

Frances Greenall, later known as Lady Daresbury, was a bold and accomplished woman, who made a great contribution to Warrington life through her charitable and political activism. She shaped Walton's spectacular gardens, which became famous for their grand and exotic displays during public open days and the annual Walton Show. Some of her plants and trees are still growing around the park, including the wonderful bright pink azaleas.

1 Sensory Garden

The Friends of Walton Estate planted the sensory garden to provide a variety of smell, colour, shape and touch sensations.

2 Pond

Lady Daresbury had a mixed relationship with the pond. She helped to transform the area with an impressive rockery and new planting but on one occasion the handbrake on her car broke and the car rolled downhill straight into the water!

3 Dell

Lady Daresbury created a nature-lover's landscape in the dell. Featured during estate open days, visitors would find white lilies in several small ponds and white, purple and blue flowers thoughtfully planted throughout.

4 Orchard

The orchard was planted in 2018 but the apples aren't the estate's first fruit-growing endeavour. Peaches have been grown in the kitchen gardens, tomatoes were cultivated during World War II and even bananas grew in the conservatory in the 1980s.

5 Formal Garden

The formal gardens in 1928 were a journey through a blue and white garden of dreamy blue hydrangeas and spotless white dahlias, to the deliciously perfumed rose garden. Next the striking red and yellow borders, phlox borders, the grey garden set against a background of pink and red climbing roses, eight feet high. Then a paved garden, which had 15 beds with blooms of every colour and a tank with water lilies.

6 Hall

The Hall was the home of Lady Daresbury until 1941 when she moved to Walton Old Hall. That house no longer exists but its site is now named Old Hall Close.

7 Rhododendron

The rhododendron here would have been a magnificent welcome to the house as you passed through the gate at the top of the driveway. The gardens were famed for their spectacular collection of rhododendrons which were considered to be some of the best in the north of England.

7 Conservatories

The conservatory range caused much excitement when Lady Daresbury hosted her open days. Visitors would have seen the fernery brimming with ferns, foliage and flowering plants, marvelled at the exotic and wonderful species in tropical plant house and entered the main conservatory to sights of tall bamboos and goldfish darting around in the central tank.



Walton walks: Lady Daresbury

Wander through the park and amongst the flowerbeds to discover the gardens and conservatory range shaped by Lady Daresbury



For more information visit:
www.waltonhallgardens.co.uk

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WARRINGTON
Borough Council 



Accessibility



This route is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs with the exception of path indicated with a dotted line where there are steps.

Walk length approximately 1150 meters (1360 meters with with optional route).

Key

0 meters 50 100



- Walk Route
- - - Optional Route
- ① Sensory Garden
- ② Pond
- ③ Dell
- ④ Orchard
- ⑤ Formal Garden
- ⑥ Hall
- ⑦ Rhododendron
- ⑧ Conservatory