main entrance. New glasshouses were erected in 1854 and a range of outbuildings built along the outside of the northern wall which was also raised in height.



*Osborne: the new 1850 entrance*

The layout is shown on the 1864 25" OS with the rectangular garden divided by paths into four plots edged with fruit trees and with glasshouses within and to the north of the walled garden. In the later years of Victoria's reign the garden was largely used for growing flowers and decorative plants for the house with violets cultivated in frames for the Christmas period.

Following Queen Victoria's death in 1901 parts of Osborne House were used as a convalescent home for officers in the armed services who also used the walled kitchen garden as a retreat. The garden has now been restored, including two of the 1854 glasshouses on the northern wall, and includes new beds and arbours of fruit, vegetables and flowers designed by Rupert Golby and added in 2000. The Osborne Estate is owned by the nation and since 1984 has been the responsibility of English Heritage who open the house and grounds to the public. The landscaped grounds, including the walled kitchen garden, are included on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens at grade II\*.

### SLATWOODS

SZ 5038 9589 Size: 0.22ha (0.55 acre) Date: late C18



*Slatwoods: the outside face of the northern wall with a blocked doorway*

A house was built here on the site of an earlier farmhouse in 1795 for William Arnold.

The 1864 OS shows a walled kitchen garden sited between the house and what is now New Road, to the south. The irregularly shaped garden is divided into small cultivated quarters, some edged with fruit trees. An outbuilding outside the northwestern corner of the garden is possibly a stable block.

## EAST COWES

The 1908 OS shows that three glasshouses had been added, one set against the northern wall, and a lodge built in the southeastern corner of the garden. By 1947 the main house at Slatwoods had been demolished and the walled kitchen garden developed with semi-detached housing and with the possible stable building converted into two dwellings. Evidence remains in the form of the northern stone rubble wall and the eastern wall in Flemish bond brickwork which now provides a boundary wall to the garden of the lodge, now a private house.

### **SPRINGHILL**

SZ 5107 9608 Size: 0.39ha (0.96 acre) Date: early - mid C19

The estate was purchased in 1794 by William Goodrich with the present house rebuilt by his grandson William George Shedden in 1863. The narrow rectilinear garden is shown on the 1864 OS divided by paths lined with fruit trees. Straight paths define rectangular planted areas with two curved paths forming a circular route towards the centre of the garden. A small glasshouse is indicated against the north wall. To the west the garden is shown separated from the pleasure grounds adjoining the house by a track leading north to a group of farm buildings. The east boundary is on the line of the 2.5m high random stone rubble wall of the Norris Castle estate built in about 1800. The 1864 OS indicates a rectangular building on the Norris side of this wall towards the centre of the kitchen garden.

In 1947 Springhill was purchased by the Holy Cross Convent. In 2014 the path layout does not survive and the kitchen garden is divided into five compartments. At the north end of the garden a small compartment is enclosed by stone rubble walls with a C19 or early C20 glasshouse in poor condition built against the north wall. The next two larger compartments to the south comprise a vegetable garden and an orchard, divided and bounded to the west by post and wire fences. From the orchard a door gives access to the building within the Norris estate indicated on the 1864 OS. The final two compartments to the south are a small arboretum and the convent cemetery, enclosed by 1.8m high C20 brick walls.



*Springhill: the eastern boundary wall with the Norris Castle estate and orchard trees in the north of the garden*

## EAST COWES

In 2014 the partly walled garden remains in the ownership of the Holy Cross Convent and, with the whole of the Convent's Springhill estate, is included on the Isle of Wight Council's Local List.

**THE LODGE** SZ 5036 9570 Size: 0.28ha (0.69 acre) Date: late C18  
This property is recorded in 1795 as belonging to a rich merchant, Mr Auldjo. It is shown on the 1864 OS set in parkland with a kitchen garden to the south shielded from view by a line of trees. The garden is divided by paths into eight quarters with some fruit trees. The walled garden was bordered on its southern side by Church Path, a relict of an early footpath, where it was marked by a high stone wall reputed to include large blocks reused from Henry VIII's lost East Cowes castle.

By the time of the 1908 OS The Lodge had been demolished and the former kitchen garden is shown as open ground, which remained so in 1947 when it was part of the grounds of a social club. In the early C21 the site was developed as car parking for a new supermarket and the line of Church Path altered. A section of the boundary wall between the kitchen garden and Church Path remains as a feature of the supermarket entrance area and an adjoining pedestrian path. The outer face of the wall is in stone rubble and the inner face, formerly facing into the kitchen garden, in Flemish garden wall bond brickwork above a stone rubble base.



*The Lodge: the two sides of the former southern kitchen garden wall with modern brick coping and extended plinth base*

## FISHBOURNE

### QUARR ABBEY

SZ 5622 9262 Size: 0.86ha (2.13 acre) Date: early C20

The original Abbey was founded in 1132 and dissolved in 1536 when it passed into private ownership. Fragments of the C13 buildings (SM and LBII) remain, together with parts of the C14 stone rubble defensive wall (LBII\*). In the Middle Ages monasteries were an important influence on gardening and there were doubtless gardens at Quarr, possibly walled, but no record has been found.

The Victorian **Quarr Abbey House**, to the west of the old Abbey site, is shown on the 1864 OS, but with no indication of a walled garden. The house was purchased in 1907 by Benedictine Monks who had settled temporarily at Appuldurcombe in 1901. A new abbey (LBI) was built, incorporating the Victorian house, and with a large walled kitchen garden constructed in 1907-8. A 1932 aerial photograph shows the garden in full cultivation with orchard areas outside the walls to the east and west.



*Quarr Abbey: the walled kitchen garden in 1932*  
Photo: <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EPW03945> © English Heritage

The east, west and irregular northern boundary walls very largely survive and are 2.1m high, in Flemish garden wall bond brickwork with a concrete coping and shallow brick buttresses on the outside face. The southern boundary was never walled and is marked by a hedge.



*Quarr Abbey: pear trees trained on the east facing wall*

The walled garden remains a part of the grounds of Quarr Abbey. An area in the northeast of the garden is now cultivated as an allotment to provide social and recreational activities for people with learning disabilities. The garden is also used for the Quarr Abbey Poultry Project with hens re-homed from a commercial environment. There are also orchard areas and, towards the centre of the garden, ornamental planting around the Abbey's cafe and farm shop.

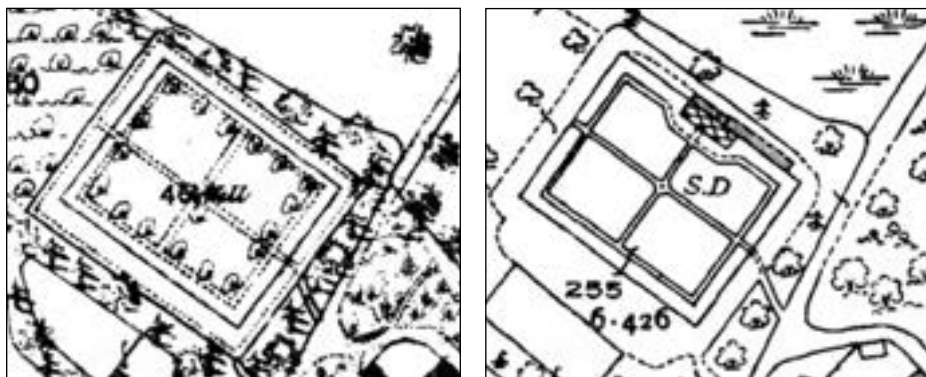
## FRESHWATER

### AFTON HOUSE

SZ 3476 8693 Size: 0.29ha (0.7 acre) Date: early C18  
Afton was acquired by the Urry family in 1591 and a David Urry built the present house, now known as **Afton Manor** (LB II\*), together with a coach house and stable (LB II) in c.1725. It is likely that the rectangular walled kitchen garden (LB II) also dates from this time and it is indicated on the 1769 Andrews map. The kitchen garden is shown on the 1862 OS some 75m northwest of the main house within a double line of enclosure. The inner area is divided by paths into four rectangular planting beds, with a well at the centre, and an outer perimeter border. Planting beds are partly edged with fruit trees and a central east-west path connects to the outer area where there is a further perimeter path.

The 1898 OS shows a glasshouse had been added at the centre of the northern wall and later OS show the adjacent path diverted around the new structure. By 1946 the central well had been replaced by a sundial. The double line of enclosure around the garden is shown to survive, at least in part, on OS maps until 1946. The outer area was possibly fenced or hedged. The inner area is enclosed by high stone rubble walls (LB II) with a brick round-headed arches opening in each of the eastern and western walls and has survived little altered into the C21.

The walled garden is within the private grounds of Afton Manor. It is believed to still be in cultivation and so is an unusual example of an C18 walled kitchen garden still in use for its original purpose.



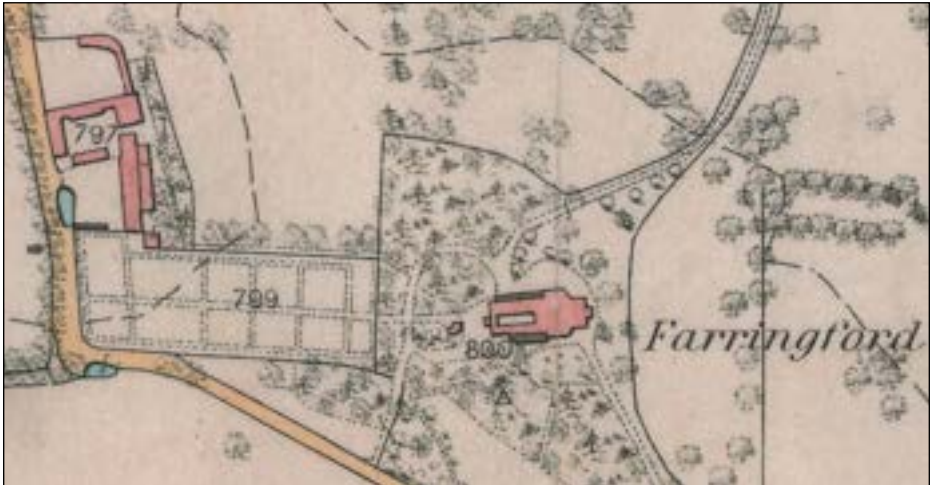
*Afton House: extracts from the 1862 and 1946 OS maps*

### FARRINGFORD

SZ 3364 8617 Size: 0.39ha (0.97 acre) Date: early C19  
Although Farringford is best known for its association with Alfred Tennyson the walled kitchen garden has earlier origins. Edward Rushworth built the original house (LBI) in 1802-3 when it was known as Farringford Lodge. When the house and estate were offered for sale in 1818 an advertisement in The Times stated that there were two kitchen gardens "one surrounded by walls, well stocked with capital fruit trees in full bearing". It cannot be certain, but seems likely that this was on the same site as the enclosed garden shown on the 1837 Freshwater Tithe Map which corresponds with the former kitchen garden boundaries today.

## FRESHWATER

In the early C19 the property had various owners including John Hamborough who made changes and improvements in the fashionable 'Gothick' style before building and moving to Steephill Castle (see Ventnor). Alfred and Emily Tennyson first leased Farringford in 1853 before buying it in 1856. The 1862 OS shows the kitchen garden laid out with regular paths with a central axial path leading east directly towards the house.



*Farringford: extract from the 1862 OS with the kitchen garden marked 799*

The Tennysons were active in new landscaping of the grounds around the house and in the cultivation of the kitchen garden. Emily's journals make references to Alfred checking on potatoes he had planted, lighting the brick stove in the greenhouse for the first time, tying up lettuces, and planting "roses and clematis and woodbine near his chair in the corner of the kitchen garden, (I call it his but he put it there for me), and one rose tree near our arbour". The arbour was situated on the higher ground in the east of the walled garden and would have had views out over the surrounding countryside.

Artist Helen Allingham visited Farringford in the 1890s and several of her paintings of the kitchen garden show an exuberant mix of flowers, fruit trees and vegetables.

After the death of Tennyson in 1892 the property remained in the family until 1945 when it was sold to the company of Thomas Cook who converted it into an hotel. Pontins bought Farringford in 1960 and developed the walled kitchen garden with self-catering chalets which remained in use, under various ownerships, into the C21. The grounds were included on the Isle of Wight Council's Local List in 2002.



## FRESHWATER

Walls remain to the south, west and a part of the northern boundaries where the garden adjoins the C18 farmhouse (LBII). The walls range in height from about 2.5 to 4m in height with the south wall stepping down the slope to the west. The outside of this wall is in coursed random stone with red brick to the inside face and a cobbled stone coping. The west wall, in yellow brick, also has a cobble coping and curves down between decorative brick piers allowing views out from the kitchen garden. It remains uncertain whether the remainder of the north and the east boundary were in fact walled.

In 2012 planning permission was granted for an extensive restoration scheme at Farringford including demolition of the chalets in the walled garden, its restoration to the time of the Tennysons and a reconstruction of their arbour.



*Farringford: the curves in the west wall and a view by Helen Allingham*

**NORTON COTTAGE** SZ 3460 8952 Size: 0.19ha (0.48 acre) Date: mid C19 or earlier  
The 1862 OS shows Norton Cottage immediately to the east of what is now Halletts Shute. On the opposite side of the road an entrance between two smaller buildings leads to a kitchen garden which appears to serve the cottage. The garden is shown with regular paths, fruit trees, a pump, well and a small glasshouse against the northern boundary. By 1898 the smaller buildings and cottage no longer remained and a new dwelling named Norlands is shown on the east side of the road within the former grounds of Norton Cottage. By 1976 the kitchen garden had been divided and developed with three detached dwellings. The southern and eastern coursed stone rubble walls mostly survive.

**NORTON LODGE** SZ 3458 8968 Size: 0.25ha (0.63 acre) Date: mid C19 or earlier  
The roughly 'L' shaped walled kitchen garden of Norton Lodge is shown on the 1862 OS with an outbuilding or possibly a gardener's cottage at the eastern corner some 30m from the house. The garden is divided by paths into small rectangular planting areas with a pump or well towards the centre. The main approach to the house passed to the north of the walled garden with a line of trees between the two. The 1898 OS shows the southern leg of the garden divided off by outbuildings and a small glasshouse outside the southern wall.

## FRESHWATER

By 1976 the much extended Norton Lodge and the majority of its grounds had become the Yarmouth Chalet Hotel. By this time the possible gardeners cottage and the majority of the walled kitchen garden area had become the present private property known as Careys Sconce. In 2014 the 2.4 - 3m high un-coursed stone rubble walls of the former kitchen garden largely survive around what is now a private garden. The northern wall, with a red brick coping, incorporates a small garden building which was first indicated on the 1946 OS. The Yarmouth Chalet Hotel is now the Norton Grange Coastal Resort.



*Norton Lodge: the outside face of the north garden wall*

### WEST HILL

SZ 3422 8950 Size: 0.29ha (0.72 acre) Date: early C19

The property is first indicated on a map of 1812. The house is shown on the 1862 25" OS situated in large ornamental and partly wooded grounds, with a kitchen garden with regular paths and fruit trees to the south. At this time it was owned and occupied by Admiral Richard Crozier. The 1898 OS shows the addition of glasshouses within the kitchen garden, including some against the western boundary which indicates that it was, at least in part, walled.

The site is shown little changed on the 1946 OS, but by 1976 was largely developed for bungalows. In 2014 no evidence of the kitchen garden appears to survive.

## GATCOMBE

**GATCOMBE HOUSE** SZ 4930 8482 Size: 0.46ha (1.13 acre) Date: early C19  
The present Gatcombe House (LBII\*) was built in 1751 for Sir Edward Worsley. Some 120m south of the house, evidence remains of a kitchen garden immediately south of the C18 coach house and stables (LBII). This garden is thought to date from a widespread reordering of the grounds and parkland between 1793 and 1843 and the 1864 OS shows the rectangular kitchen garden with a regular path layout.

The garden was laid out on a plateau formed at the northern end by an embankment rising approximately 1.8m above the ground level of the coach house and embankments leading down some 1.5m along its eastern and southern boundaries. The extent of the original boundary walls is unclear. Sales particulars in 1926 describe a productive walled kitchen garden with a very large and varied stock, two small greenhouses and a new 'stokehole' or boiler house for a new range of glasshouses which had been planned, but not built.



*Gatcombe House: the brick wall on the eastern boundary and, right, the grassed bank and stone retaining wall on the western boundary adjoining the coach house*

At the northeast corner of the garden area a short section of 3.6m high English garden wall bond brick walling remains and on the western boundary a stone rubble retaining wall of similar height adjoins the coach house. West of the retaining wall and at a higher ground level, a further small rectangular garden area is enclosed with stone rubble walls with brick detailing. South of this small garden is the stone built 'stokehole' which adjoins a roughly 50m long double span timber greenhouse which forms the remainder of the western boundary, built after 1926 and now in poor condition. No evidence appears to remain of a south wall.

The former kitchen garden is now largely grassed and forms the private garden for Gatcombe Coach House, now converted to form two dwellings. East of the garden an early C20 gardener's cottage is in separate ownership. The whole of the Gatcombe grounds are included on the Isle of Wight Council's Local List.

# GODSHILL

## STENBURY

SZ 5243 7907 Size: 0.19ha (0.46 acre) Date: late C18

This is a Domesday Manor and a formerly moated site, now a Scheduled Monument. The present Stenbury Manor (LBII) dates from the early C17 with an early C18 extension by Sir Robert Worsley, who is said to have used the house while Appuldurcombe was being rebuilt. A narrow rectangular walled orchard is shown on the 1793 OS 75m to the northwest of the house. The 1878 OS shows it laid out with regular paths and planted with fruit trees. Sales Particulars described 'an excellent walled-in Orchard and Kitchen Garden' in 1939 and the 1945 OS shows the area partly planted with fruit trees. Modern aerial photographs indicate that the kitchen garden is no longer cultivated but that parts of the enclosing walls may remain.

## THE HERMITAGE

SZ 4991 7885 Size: 0.18ha (0.44 acre) Date: early C19

Documentary references to 'Armitage' date back to the early C17, but the walled kitchen garden probably dates from c.1810 when Russian merchant Michael Hoy built a villa there which he called 'The Medina Hermitage'. The roughly rectangular walled garden is sited in the wooded grounds below the house some 100m to the east, as indicated on the 1866 6" OS. The stone rubble walls with dressed stone detailing are generally 2 - 2.5m high. The 1887 OS indicates steps leading up to a raised area of ground adjoining the west wall and the main lower level with fruit trees within a regular path layout. A southern entrance leads to a meandering circuit path in the ornamental grounds.



*The Hermitage: entrances in the northern and southern walls in August 2014*

The 1898 OS shows a large glasshouse running north-south adjoining the change in level in the west of the walled garden. This is likely to date from 1895 when the main house was substantially rebuilt following a fire. In the C20 the house had various uses, including the Island's first Youth Hostel, and is now a private home. In the late C20 the walled garden was used for some years as a plant nursery but is now disused. The enclosing stone walls remain although, mainly due to tree damage, parts are in poor structural condition. The whole of The Hermitage grounds are included on the Isle of Wight Council's Local List.

## HAVENSTREET AND ASHEY

### BEAULIEU HOUSE

SZ 5595 9006 Size: 0.14ha (0.36 acre) Date: mid C19

This villa property is shown on the 1863 OS with a roughly square walled kitchen garden plus an adjacent and somewhat larger productive garden to the east of the pleasure grounds.

In 1882, Lancashire industrialist John Rylands bought the property as a holiday home, enlarged the house and renamed it **Longford House** after his main residence, Longford Hall near Manchester. The 1898 OS shows that ranges of glasshouses had been added in both the walled garden and further productive area. In the C20 the property became Longford Hospital and is now **Northbrooke Nursing Home**.

The eastern and southern red brick walls of the kitchen garden remain and are about 2.7m high. The walled garden is now partly developed and forms part of the nursing home with informal woodland in the further productive area.



*Beaulieu House: the south entrance into the former kitchen garden in 2014*

### UPTON HOUSE

SZ 5807 9031 Size: 0.24ha (0.59 acre) Date: mid C19

Set within modest pleasure grounds this villa is shown on the 1864 OS with a roughly rectangular walled kitchen garden and further orchard area to the south. By 1898 glasshouses and outbuildings had been added to the kitchen garden, which appears to have remained in use into the 1940s, but on the 1972 OS is shown as a Scrap Metal Works.

Walls remain on the west, south and east boundaries of the former garden. The roadside western elevation is in random stone rising from 1.5m to 3m in height with the higher section corresponding to the site of a former glasshouse. The 1.5m high southern boundary is partly C19 Flemish bond brickwork and partly C20 blockwork and the 1.8m eastern boundary is brick with external piers and partly rendered.

A now derelict two storey C19 outbuilding in buff brick remains in the former walled garden, which has been partly developed with modern storage buildings and appears to remain in commercial use.

## NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW

### FAIRY HILL A

SZ 6243 9102 Size: 0.21ha (0.51 acre) Date: late C18

The late C18 brick house (LBII) is shown on the 1793 OS with an adjoining walled garden to the southwest and an orchard area across a lane (now Seaview Lane) to the east. The 1862 OS indicates outbuildings, regular paths and fruit trees within the walled kitchen garden and by 1897 glasshouses had been added. The house, extended in both the C19 and later C20, is now divided into four dwellings and no evidence of the walled kitchen garden appears to remain.

### FAIRY HILL B

SZ 6249 9100 Size: 0.18ha (0.43 acre) Date: mid C19

This second walled kitchen garden is first shown on the 1862 OS and occupies part of the orchard area indicated in 1793. Again a glasshouse had been added against the northern wall by 1897 and the 1946 OS shows the garden planted as an orchard.

This site was divided and developed with two detached dwellings within private gardens in the late C20. All four of the former kitchen garden walls remain, with the western and southern walls forming the road boundary to the plots. The 2.4m high northern wall, in stretcher bond brickwork, retains traces of white paint in the location of the glasshouse. The three other walls are all in random coursed stone rubble with rounded stone coping and about 2.1m in height.



*Fairy Hill: entrance gate*

### MARINE VILLA

SZ 6296 9151 Size: 0.18ha (0.44 acre) Date: mid C19

This house, with a small irregular shaped walled kitchen garden, was known as Marine Villa in 1862 and 1897, as **Sea View House** from 1909 to 1946 and **Seaview House** from the later C20. The 1862 OS indicates two ranges of buildings within the walled garden which, at the southwest corner, included a gardener's house and, to the southeast, accommodation for the butler. Two small buildings against the western wall are marked on the 1897 OS as glasshouses.



*Marine Villa: entrance gate*

By 1973 the gardener's and butler's houses were both in separate ownership with the walled garden divided between the two. Seaview House is now divided into flats.

The western and northern walls of the former kitchen garden remain, meeting at a curved junction and forming road boundaries to the two house plots. Ranging in height from 2.4m to 3.6m, they are in random stone rubble on the outer face and Flemish garden wall bond red brickwork internally, with two courses of projecting brickwork below a rounded stone rubble coping.

## NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW

**PRIORY** SZ 6315 9043 Size: 0.43ha (1.07 acre) Date: mid C19 with earlier origins  
Now the **Priory Bay Hotel**, this site takes its name from a small Cluniac priory established in Norman times and dissolved in 1414. From the C16 to the C18 the site was a tenanted farm in the ownership of Eton College and in the later C18 the Priory was leased by the Grose family who finally purchased it in 1799. The property remained in the family until 1927.

The 1769 Andrews map names Nash Grose Esq. as the occupier and indicates a substantial house within a walled enclosure with a group of farm buildings to the south. It also indicates two rectangular detached walled gardens, one to the west and one north of the house. The 1793 OS shows the western garden enclosed, but possibly not walled, and an expanded two compartment walled garden to the north, with a further adjacent area of ground also in cultivation.

By the time of the 1864 OS these kitchen garden areas had been remodelled to form a large irregular 'P' shaped walled garden, adjacent to a new coach house, with further productive areas laid out immediately to the south and east. Glasshouses, unusually positioned in the east of the walled garden, had been added by 1897. For a part of the early C20 the Priory was owned by an American millionairess, Mrs Evelyn St George, who employed six gardeners and grew exotic plants in the glasshouses.



*Priory: the 1897 OS with the walled kitchen garden and glasshouses at top left*

Subsequently it was owned by the Workers' Travel Association until 1981, when it passed into private hands. In the late C20 the coach house was converted to residential accommodation, a bungalow constructed at the northeastern corner of the walled garden and a detached house at its centre.

Brick walls remain on the northern, southern and a part of the eastern boundary of the C19 'P' shaped walled kitchen garden. The eastern and southern walls, the latter with buttresses to the north side, are thought to be part of the C19 remodelling. The northern wall, with evidence of nail holes and built with narrower bricks, appears to be older and is possibly a survival from the C18 walled kitchen garden.

The whole of the grounds of the Priory Bay Hotel, including the former kitchen garden areas, are included on the Isle of Wight Council's Local List.

## NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW

### PUCKPOOL

SZ 6134 9193 Size: 0.13ha (0.31 acre) Date: early C19 or earlier  
The manor of Puckpool dates back to the C13. The 1769 Andrews map indicates an enclosed orchard to the south of a farmhouse and the 1793 OS shows a kitchen garden and small orchard in a similar location. The property was purchased in 1822 by architect Lewis Wyatt, who replaced the farmhouse with a substantial *cottage orné* known as **Puckpool House** (LBII). After Wyatt's death in 1853 Puckpool was used as a holiday home by the famous Spode china family. In 1861 it was purchased by the War Department who built Puckpool Battery defences (SM) on the shoreline. The 1866 6" OS indicates a kitchen garden in a similar position to the C18 productive gardens, with a southern boundary to what is now Puckpool Hill. The 1880 OS shows regular paths, a detached glasshouse and a sundial within the walled garden.



*Puckpool and St Clare: the 1897 OS showing both walled kitchen gardens*

Under various ownerships the house and remaining grounds were generally tenanted until 1939, when Warners opened the site as Puckpool Holiday Camp. Combined with the adjoining St Clare site as Harcourt Sands Holiday Park in 1992, the site continued as a holiday camp until closing in 2006.

The original extent of walls enclosing the garden is unclear, but walling remains to parts of the northern and western boundaries. The walls vary in height from 1.8m to 2.4m and are random stone rubble with a rounded stone cobbles coping above a projecting stone slate course. Puckpool House, now in much reduced private grounds, remains in private residential use.



*Puckpool: part of the remaining western wall*



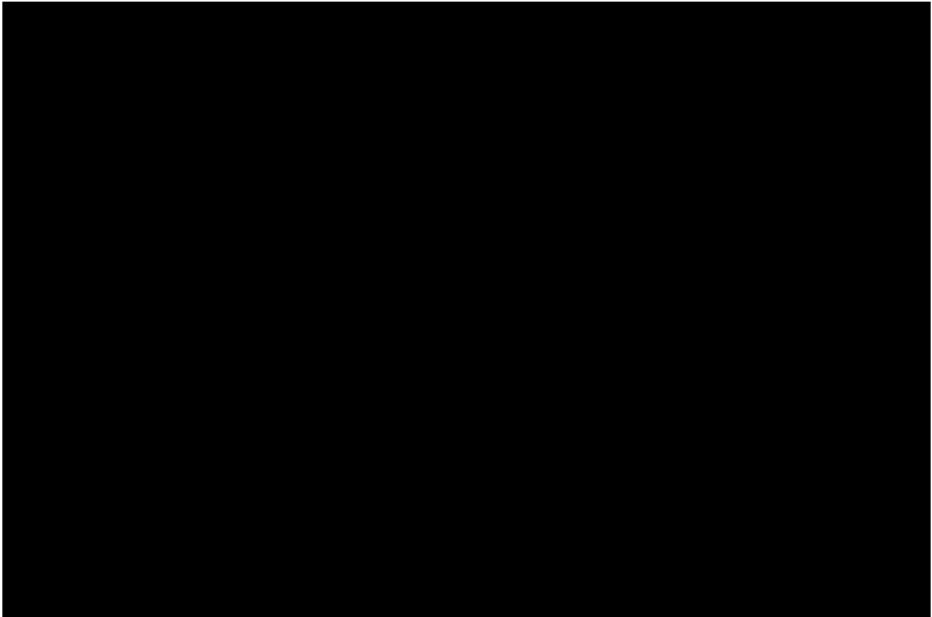
## NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW

### ST CLARE

SZ 6110 9198 Size: 0.51ha (1.25 acre) Date: early C19

The grounds of St Clare lie immediately west of Puckpool and an irregular castellated mansion was built here in 1823 for Edward Utterson to a design by architect James Sanderson. Later owners included Colonel Vernon-Harcourt, an equerry to Queen Victoria's mother and Isle of Wight MP. The Queen and other members of the royal family were visitors.

The 1863 OS shows the large irregular walled kitchen garden to the southwest of the mansion and bounded to the south by what is now Puckpool Hill. A number of glasshouses were sited at the northwest corner with a group of farm buildings outside the walled garden and a lodge straddling the eastern garden boundary. Later OS maps and aerial photographs taken in 1928 and 1946 show the layout and use of the walled garden remained little changed well into the C20.



*St Clare: a 1928 aerial view with the walled kitchen garden at top centre*

Photo: <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EPW23015> © English Heritage

After World War II the main part of the estate was sold to Warners and became a holiday camp. The mansion was demolished in the early 1960s following a fire. In the later C20 the farm buildings were converted with detached houses. The high brick walls of the former kitchen garden, in parts rebuilt, survive to the northern, western and southern boundaries. In keeping with the style of the C19 mansion, the northern wall is castellated with a central entrance which formerly linked to the ornamental wooded grounds of St Clare.

## NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW

### SEA GROVE

SZ 6295 9112 Size: 0.35ha (0.86 acre) Date: late C18  
At Sea Grove (later **Seagrove**) the house with an adjoining rectangular walled garden to the south is indicated on the 1793 OS. By 1862 this garden had been extended to a curving western boundary, had outbuildings at the northeast corner and was laid out with fruit tree lined paths. A range of buildings on the eastern boundary of the garden formed part of a complex of domestic offices and farm buildings arranged around a courtyard. The 1897 OS shows glasshouses had been built on the outside of the southern wall and a conservatory added to the house in the north of the garden. The layout shown on the 1946 OS is little altered apart from a small private chapel built just outside the western boundary.

By 1973 the house had been converted to flats, the domestic offices and farm courtyard buildings largely converted to form dwellings and a new house built within the walled garden, which was further divided to provide gardens for the various converted buildings.

The curving west wall of the former kitchen garden largely survives and is built in random stone with brick detailing and coping. About 2.2m to 2.4m in height, this wall steps down to the north with stone and brick piers marking the level changes.



*Sea Grove: part of the west garden wall*

Parts of the southern wall also survive and are of similar construction with higher sections of brickwork marking the position of former glasshouses.

### THORNTON

SZ 6086 9172 Size: 0.36ha (0.88 acre) Date: mid C19

The house within ornamental grounds and with a good sized walled kitchen garden are shown on the 1866 6" OS.



*Thornton: part of the former kitchen garden wall*

The property, later known as **Thornton Manor**, appears to have survived in this form until the late C20 when it was divided and the grounds developed with three houses on the site of the former walled kitchen garden. Close to the Victorian house a section of rat trap bond red brick walling remains, which was once a part of the eastern boundary to the kitchen garden.

## NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW

### WOODLANDS

**A** SZ 6116 9177 Size: 0.32ha (0.8 acre) Date: mid C19

**A+B** SZ 6116 9177 Size: 0.7ha (1.73 acre) Date: early C20

The first (A) walled kitchen garden at Woodlands is shown on the 1866 6" OS, but may have been laid out when a house was first built on the site in c1829 or date from when it was rebuilt in stone in c1860. Major works to the house (LBII\*), the pleasure gardens and parkland were carried out between 1870 and 1912 under the ownership of Somerset John Gough Calthorpe (later Seventh Baron Calthorpe). The Calthorpes main home was Elvetham Hall in Hampshire and they used Woodlands, known as **Woodlands Vale** by 1897, as a summer residence.

The 1880 OS shows the walled kitchen garden as a discrete enclosure at the northeastern corner of wooded pleasure grounds, divided by regular paths into four quarters and with a large glasshouse on the inside face of the northern wall. There was also a long narrow glazed structure, possibly a canopied fruit wall, along the west and part of the north wall.

In the later years of the C19 formal terraces were laid out in the pleasure grounds to the northeast of the house and a ha-ha built between the gardens and parkland.

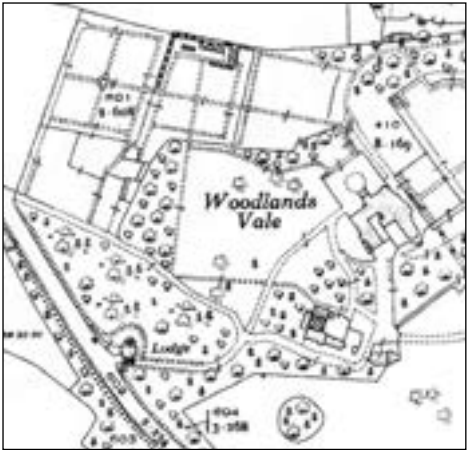


*Woodlands: the 1880 OS with walled kitchen garden A*

Between 1897 and 1909 the Calthorpes also moved Calthorpe Road further south to create a grander entrance to the estate. The 1909 OS also indicates work in progress to the kitchen garden, with a second walled compartment (B) in the process of being laid out and the productive area more than doubled in size. The two kitchen garden compartments were also shown linked by an east-west axial path leading out into the pleasure grounds and past an area possibly used as a croquet lawn. The expanded kitchen garden layout is shown completed on the 1946 OS together with a gardener's cottage just to the south.

Woodlands Vale remained in the Calthorpe family into the 1950s. Today it remains a private residence in substantial grounds and was included on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens in 2012. The Registered area does not include the former kitchen gardens, which were divided and developed for detached bungalows in the late C20, or the early C20 three storey gardener's cottage.

## NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW



*Woodlands: kitchen gardens A and B on the 1946 OS and a part of the eastern garden wall with a blocked entrance from the pleasure grounds*

The northern wall of the former kitchen gardens survives together the 2.2m high eastern wall to garden A and the western wall which divided gardens A and B. The surviving walls are in Flemish garden wall bond red brickwork with a flat projecting stone coping. In the eastern wall of garden A there are two-blocked off entrances which formerly led into the pleasure grounds of Woodlands Vale, one dated 1895.

At the centre of the northern wall in garden A, a former combined potting shed and boiler house remains in the private garden of one of the C20 bungalows. This building corresponds with the 1946 OS where it is shown forming the rear wall of a glasshouse. It has a novel new use, housing the owner's model railway layout.



*Woodlands: a new use for a former potting shed.*

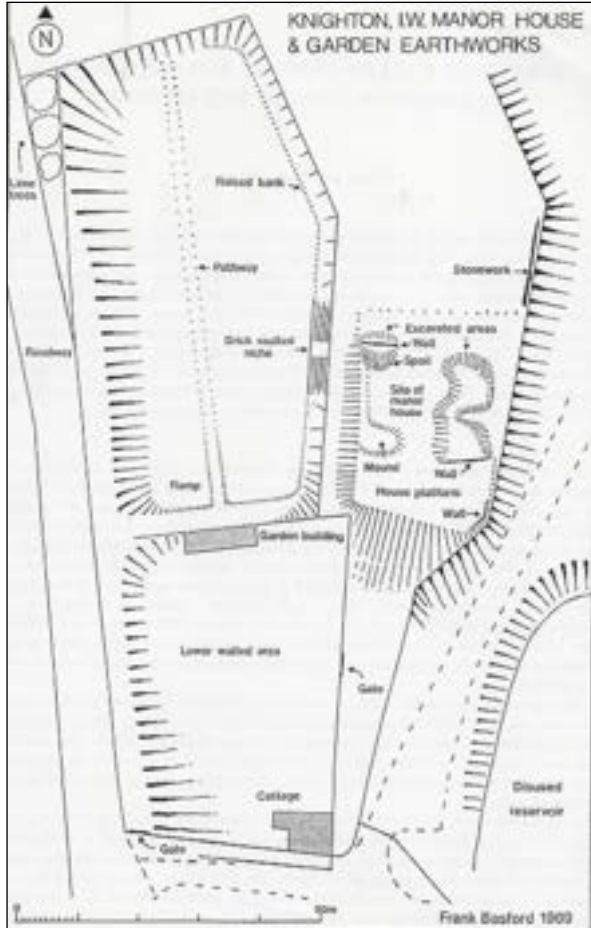
## NEWCHURCH

**KNIGHTON GORGES** SZ 5662 8695 Size: 0.51ha (1.25 acre) Date: C18 or earlier  
This was once one of the grandest Island mansions and a centre for fashionable society after it was acquired by George Maurice Bisset in 1765. When Bisset died in 1821 the house, in poor condition, was demolished. The form of the house shown in old illustrations is thought to suggest medieval origins with later additions and alterations. The same may be true of the walled gardens.

The 1.8 - 2.4m high walls (LBII) in Greensand rubble and brick detail enclose two compartments. In the five-sided north area 1m high revetted stone perimeter banks enclose a lower area divided by a sunken north-south path. The lower area was possibly a bowling green or sunken garden, with a brick alcove or niche (LBII) in the east wall above providing a viewing shelter.

The 1793 OS shows the compartments undivided and the northern area extending slightly further to the east. This may be the garden referred to as 'the kitchen garden on the east side of the highway' in a 1783 lease for 'the capital message or mansion called Knighton House'.

The raised bank inside the west wall continues in the smaller trapezoid shaped southern compartment, which suggests it was a feature of the earlier undivided garden.



*Knighton Gorges: 1899 survey plan of the walled gardens and house site*

The brick dividing wall between the compartments has a narrow barrel vaulted brick building on the southern side where evidence of shelving suggests a store, forcing or mushroom house. A further small building at the southeast corner, known as 'Orchard Cottage', is possibly an outbuilding rebuilt as a dwelling.

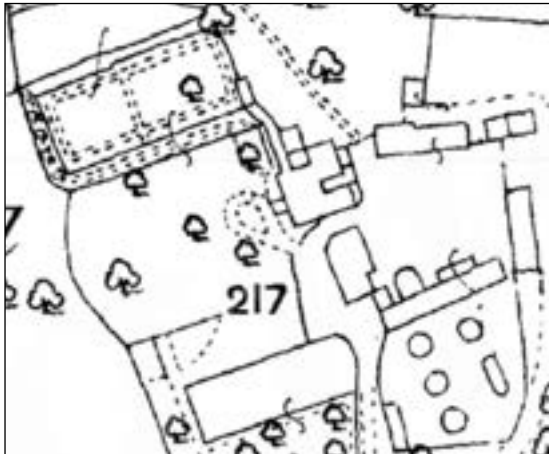
## NEWCHURCH

The small buildings and present wall layout at Knighton Gorges are indicated on the 1866 6" OS and the 1882 OS shows the garden planted with orchard trees. In 2014 the walled gardens are no longer cultivated.

### WETLANDS

SZ 5527 8501 Size: 0.11ha (0.26 acre) Date: late C18  
Known from the C19 as **Wacklands**, the 1736 house (LBII) was built by William Thatcher. In the late C18 the house was extended, a barn and model cow byres built (each LBII) and the walled kitchen garden is likely to date from this period.

The 1793 OS shows the rectangular walled garden to the north of a garden court in front of the house. A ha-ha forms the western end of the court and to the south a further planted area and large pond result in a balanced designed setting. The 1882 OS shows the regular paths inside and outside the walled garden.



*Wetlands: the 1882 OS with the walled kitchen garden at top left and a detail of the walling at the southwestern corner*

The walls vary in height from 2.4 to 2.9m and are generally brick, in variations of English garden wall bond, with a brick coping. The western wall is partly in brick and partly stone. Inside the garden and on the external face of the southern wall many old nail holes in the brick walls indicate ties for fruit trees.

The use of a walled kitchen garden as a feature of the carefully designed grounds close to the house is unusual and, with other features, remains as evidence of the late C18 landscape laid out to complement a gentleman's residence. Trees now obscure extensive views out over the ha-ha. The walled garden is now mainly laid to grass and is part of the private grounds of Wackland Farm.

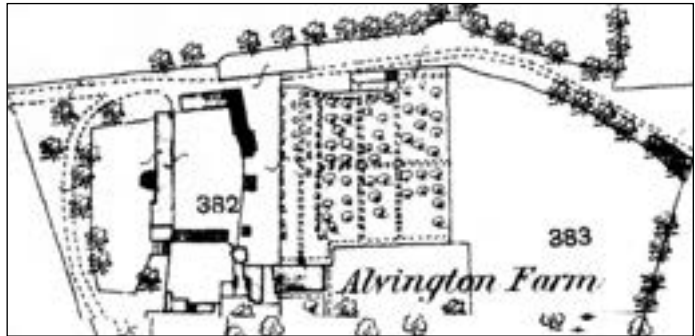
## NEWPORT

### ALVINGTON

SZ 4755 8860 Size: 0.53ha (1.32 acre) Date: C18

The C18 house (LBII) at what is now Alvington Manor Farm, is shown on the 1769 Andrews map and 1793 OS at the southwest corner of a walled garden. The 1865 25" OS shows a long narrow garden area to the front of the house and the remainder with rectangular beds planted with fruit trees. Remnants of walls may possibly survive as garden boundaries close to the house, but a large part of the walled garden has been developed for modern farm buildings.

*Alvington: the layout of farmyard, gardens and house on the 1865 OS*



### BELLE CROFT HOUSE

SZ 5102 8947 Size: 0.22ha (0.55 acre) Date: mid C19

This villa was built on what was then the outskirts of Newport in about 1800. The 1864 OS indicates a roughly rectangular kitchen garden some 35m northeast of the house with regular paths, fruit trees and a small greenhouse. This garden was possibly only partly walled. A 1956 aerial photograph indicates paths, small greenhouses and possibly a northern wall. By the early 1970s the area was being developed for housing. In 2014 the house was converted into flats and no physical evidence of the kitchen garden appears to remain.

### CASTLEHURST

SZ 4804 8761 Size: 0.27ha (0.67 acre) Date: early C19

The original Castlehurst house (formerly LBII) was built in 1803. It is shown on the 1878 25" OS with ornamental grounds to the northeast and a kitchen garden area to the south containing small outbuildings, a glasshouse and a well.

By 1898 this garden area had been expanded to include an area of scrubland to the south and on the 1908 OS is shown planted as an orchard.

The western boundary wall partly remains together with the northern wall where there is evidence of the former heated glasshouse. There is also evidence of a piggery, a small dairy and a cobbled courtyard. The walls have a maximum height of 2.9m and above a random stone rubble base are red brick with a yellow brick coping.



*Castlehurst: brickwork detail*

## NEWPORT

Bricks are from the nearby Gunville brickworks and laid in the economical rat trap bond. No evidence remains of walls on the eastern or southern boundaries, which may have been hedged or fenced.

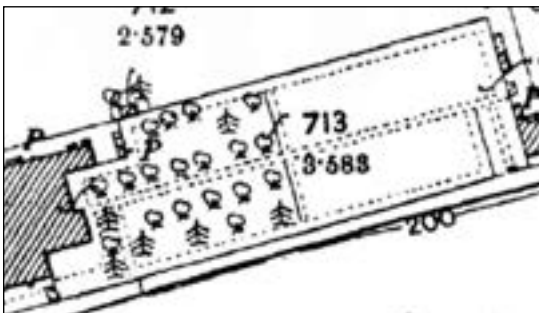
By the early 1980s the house, converted to flats, was derelict and it was destroyed by fire in 1982. The house site is now developed for housing and the kitchen garden is in separate private ownership and used as a market garden.

**GREAT WHITCOMBE** SZ 4894 8678 Size: 0.07ha (0.17 acre) Date: mid C19  
Although the house (LBII) dates from the C18 the first indication of a walled kitchen garden is on the 1864 OS when a small rectangular enclosure with fruit trees is shown close to the west side of the house. It is thought that the high red brick walls enclosing the garden largely survive. The site remains part of the private gardens of **Great Whitcombe Manor**.

**ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY** SZ 4912 8761 Size: 0.27ha (0.67 acre) Date: mid C19  
The Gothic style Priory (LBII) was built in 1865-66, designed by architect Gilbert Blount and paid for by the Dowager Countess of Clare. The 1898 OS shows the layout of the walled kitchen garden largely as it remains in 2014.

The kitchen garden forms about one half of a larger garden enclosed by 2.3m high walls in red brick to the south and yellow brick to the north. The area adjacent to the Priory is a pleasure garden with specimen trees and is divided by a hedge from the kitchen garden. The two gardens are linked by central and perimeter paths. At the southeastern corner of the kitchen garden a small walled and gated area is the Priory cemetery.

The last of the Dominican sisters left in 1989 and the Priory is now a Christian Healing Centre, run by the Carisbrooke Priory Trust. The kitchen garden remains in cultivation and is one of only two Island walled kitchen gardens built for a religious order (see also Ryde: Quarr Abbey).



*St Dominic's Priory: the pleasure garden planted with trees and the kitchen garden as shown on the 1898 OS with fruit trees on the northern wall in 2014*



## NITON AND WHITWELL

### LA ROSIER

SZ 5061 7609 Size: 0.27ha (0.67 acre) Date: mid C19

A small house named **Rosiere Villa** was built here by 1835. The walled kitchen garden may date from that time, but is first indicated on the 1863 OS when the house was called La Rosier. The large rectangular kitchen garden is shown on a plateau of higher ground to the north of the house with embankments along the west and south boundaries. Fruit trees and bushes are shown together with a group of outbuildings (coach house and stables) at the northwest corner.

By 1898 the enlarged house was named **Verlands** and a range of glasshouses had been built along the west wall of the kitchen garden. In the C20 the property operated as the **Undercliff Hotel** until it was destroyed by bomb damage in 1943. It is understood that the glasshouses were largely used to produce flowers for the hotel. The whole of the hotel site was redeveloped for housing in the later C20.

The kitchen garden area is on two levels with a 0.6m drop at the western end where tiled flooring and low walls mark the location of the former glasshouses.



*La Rosier: the lower level*

This area is now the private garden of a house created in part of the coach house. The remainder of the walled garden is also now a private garden of a detached late C20 house. The former kitchen garden boundaries have 2.4 - 3m high coursed stone rubble walls with irregular stonework coping and ashlar quoins.

### NITON RECTORY

SZ 5086 7672 Size: 0.11ha (0.26 acre) Date: mid C19

A small walled kitchen garden is indicated adjacent to the Rectory on the 1863 OS and is shown in cultivation in an early photograph of about 1860. By the 1898 OS the western garden wall appears to have been taken down. In the late C20 the garden was developed with two houses and in 2014 the only evidence remaining is a length of red brick wall on the eastern boundary.

### PUCKASTER COTTAGE

**A** SZ 5086 7580 Size: 0.24ha (0.62 acre) Date: early C19

**B** SZ 5097 7584 Size: 0.05ha (0.12 acre) Date: early C19

Now known as **Puckaster House** (LBII) this property is unusual for having two surviving productive walled gardens within its 2.43ha (6 acre) grounds. The house, in the style of a *cottage orné*, dates from between 1812 and 1824 when it was built for merchant and patron of the arts, James Vine, to a design published by architect Robert Lugar. Picturesque planting in the grounds to exploit the sloping site and sea views was also carried out in the early C19 and it is reasonable to assume that this included the walled gardens, which are shown on the 1863 OS sited on lower ground at some distance from the house.

## NITON AND WHITWELL

Garden A, 50m to the south, is shown in 1863 laid out with regular paths. The smaller garden B, 85m southeast of the house, is shown planted with fruit bushes with a building immediately outside the northwest corner which extends into an orchard area to the north. The 1898 OS indicates terracing to the north and west of garden A and a glasshouse on the outside of the southern wall. Two glasshouses had also been added outside the northwest corner of garden B.

Garden A has 2 - 4m high stone rubble walls to the southern, western and northern boundaries with a terraced walk above the northern boundary overlooking the garden. In the north of the garden two parallel terraces, each with 0.8m retaining walls, now have ornamental planting. There is 0.6m high planting bed along the western boundary. The remainder of the garden is laid to lawn with shrub and tree planting along the southern boundary.



*Puckaster: the 1898 OS*

Garden B is enclosed by 1.5 - 2m high stone rubble walls and is cultivated with flowers, fruit trees and bushes. Outside the entrance at the northwest corner, a timber glasshouse backs onto a single storey stone building containing a heating boiler and storerooms. Dwarf brick walls of a second glasshouse also survive and the overall layout remains as shown on the 1898 OS.

Puckaster remains in private ownership. It is an important example of an Undercliff picturesque seaside garden surviving in good condition and the whole of the grounds were added to the Isle of Wight Council's Local List in 2001.



*Puckaster: the terraced planting beds in the north of garden A and the glasshouse and entrance to garden B*

## NITON AND WHITWELL

### STRATHWELL

SZ 5171 7802 Size: 0.09ha (0.21 acre) Date: late C19

Although a mid C16 house was rebuilt here in the early-mid C19 for the rector of Whitwell, a walled kitchen garden is first shown on the 1898 OS. At that date the small five-sided garden had two small glasshouses, one against the north wall and one to the outside of the west wall. There were also outbuildings at the southern corners and a further large outbuilding built against the outside of the north wall. The building of the walled garden appears to coincide with an enlargement of the house since the 1887 OS. In the late C20 Strathwell was divided into a number of individual residential properties and evidence of the walled garden may possibly remain in the grounds.

### WINDCLIFF

SZ 5024 7573 Size: 0.18ha (0.43 acre) Date: early C19

Built in about 1838 as a summer residence for the Kirkpatrick family, Windcliff was one of many marine villas in designed landscapes built on the Undercliff in this period. The 1863 OS shows the house set in ornamental pleasure grounds with a small complex of domestic outbuildings across a lane to the east. The roughly triangular walled kitchen garden is sited immediately to the south of these buildings. The boundary walls are generally in coursed stone rubble with a rockwork coping and range in height from c1.8m to c3.6m.

In the 1960s the house became an hotel and in the later C20 and early C21 the main outbuildings were converted for private residential use. The western part of the former kitchen garden now provides private gardens to two of these properties while the larger eastern end provides an additional private garden area to a nearby property.

This eastern garden includes one of the former Windcliff outbuildings as a store and also has brick-built hot boxes, which were designed to be fed with slurry from the adjoining pigsties. It is laid out as a pleasure garden with trees and ornamental planting around a lawn.



*Windcliff: the north wall and store in the eastern garden and the southern wall*

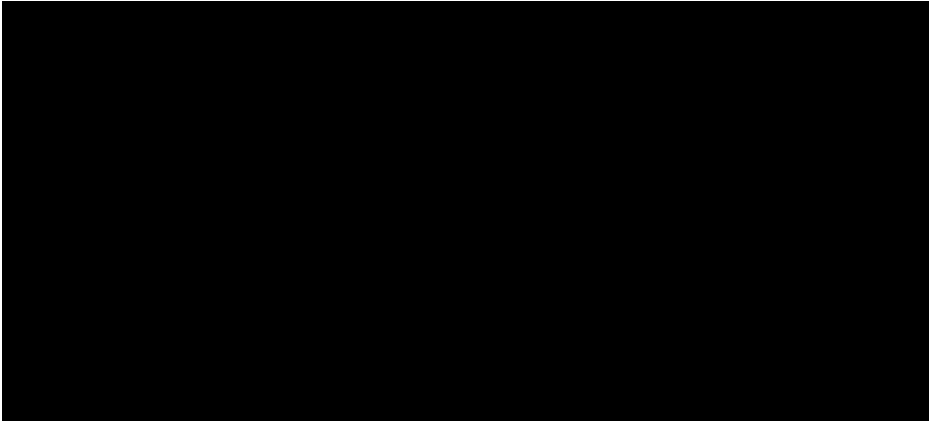
## NITON AND WHITWELL

### WYDCOMBE

SZ 5063 7854 Size: 0.13ha (0.32 acre) Date: mid C19 or earlier

The valley of Wydcombe lies in the folds of the landscape between Head Down and St Catherine's Down and formed part of the Worsley estates from the C16 until the 1800s. In 1844 the Wydcombe estate was purchased by Edward Dawes. He was the nephew of Sophie, a fisherman's daughter from St Helens on the Isle of Wight, who climbed the social ladder to become the infamous 'Queen of Chantilly' as the mistress of Louis Henry, Prince of Condé, and a favourite at the French court. Sophie died in 1840 and it is possible that Edward Dawes used his inheritance from her to buy Wydcombe, build a new house in about 1856 and landscape its parkland and gardens.

The walled kitchen garden serving Dawes' Victorian house is shown on the 1866 OS map. A part its northern boundary is formed by a large cottage, now known as **Laceys**. The cottage was substantially rebuilt in the 1980s, but dates from the C17 and the substantial flint and stone garden walls may have similar origins.



*Wydcombe: the 1887 OS with the walled kitchen garden marked 80*

The northern garden wall extending east from Laceys is 2.75m high. The 49m long eastern wall, with a gateway onto a bridge over a stream, is 2.8m high rising to 3.2 at the northern end. The 37m southern wall is 2.4m high with a doorway into an outer strip of garden, first indicated on the 1898 OS, bounded by a 1m high wall. The southwest corner abuts a farm building which is understood to include some Tudor stonework. There are C20 farm buildings on the outside of the western wall and double timber gates at the southern corner of the garden.

The former walled garden is now in separate ownership from the Victorian house and forms the private ornamental garden of Laceys, with some orchard trees in the southern areas.

## RYDE

**APPLEY HOUSE** SZ 6033 9286 Size: 0.25ha (0.62 acre) Date: early-mid C19  
A roughly square walled kitchen garden was built here between 1793 and 1862. In 1876 *The Gardeners' Chronicle* described a large walled kitchen garden, an orchard, vineries and peach house. From 1879 to 1906 the property was used by The Isle of Wight College and since 1906 has formed St Cecilia's Abbey. Sale particulars in 1905 make no mention of a walled kitchen garden and by 1947 its site was built over and no evidence is thought to remain.

**APPLEY TOWER** SZ 6062 9184 Size: 0.72ha (1.8 acre) Date: mid C19  
The Appley (or **Apley**) Tower Estate, formed in the mid C19, had kitchen gardens of about 3 acres, including a walled garden, on the south side of Appley Road.

Retired politician Sir William Hutt acquired the estate in 1872 adding ranges of glasshouses to the walled garden. The grounds were featured in various late C19 gardening magazines and included mention of two new varieties of grape: the white 'Lady Hutt' and the black 'Appley Towers'.

By the 1960s both the house and walled garden sites had been redeveloped for housing. Parts of the garden walls in red brickwork with a stone outer face, remain, some within private gardens.



*Appley Tower: parts of the former kitchen garden walls*



*Appley Tower and St John's: the 1866 6" OS with diamond hatching indicating their walled kitchen gardens*

## RYDE

### **BINSTEAD HOUSE**

SZ 5767 9282 Size: 0.36ha (0.89 acre) Date: early C19

This large house (LBII) has late C18 origins and was enlarged and refaced in c. 1830-40. The 1864 OS shows extensive terraced grounds extending to the shore. To the east, adjoining Ladies Walk, a walled kitchen garden with fruit trees is indicated together with a further area of land planted as an orchard.

The walled garden is now understood to be largely uncultivated and to form part of the private grounds of Binstead House, now known as **The Keys**, or another adjoining property. Evidence of the former use remains in the form of roughly 2.4m high boundary walls, in stone to the north and brick to the west.

### **BUCKINGHAM VILLA**

SZ 5896 5896 Size: 0.24ha (0.6 acre) Date: early C19

The marine villa (LBII) built in 1830-40 for the 2nd Marquis of Buckingham had a long, narrow walled kitchen garden between the pleasure grounds and Spencer Road to the south.

The 1864 OS shows a regular path layout partly lined with fruit trees, linked to a circuit path in the grounds, and with three small glasshouses. By the 1970s the walled garden had been developed for housing and a stone wall, in random coursed rubble, on Spencer Road appears to be all that remains.



*Buckingham Villa: the walled kitchen garden on the the 1864 OS and a section of the kitchen garden southern boundary wall on Spencer Road*

### **HOLMEWOOD HOUSE**

SZ 5810 9090 Size: 0.13ha (0.33 acre) Date: mid C19

The house and adjoining rectangular walled kitchen garden are shown on OS maps from 1864 to 1972, but both are now demolished for residential development and no evidence remains.

### **QUARRHURST**

SZ 5703 9261 Size: 0.04ha (0.1 acre) Date: late C19

A house was built here between 1864 and 1898 when the OS map indicates a small walled kitchen garden forming a buffer between the ornamental grounds and Quarr Road. A small glasshouse is shown in the northeastern corner of the garden on the 1909 OS. Evidence remains in the form of 2.1m to 2.4m high brick walls on the northern and eastern boundaries with the former kitchen garden uncultivated.

## RYDE

**QUARRWOOD LODGE** A SZ 5687 9234 Size: 0.16ha (0.4 acre) Date: mid C19

B SZ 5687 9234 Size: 0.21ha (0.52acre) Date: late C19

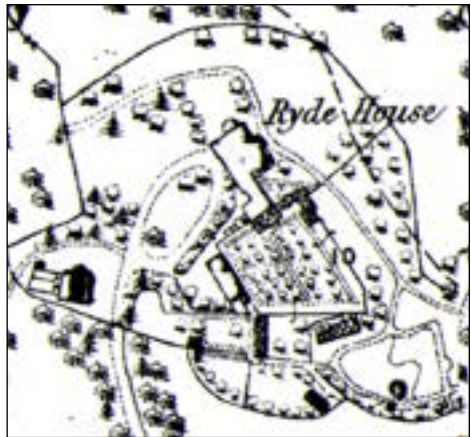
The 1864 OS shows a small walled garden in the southern area of the grounds of the house, also known as just *Quarrwood*, close to Quarr Hill road. Later in the C19 both the house and kitchen garden were enlarged. The 1898 OS indicates a kitchen garden walled on three sides and open to the south. Various small outbuildings are shown around the perimeter together with a small glasshouse and a water pump in the north of the garden. The whole of the former kitchen garden site is now in the course of development and no evidence remains.

**RYDE HOUSE** SZ 5818 9286 Size: 0.14ha (0.34 acre) Date: early-mid C19

The walled kitchen garden is shown on the 1864 OS, but may date from the building of the house (LBII) in about 1810 for George Player.

In the C19 the house was set in parkland with the walled garden placed immediately next to the house, which was contrary to the fashion of placing it at a remote and hidden distance.

It is understood that the walled garden remains, with ranges of modern glasshouses, as part of the Ryde House centre for adults with learning disabilities.



*Ryde House: the 1864 OS*

**ST JOHNS HOUSE** SZ 6012 9181 Size: 0.4ha (0.99 acre) Date: early C19

The house at St Johns (LBII) was built in 1769 and purchased by Edward Simeon in 1796. Simeon, employing the fashionable landscape architect Humphry Repton, was responsible for new landscaping throughout the estate of over 300 acres. A walled kitchen garden, indicated on the St Helens Tithe Map of 1839, was located 200 metres away from the house to the south of what is now Alexandra Road (see OS map, page 65). For a good part of the C19 the house was let before the estate was divided and sold in 1871. The 1897 OS shows the kitchen garden site partly developed and no evidence is thought to remain.

**SAXONBURY LODGE** SZ 5892 8963 Size: 0.07ha (0.17 acre) Date: mid C19

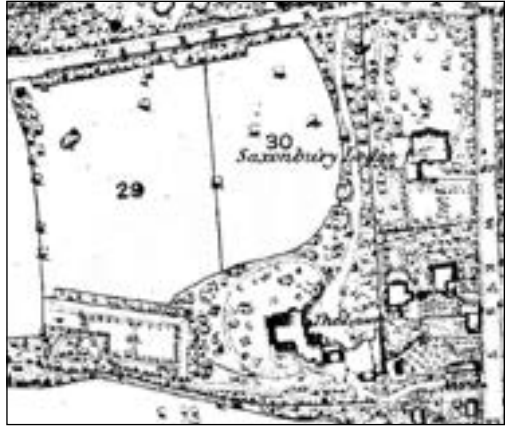
A small walled kitchen garden is indicated on the 1864 OS to the south of the house (LBII) and bounded by West Street to the east. By 1971 an early C20 coach house within the walled garden was in use as a separate dwelling. This was replaced by a new house in the C21 with bricks from old glasshouse bases used to repair the north boundary wall of the former kitchen garden. A 1.8m high stone rubble wall on West Street remains as evidence of the west boundary to both the kitchen garden and pleasure grounds.

## RYDE

### THE LAWN

SZ 5875 9253 Size: 0.12ha (0.31 acre) Date: mid C19

An unusually squared 'P' shaped kitchen garden, mostly enclosed with walls, is indicated on the 1864 OS. The regular paths connected at several points with the winding path layout in the adjoining pleasure grounds. The site is now part of the Ryde School playing fields with no evidence remaining.



*The Lawn and Saxonbury Lodge:  
on the 1864 OS*

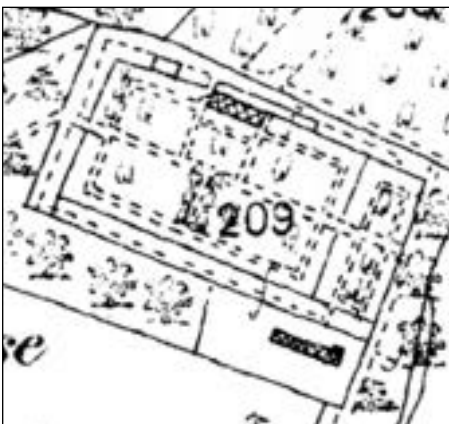
### WELLWOOD

SZ 5711 9235 Size: 0.19ha (0.48 acre) Date: mid C19

This property, later known as *Wellwood House*, is shown on the 1864 OS with a lodge at the entrance, the house set back from the road and a walled kitchen garden laid out to the north beyond the house. The 1945 OS shows the garden planted as an orchard with a detached glasshouse and a number of small outbuildings to the north. The house is now converted to flats and the grounds developed with detached housing on Wellwood and Quarr Closes. No evidence of the kitchen garden is thought to remain.

**WESTRIDGE HOUSE** SZ 6089 9101 Size: 0.27ha (0.66 acre) Date: early-mid C19

The original Westridge House is shown on the Greenwood Map of 1826 and was described in Thomas Barber's 1834 *Picturesque Illustrations of the Isle of Wight* as 'the handsome modern mansion of John Young, esq.'.



*Westridge House: the 1880 OS*

Some 126m northeast of the house, the walled kitchen is shown on the 1866 6" OS and, in more detail, on the 1880 OS which shows two compartments, a regular path layout and a small glasshouse against the north wall.

Between 1909 and 1947 the house was demolished and the former grounds along Bullen Road divided and redeveloped. The walled garden with a modern glasshouse is believed to remain, undeveloped, within the garden area of one of these properties.

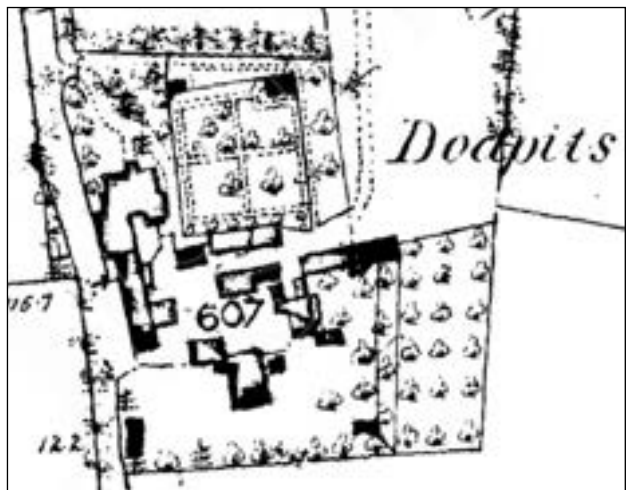


## SHALFLEET

### DODPITS

SZ 4049 8760 Size: 0.12ha (0.28 acre) Date: early C19  
The property now known as **Dodpits House** (LBII) has a C16 or early C17 core and a new entrance range built in about 1830. This seems to coincide with other early C19 improvements including a new gated entrance (LBII) and what is described in the listed building entry as an early C19 peach wall (LBII).

This wall is indicated on the 1863 OS where it appears to have formed the northern boundary of a walled kitchen garden. A substantial outbuilding is shown forming part of the southern boundary with a small building in the northeast corner of the garden (shown as a glasshouse in 1898) and a further one to the outside of the northwest corner. The garden is divided by paths into four quarters with some fruit trees and bushes indicated, but no planting to the northern wall.



*Dodpits: the 1863 OS with the walled kitchen garden to the east of the house*

The boundaries of the garden have been altered over time with only the approximately 33m long northern wall, with two short sections of the eastern and western walls at either end, now remaining. The south facing front of the wall is in red brick with grey headers and the rear is in coursed stone rubble.

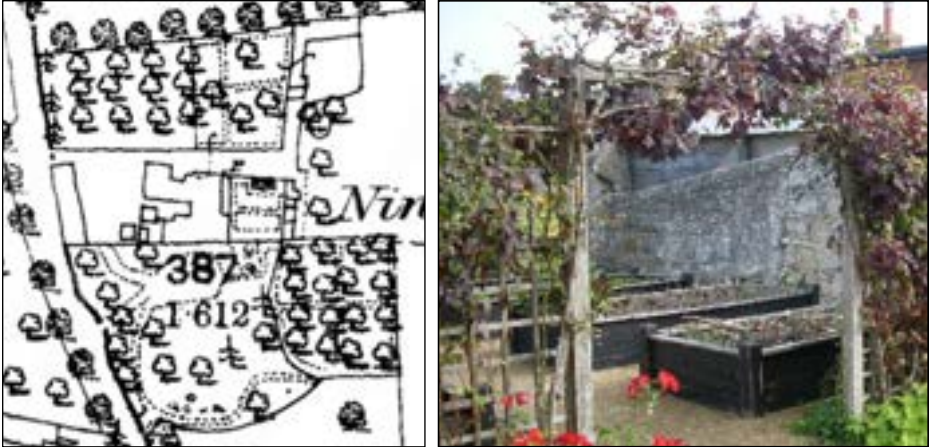
### NINGWOOD HOUSE

SZ 4429 8787 Size: 1.03ha (2.55 acre) Date: late C18  
Known since the 1940s as **Ningwood Manor**, a part of this house (LBII\*) dates from about 1650, but was altered in the late C18. The main part of the house was built in about 1784 for London banker, John Pinhorn, whose improvements probably also included the late C18 stable block and summerhouse (each LBII).

The 1793 OS indicates a small orchard area to the northwest of the house and a garden area to the south in front of the house which it is presumed was ornamental.

## SHALFLEET

The 1888 OS shows an orchard in a similar location with an extended area to the east divided by paths into four unequal quarters. The whole of this area may have been an at least partly walled productive garden with the eastern boundary partly formed by outbuildings.



*Ningwood House: the 1888 OS and the SE corner of the modern kitchen garden in 2014 with the possibly late C18 stone boundary wall*

Former stone outbuildings dating from the C19 and early C20 still mark this boundary in 2014, with a section of coursed stone rubble walling with a rounded cobbles coping at the southern end. A small modern kitchen garden area with raised planting beds is now laid out adjacent to this boundary. The southern boundary of the orchard area is now partly marked by a modern low stone wall.

A further orchard shown on the 1888 OS to the southeast of the house is now an ornamental garden containing the restored C18 summerhouse, but with no evidence of ever being walled. A small walled courtyard adjacent to the east elevation of the house is shown on the 1888 OS with a small glasshouse on the northern wall. This area, with the walls at least partly rebuilt, is now a small ornamental courtyard.

All of the areas described form part of the private grounds of Ningwood Manor.

## SHANKLIN

**LANDGUARD MANOR** SZ 5804 8237 Size: 0.32ha (0.78 acre) Date: late C19  
Red brick walls remain to the west and parts of the north and south boundaries of a kitchen garden built in about 1878, when the mid C18 house (LBII) was extended and remodelled for Colonel H Atherley. The walls, in Flemish bond, are about 2.5m high. The walled kitchen garden formed a buffer between the pleasure grounds and a new road and was one of a number of additions, including lodges and a coach house. The eastern wall was taken down and the site, which unusually slopes down to the north, developed with multiple housing plots in the second half of the C20.

**SHANKLIN MANOR** SZ 5779 8078 Size: 0.48ha (1.19 acre) Date: C18 or earlier  
A two storey stone and brick 'summerhouse' together with east and north walls (the whole LBII) remain as evidence of a walled kitchen garden. Below an outward sloping stone coping, the walls are in coursed, squared greensand stone to the outside face with random Flemish bond brickwork facing into the garden.

The 'summerhouse' is thought to have C17 origins and may possibly date from the residence at the Manor of Sir Edward Dennys (c1582-1641), Deputy Governor of the Island and friend of Sir John Oglander of Nunwell in Brading. The three side walled kitchen garden is indicated on the 1769 Andrews map and a regular path layout shown on the 1866 6" OS. In the C19 the 'Manor' was a tenanted farm until 1883 when the C18 house was enlarged and remodelled by the Lord of the Manor, Francis White-Popham, as his main residence. The 1898 OS indicates a small glasshouse and the 1909 shows orchard trees in the garden.

In the early C20 the house became an hotel with the western garden wall taken down and holiday 'villas' built in its place. These were replaced with terraced housing in the early C21 when the house was converted to apartments. Two owners of the apartments now also own the majority of the walled garden.



*Shanklin Manor: the east garden wall and 'summerhouse' with a close up view of the stone coping and brickwork facing into the garden*

## SHANKLIN

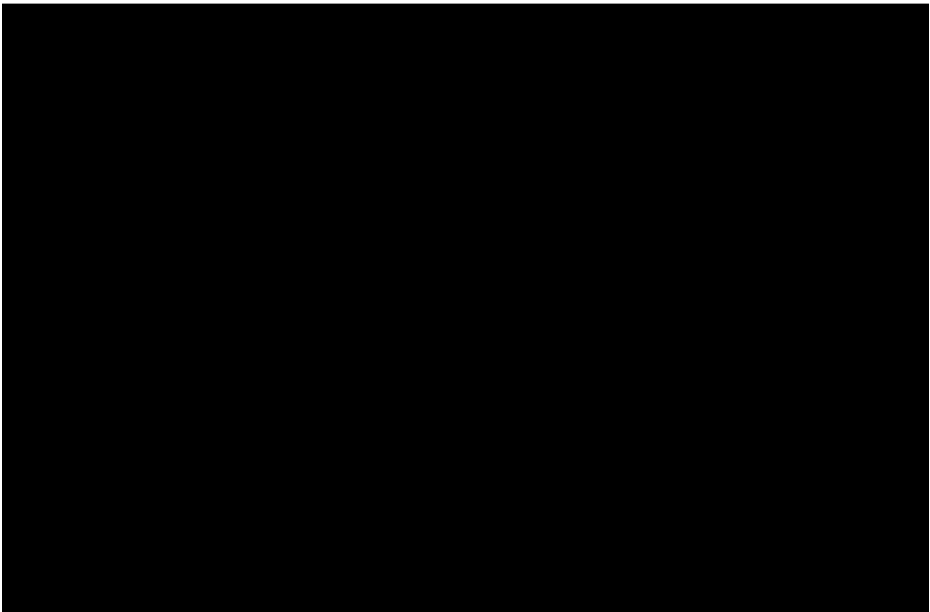
### WESTHILL

SZ 5782 8095 Size: 0.19ha (0.47 acre) Date: late C19

A modest house at Westhill is shown on the 1842 Tithe Map and the 1880 OS shows a kitchen garden planted with fruit trees. By 1893 the property was owned by wealthy widow Julia Scaramanga, who appointed gardener Charles H Snook (1863-1924) who had trained at the Royal Gardens at Kew.

By 1898 the house had been enlarged, walls built around the kitchen garden and glasshouses added. When Julia Scaramanga died in 1910 her nephew, Constantine Scaramanga-Ralli, inherited and retained Charles Snook as gardener. Aerial photographs taken in 1928 appear to show a well cultivated walled kitchen garden, although by then Scaramanga-Ralli had been made bankrupt and he no longer lived at Westhill when he died in 1934.

In the later C20 the house was used as an hotel before conversion to apartments and by the 1970s much of the grounds, including the walled garden, had been developed for housing. Brick walls, 3 – 3.2m high in Flemish garden wall bond with stone coping, remain on the northern and eastern former kitchen garden boundaries with a C21 low stone wall to part of the southern boundary along Westhill Road.



*Westhill: August 1928 with the walled kitchen garden and lodge in the foreground and the house and formal gardens beyond*

Photo: <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EPW022910> © English Heritage

## SHORWELL

**BILLINGHAM HOUSE** SZ 4860 8193 Size: 0.19ha (0.46 acre) Date: C18 or earlier  
In 1647 Andrew Goter (or Gother) bought a messuage, two gardens, two orchards and other land and built a house (now **Billingham Manor**, LBII\*). The L shaped walled garden (LBII) to the west and north of the house may possibly date from this time. The C17 stone house was extended in brick in the early C18 and the walled garden is indicated on the 1769 Andrews map and the 1793 OS.

Revd James Worsley acquired the property by marriage. In about 1804 he wrote that he was overrun with workman as it had been necessary to take down a large piece of his garden wall at an unfortunate season for the fruit trees which, it is presumed, were growing against the wall. The house was altered again in the late C19 and C20 and so has parts from many periods. The same appears to be true of the garden walls.

From 1933 to 1948 the house was owned by the author J B Priestley and a photograph of him at Billingham indicates that much of the western garden wall was rebuilt during this time.

The walls show much evidence of alteration and rebuilding. In general, the roughly 2.4m high inner face is brick below a half round brick coping, while the outer face has a lower section of stone rubble with brickwork above.



*J B Priestley and the west wall*

Photo credit: Farmers Press Agency



*Billingham: the northern entrance into the walled garden*

Along the inside of the western wall, which incorporates the main entrance at its south end, a raised terrace walk overlooks the rest of the garden. This terrace is shown on the 1862-4 25" OS and on the 1909 OS a small glasshouse is shown on the terrace, which no longer remains. At the southeastern corner of the garden there is a small gazebo (LBII with garden wall), rebuilt in the C20 but possibly C18 and one of a pair.

An entrance in the northern wall and leads to a further partly walled area of 0.14ha (0.35 acre) which is shown as an orchard on the 1862-4 OS. Sections of 3m high brick walls remain at the northwest corner.

The former orchard is now laid to grass and, with the walled garden, remains part of the private grounds of Billingham Manor.

# SHORWELL

## **NORTH COURT**

SZ 4563 8363 Size: 0.33ha (0.82 acre) Date: C18 or earlier  
Sir John Leigh began building his grand mansion (LBII) here in 1615 and it was completed by his son Barnaby who inherited in 1629. Gardens were doubtless laid out to complement the house, but only terraces and a mount of possible C17 origin plus an area reputed to have been a bowling green appear to remain.

The house was modernised and extended by Barnabas Leigh in the early C18. A walled garden is indicated on the 1769 Andrews map and the 1793 OS shows three walled enclosures to the northwest of the house which roughly corresponds with the site of the kitchen gardens in the C19 and today. In 1795 the estate was purchased by Richard Bull and the grounds were improved and embellished by his daughter Elizabeth, a noted landscape gardener. Sales particulars in 1836 include gardens of 'about an Acre and a Half, nearly Walled round, stocked with Fruit Trees of the choicest sorts, and in full Bearing' and with 'Grapery and Succession Houses; Pump and Reservoir'.

These gardens are marked on the 1844 Tithe Map and the 1861 OS divided into two compartments which together cover about 0.62ha (1.54 acre). The trapezoid shaped northern compartment, with the stone coach house (LBII) forming part of the east boundary, remains as a fully walled kitchen garden today (the walls LBII). The southern, irregularly shaped compartment, which formerly included a square reservoir now has a partly curving stone walled eastern boundary.



*North Court: the 1861 OS with the fully walled kitchen garden at the top and a late C19 view looking southwards along the main central path*

Photo courtesy of the Harrison Family Archive

The fully walled kitchen garden is now partly planted with orchard trees in grass and partly cultivated with vegetable and flower beds. It has a southern wall built

## SHORWELL

entirely in brick, which formerly divided the two kitchen garden compartments. This wall has an arched gateway at the centre on the line of the central north-south garden path shown on the 1861 OS extending through both kitchen garden areas and orchards to the south. The three other walls are in brick with a stone rubble outer face and all have a brick coping. The northern wall varies in height from 3.2 - 3.75m. It has evidence of outbuildings on the outside face and, within the garden, three glasshouses, including a vinery, all heated by an underground boiler dating from about 1900. The three other walls are all approximately 3m high. The southern, former kitchen garden compartment is now largely grassed with some orchard trees, and is part of the ornamental grounds of Northcourt.

In 2012 Planning Permission was obtained for the conversion of the coach house and stable building to a rural skills centre and tea room and, along the north wall, a small gardener's cottage and new glasshouse. The first phase of these works commenced in 2014. The Northcourt grounds together with other areas in separate ownership are included on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens at grade II.

**SHORWELL RECTORY** SZ 4577 8304 Size: 0.11ha (0.28 acre) Date: mid C19 or earlier The house (LBII), probably dating from the C17, has been restored and extended in the C20 and is now known as **The Old Rectory**. The irregular walled garden, which adjoins the house to the northwest, is indicated on the 1844 Tithe Map and the 1861 OS where it is shown laid out with a perimeter and central path.

*Shorwell Rectory:  
a 1920s view of  
the walled garden*

Image courtesy of the Isle of  
Wight Record Office



A 1920s photograph shows the garden in cultivation with fruit trees trained on the inside of the southern and western walls and a range of sheds on the outside of the eastern wall. This former stone rubble boundary wall, reduced in height, now forms a retaining wall within the Old Rectory garden. Stone rubble boundary walls, 2.6m high within the garden and with stone cobble coping, remain on part of the north boundary and on the unusually curving western boundary. To the south the boundary wall has been rebuilt and realigned in the C20. The walled garden is now largely laid to lawn with ornamental planting and forms a part of the private grounds of the Old Rectory.

# SHORWELL

**WOLVERTON MANOR** SZ 4533 8249 Size: 0.42ha (1.04 acre) Date: early C18  
Building of the large manor house (LBI) was begun by John Dingley (d. 1596) in the age of Elizabeth I. It was completed in the reign of James I by his grandson Sir John and altered in the C18. The impressive southeast front is approached through an entrance court enclosed by early C17 stone rubble walls (LBII) with triangular stone copings.

The northern wall of the garden court also formed part of the southern boundary of a large rectangular walled garden immediately northeast of the house. This garden is shown on the Andrews 1769 map and the 1864 25" OS with the regular path layout and fruit trees indicating its use as a kitchen garden. Evidence remains of the enclosing garden walls (LBII) to the northeast and northwest which are in C18 Flemish bond brickwork on stone foundations (LBII) ranging in height from about 1.2m to 2.4m. The ground level within the walled garden is about 1.2m below the level of the entrance court so that the stone rubble wall is some 3.8m high within the garden.



*Wolverton: looking south within the walled garden towards the entrance from the early C17 garden court with the possible former raised walk on the left*

The entrance into the walled garden from the garden court appears contemporary with the C17 wall. This, together with the house windows overlooking the walled garden, suggests a garden in this location when the house was built.

Both the 1793 and 1864 OS show a wide path running the length of the southeast boundary within the walled garden. In 2014 a slight rise in the ground along this boundary is possible evidence that this path was a raised walk. The walled garden is now generally laid to grass and remains part of the grounds of the Manor.

About 100m northeast of the manor house, and adjoining the northern part of the walled garden is a 0.13ha (0.31 acre) rectangular moated platform (SM). This is possibly the site of an earlier house, which the present manor replaced, and may also have been used as a moated garden. On the 1864 OS it is shown planted as an informal orchard and is now informal woodland.

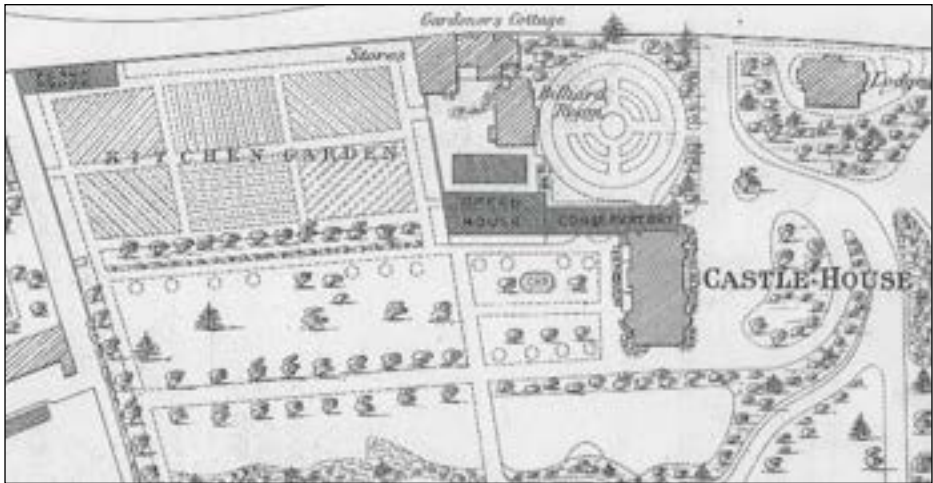


## ST HELENS

### CASTLE HOUSE

SZ 6317 8919 Size: 0.21ha (0.52 acre) Date: mid C19

Although the house, now known as **The Castle** (LBII), was built in 1842 with additions made in 1860, the walled kitchen garden is first shown on the 1897 OS. It is likely that the garden was laid out in c.1866, as an 1899 sale catalogue gives this date for the grounds being laid out by a skilled landscape gardener and mentions a 'Capital Peach House' in the upper kitchen garden. This is shown on a detailed 1902 sale plan of the 11 acre (4.45ha) grounds, at the western corner of the kitchen garden which is walled on three sides, open to the southeast and divided into six plots. A further kitchen garden area of similar size, but not walled, is shown close to the stables in the south of the grounds.



*Castle House: the 1902 Sales Plan*

Image courtesy of the Isle of Wight Record Office

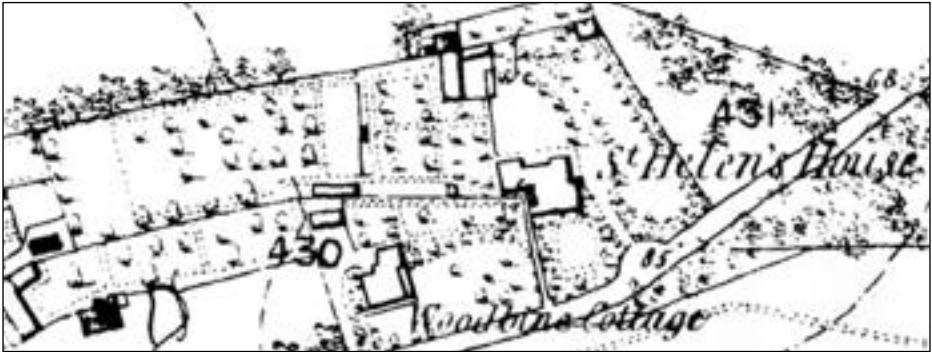
The garden walls, with a maximum height of 3.4m on the northwestern road boundary, are in English garden wall bond brickwork with brick coping above a low stone rubble base. The peach house and part of the perimeter path remain. Ownership of the property is now split with the kitchen garden divided to provide largely ornamental private gardens to The Castle and former Gardeners Cottage.

### ST HELEN'S HOUSE

SZ 6319 8932 Size: 0.29ha (0.72 acre) Date: mid C19

This detached villa is shown on the 1864 OS and an 1865 sales plan with a two compartment kitchen garden laid out to the west of the house. The first, smaller compartment adjoins the house and detached stables and has a small building at the centre of the wall dividing the two garden areas. The larger western compartment has a large tool house at the southeast corner. The two areas are linked by a southern perimeter path and both are shown to be in full cultivation with regular productive beds and occasional fruit trees. The only glasshouse shown is at the northeast corner of the comparatively modest pleasure grounds around the house.

## ST HELENS



*St Helen's House: the two compartment walled kitchen gardens on the 1864 OS*

By the time of the 1897 OS a long narrow area of glazing, possibly a protective canopy to a fruit wall, had been added to the whole length of the northern wall in the larger western compartment.

The former kitchen gardens are now in divided ownership, with the eastern compartment providing part of the private gardens to St Helen's House and also to the former stables, converted to a dwelling.

Similarly, in the late C20 two detached dwellings were built in the western compartment. Here the boundary walls largely remain and are generally in random stone rubble with a brick coping. Wall heights vary from 1.2m to 2.1m with evidence that they have been altered over time.

A part of the north wall has a top section of brickwork with decorative terracotta banding. This is possible evidence that the height was raised in the late C20 to provide sufficient height for a canopied fruit wall and partly reduced in modern times.



*St Helen's House: part of the north wall*

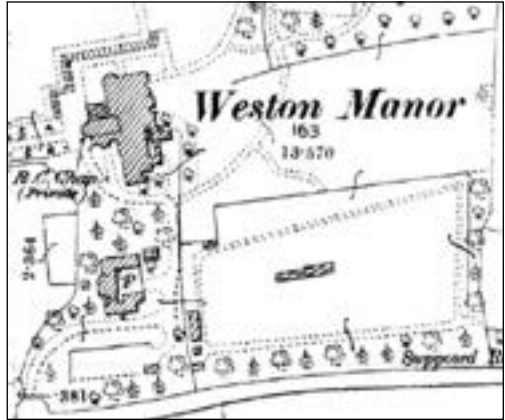
## TOTLAND

### WESTON MANOR

SZ 3273 8605 Size: 0.97ha (2.4 acre) Date: mid C19

When William George Ward inherited the family estate at Northwood (see Cowes) it seems he found the property so uncongenial that he decided to build a new house in Totland, close to his friend Tennyson at Farringford (see Freshwater). The result was the High Gothic Weston Manor (LBII\*), complete with chapel, designed by architect George Goldie and built in 1869-70.

A sketch plan dated 1870 shows a proposed orchard and kitchen garden to the southeast of the house and close to the stable block. Fruit bushes were being planted in 1871 and the kitchen garden is shown on the 1898 OS. The kitchen garden was built with 3m high brick walls on three sides and a shelter belt of mixed conifers and deciduous trees to the southern road boundary. A central arched entrance in the northern wall linked to winding paths in the pleasure grounds around the house.



*Weston Manor: the layout on the 1898 OS*

In the later C20 and early C21 Weston Manor was used by a Dominican community as a home for adults with learning difficulties. The former walled kitchen garden remains as part of the private grounds of Weston Manor which now provides bed and breakfast accommodation. The whole of the grounds are included on the Isle of Wight Council's Local List.

# VENTNOR

## EAST DENE

SZ 5793 7816 Size: 0.43ha (1.06 acre) Date: early-mid C19

The large Tudor-Gothic East Dene house (LBII\*), built in c.1825-6, was designed by Samuel Beazley for W H Surman. In 1837 it was leased by Captain (later Admiral) Charles Swinburne who purchased the property in 1841. His poet son, Algernon Swinburne (1837-1909), spent much of his childhood there.

The walled kitchen garden, indicated on the 1866 6" OS, is in three compartments, divided by stone retaining walls with stone steps, terraced down the hillside towards the sea with a range of model farm buildings to the south. The largest northern compartment has an extended apsidal end with a roughly 4 m high wall built into the hillside. This was possibly a first phase of the garden and has a range of stone-built stores on the outside of the east wall. The stone rubble garden walls have a rounded stone cobbles coping. Boundary walls reduce in height in the two lower compartments with a 1.2m high retaining wall on the southern boundary.

The 1898 OS shows a large glasshouse in each of the compartments and a narrow curved glass roof (protection for a fruit wall) in the apsidal end. The glasshouses were described in 1949 sale particulars as "prolific in productivity". The 33 acre estate was divided in 1949 since when the walled kitchen garden has been a part of **Carrigden Farm**.



*East Dene: a late C20 view of the market garden at Carrigden Farm and detail of fixings built into the fruit wall and the stone cobbles coping*

In the later C20 Carrigden Farm was run as a market garden specialising in strawberries. In 2014 only the outline of the glasshouses can be traced and only the lower two compartments are privately cultivated by the owners. The apsidal-ended plan form appears to be unique on the Island. The combination of large size, terraced compartments, association with a model farm and expansive sea views also make it an unusual example.

## VENTNOR

**LISLE COMBE** SZ 5426 7689 Size: 0.68 ha (1.68 acre) Date: early-mid C19  
The house (LBII\*) was built here in 1839 for the second son of Lord Yarborough and is possibly the best Island example of a Romantic early Victorian villa. The 1866 6" and 1876 OS maps indicate a large kitchen garden with regular paths and fruit trees. The garden was sited to the north of what is now Undercliff Drive, opposite the house, and so is presumed that it was associated with Lisle Combe, then named *St Lawrence Cottage*. The map evidence and steep natural sloping ground combine to suggest that this kitchen garden was at least partly walled.

The 1908 OS shows a new large house named *Inglewood* built on higher ground to the north of the garden. By 1946 new paths indicate that the garden had been incorporated into the extended grounds of this house, then named *St Lawrence Hall*. By 1971 *St Lawrence Hall* had been demolished and the site redeveloped. In 2014 the kitchen garden is also now lost to the late C20 *Inglewood Park* residential development with no evidence appearing to remain.

**OLD PARK** SZ 5276 7609 Size: 0.14ha (0.34 acre) Date: early C19  
These walled gardens have probably seen a greater variety of uses than any other on the Island and the greatest transformation in the C21.



*Old Park: the walled kitchen garden at Haddon Lake House in 2002 and 2014*

Photos courtesy of Steve Lambert, Lake House Design

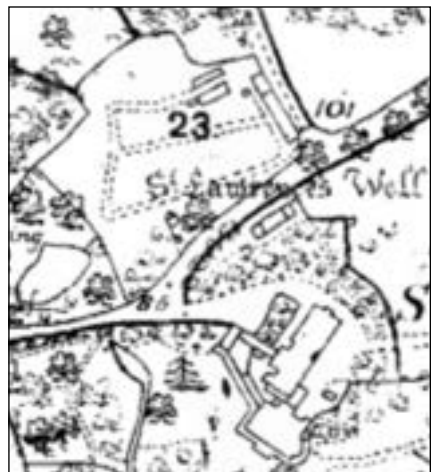
## VENTNOR

In 1820-32 London solicitor Thomas Haddon remodelled the former farmhouse as a *cottage orné*, (LBII), constructed two lakes, a seawater bathing pool, new farm buildings and walled gardens for cultivating vines. These gardens are enclosed and divided by 3.3 m high stone rubble walls. The vineyard was not successful and the two-compartment garden was subsequently used for fruit and vegetables. In the 1880s retired industrial chemist William Spindler, built large glasshouses on ground outside the walled garden to the east. A 1906 sale catalogue describes "two capital walled in Fruit Gardens.. ..planted with choice trees and covered in wire netting on iron supports".

Ventnor Urban District Council bought the walled garden in the early C20 for use as a market garden and, from 1939-45, as piggeries. From 1948 to 1999 Old Park was run as an hotel by the Thornton family, who built a bungalow in the area used for Spindler's glasshouses. Between 1972 and 1999 the walled garden was open to the public as a Tropical Bird Park. The Old Park Hotel was then sold separately from the walled garden. In the early C21 Planning Permission was granted for a further new dwelling, Haddon Lake House, with strict conditions for the restoration of the walled garden, lake and wooded grounds. The walled garden is now in divided ownership. In the west compartment the owners of Haddon Lake House have reconstructed a kitchen garden complete with period greenhouse and quadripartite paths arranged in a decorative potager design with a vibrant mixture of flowers, herbs, fruits and vegetables.

**SEA COTTAGE**      SZ 5410 7678    Size: 0.27ha (0.67 acre)    Date: mid C19 or earlier  
Sir Richard Worsley of Appuldurcombe built Sea Cottage adjoining an old small house in about 1791-4 as a seaside retreat and lived there until his death in 1805. He laid out gardens around the new house including two areas of vineyards. These were not a success and their location has not been established.

The house, later known as St Lawrence Cottage, was enlarged in 1838-9 and the kitchen garden, shown to the north on the 1866 6" OS, may date from this time or have been a part of the Sea Cottage grounds. A number of small buildings are indicated within the irregularly shaped garden which may have been only partially walled. The 1898 OS shows the road (now Undercliff Drive) realigned northward and the kitchen garden subsequently reduced in size. Three glasshouses are indicated with further small structures added by 1908. The house is now divided into two dwellings: The Old Cottage (LBII) and Marine Villa. The kitchen garden, on the edge of Pleham Wood, was cultivated until the 1960s. It is now overgrown, but remnants of structures may remain.



*Sea Cottage: the 1876 OS*

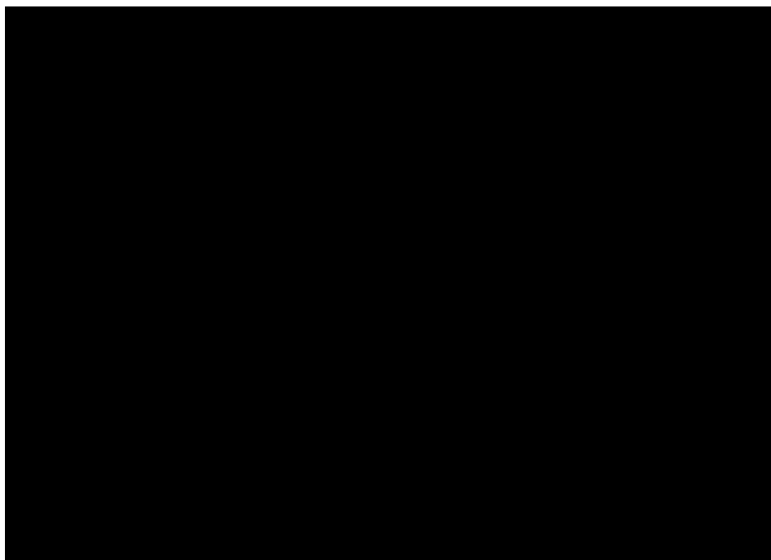
## VENTNOR

**STEEPHILL CASTLE A** SZ 5535 7738 Size: 0.42ha (1.04 acre) Date: early-mid C19  
In 1828 John Hamborough bought the thatched C18 Steephill Cottage, built by Island Governor Hans Stanley, and replaced it with Steephill Castle, complete with towers and embattled parapets, which was completed in 1835.

A large kitchen garden area (A) is indicated on the 1866 6" and 1877 OS on a plateau formed in the sloping ground to the northeast of the Castle. In 1877 a square enclosure within the plateau is shown planted with fruit trees with glasshouses in the outer area. The map evidence suggests that the kitchen garden was at least partly walled, and a stone retaining wall on the southern boundary is confirmed in a 1905 photograph.

In the late C19 a railway line was constructed in the north of the Castle grounds to serve Ventnor Town (later Ventnor West) Station, sited on the kitchen garden plateau, and opened in 1900. A 1905 photograph shows a stone retaining wall on the southern edge of the plateau above the Castle entrance. The station closed in 1952 and the area around the former main station building was developed for housing in the later C20.

**STEEPHILL CASTLE B** SZ 5480 7710 Size: 0.24ha (0.59 acre) Date: early C20  
Photographs taken in 1905 show that by then a new kitchen garden (B) had been laid out in the east of the Castle grounds. This kitchen garden and its vinery glasshouse are shown on the 1909 OS. The stone rubble walls with a rendered inside face and irregular stone rubble coping largely survive. Steephill Castle was demolished in 1963 and its early C20 kitchen garden has now been developed with two dwellings within the walls.



*Steephill Castle: garden (B) in 1905 looking east towards the Castle .*

## WHIPPINGHAM

### BARTON

SZ 5200 9440 Size: 0.2ha (0.49 acre) Date: C18 or earlier

In the early C17 a house was built at Barton on the site of a C13 Augustinian Oratory. A walled garden, close to the house, is indicated on the 1769 Andrews map and on the 1793 OS when there was also an orchard to the south.

In the late C18 Barton was occupied by a farmer, but was considered 'still proper for the reception of a gentleman's family'. By the 1840s the house was in a poor state when purchased by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert as overspill accommodation for Osborne. The house (LBII) was largely rebuilt in the Jacobean style and the walled garden appears to have been retained as part of Prince Albert's new model farm. Stone lancets in the C17 house and retained in the C19 rebuilding are thought to have come from the oratory and large stone lintels in the kitchen garden walls possibly have the same origin.

The walled garden is terraced with stone rubble retaining walls and three levels descending southwards. The upper terrace is shown on the 1864 OS when the garden was laid out with regular paths and planted with fruit trees. A range of outbuildings then formed the northern boundary of the garden. In the late C20 an indoor swimming pool was built and now extends into the northeastern corner of the garden. The middle terrace was also formed in the late C20 when the lower ground was levelled for a tennis court. The original lower ground level sloped gently down to the south. The eastern, western and southern walls are in stone rubble varying in height from about 2.2 to 4.5m.



*Barton: the terraced walled garden and stone lintel over a blocked entrance*

The walled kitchen garden is now partly cultivated with C21 raised vegetable beds and flower borders and forms part of the private grounds of Barton Manor. The grounds are included on the Isle of Wight Council's Local List.



## WHIPPINGHAM

### **PADMORE**

SZ 5144 9355 Size: 0.26ha (0.63 acre) Date: mid C19 or earlier

The house here, now known as **Padmore House** (LBII), has C17 origins but dates mainly from the late C18. It is shown on the 1864 OS with a small courtyard of domestic office buildings to the northeast adjoining a long rectangular plot, with occasional trees planted within a perimeter path. The 1897 OS indicates two small glasshouses against the northern wall of the garden.

In 1920 the property was purchased by Sam Saunders, founder of the local aviation and maritime company of S E Saunders Ltd, who lived there until his death in 1933. Saunders laid out elaborate pleasure gardens including a complex series of pergolas and a circular pool fed by a new ornate water tower added to the house. The domestic offices were rebuilt on a new alignment and the southwestern stone rubble wall and entrance to the kitchen garden possibly date from this period.



*Padmore: the northwestern stone rubble boundary walls and the entrance in the southwestern wall, facing the house*

The 1947 OS shows a new, second approach drive leading to the house outside the southeastern boundary of the kitchen garden and a single medium sized glasshouse against the northwestern wall. It is possible that the southeastern and northeastern boundaries, now respectively marked by hedging and mature trees, were never walled.

The generally 2.3m high northwestern stone rubble boundary wall has some evidence of a stone cobble coping. Within the garden evidence remains, in the form of terracotta edging tiles, of the perimeter path marked on the 1864 OS. Brick bases, old heating pipes and a white painted section of the boundary wall mark the location of the C20 glasshouse. A small number of old orchard trees may also date from the early C20.

In the later C20 the property was operated as the **Padmore House Country Hotel**, but is now once again a private house. Although the partly walled kitchen garden is not at present cultivated, it is understood that the current owners have plans for its restoration.

## WHIPPINGHAM



*Whippingham Rectory and Padmore on the 1864 OS*

**WHIPPINGHAM RECTORY** SZ 5119 9357 Size: 0.17ha (0.41 acre) Date: mid C19  
Lying to the south of the church the house (LBII), dating from the early C19, was reconstructed in 1859-61. The 1864 OS indicates a kitchen garden area planted with fruit trees to the northeast of the house. Small outbuildings are shown at the centre of the southern wall and at the northern corner. By 1897 a glasshouse had been built on the outside face of the southern wall.

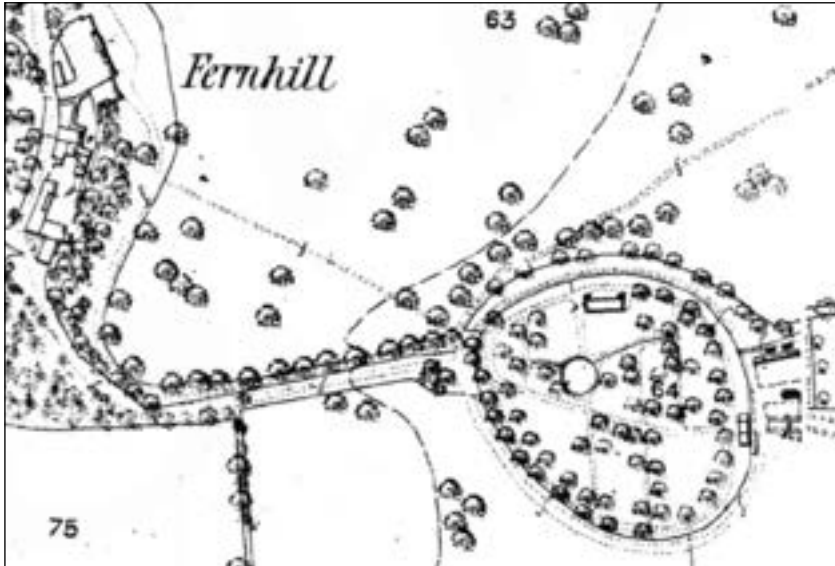
The kitchen garden site is now developed containing a dwelling with boundary walls remaining on the eastern and southern boundaries. The eastern stone rubble wall appears similar to the northern kitchen garden wall at Padmore some 210m to the east.

## WOOTTON BRIDGE

### FERNHILL

SZ 5418 9148 Size: 0.88ha (2.18 acre) Date: early C19

A house was built here in the late C18 by the Right Hon. Thomas Orde-Powlett (Lord Bolton from 1797) who was Governor of the Isle of Wight from 1791 to 1807. The grounds were ranked among the finest in the Island. The kitchen garden may be earlier, but the walls around it were probably built between 1814 and 1819 under the short ownership of John Hambrough, who subsequently moved to Farringford in Freshwater before building Steephill Castle in Ventnor.



*Fernhill: the 1863 OS with the house and domestic offices at the top left*

The curiously ovoid shaped walled garden is shown on the 1863 OS, partly planted with trees and with a circular pond and two small buildings. A wide perimeter path outside the walls, leading to a possible eastern slip garden or frameyard, suggests that both sides of the wall may have been cultivated. The partly tree lined perimeter path to the north of the garden would have overlooked the parkland, dotted with trees, laid out to the east of the house.

In 1935 Fernhill was purchased by Fernhill Park Estates Ltd, who were in the process of developing the estate when the house was almost totally destroyed by fire in 1938. The 1947 OS indicates two glasshouses within the walled garden and further glasshouses in the slip garden or frameyard and the garden was possibly used as a nursery. The former kitchen garden is now in private ownership and has been developed with a bungalow with only remnants of the high red brick walls remaining.

The curious shape of this walled kitchen garden is understood to be very rare at a national level and is the only example on the Isle of Wight.

## WROXALL

### APPULDURCOMBE

SZ 5476 8024 Size: 0.63ha (1.56 acre) Date: late C18

In the C16 and C17 the old house at Appuldurcombe, probably the grandest on the Island, is likely to have followed contemporary fashion of walled garden compartments around the house. An early C18 drawing of the Tudor house shows walls enclosing a forecourt and bowling green. Between 1702 and 1712 the old house was demolished by Sir Robert Worsley and a new mansion built, although the fashion for enclosed gardens persisted. In 1702 Sir Robert paid for work on the 'Best Gardine Wall' and the 1769 Andrews map indicates walled gardens around the new house to the south and west.

Sir Robert did not complete the new mansion and building work was only after 1768 when Sir Richard Worsley inherited. By this time there was a new fashion for landscaped parks and in the 1770s Sir Richard was advised by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown on laying out a park around the mansion.

The Watts estate map dating from this time shows that the walled gardens around the house had been removed and a new walled garden built some 450m to the east, just outside the park boundary. In the 1770s this garden was L-shaped, with regular paths and two small buildings at the eastern end and a small orchard outside the northern wall.



*Appuldurcombe: the kitchen garden on the Watts estate map*

Courtesy of the Isle of Wight Record Office



*The Autumn Bergamot pear: grown at Appuldurcombe as an espalier in 1780*

An inventory of fruit trees planted at Appuldurcombe, dated December 1780, lists a total of 287 specimens divided between espaliers, old espaliers, wall and orchard standard trees. As well as apples, pears, cherries and plums the list includes various varieties of peaches, 'nectrines' and apricots.

The 1862-7 OS shows the walled garden reduced to the trapezoid shape that remains today. Regular paths divided the garden into four quarters with a glasshouse on the northern wall and small orchard areas outside the northern and southern walls.

## WROXALL

The mid-C19 layout of the walled garden appears to have remained into the 1940s. In the late C19 the mansion was used as a school and subsequently by Benedictine monks before they established Quarr Abbey (see Fishbourne).

In 1943 the house suffered severe bomb damage and in the late C20 was restored by English Heritage as a semi-ruin. It is Listed grade I and the park, excluding the walled garden, is grade II on the National Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.



*Appuldurcombe: the 1862-7 OS*



*Appuldurcombe: the southwestern outside corner of the former walled kitchen garden*

Since the later C20 the walled garden has been used as part of a holiday caravan park. The 3m high walls are generally of coursed stone rubble on the outside with full height ashlar piers, and rendered brickwork on the inside face. The south wall is built entirely of partly rendered brick in 4:1 English garden wall bond. Walls are capped with a pitched tiled coping with small pediments to the buttresses.

# WROXALL

## **WROXALL CROSS**

SZ 5567 7921 Size: 0.1ha (0.25 acre) Date: C18

The outline of the walled kitchen garden at Wroxall Cross is indicated, with its distinctive curved southeast corner, on the 1793 OS planted as an orchard. It thus appears to predate the present stone ashlar house (LBII) which was built in about 1852 on a further orchard area to the north of the present garden. A part of the western boundary wall of this orchard area can still be seen.



*Wroxall Cross: the curved wall at the southeastern corner and the former glasshouse terrace in the west of the walled garden*

The roughly rectangular walled garden slopes down to the northeast and is enclosed by coursed stone rubble walls stepped and sloped to follow the ground level and varying in height from 2 - 2.8m. Entrances have a mixture of dressed stone and brick detailing. A farm track running close to the outside of the southeast corner, indicated on C19 OS maps, may explain why this corner was built on a curve.

The 1885 OS shows paths dividing the garden into four unequal quarters with three entrances in the northern wall. Gated entrances remain in these locations in 2014. The 1898 OS shows the addition of a long glasshouse built along the western wall. In 1939 sales particulars described "a walled garden and a range of divided Glass Houses, partly heated and about 109ft in length by about 10ft 9" with two built in rainwater tanks".

In 2014 the site and layout of these glasshouses can be traced on a raised and stepped terrace formed by stone rubble retaining walls in the west of the garden. The walled garden forms part of the private grounds of the main house at **Wroxall Cross Farm** and is largely lawned with ornamental planting, fruit trees and bushes.

A vibrant garden scene with a person in the background, overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow box containing text. The garden is filled with a variety of colorful flowers, including purple and red geraniums, and yellow and orange flowers. The person in the background is wearing a blue jacket and is looking down at the flowers. The overall scene is bright and colorful, with a wooden fence visible on the right side.

## **THANK YOU**

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All other photographs are by project volunteers.

*Back cover: the Northcourt walled kitchen garden in the early C20, courtesy of the Harrison Family Archive.*



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