

# **FRAM**

**The Journal of  
The Framlingham & District  
Local History & Preservation Society**

Number 16

**5th  
Series**

August 2010



*Fram*  
**The Journal of the  
Framlingham and District  
Local History and Preservation Society**

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*Heir of Antiquity! - fair castle Town,  
Rare spot of beauty, grandeur, and renown,  
Seat of East-Anglian kings! - proud child of fame,  
Hallowed by time, illustrious Framlinghame!*

From: *Framlingham: a Narrative of the Castle*,  
by James Bird (1831)

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# FRAM

5<sup>th</sup> Series Number 16

August 2010

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*Editor: M.V. Roberts, 43 College Road, Framlingham*

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Several years ago I wrote and published in this Journal two articles relating wholly or in part to Framlingham Conservative Club (*Fram* 3<sup>rd</sup> series no. 5, December 1998) p.19; (ibid.no.9, April 2000). More recently I have been able to examine the Club's archives, an impressive and complete collection of financial and membership records dating back to the Club's foundation in 1910, augmented by a large range of artefacts, still awaiting sorting and recording.

The second article above also refers to the foundation of a Liberal Club "in a prominent position on the Market Hill" (ibid.p.11 quoting from *Framlingham Weekly News* 5.11.1910) which would appear initially to have flourished, as it secured space for a billiard room in 1911 (J. MacEwan, *Lambert's Framlingham (1871-1916)* (2000). Certainly Framlingham was a strongly Liberal town for many decades up to and including the inter-war period, (*FWN* 17.12.1910) and the *Framlingham Weekly News* includes passing references to its activities, but now it is no more. Where, then, are any of its archives, if they have survived? Do any readers of *Fram* know of any artefacts still held by people here or elsewhere relating to the Liberal Club?

Similarly, at the beginning of the twentieth century the town's Reading Room was flourishing, lending out 2,500 books in one year (*Fram* 3<sup>rd</sup> series no.8, p.23) located by the junction of Station Road and Brook Lane. By 1913, however, the Reading Room had closed down (MacEwan, *op.cit.* p ). Is it too much to hope that some relics of that Reading Room, or even recollections of grandparents passed on to readers of this journal are still there to be recorded or shared?

As I have said before in this journal, it is detail of the activities of clubs, societies, and other (perhaps less formal) gatherings that help us to achieve a fuller understanding of the social fabric of the town, and the attitudes and activities of its inhabitants. Any letters or, indeed, articles on this theme, particularly in relation to the Club and Reading Room described above, will be gratefully received for publication by your Editor.

## FRAMLINGHAM IN THE NINETEEN-THIRTIES

By Geoff Taylor

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We often hear the phrase "The good old days", but not everyone would agree that they were so good. In the early nineteen-thirties, a farm-worker was paid £1/7/6 a week for a full six days' work (now about £1.40), and quite often had to work in heavy rain with little or no real waterproof clothing. Lunch-time was a bottle of cold tea and cheese sandwiches under a tree, trying to keep dry. He usually had two large Suffolk Punch horses, and it was no mean effort to guide the plough in a straight line to the far end of the field. It must have been very satisfying to him to see the finished field all looking clean and free of the weeds which had been buried under the soil. After a full day's ploughing, he then had to clean up his horses and get their feed ready. At lunch-time they would have been with him under a tree with a nosebag full of corn and hay for them to eat. In the evening he would probably go to the village public house and have a pint or two of the local brew at tuppence a pint with the other farm-workers. These nightly visits may well have been due to a wish to escape from several noisy children, as well as to socialize with neighbours and colleagues.

In the spring he would probably spend several evenings a week on his vegetable garden or allotment, digging or planting up the crops. Farm-workers did not pay for a stamp to get unemployment pay when out of work; they had to apply for Parish Relief. Those were indeed hard times for some people, and frequently farm-workers would leave the village and go to a large town and work on the railways.

To make ends meet, farm-workers usually paid into a boot club at a shilling a week (5p), which meant a new pair of boots once or twice a year. They had no holidays, but each small town usually had an agricultural event with a parade of farm horses all spruced up with ribbons on their mane and tail, and merry-go-rounds and coconut-shies.<sup>1</sup>

To get some much-needed pocket-money for sweets, my brothers and I used to go into the woods and pick up acorns which the local vet, who lived opposite to us in College Road, used to feed to his pigs on his small farm.<sup>2</sup> For a bushel of acorns (about 20 lbs.) he gave us six pence (old money).

On November 5<sup>th</sup> we made our own fireworks by putting some carbide in a tin, closing the lid and piercing a hole in it. Before closing the lid we put a few drops of water onto the carbide, which made it give off a gas. A lighted match to the escaping gas produced a hefty bang and blew the tin some yards away. Carbide was a powder, which was used to light a cycle lamp, which had two compartments, carbide in the bottom half and water in the top half. As a small screw on the top was turned, the water was gradually released, dripping on to the carbide and giving off a gas, which could then be lit with a match.

### *Editor's Notes*

1. "Live Stock Shows" became a feature of the Framlingham social calendar from 1884 onwards, normally taking place in late July (see also J. McEwan, *Lambert's Framlingham (1871-1916)* (2000) pp. 239-276).
2. Charles C. Nesling, M.R.C.V.S., veterinary surgeon, is listed in Kelly's Suffolk directories at this period with the address given as The Hermitage, College Road.

## FRAMLINGHAM IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

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*This is the second of our series of extracts from the **Framlingham Weekly News** 1893-1894, made available to us by John Bridges. The third and final part will be appearing in our December 2010 issue.*

### FRAMLINGHAM SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

No.111.

Reverting to PIGOT AND CO'S Directory, from which we make our extracts, under the heading of "Academies and Schools" we find the following names:-

Boult, Rachel (ladies' boarding  
and day)

Marshall, Maria, ladies'  
boarding and day

Freeman, Margaretta Maria

Middleton, Hezekiah

Hill, William (boys)

Wright, John, National  
School

MISS BOULT carried on her school at the house in Double Street, now occupied by Mr. John Wightman. She was originally governess to the family of Mr. Charles Edwards, and to his kindness she was indebted for her start on her own account. She was small of stature and greatly respected. She was succeeded by Miss Smith, daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Smith, veterinary surgeon.

MARGARETTA MARIA FREEMAN - Was wife of the late William Dove Freeman, and died in 1892. She kept school for only a few years.

WILLIAM HILL succeeded his father as schoolmaster, and was a very successful teacher of the young, occupying and owning the house now occupied by Mr. R. Carley, in Double Street. His was a boarding school of good repute, having as many as 25 to 27 in regular residence. His was a day school as well. A more devoted man to his profession could not be found in the whole county. A monument to his memory is erected on the Cemetery by his old pupils. He was a Dissenter, exceedingly kind hearted, and a good bass singer; and he took great interest in the formation and conduct of the Framlingham Mutual Improvement Society.

MARIA MARSHALL was assisted by her sister, and occupied the premises now held by Mr. R. Lambert, Church House. Being a great favourite in her day she was honoured with the training of the young ladies of the leading families in the town and neighbourhood.

HEZEKIAH MIDDLETON - For a short time he carried on scholastic work in a portion of the house now occupied by Mr. R. Lambert, Church Street. The house was then in two tenements.

JOHN WRIGHT was master of Hitcham's School now standing at the end of the Almshouses and disused as such. He was also a bookbinder and filled up his time in the school room with that industry. He lived where Mr. Balls now carries on a tobacconist shop; and he was twice married. His first wife was a Wightman, and they had several children born unto them. The second wife was a Miss Whayman, daughter of Mr. David Whayman, cooper. He was known as "Major" Wright and was bandmaster in the Old Volunteer Band. The instruments used to be housed or kept at

the school. Whilst the "Major" was absent from his duties, as he occasionally was - for he was not quite a teetotaller, - the boys usually filled up the interim with a game of play. On many occasions the whole of the instruments, - fifes, clarionets, French horns, bugles, a serpent, and a drum - would be requisitioned as well as pipes from the school organ, and our readers can easily guess what discordant sounds would proceed from the throats of those several musical instruments! Anarchy reigned supreme! - (We are not exactly certain, however, if anything will reign with Anarchists?) One memorable occasion a sad calamity happened! Whilst a boy was laid on a ladder, and carried by two other boys, one at each end, the Dead March in Saul was being played in school boy fashion on those aforesaid several instruments. The boy who was in charge of the drum was not sufficiently demonstrative with his drum stick, and so he was taken to task for his lameness by one (who shall be nameless) carrying a broom in front of the supposed corpse. He used the broom stick by way of illustration, but lo! and behold! He smashed two holes in the drum! This brought a speedy finish to the march. How to conceal this accident was the next task? Fortunately the drum used to be kept suspended near the ceiling of the school room attached to a pulley; and the only way of concealment was to hoist the punctured end of the drum uppermost and so escape the eye of the vigilant school master. "Murder will out," and the damage to the drum ultimately became apparent; but there was no "splitting" and the culprit was never found out! That very drum is in the possession of Mrs. R. Drake, Castle Street, and was used at the institution of the present volunteer corps in 1859. Some of these selfsame boys who took their several parts in these pranks are now master tradesmen in the town. Mr. Wright was succeeded as schoolmaster by Mr. Christy; and no issue reside in the town. These were some of the "good old times" we suppose?

Next follow the Traders of the town at that period.

PHILIP ALDRICH, miller - It appears there were three millers carrying on business in the town. They all had windmills however, the steam mills of the present day not having found their way into such sparsely populated districts at that period. The other millers were EDMUND KINDRED, whose place of business was that now owned by Mr. Buckmaster. The mill at that date was an ordinary timber built mill, but it fell down with a crash on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1842, whilst a round house was being erected beneath it. The mill was then held by Mr. John Kindred, son of Edmund, and he was one of three who were in the mill at the time, but all escaped with a few slight injuries. Mr. Kindred was completely buried in corn and it was some time before his whereabouts could be discovered. Mr. Collins, millwright, and a workman named Newson, were the other two. The latter was also one of three who met with an accident at the erection of the College and he escaped then with a few bruises, the other two cases terminating fatally. The present Victoria tower mill was erected on the site of the dismantled mill. The other miller, JOHN SMITH, occupied the premises now owned by Mr. G.E. Jeaffreson, on the Saxmundham road, the latter gentleman having had the mill taken down a few years since. There are some grandchildren of Mr. Edmund Kindred still living in the town; but Mr. Smith has no representatives among us. To return to Mr. P. Aldrich: his place of business was that now owned by Mr. A. Roe, Mount Pleasant. We are informed there were then two mills standing on the spot: one a tower mill, and the present mill on round-house. The latter mill previously stood at Apsey Green, and was transported to Mount Pleasant. The brick tower mill was burned down in the winter of 1837. It was a bitter and severe frosty night, and when water was thrown on the burning mass, great icicles formed on several portions of the walls. Mr. Wm, Manning, chemist, who assisted at

the fire in handing buckets of water that night caught a chill which ended in his death. The origin of the fire was at the time a perfect mystery; but in later years it was cleared up. It appears that Mr. Aldrich that night had a party of friends at his house. Being a determined hater of smoking, his sons and their cousins slipped quietly into the mill to indulge in a bit of "the weed" on the quiet. Whilst in this smoking bout they heard their father coming, and expecting a rumpus, they hid their pipes in the mill desk. Having received a due and proper chiding for their folly, the father ordered these young transgressors indoors, and locked up the mill. Some hours after, however, the mill was discovered to be in flames, and the town was alarmed at what was an awfully grand sight, the mill-sails whirling in the air all ablaze, and seen for many miles around. The sons at the time were afraid to confess what they suspected was the cause of the fire, but did so later on in life. The tower mill was not rebuilt.

In later years the premises came into the hands of Mr. Woods. He purchased a small mill at Woodbridge, and had it conveyed home intact on a trolley, and set up on piers by the side of the present mill, so that again there were two mills on the premises. The travelling mill was, however, afterwards sold to Mr. Sutton, of Tannington, who endeavoured to move it intact; but when it was trollied as far as New Street it had to be taken down, and carried in portions to Tannington. The same mill in later years was owned by Mr. W. Ostler, but it was blown down in a gale, and so came to its end. Mr. Woods, who afterwards worked for Mr. Sutton, at Tannington, fell through the trap-door on this very mill, once his property, and died from the injuries received. There are no representatives of Mr. Woods in the town.

The milling trade is one which seems to have developed largely in later years in the town. Mr. FREDERICK KINDRED, another son, took possession of Victoria Mill at the death of his brother John, and he was the first to apply steam to milling machinery in the town. The late John Pierson, Esq., was induced to erect the first steam mill in the town in the year 1853, for Mr. Edmund Kindred, close to the Spring Pump. There was in the Spring-time such a great flood that all the foundations of the mill, then in course of erection, were completely inundated. Messrs. Mallows were the builders, and Mr. Wm. Collins and Mr. J. Barker the millwrights and engineers. The machinery was second hand and came from Ipswich. When the chimney shaft, 60 feet high, was completed, Mr. Kindred would have a tea party at that height before taking down the scaffold. And one of the self-invited guests was Mrs. Caroline Crisp - a kind of character you rarely meet with in these days. She was of a very masculine nature, and had a "dare devil" tongue, and equally "dare devil" spirit of action. She mounted the ladder and sipped her cup of tea with the rest. This Mr. Edmund Kindred, jun., was a man of great business capacity and carried on the mills as well as a business at Melton. But although several other tenants (Messrs. Rose, Hall, and Sturgeon) had a try at the place, none of them did any good at it, the fault being in its capacity, and did not drive sufficient pairs of stones. The mill was sold at a great sacrifice at the death of Mr. Pierson, and was purchased by the Framlingham Peoples' Hall Company, who sold out the machinery by auction, most of which was bought by the late Mr. T. Crisp, of Butley Abbey fame, and taken and fitted up there. The building was then converted into "The People's Hall," and was held by the Company as such for about 18 years, when the Free Methodists purchased it, and re-christened it "Free Methodist Church." Steam seemed to be held in abeyance for a time; but Mr. T. Buckmaster, - following Mr. Kindred, - was the first to follow suit, and he erected a steam mill on his Victoria Mill premises, now carried on by his son John. Mr. R. Whitehead (who followed Mr. Woods), also erected a steam mill on his premises at Mount Pleasant. Later still Mr.



Button put down steam machinery on the site of the Old Tan Yard; and the last development has been the erection of a "roller mill" by Mr. James Maulden, on the old malting premises in Bridge Street, recently held by Mr. James Clutten, maltster and fellmonger. There is not therefore a windmill but has steam power attached; and for the one windmill taken down on the Saxmundham-road, there are three steam mills -pure and simple- in work. There must be a great increase in this particular trade, seeing Mr. Maulden alone turns out 20 sacks per day.

[DR. KINNELL, we have been informed, on the passing of the "Great Reform Bill" of 1832, gave a free tea to the inhabitants of the town. The tables were fixed skirting each side the whole length of Double Street. There was an evergreen arch erected at the top and lower end of the street, and two brass bands - one of them the Diss Band - were engaged to enliven the proceedings. We need not add that the old Doctor was an ardent Liberal.]

*(Published 13 January 1894)*

**SUFFOLK WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS, AN INVESTIGATION**  
**c. 1780 - c. 1900. Part 1.**  
**By Jennifer Broster**

***Introduction***

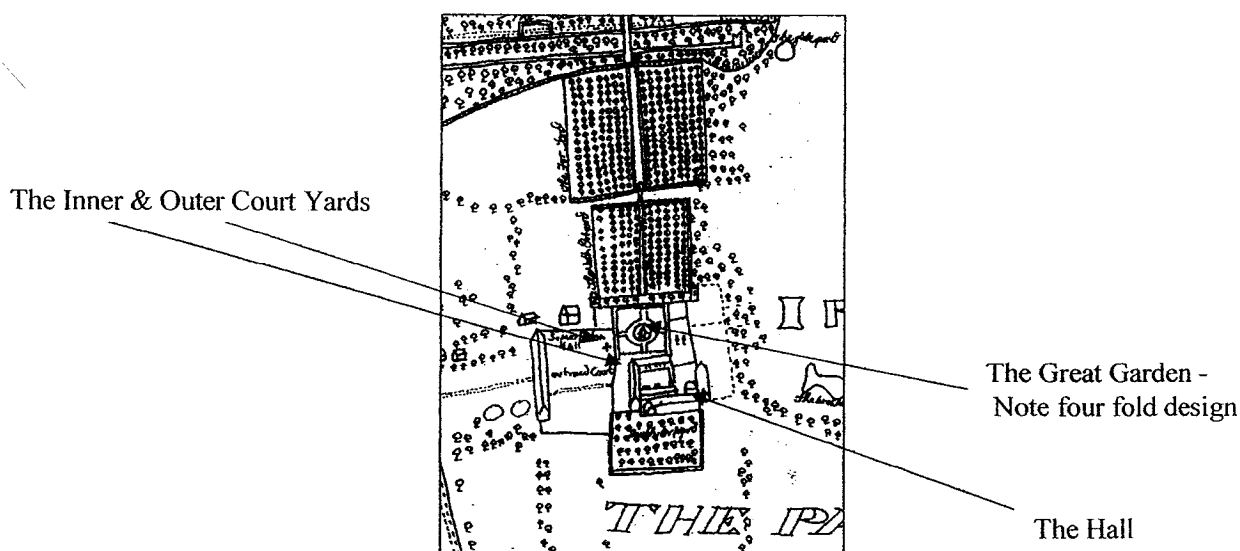
This article focuses on the productive gardens maintained by large Suffolk households, within their grounds, to provide the kitchen with fresh fruit and vegetables and the house with cut flowers to decorate the dining table. Much has been written about the pleasure gardens surrounding Suffolk's mansions, but relatively little about the area that was effectively their larder before the days of refrigeration and supermarkets, namely their kitchen or productive garden. If there is a scarcity of the written word regarding walled kitchen gardens, then detailed contemporary drawings or photographs are almost negligible. For example, at Bawdsey, postcards showing the development of the house or the pergola garden are available, but a picture of the kitchen garden at the height of its productivity is illusive. It is this which makes the subject of productive gardens in Suffolk an interesting but challenging subject to explore.

Gardens are not static, but constantly changing. Sometimes the change is imposed by its owner, either dramatically in a short period of time, or gradually, if done piecemeal. On the other hand, if a garden suits the owner as it is, changes in fashion are ignored. For example, Langham "took second place to Stowlangtoft Hall, where its owners...lived."<sup>(1)</sup> Stowlangtoft, being the main family residence, received attention and alterations were no doubt made, whereas there have been no significant changes at Langham, so the garden seen today has a lot of its original features. Therefore, when studying the changes of the past, care must be taken to avoid generalisations. Not all gardens were, or are, altered at a given time to accommodate current trends.

Productive gardens created prior to our period, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, varied in size from one to four acres, <sup>(2)</sup> and were often just one of a group of walled compartments near the house.<sup>(3)</sup> Their position meant that the produce had only a short journey to the kitchen or flower-arranging bench. Being close to the stable block, it was easy to the transfer dung, used as manure in the garden, from the stable into the walled compartment.<sup>(4)</sup> An excellent example of such a garden, in Suffolk, was at Somerleyton,<sup>(5)</sup> where the kitchen gardens are included in the list of enclosures containing the Great Garden, and the inner and outer court yard. They are not specifically labelled in the survey, but

looking at Figure 1, they must have been close to the Hall. In this particular instance the four-fold designed Great Garden is thought to be the main, and therefore presumably, the decorative garden.<sup>(6)</sup> It will be seen later in this paper that this design was to feature in productive gardens.<sup>(7)</sup>

Figure 1. Part of the map accompanying the 1663 survey of the Somerleyton Estate



Source: Suffolk Record Office, (Lowestoft) 942.64 SOM.  
*Somerleyton Manor Survey 1663 1-33*

The reasons for choosing to look at approximately the hundred years from 1780 are two fold. Firstly, because documentation in the public domain is scarce prior to this date in respect of the gardens investigated, it is difficult to date when they were established if the earliest maps show that were already in existence. An example of this is at Rendlesham Hall. The new Hall was built there in 1830 and from its description appears to have been the type of high status mansion to have had a walled kitchen garden. The building is shown on the 1840 tithe map, but the map is too small a scale to show a walled garden,

neither the estate maps ...(1818-1835), and the accompanying Terrier of Estates in Suffolk (1821,1830) provide any information whatever.... It is not until the 1880s that a...picture of the walled kitchen garden emerges from an article in *The Gardener's Chronicle* (1881) and the... (1887... O.S. map).(8)

As a consequence, all that can be said with any certainty regarding establishment of a walled kitchen garden at Rendlesham is that it was there by 1881. It may have been there before the new hall was built in 1832, created alongside it, or made in the years between 1832/1881.



Secondly, this was a period of rapid horticultural development throughout the country. By the start of the nineteenth century, the average kitchen garden of a big estate had become quite an efficient unit. However, during the next eighty years or so<sup>(9)</sup> technological advances were rapidly to increase its complexity so that it became a production line par excellence.

The underlying cause for this was that new scientific advances were finding their way into Suffolk. New plants were discovered by the Victorian plant hunters in a greater variety and at a greater rate than had ever happened before and the technology was available to cultivate the tropical fruit plants, in particular, that they brought back to this country. This was the first time that horticultural expertise met innovative technological advances on a grand scale and, therefore, the potential was there for estate owners to display their latest horticultural achievements to their peers. The productive garden had become a status symbol as well as a larder.

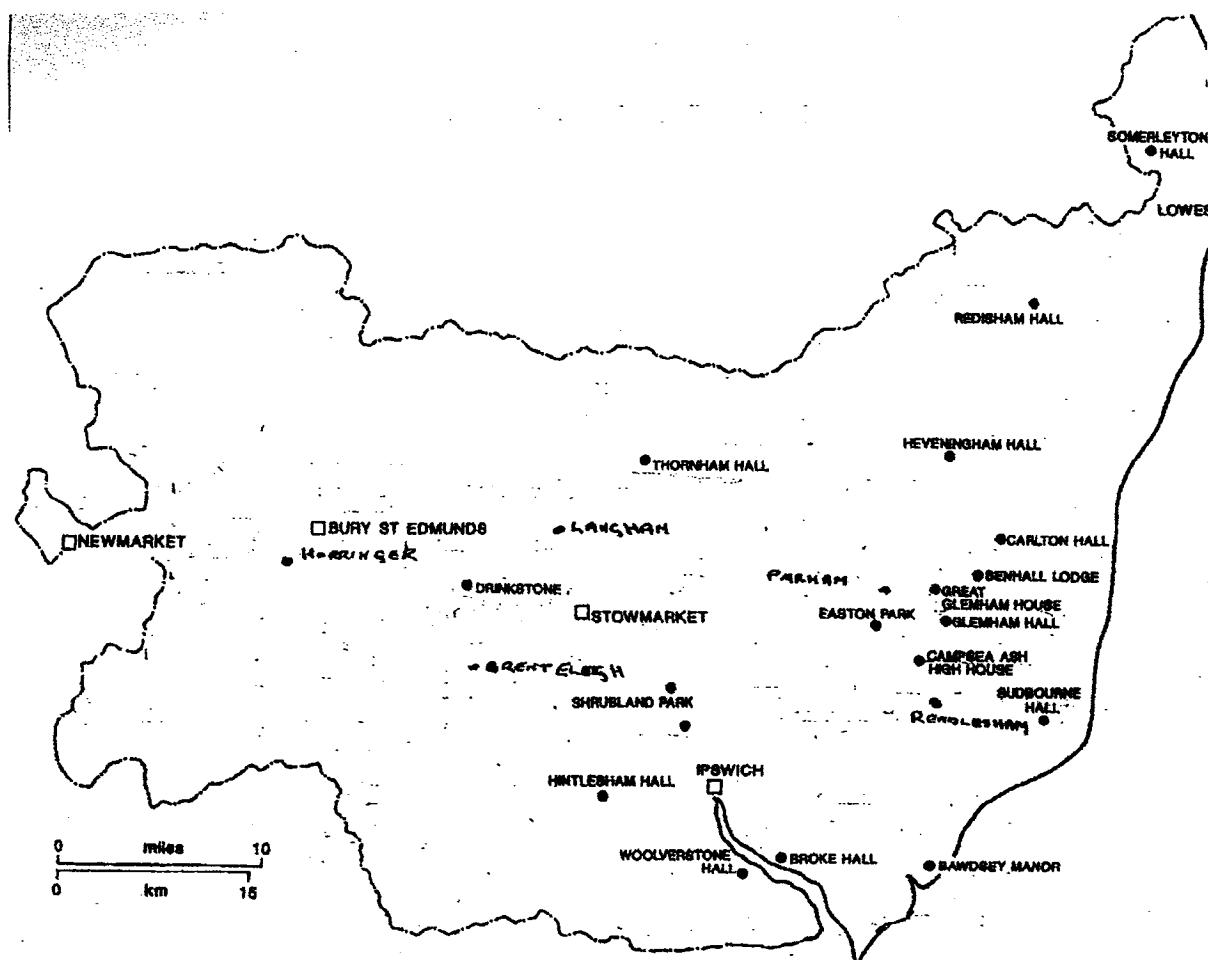
This article stops at the beginning of the twentieth century because that time is when the development of Walled Kitchen Gardens in general terms ended. From then until relatively recently they have been in decline. The sudden absence of manpower during and after the First World War was a major contributory factor in bringing walled gardens to the edge of extinction.<sup>(10)</sup> By the mid twentieth century, they were thought to be a thing of the past. Both English Heritage and the National Trust omitted Kitchen Gardens from their surveys and registers, respectively, as they were deemed unimportant.<sup>(11)</sup> At best their site was used for other purposes such as commercial nurseries as at Benhall<sup>(12)</sup> and Woolverstone.<sup>(13)</sup> At worst they were ignored and left to decay. Between these two extremes, many were used as a car park. The enclosing walls often remain, albeit in a dilapidated state, to reveal evidence of their uses in the past, as at Hintlesham.<sup>(14)</sup>

In recent years there has been a resurgence of interest nationally in walled kitchen gardens which can, perhaps, be said to have been led by Tim Smit when he restored the productive gardens at Heligan. In eastern England his lead has been followed by English Heritage, at Audley End, and the National Trust, at Wimpole Hall and Felbrigg among others. In Suffolk the only well-known restoration of a walled garden appears to have been at Thornham.<sup>(15)</sup>

Fortunately, the Suffolk Gardens Trust have been researching and recording walled gardens within the county in recent years and their reports describe what physical evidence is available at the time of their visit from which deductions can be made as to how any one garden was once used. In some cases the Trust has concluded that a particular walled garden has been used merely as a decorative addition to the grounds, but even here some aspect of such a garden can sometimes be used to illustrate a feature that may just as easily have appertained to a productive garden.

The Trust's reports and important fieldwork provide a basis to compare and contrast the basic elements of a productive garden; the walls themselves; the methods used to ensure an adequate water supply and the glasshouses which enabled a wide range of produce to be harvested over a long period. Other sources used include fieldwork carried out independently from the Suffolk Garden Trust in Suffolk and elsewhere. Maps show examples of where the kitchen garden was situated in relation to the big house as well as to indicate the extent of the glasshouse range, where this is applicable. It is not possible in an article of this length to encompass all of Suffolk's productive gardens, and so a representative sample has been taken. Figure 2 shows the location of walled kitchen gardens in Suffolk upon which this article will focus.

Figure 2. Map showing approximate location of Walled Gardens mentioned in text



Source: Adapted from T. Williamson, *Suffolk's Gardens & Parks* (2000) p.xii



### *The position and shape of Walled Gardens*

The position of the walled kitchen garden in relation to the house is interesting because it gives an indication of the age of the garden. It has been shown until the seventeenth century it was generally situated within easy reach of the house. With the advent of the landscaped park in the eighteenth century, it was not deemed desirable to see any type of garden from the house windows and so the productive garden was relocated further away, necessitating a carriage drive or leisurely stroll to be taken by the family if wished to inspect the garden.<sup>(16)</sup> This was not always the retrograde step it may appear, because the new site could have advantages such as a slope towards the south, which would mean that it would be in the sun for longer in the day and that frost would drain out well. Maybe the new site had more fertile, well drained soil.<sup>(17)</sup>

Another practical reason for putting distance between the house and the kitchen garden was the smell – an awful lot of dung was used.<sup>(18)</sup> The productive gardens at Somerleyton were indeed moved, but in this case as so often, the move is thought to have taken place in the 1840s when the house was rebuilt.<sup>(19)</sup> As the comparison figure 3 to figure 1 shows, they were moved to the opposite side of the pleasure grounds from the house and subsequently grassed over.

However, not all gardens were moved away from the big house. Hintlesham Hall had a group of enclosures nearby, in a similar fashion to Somerleyton in 1723,<sup>(20)</sup> and the kitchen garden appears to have been one of these enclosures. (See figure 5.) The walls of the kitchen garden are still to be seen now,<sup>(21)</sup> situated near the stables, where they were in 1883, as figures 4 and 5 illustrate. It would seem, therefore, that they have remained in the same place since at least the early eighteenth century. They were still in use as recently as 1948.<sup>(22)</sup>

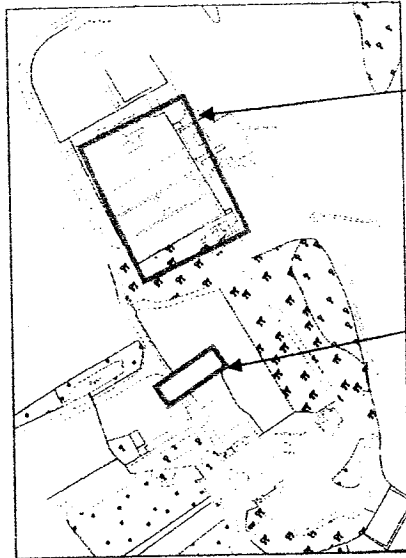
Figure 3. Aerial view showing the site of the kitchen garden at Somerleyton.



Source: T. Williamson, *Suffolk's Gardens & Parks, Designed Landscapes from the Tudors to the Victorians* (Macclesfield, 2000), plate 16

Some Suffolk walled gardens have remained in their original position, but unlike Hintlesham, were never part of a cluster of walled compartments near the house because they are not old enough. Bawdsey Manor and Benhall walled kitchen gardens are two of these. Bawdsey Manor gardens were laid out between 1885 and 1909.<sup>(23)</sup> Certainly, the only features in the area on the 1843 Tithe map are the site of a Martello tower and a small farm complex, which later became the Estate's dairy. The kitchen garden appears on the 1903 Ordnance Survey map and lies approximately 150 metres north-east of the Manor. The English Heritage register accredits the architects Parsons and Partridge with the design of the kitchen garden, which "included a central lily pond, shrub borders and wide grass paths in addition to fruit and vegetables."<sup>(24)</sup> Between the productive garden and the Manor are two pleasure gardens, one of which lies on the site of the Martello tower.

**Figure 4. Modern Map showing position of Hintlesham Hall Walled Garden**



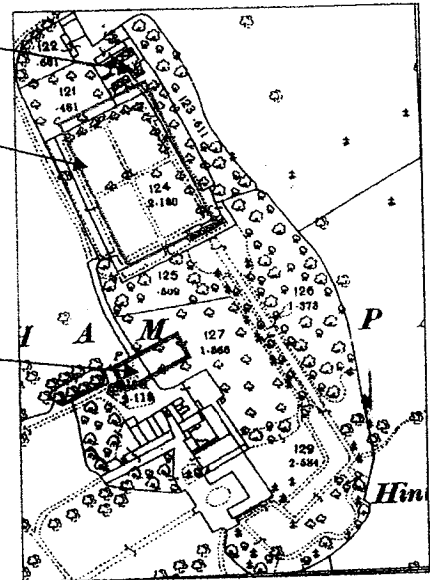
Source: Suffolk County Council  
Licence No. 10023395, Feb 2009  
Original Scale 1:1500

**Figure 5. Map showing position of Hintlesham Hall Walled Garden in 1883**

Area where foundations of frame/pits were found.

Walled Garden

Stables



Source: OS Map 1st Edn., 1883:  
Original Scale 1:1500

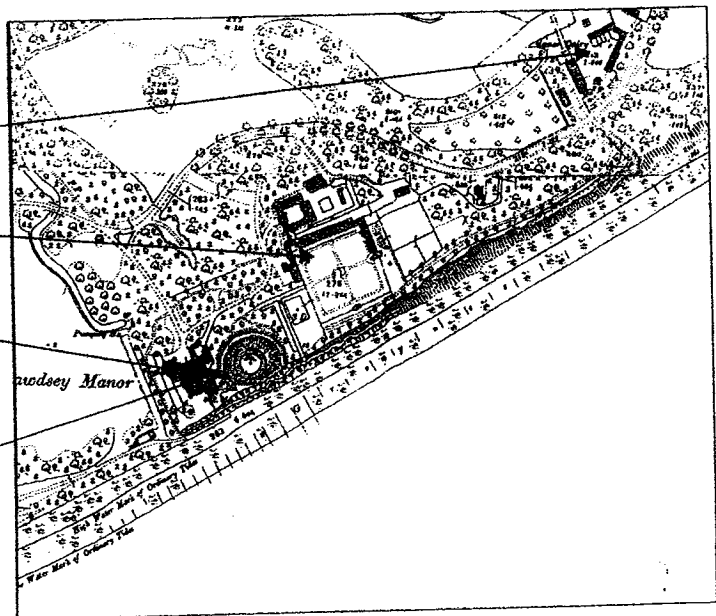
**Figure 6. Bawdsey Estate, 1903**

Dairy

Walled Kitchen Garden

Manor House

Sunken Pleasure Garden on site of Martello tower



Source: OS map, 1903. Original Scale 25" to 1 mile



It would seem that the kitchen garden was quite a walk from the house and it was not conveniently situated to easily transport dung from the dairy.

Benhall Lodge Estate Walled Garden is another garden that has remained in the same place since its creation. It is older than Bawdsey and is thought to have been built along with the new Lodge around about 1815. It is shown on an Estate Sale map of 1830 and is in the same position then as it is today, approximately 200 yards to the north and slightly to the west of the Lodge, whereas at Bawdsey the Walled kitchen garden is over five times that distance from the Manor.<sup>(25)</sup> One reason for this may be that the garden at Benhall was screened from the Lodge by trees. Although this appears to have been attempted at Bawdsey, the sunken garden and the low-lying area of the second pleasure ground beyond would have made it difficult to provide an effective screen for the productive garden nearer the manor.

Great Glemham too has a walled kitchen garden that has remained in the same position since its inception. It lies to the north of the house adjacent to the stable block, a position that is reminiscent of Somerleyton's gardens in 1663 as shown in figure 1. The reason for this may be its age, although dating this garden is particularly difficult. Sales particulars dated 1829 include the kitchen garden "to the north: it contained cross paths which met at an ornamental basin."<sup>(26)</sup> The house was built between 1813 and 1823 and it is thought that the kitchen garden was created with the rest of the park before the house was begun.<sup>(27)</sup> If this is correct, then the garden could have been built as early as 1803. The owner, Lady Cranbrook, says that it has been productively "in use continuously since Regency times", which lends credence to this belief.<sup>(28)</sup>

The kitchen garden "in the middle and later decades of the nineteenth century" was usually integrated "even more closely with the pleasure grounds and ornamental gardens,"<sup>(29)</sup> and so by implication they were positioned further away from the house. These few examples appear to indicate that Suffolk followed this trend. The older gardens, Hintlesham, Benhall and Great Glemham are near the house, while the later, mid-nineteenth century gardens at Somerleyton and Bawdsey are further away.

Most walled kitchen gardens built in Suffolk during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were either square or rectangular, as in the gardens so far discussed,<sup>(30)</sup> but there are some that are shaped differently. Sometimes the square or rectangle is slanted by lengthening opposite walls to expose the maximum amount of wall to the warmth of the sun.<sup>(31)</sup> Opinion was divided as to whether orientation should be inclined towards the east or west of south. Loudon<sup>(32)</sup> took the view that east was better to catch the morning sun.<sup>(33)</sup> Horringer Manor garden is sited this way, but at Parham Hall the tilt is to the west, as is shown in figure 7, maybe because

in cooler areas the aim was to have the orientation slightly to the west. so that it [the south facing north wall] received the sun an hour or more after noon. This afternoon sun is warmer than the morning sun and walls receiving it could act better as a night storage heater. The latter orientation also meant that blossom was less at risk of a sudden thaw.<sup>(34)</sup>

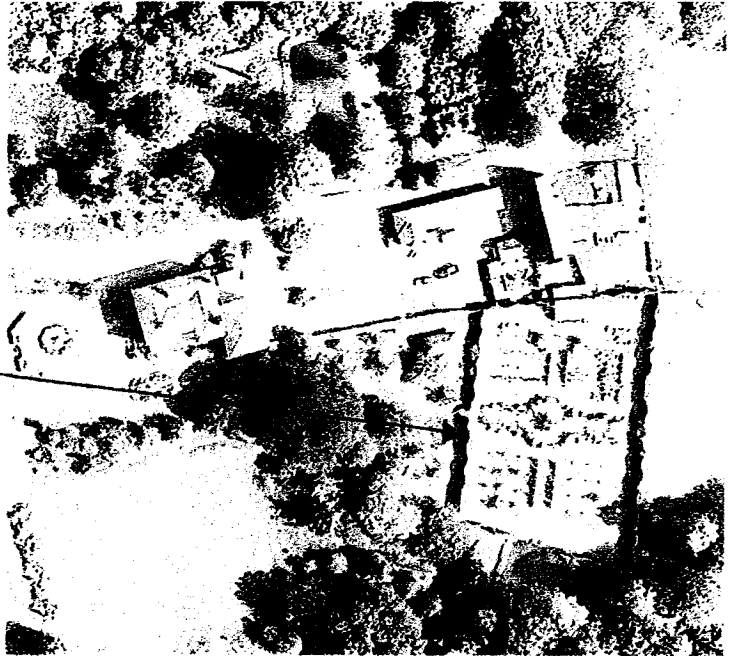
In some places the design took on a more complex shape. At Great Glemham the north wall is polygonal. (See figure 8.) This is an unusual, but not a unique shape especially given its estimated age.

Humphry Repton built several six or seven sided kitchen gardens in the 1790s. Herriard in Hampshire, Tyringham in Buckinghamshire and Grovelands in Middlesex are all examples.<sup>(35)</sup>

Broke Hall has a kite shaped garden as have other Suffolk gardens, for example Orwell Park, Brettenham, Coldham and Rougham. Similarly, triangular shaped gardens with the northern angle sliced to form a trapezium can be found at Boulge, Culford, and Ickworth.<sup>(36)</sup> There has to be a degree of caution in assuming that these unusual designs were created solely to maximise exposure to the sun because topography would also have been a consideration, but nonetheless the importance of a warm, south-facing wall for fruit growing can not be underestimated.

**Figure 7. Aerial view of Parham Hall kitchen garden.**

Note orientation of kitchen garden to the west and the surrounding serpentine walls.



**Source: <http://www.multimap.com/maps/print> : Original Scale 3 cms: 40 yards**

There were other ways to increase the available area of south-facing wall. Sub division or a creation of a garden, within a garden, were techniques used in Suffolk. Benhall is an example of sub division, whereas Langham is an example of a garden within a garden.

At Benhall the tithe map of 1847 shows a building running east to west across the centre of the rectangular site with a gap either end leaving room for easy access to both halves.



**Figure 8. Aerial Picture of Gt Glemham Kitchen garden,  
still in use today.**

The polygonal North wall of the  
kitchen garden.

The site of the dipping pond.

Note:- The position of the  
garden, which is immediately  
adjacent to the stables.



Source: <http://www.multimap.com/maps/print> Scale 1.75cms: 50 yards

Heveningham has a similar division running from the west wall almost as far as the east wall, but there the division is a serpentine wall. Suffolk was not unique in adopting this method of sub division. At Nuneham [Oxfordshire], for example, there was a division across the centre of the kitchen walled garden by a single east-west wall.<sup>(37)</sup>

There is evidence of a garden within a garden at Langham Hall. One of the main garden's quarters, the south western one, is bounded by three walls on the 1884 map, only the south, north facing wall, is missing. It is not known whether a fourth wall ever existed. The three walls are six and a half feet tall and face just east of south so it would have provided "additional shelter and warmth".<sup>(38)</sup> The western wall had gone by the time of the 1904 OS map, but a modern map shows that it has been reinstated.<sup>(39)</sup> Here again, Suffolk was not unique in creating a garden within a garden. At Drumlanrig internal walls were used to provide "more space for tender fruit and successions of produce", while "...at Burghley [there were] no less than six internal walls."<sup>(40)</sup>

It is interesting that classic fourfold design has not been improved upon and that gardens created in the nineteenth century were still using a pattern divided into sections with a dipping pond at the centre. In many cases the dipping pond was still an integral part of the design, even when the shape of the garden deviated from the usual square or rectangle. Of interest too is the fact that out of the Suffolk gardens studied most of them followed the basic shape, with just a few notable exceptions. Further research would be needed to verify that such is the case throughout the rest of the country. Similarly, further research would reveal whether gardens within gardens such as that at Langham were more or less common in other parts of the country.

The position of the productive walled garden in relation to the house is somewhat complex. Whilst in general terms Suffolk's kitchen gardens moved away from the house during the latter half of the nineteenth century, it is often the case that the house in question is either not the original one at that site as at Somerleyton, or it is a complete new build as at Bawdsey. In short, to say that the gardens were moved away from the house is to simplify what actually occurred at many sites. When visiting a walled garden now, one often finds that it is no longer owned by the big house. Where an estate has been divided into lots for sale, the walled garden may have been sold as a separate entity as at Benhall or another building such as the bothy becomes the house linked with the garden, as at Horringer.

### *The Walls*

The walls are, obviously, the quintessential element of a walled garden. It is the walls that visually identify the garden as a separate unit.<sup>(41)</sup> They are there not merely as boundaries but as part of the design to increase the productivity of the garden.<sup>(42)</sup> The walls provide a micro-climate to the benefit of the produce grown in the open ground of the garden, as well as warm supports to fruit trees planted against them. In addition, they act as a barrier to deter predators and thieves.<sup>(43)</sup> The material used to construct them often depended on what was available locally.

To obtain the maximum use from the walls, openings through them and structures against them were kept to a minimum. Some openings, of course, are essential. Separate entrances

were required for the family and the workers. Sometimes there was a third for the head gardener, as at Great Glemham.<sup>(44)</sup> Wherever possible, the gateways were arranged to serve the additional purpose of draining out the frost. For example,

at Horringer Manor the walled garden, laid out in 1839, is on a NW/SE orientation....There are a series of 3 aligned gates [starting at the top, the NW] ... [which] would have performed the valuable function of draining out frosts.<sup>(45)</sup>

Suffolk has very little natural stone and so English bricks were used here from as early as the twelfth century.<sup>(46)</sup> This is underlined by the fact that the brick tax, introduced in 1784, was considered unfair because brick was only used in the eastern part of England; stone used in the western part.<sup>(47)</sup> However, mixed walls of brick and flint are to be seen in Suffolk, although they do not last as long as walls made entirely of brick as the garden at Horringer shows. There, the west and north walls are built of red brick; "in contrast, the south wall of brick and flint...is in poor condition and bowed".<sup>(48)</sup> At Drinkstone, "most walls are mainly of flint rubble with brick pillars", although knapped flint is also present as are "chunks of brick in the east wall".<sup>(49)</sup> The brick pillars at Drinkstone appear to have strengthened the walls in general terms although they have been breached in one area.

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Notes:

- <sup>1</sup>Suffolk Gardens Trust survey, Langham Hall Walled Garden, April and May 2008. Later citations of this source: SGT Langham
- <sup>2</sup>L. Geddes-Brown, *The Walled Garden* (2007) pp.88-9
- <sup>3</sup>T. Williamson, *Suffolk's Gardens and Parks: Designed Landscapes from the Tudors to the Victorians* (2000) p.148
- <sup>4</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>5</sup>J. A. Broster, unpublished paper 2001
- <sup>6</sup>Williamson, *op.cit.* p.18
- <sup>7</sup>P. Hobhouse, *The Story of Gardening* (2002) pp.12,57
- <sup>8</sup>Suffolk Gardens Trust survey, Rendlesham Hall Walled Garden, December 2005. Later citations of this source: SGT Rendlesham
- <sup>9</sup>S. Campbell, *Walled Kitchen Gardens* (2002) p.3
- <sup>10</sup>Geddes-Brown, *op.cit.* p.8
- <sup>11</sup>J. Sales, *Rooted in History: Studies in Garden Conservation* (2001) p.65
- <sup>12</sup>Suffolk Gardens Trust survey, Benhall Walled Garden, December 2006. Later citations of this source: SGT Benhall
- <sup>13</sup>P. Aitkens, "The Kitchen Gardens to Woolverstone Hall, Ipswich" in *A Report on the Historic Buildings and their context* (2005)
- <sup>14</sup>Fieldwork with the Suffolk Gardens Trust, March 2009
- <sup>15</sup>Suffolk Gardens Trust survey, Thornham Hall Walled Garden, May and September 2007. (The 10 year restoration was completed in 2000).
- <sup>16</sup>Campbell, *op.cit.* p.6
- <sup>17</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>18</sup>T. Musgrave, *The Head Gardeners: Forgotten Heroes of Horticulture* (2007) p.27
- <sup>19</sup>J. A. Broster, unpublished paper, 2001
- <sup>20</sup>Williamson, *op.cit.* p.40
- <sup>21</sup>Fieldwork with the Suffolk Gardens Trust, March 2009
- <sup>22</sup>Information from Elizabeth Townsend, who lived at Hintlesham Hall 1939-1948
- <sup>23</sup>English Heritage Register Entry for Bawdsey Manor, Suffolk Coastal TM3440: GD2421 II
- <sup>24</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>25</sup>The calculations are done from the 1883 OS map of Benhall (scale 1:3000) and the 1903 OS map of Bawdsey (scale 1:2500)
- <sup>26</sup>Williamson, *op.cit.* p.111
- <sup>27</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup>Information from Lady Cranbrook
- <sup>29</sup>Williamson, *op.cit.* p.150
- <sup>30</sup>Ibid. p.151
- <sup>31</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>32</sup>John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843) was a leading garden designer and author
- <sup>33</sup>Williamson, *op.cit.* p.15
- <sup>34</sup>S. Campbell, *Charleston Kidding: a History of Kitchen Gardening* (1996) p.49
- <sup>35</sup>Hobhouse, *op.cit.* pp.50-51
- <sup>36</sup>Williamson, *op.cit.* p.150
- <sup>37</sup>J. Morgan and A. Richards, *A Paradise out of Common Field: the Pleasure and Plenty of the Victorian Garden* (1990) p.129
- <sup>38</sup>SGT, Langham
- <sup>39</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>40</sup>Morgan and Richards, *op.cit.* p.129
- <sup>41</sup>Geddes-Brown, *op.cit.* p.6
- <sup>42</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>43</sup>T. Gray, "Walled Gardens and the cultivation of orchard fruit in the south-west of England" in C.A. Wilson (ed.) *The Country House Kitchen Garden 1600-1950* (1998) p.115
- <sup>44</sup>Information from the Estate's Gardener, Fieldwork March 2009

<sup>45</sup>Suffolk Gardens Trust surveys, Horringer House Walled Kitchen Garden, March, May and September 2006. Later citations of this source: SGT Horringer

<sup>46</sup>R. Kennell, "Suffolk bricks and brickwork: an interesting heritage to discover" (Lecture at Suffolk Record Office, 30 September 2006)

<sup>47</sup>[http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/history/making\\_history/making\\_history\\_20051101.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/history/making_history/making_history_20051101.shtml).

<sup>48</sup>SGT, Horringer

<sup>49</sup>Suffolk Gardens Trust survey, Walled Kitchen Gardens, The Old Rectory, Drinkstone, March 2007. Later citations of this source: SGT Drinkstone

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## DEPARTURE POINT

Archaeologists study the ways in which humans have exploited, harnessed and tended it. Landscape architects seek to improve and conserve it. Artists and writers interpret it. Our relationship to landscape lies at the heart of the human experience.

Martin Thompson, "The allure of landscape"

*From: Cam: Cambridge Alumni Magazine, 20, no.55 (2008)*

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