

GLASSHOUSES: FULL RANGE

GH1- 8



Description:

- Glasshouse range shown on approximately half this site in 1875 (Ordnance Survey map). Extended to current length by 1899, but to a slightly different footprint.

- Currently a derelict range of three quarter-span utility hothouses with north lights, believed to be from the early 1900s period, (personal communication from Jeremy Milln, National Trust).

- Manufactured by Foster & Pearson, the pre-eminent glasshouse company of the period, as identified by one remaining brass manufacturer's label on a door.

- More labels and door furniture were extant in 1995, but were subsequently stolen during the garden refurbishment; (personal communication from Steve Robson of English Partnerships).

- Engineering brick facing, Baltic Pitch Pine timber. Central range on a stone plinth of earlier date, likely to be 1850s.

Variety of internal fixtures, fittings and mechanisms as necessary for a variety of uses. Some lost, but many remain.

Significance – for glasshouse range:

- The walled garden is the remaining central feature of the Grappenhall Heys estate, and the glasshouses are the central feature of the garden. Important in understanding the purpose and scope of the walled garden. Most historically significant feature of the garden because not rebuilt/restored. Considered to be of strong local significance.

Issues – for glasshouse range:

- Condition of the whole range poor, only feature of the garden which was not rebuilt/restored by previous owners
- Public safety, access currently not possible
- Shortage of usable, covered space within the garden
- Financial; an endowment funds the maintenance and repair of the garden in its current state, i.e. excluding the glasshouses
- Manpower; the endowment funds the employment of one gardener only, which has implications for the potential uses of the restored glasshouses; the complete range restored as Victorian glasshouses with authentic planting/uses is not viable
- Competition; other gardens nearby have extensive ranges of historic and authentically restored and planted glasshouses, e.g. Tatton Park and Arley Hall

Policies – for glasshouse range:

- To re-instate the central feature, visually and functionally, of the kitchen garden
- To re-develop the glasshouse buildings to provide community and education space, either as a historically authentic restoration or a historically sympathetic redesign
- To re-develop the glasshouses in a way that ensures their upkeep is not only financially sustainable, but exemplifies sustainability in terms of building design and energy consumption, using the specific microclimate benefits created by a south-facing range of buildings and a walled space, such as solar power and/or ground-source heat pumps

GLASSHOUSES: WESTERN, SINGLE HOUSE

GH1



Description:

- Glasshouse shown on this site in 1875 (Ordnance Survey map).
- Brick raised bed against south wall.
- Heating pipes below floor level, covered with metal grating set in stone edging.
- Central, concrete-lined reservoir.
- Likely use – stove house for display of exotics such as orchids? (but no niches for staging legs cut in stone edging)

Restore/repair

Significance:

- GH1 – smallest range and free-standing. On site of earliest glasshouses. Likely to have last been used as a display house. Fixtures and fittings reasonable. Considered to be of strong local significance.

Issues:

- Condition of the whole range poor, only feature of the garden which was not rebuilt/restored by previous owners
- Public safety, access currently not possible
- Shortage of usable, covered space within the garden

Policies:

- To re-develop for educational use as a horticultural display house, sympathetic with the likely last use

GLASSHOUSES: CENTRAL RANGE

GH2, 3 AND 4



Description:

- Glasshouse shown on this site in 1875 (Ordnance Survey map).
- GH2: Vine stem niches in earlier stone plinth subsequently bricked up (at time of extension?).
- GH2 and 3: red and black quarry tile borders to inset metal grating over heating pipes below floor level. Central, concrete-lined reservoirs.
- GH4: Above ground pipes fitted with humidifiers.
- GH2, 3 and 4: brick raised bed against front/south wall, with bank of heating pipes to rear.
- Likely original use – vine houses
- Likely later use – all fitted with vine eyes on north wall, but only half way up GH3; vines and/or melons.

Restore/repair for new use

Significance:

- GH2, 3 and 4 – central range and mid-sized of the two larger ranges. On site of earliest glasshouses. Likely to have last been used as a vine house. Fixtures and fittings of GH2 and 3 good. Considered to be of strong local significance.

Issues:

- Condition of the whole range poor, only feature of the garden which was not rebuilt/restored by previous owners
- Public safety, access currently not possible
- Shortage of usable, covered space within the garden; this range backs onto the most usable rooms in the adjoining back-sheds

Policies:

- Either to re-develop for an educational use, as a horticultural combined working (GH4) and display (GH2 and 3) house
- Or to re-develop as a flexible space which can be used for interpretation, education and community meetings, whilst retaining some small features of last use (e.g. the vine niches and eyes). Salvage any other usable fixtures and fittings for use elsewhere in the range

GLASSHOUSES: CENTRAL RANGE

GH5 AND 6



Description:

- No glasshouse shown on this site in 1875, but built by 1899 (Ordnance Survey maps).
- GH5 and 6: brick on-end edging along narrow bed against rear wall, blue glazed tile edge to main bed. Heating pipes against south wall.
- Likely use – Peach houses, both fitted with curved peach trainers, (but method of attaching to north wall lost).

Re-build for new use

Significance:

- GH5 and 6 – western half of the largest, easternmost range. Likely to have last been used for peach training, remaining fixtures and fittings least extensive of the range. Considered to be of strong local significance.

Issues:

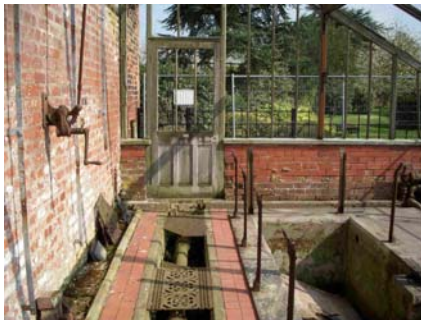
- Condition of the whole range poor, only feature of the garden which was not rebuilt/restored by previous owners
- Public safety, access currently not possible
- Shortage of usable, covered space within the garden

Policies:

- Either to re-develop as a flexible space which can be used for interpretation, education and community meetings
- Or to re-develop as a horticultural working area for educational use

GLASSHOUSES: EASTERN RANGE

GH7 AND 8



Description:

- No glasshouse shown on this site in 1875, but built by 1899 to a slightly different footprint (Ordnance Survey map).

- GH7 and 8: red quarry tile borders with dressed stone edge, to inset metal grating over heating pipes below floor level. Central, concrete-lined reservoir, with niches in edge to hold staging legs. Bank of heating pipes against south wall raised bed.

- GH7: Large number of staging legs resting against eastern wall; three rows of legs, one on either side of reservoir and third adjacent to front raised bed.

- GH8: Few panels of a more ornamental grating than in other houses, and more staging legs remain in situ. Latter, typical Foster & Pearson detail.

- Likely use – show houses for pot plants on the central bench/staging.

- Later fitting of vertical training bars on north wall.

Restore/repair

Significance:

- GH7 and 8 – eastern half of the largest, easternmost range. Likely to have last been used as show houses. Fixtures and fittings most extensive of the range. Considered to be of strong local significance.

Issues:

- Condition of the whole range poor, only feature of the garden which was not rebuilt/restored by previous owners
- Public safety, access currently not possible
- Shortage of usable, covered space within the garden

Policies:

- To re-develop for educational use, either as a horticultural working area, or as a combined working and display house