

## The Story of the Norton Nursery Survey

### Ancient Footpath from Norton Park to the Walled Garden

Located a stone gate hinge post forming a gateway from the Norton Park boundary to the walled garden.



Exposed a 20m long by 1m wide section of the footpath to the walled garden (clinker based, now a grass surface). Wall garden details, an L-shaped section is all that remains here of the wall.





Surveyed a remaining stone gate pillar entrance into the walled garden. (Originally there were 2 gate pillars supporting double leaf heavy timber gates, painted green, complete with upper section glass panels.) NB The brick wall running south collapsed in 1979 due to undermining by the excavation of a drainage ditch on its western side.

Stone gate pillar 550mm x 550mm x 3.8m high





The remaining section of the wall to the garden, running north comprises a composition of stone and handmade brick complete with a stone capping along all the remaining wall. The photo shows a stone built buttress supporting the stone section of the wall (the inner section being brickwork and the outer section being stone).

The wall changes direction, running west to east at 90° towards an entrance comprising 2 stone pillars, complete with metal double leaf gates. (These gates previously were timber and glass panelled, matching the main access gate as previously described.)





An ancient female holly grows alongside one pillar.

An old boiler house is located here.



Ernest Brewin & Caroline

The wall changes in height and comprises all handmade brickwork complete with stone capping.





The remaining brick flue to the old boiler house (located below ground level). Which serviced the heating pipework to the lean to glass house vinery located on the south side of the wall.



A bricked up doorway clearly seen formed an access through the wall into the glasshouse.





The remaining section of the wall, which also comprised a double leafed set of timber gates, finished at the kitchen wall of Chantrey Cottage. (a section of which was demolished when the cottage was sold) Located at this point where the wall joined the cottage was an historic Ginkgo Biloba tree (removed by the owners of the cottage) which would have been planted circa 1740. A replacement Ginkgo Biloba was planted 2011, in front of the remaining brick wall, on the boundary of the now privately owned cottage boundary.



In the margin of the land between the north facing wall and the animal paddock are located 4 ancient yew trees, GPSd and photographed.

## The Ancient Holly



### The Ancient Walled Garden Surrounding Wall (1740)

The reference is to what remains of the walled containment of the garden (now Norton Nursery). As described in the ancient footpath story, from the remaining gate pillar at the entrance from the west to the walled garden. Item 1, the L shaped part of the wall on the western approach and to the north and east of the site remains intact. (Stone faced, brick, complete with stone capping)

Item 2, the lower western section of the wall to the south collapsed circa 1979 and was demolished. (Stone faced, brick complete with stone capping)

Item 3, the southern part of the wall running from west to east, this wall was constructed completely of hand-made brick and was demolished section by section over the years from 1950 onwards. The bricks were used as crushed coarse aggregate in compost making for carnations, cyclamen and begonias. The wall was gradually removed to ground level and the area then used to create turf stack provision for plant compost use. Turf from Oakes Park was placed in layers with manure between, up to a height of 1.8m. NB This section of brick wall served no further use as the boundary. The Serpentine Wall was sufficient protection to the nursery.



Item 4, the eastern wall is intact and runs alongside Norton Lane, the outer part being stone and the inner brick, complete with stone capping. The wall returns at 90° back into the nursery and is a similar construction to the one previously described. It then returns at 90° as a similar construction to the one previously described, part now reduced in height and it finishes at the main drive access to the nursery.

The stone cappings are of consistent size throughout the wall construction, dimensions 560mm x 560mm x 100mm thick. Stone gate posts 550mm x 550mm x 3.58m high. Handmade bricks (?)



Stone Built Bothy (See plans 1741 and 1883)

A bothy is a small building for housing labourers (18<sup>th</sup> century).

The stone built and tiled roof bothy would have been constructed at the period when the walled garden was developed for food production for Norton Hall. It would house the casual

labour force who would work in the walled garden. (In 1957 it still existed and was used as a mess room for the nurserymen working at Norton Nursery for SCC.) It comprised of a single storey building with a large kitchen/dining room with a Yorkshire range cooking unit inbuilt complete with fire grate, oven and water heating boiler and 2 metal hobs for cooking over the fireplace. In one corner was a stone sink. (Still there when Ernest first went to work there in 1957.) At the rear of the building there was a bedroom with 4 bunk type bed units and then a separate room, presumably for storage with an outside access door. At the side of the kitchen there was a boiler house positioned below ground level with stone steps down to it (this serviced the glass house and frames adjacent to the bothy by means of hot water pipes.). The whole unit was combined within one building which remained intact until circa 1980 when it was partially demolished leaving the boiler house section which was reconstructed using the salvaged stone and tiles from the bothy.

NB The head gardener was provided with the adjacent stone built lodge (now Norton Nursery lodge), now a grade 2 listed building for his accommodation. A standard employment specification would have been for the head gardener to be in charge of staff

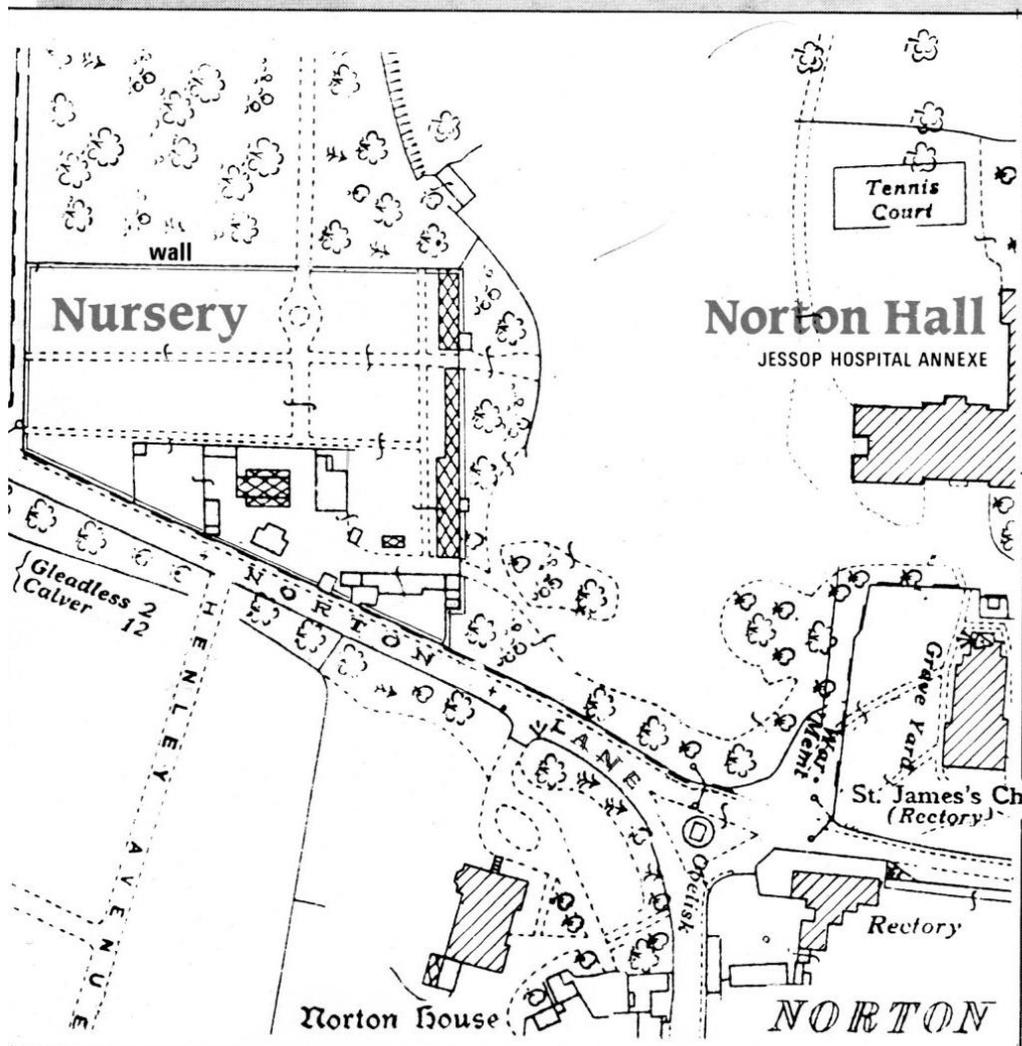


Extract from 1741 Map

and crop production with wife to work at Norton Hall. There would be emoluments such as a free house or lodge, plus fuel for the fire and produce from the garden. There was also a large kitchen garden to the lodge with room for fowls, pigs to be kept and vegetable grown.

The garden labourers would probably have been allowed free produce from the walled garden plus fuel.

**O**ld Norton of the 1930's - the original walled kitchen garden of Norton Hall as it stood before becoming Sheffield's Norton Nurseries.





Extract from 1883 OS Map