

## **Historians saving Walled gardens? A Chambord hand-out**

**concept TDengerink, 14-6-22**

As Susan Campbell, famous English garden historian told us: 'the savers of Walled gardens could do with help in recognising what had gone before and what to do next by research of the old structures, old techniques.' The garden has its own biography with several layers of design, infrastructure, functions according to the passions and ideas of the owners and their gardeners.

Researching them, it reveals the values and the possibilities to restore, alter or fit in new functions or facilities needed. Anaïs Blesbois and I, both garden-historians of profession, asked ourselves if (new) owners were aware of the role of garden-historians or garden-archaeologists in the research, offering the owner an analysis and set of values based on archives, oral history and research in situ.

Garden-historians and archaeologist save time and money because it will help the owner to make the right decisions on sound historical research, it helps to find the adequate designer for the design, it helps to make applications for licenses of local planning authorities, finding finance and it is part of the conservation management plan that assists the owner in short and long-term maintenance and a source for research and future development.

### **Questionnaire in UK, FR, BE, NL**

We interviewed some members or attendees of the Walled Garden group in England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands what they did know about the history of their garden, which sources were used were garden-historians or - archaeologists, how and why involved in restorations, is historical research obliged in planning conservation. To get a complete picture I asked members of the Chambord organisation information about general guidelines and legislation, professional education for garden historians, garden archaeologists and was conservation management part of university study for landscape architects or art history and archaeology students?

Because Anaïs is busy with her thesis I am thankful for the additions and corrections of eminent members of the Walled Garden group who prepared the Chambord conference in 2022.

### **Results**

A lot of 'restorations' started with an old drawing or a nice picture found in the archive. If no documentation/remains were found a reconstruction of a kitchen garden was made in a favourite garden style. Sometimes the owner or the gardener did his/her own research and used it for their goal. Or a landscape architect was asked for a came by and after a short research the ground was removed according the design. Garden-historians or garden-archaeologists were seldom hired by the landscape architect. Sometimes food-historians.

The first impression is if research of garden-historians/archaeologists is not legally obliged, they are involved at a small scale. If the garden is registered as historic monument historical research is obliged as a document of significance (UK) to get registered (NL, FR, Be) or labelled as 'remarquable'.

Education in conservation management of historic gardens is dedicated in higher education or post-graduate courses. Most landscape-architects followed a course in garden history (bachelorlevel), garden archaeology is not a dedicated study at university, a specialisation of art history?

It gives a mixed picture of garden-historians who make the design and landscape architects who do the historical research and valuation of the significance. But recently new courses and hand-outs are coming up about professional conservation management plans, that could help to stay focused!

## Conservation Management Plans in steps and the different roles

**Plan of research**- the owner wants to change the historic garden and make a list of the actual situation, what needs to be changed, the questions to be researched and who is involved (budget)

**Preliminary research** (garden-historian)-Facts about the site, environment, the remains, the documents (maps, photographs, letters, reports, legal and finance information, administration, plant-lists and orders, registered as monument); maps of important changes are drawn, research about the owners history, style periods and historical events, important designers, gardeners, structure, use and remained elements are noted. The garden archaeologist can search for hidden historic structures, use, plants and place of elements like paths, trees, borders and other elements of historic layers on basis of the research of the garden historian with old or new less disturbing techniques see:

**Analysis and valuation (significance)** (garden-historian) what is the significance of the garden measured in parts of the garden, the general history, the culture historical values, garden historical values (designers, gardeners, style), the way the structure of the garden was used. Are they important enough or only positive or not important enough to sustain in any new use, alteration, repair or management? Individual and in context?

**The (objective) report is presented to the owner** the owner has to make a decision on the valuation which layer/part of the garden can be **restored** (authentic structure and materials, repair) or **reconstructed** (new materials used to look like the authentic design), **renovated** (changing the original structure using new materials) or need a **new design/evocation** bringing in new design and new possibilities adapting to contemporary needs. What is the owners goal with the garden. [Sometimes the garden-historian assists with the applications for licenses or finance based on the historical report and valuation.]

**The design** (landscape architect), the owner hires someone who is specialised in the focused period and goal of the owner to make a design in contact with the owner, the gardener, the garden-historian. If the design is approved by the owner and accepted by the authorities it can be realised.

**Realisation**-the landscape architect coordinates the work, the structure, the materials and plants and suggest how the garden has to be maintained in the future in contact with the gardener and owner

**Management /maintenance** Evaluation reports of the work done, controlled by owner and heritage organisations. Future actions will be planned for periods of 5, 10 or 15 years for the conservation of the significance of the garden. Adaptions for the public are needed for an open monument. For new changes the reports, plans, maps and evaluation should be archived as an new source.

**Note:** In the different countries of the questionnaire specific values, steps, the responsible authorities can vary for the conservation of (registered) historic gardens, but experts are needed saving the significance of the garden for future generations in line with the Charter of Florence.

The last years new (inter)national networks, courses and hand-outs are offered for professionals and volunteers involved in green heritage and conservation management planning. The following links can give you an idea of the specific situation per country.

## Situation in France:

**Guidelines- Charte de Florence** [https://www.icomos.org/charters/gardens\\_f.pdf](https://www.icomos.org/charters/gardens_f.pdf) and more practical 'le plan de gestion jardin-un document de programmation, aide à planifier'.

<https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Thematiques/Monuments-Sites/Ressources/Les-fiches-pratiques/Fiche-pratique-Le-plan-de-gestion-jardin>;

**Registered gardens-** The Ministry of Culture and Communication classifies gardens of monumental value on a list (Register of Cultural Monuments/ [Monuments Historiques-Jardins](#)); [Register of Cultural Monuments](#).

The research can be subsidised till 50%. And there is a label connected for the duration of 5 years to 'remarquable' gardens which are valuable and obliged to be open for the public. Applications for this label are handled by the Direction Regional des Affaires Culturelle.

<https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Thematiques/Monuments-Sites/Monuments-historiques-sites-patrimoniaux/Les-sites-patrimoniaux-remarquables>;

If your garden is classified and on the list of 'Monuments **Historiques**' it is obliged to do historic research.

**Research-** Leav [Laboratoire de recherché de l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Versailles-ENSA]; <https://www.versailles.archi.fr/fr/recherche-leav/le-laboratoire>; Archives nationales:<https://www.siv.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/siv/cms/content/display.action?uuid=Accueil1RootUuid&onglet=1>; Archives départementales, un exemple: <https://archives.touraine.fr/>;

**Education-Garden-historians:** Master 2 "Jardins historiques, patrimoine et paysage" <https://www.versailles.archi.fr/en/node/1626> in Versailles; Garden-Archaeologists: University Art History and Archaeology like Andre Chastel in Paris <http://centrechastel.paris-sorbonne.fr> ; advise from archaeologic services (under the Ministry of Culture) in a particular department; University for Landscape architects. Some of them specialised in historic gardens complete their education at Versailles, JHPP. Courses of [www.e-patrimoines.org/](http://www.e-patrimoines.org/) with experts.

## Useful links:

VMF (Vieilles Maisons France- (<https://enseignants.vmfpatrimoine.org/>), Demeure Historique- (<https://www.demeure-historique.org/>), Regional: APJRC (Parcs cet jardins-Region Centre-Valle de Loire) (<https://www.jardins-de-france.com/>, and DRAC (direction régionale des Affaires culturelles) ;

**A few names of garden historians:** Marie-Hélène Benetière- <https://www.e-patrimoines.org/patrimoine/orateur/marie-helene-benetiere>; Monique Mosser: [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monique\\_Mosser](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monique_Mosser) ; Jean-Michel Sainsard- <https://www.e-patrimoines.org/patrimoine/orateur/jean-michel-sainsard/>

**A few names of garden archaeologists:** Cécile Travers <http://www.archeoverde.com/main.php?p=0> [L'archéologie des jardins, cadre, méthodes et apports, quelques exemples récents - YouTube]; Anne Allimant-Verdillon: <https://www.e-patrimoines.org/patrimoine/orateur/anne-allimant-verdillon/>

**Researcher:** Angèle Denoyelle : <https://anabf.org/pierredangle/dossiers/la-charte-de-florence-fete-ses-quarante-ans/conserv-restaurer-faire-evoluer-les-jardins-historiques-genese-et-ambiguites-de-la-charte-de-florence>

## Situation in the UK

**Guidelines** The management & maintenance of historic parks, gardens and landscapes: The English Heritage Handbook 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. by John Watkins and Tom Wright; ICOMOS conservation management plans [http://ip51.icomos.org/~fleblanc/documents/management/doc\\_ConservationManagementPlans-Guide.pdf](http://ip51.icomos.org/~fleblanc/documents/management/doc_ConservationManagementPlans-Guide.pdf); Historic England: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk> ; <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/parks-gardens-and-landscapes/maintenance-repair-and-conservation-management-plans-for-historic-parks-and-gardens/>; Gardens Trust: CMP-<https://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/conservation-management-plan-project/>.

Legal planning requirements heritage [The Planning System | Historic England](#); for garden-restoration [Planning-System-in-England-and-Protection-of-Historic-Parks-and-Gardens-2016-v1.pdf \(thegardenstrust.org\)](#)

**Registered gardens**- several registers for gardens-. There is a register of historic parks and gardens of special interest in England (English Heritage in ass. with Parks and Gardens UK) [Registered Parks & Gardens | Historic England](#); The CADW/ICOMOS Register for Wales [Registered historic parks and gardens | Cadw \(gov.wales\)](#); the inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland [Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland - Wikipedia](#); the register of Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency [Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes \(archive.org\)](#) .

**Research/** Green Heritage Organisations

Heritage Library (<https://www.theheritagelibrary.co.uk/>); Royal Horticultural Society record – Archiveshub (<https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/70e8aa1e-7ffd-3e80-b388-e0e43b05dd86>); Gardeners Chronicle archive online (<https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/serial?id=gardenerchron>) or more at <https://thegardenstrust.org/research/>. Archaeology: <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/archaeology/>

The Gardens Trust (<https://thegardenstrust.org>) amalgamated with the County Gardens Trust; The National Trust (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>) -charity and membership for heritage conservation; English Heritage (<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk>) - preserving and protection of historic monuments; Plant Heritage (<https://www.plantheritage.org.uk/>) - National plant Collections across Britain and Ireland; Walled Kitchen Gardens Network (<https://www.walledgardens.net>) kitchen-gardens and orchards

**Education**-no dedicated courses for garden historians at university level; new initiative for a course of the Garden Trust, for GT and CGT members, already involved in planning or new on the subject: "Conservation of Historic Gardens" by Audrey Gerber <https://learningwithexperts.com/gardening/courses/conservation-of-historic-gardens>. The Garden Trust: actual courses at different levels on garden: [www.thegardenstrust.org/learning/garden-history-courses-and-lectures](http://www.thegardenstrust.org/learning/garden-history-courses-and-lectures). And since 2020 [www.thegardenhistorians.co.uk/about/](http://www.thegardenhistorians.co.uk/about/) . No specified courses in garden archaeology. Techniques: [Finding and sharing best practice in Garden Conservation - Norges grønne fagskole Veia \(veia-fs.no\)](#)

**Some garden-historians:** Susan Campbell [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan\\_M.\\_Campbell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_M._Campbell) ,?

**Some garden archaeologist:**? Link: [Archaeological Methods and Techniques to Conserve and Analyse Finds | Historic England](#)

## Situation in Belgium

**Guidelines** see the heritage organisations like:

Les Demeures historiques & Jardins de Belgique asbl : <https://www.dhj-hwt.be/>  
Brussel.Patrimoine [http://patrimoine.brussels/fr?set\\_language=fr](http://patrimoine.brussels/fr?set_language=fr) / <http://erfgoed.brussels/>

Comité Scientifique International ICOMOS-IFLA pour les paysages culturels (ISCCCL): [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Scientific\\_Committee\\_on\\_Cultural\\_Landscapes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Scientific_Committee_on_Cultural_Landscapes);  
Historic parks and gardens are part of a cultural landscape designs. The 'restoration of gardens' is a general term, covering conservation (restitutions), reconstruction and historical suggestions (évocations). The charter doesn't make the differentiation. Most of the 'restorations' of gardens and parks use several interventions, representing their history. Since 12 years the ISCCL insists that the 'restorations' of gardens and parks are based on previous academic studies, in depth and conducted by historians, archivists, art-historians specialised in garden art, archaeologists specialised in garden archaeology, geologists, dendrologists, in fauna and flora specialised biologists, ecologists. But is obliged to make a historic study of the garden with a detailed inventory of the biological elements (for the trees: species, variety, circumference of the trunk, health) . The results of the academic study should permit to make motivated choices for the 'restoration'.

### Management of monuments, sites, historic Parks and Gardens / heritage agencies

Wallonia : <https://agencewallonnedupatrimoine.be/protection-du-patrimoine/>  
Inventory héritage properties : [http://lampspw.wallonie.be/dgo4/site\\_ipic/](http://lampspw.wallonie.be/dgo4/site_ipic/)

Flanders : <https://www.onroerenderfgoed.be/>

Inventory of heritage properties : <https://www.onroerenderfgoed.be/publicaties/handleiding-het-beheer-van-historische-tuinen-en-parken>;

Brussels Capital region : <http://patrimoine.brussels/>

### Registers of historic parks and gardens

<http://europeangardens.eu/inventories/bew/>  
<http://europeangardens.eu/inventories/bef/>

### Research:

<https://www.onroerenderfgoed.be/bibliotheek>  
<https://agencewallonnedupatrimoine.be/se-documenter/>  
<https://www.brussels.be/local-heritage-online-erfgoedbank-brussels>

### Libraries

CIVA Brussels : <https://www.civa.brussels/fr/bibliotheques>  
CRMSF : <http://www.crmsf.be/fr/centre-darchives-documentations/collections/fonds-darchives/fonds-de-la-crmsf>  
Botanic Garden Meise : <https://www.plantentuinmeise.be/nl/pQJ3rHB/collecties/bibliotheek>

### Magazines

*Monumenten & Landschappen* : <https://menl.be/home#/magazines/2022>  
*Demeures historiques & Jardins* : <https://www.dhj-hwt.be/>  
*Les Nouvelles du patrimoine* (Amis de l'Unesco) : <https://www.nouvellesdupatrimoine.be/>

## Other sources

The conservation of historic parks and landscape gardens in Belgium : examples from Enghien, Brussels and Antwerp => ???

Sabine Cartuyvels & Dominique Guerrier-Dubarle, « Le potager, transmetteur de savoirs et jardin à partager », *Bulletin de la CRMSF*, t. 28, 2016, p. 57-93.

Nathalie de Harlez, *Parcs et jardins historiques de Wallonie* (2008) :

<https://hdl.handle.net/2268/145208> / Etude sur les jardins du château de Freÿr, Annevoie, résidences de Velbruck et autres :

[https://orbi.uliege.be/simple-search?sort\\_by=available\\_dt&order=desc&idx=&query=de+harlez](https://orbi.uliege.be/simple-search?sort_by=available_dt&order=desc&idx=&query=de+harlez)

Eric Hénaut & Ursula Wieser-Benedetti (dir.), *Bruxelles. Deux siècles et demi de parcs et jardins publics, 1775-2020*, Anvers, CI.II.III.IV.A, 2019.

Piet Lombaerde, « Les aménagements hydrauliques du Parc du Coudenberg à Bruxelles », *La fabrique du jardin à la Renaissance* / Salamagne, Alain [edit.], Tours, Presses universitaires François-Rabelais, 2019, p. 173-185 : <https://repository.uantwerpen.be/desktop/irua>

## Education:

Bachelier en architecture des jardins et du paysage (180 ECTS) : Haute Ecole Charlemagne (Gembloux) : [Bachelier en architecture des jardins et du paysage \(hech.be\)](https://www.hech.be) / Haute Ecole Lucia de Brouckère (CERIA Bruxelles) : <https://www.helddb.be/wpfiches/?sodid=18&anacid=8>

Master en Architecture du paysage (300 ECTS): Université de Liège (Gembloux Agro-Bio tech) [Master in Landscape architecture \(uliege.be\)](https://www.uliege.be); [garden archaeology?](#); Kitchengarden such as: <https://www.vea-fs.no/join-the-webinar-trained-fruit-in-historic-kitchen-gardens/>

## Garden historians / historien conseil :

Nathalie de Harlez : <https://www.nathaliedeharlezdedeulin.be/>;

Odile Debruyne : <https://www.odebruyne.be/>

Katrien Hebbelinck (Wannegem, Hingene, Bois-Lombut)

**Landscape Architects** : Jean-Baptiste Duchêne <http://duchene-paysagiste.eu/presentation/> ; Benoit Fondu / Fondu landscape Architects : <https://www.f-la.be/> ; Anne-Marie Sauvat / Eole Atelier d'architecture des jardins et du paysage : <http://eole.eu/>

**Garden archaeologist** : -

## Situation in the Netherlands

### Netherlands

**Guidelines:** RCE Guideline for Green heritage-

[https://www.stichtingerm.nl/doc/Tuinhistorisch%20onderzoek%20richtlijnen\\_kunsthgroen.pdf](https://www.stichtingerm.nl/doc/Tuinhistorisch%20onderzoek%20richtlijnen_kunsthgroen.pdf)  
(structure for objective garden historical research with a analysis on values (ensemble, cultural, garden history, use structure/site)

**Register:** mobile and immobile monuments; register of national monuments, <https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/rijksmonumentenregister>; registers of local monuments at the site of municipalities

**Obligation for research:** A garden historical research report is required when the national or regional government is subsidising the restoration (as part of an ensemble or independent monument) /Restoration Fund; If you are planning changes in a protected garden (Omgevingswet) you need often a licence of the (local)government, a garden historical report could be asked. In the guideline for Green Heritage of the RCE a statement is made about independent research that helps the owner planning, the designer works on the basis of objective research. An owner could instead hire an Landscape-architect who decides if he needs an garden-historian or garden-archaeologist.

Discussions about restoration 'most restorations are interpretations of historic gardens'. The Belvedere-report is saying: 'the best method to care about heritage is development',

**Heritage organisations:** <https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl> The RCE is the National Cultural Heritage Institute, since 2012 with a working group for Green Heritage and Guidelines for a Historical Garden research. They facilitate the process for acquiring the status ' national (or Rijks)monument' (nearly closed) or maintenance or advise ; Heritage departments of provinces (regional) or local municipalities. Network for Garden history: Cascade ( <http://www.cascade1987.nl/>); kitchen gardens <https://www.skbl.nl/moestuinen-op-kbl/>

**Research:** map of Dutch green monuments <https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/bronnen-en-kaarten/overzicht/kaart-groen-erfgoed>; Garden history: <https://www.wur.nl/en/Library/Special-Collections.htm>; Royal (national) Library <https://www.kb.nl/en>; sources green heritage-research , planning and implementation <https://www.groenerfgoedzorg.nl/>

**Education:** RCE- green heritage courses for heritage gardeners, government employees, garden-historians (<http://www.erfgoedacademie.nl/opleidingsaanbod/groen-erfgoed-voorjaar-22>); Bachelor <https://www.hu.nl/deeltijd-opleidingen/groen-erfgoed>. Landscape-architect Universities in Groningen (bachelors course on Garden history), university of Amsterdam (data about kitchen gardens), Wageningen. Several universities educate pieces of the field, an interdisciplinary approach such as in Sheffield should be aimed: a higher education for the maintenance of historic gardens and parks, more /less about historic gardens at Van Hall Larenstein: [factsheet-tuin--en-landschapsinrichting-ad-dt\\_2021.pdf](https://www.factsheet-tuin--en-landschapsinrichting-ad-dt_2021.pdf) (hvhl.nl).

**Garden-historians:** Natascha Lensvelt (RCE) <https://www.groenerfgoedzorg.nl/doc/Tuin&Landschap%203%202019.pdf>, Jan Holwerda (Cascade <https://groenverleden.nl/over/>)

**Garden-archaeologists:** ?

## Some do's and don'ts

### In conservation management planning of a historic fruit and kitchen garden

- **Do's:** search in public/private archives for designs, maps, accounts, letters. But don't forget oral sources (family, neighbours, old staff-members, etc.) and archaeological research for the remains of buildings, water-sources, pipes and paths (even seeds)
- **Do's:** research in the main style periods, what was standard in organizing, planning and working in the walled gardens in the region. Who were the owners in the region, which style and techniques were used (horticultural manuals)
- **Do's:** seek contact with other researchers/heritage specialists/gardeners, post questions on historical or local networks, share your information (blog, visited tours, articles)
- **Do's:** write your sources (whatever they may be) with the date, next to the new information. This information could be compared with old sources (a real new source?)
- **Do's:** make a soil sample and collect (local/historic) plants and seeds that will thrive on this soil; for other plants place them in pots with the soil they need

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- **Don'ts:** do not dig before researching, measure and photograph the original state of the garden; garden-archaeologists should be informed. You might lose essential data.
- **Don'ts:** Do not hurry because of the results, share your plans and results (for evaluation)
- **Don'ts:** Do not do it on your own, ask specialists and volunteers for co-reading and for tasks you are not capable of (like funding, pruning)
- **Don'ts:** Do not fuzz around with every new solution or plan, keep up with your planning and evaluate. Monitor with photo's through the year, systematically of parts of the garden. It will help to remember what went wrong and why. Making notes in your seed/plant list or timetable is another source. Try new solutions at a small scale and compare.
- **Don'ts:** Do not forget the goal of your walled garden, or the owners goal: production at the right scale, example of an historic garden or technique, place for leisure, memories and/or knowledge sharing. Is the garden unique? Promote it, if not: make it a pleasant place to be.