

14/28



Existing south garden contours



Proposed south garden contours

The existing site condition of the southern lawn is a continuous 1 in 20 fall from the west to the east of the site. The existing site wide fall is not conducive to the proposed compartmentalisation of the garden for different uses.

Some of the proposed garden areas require a less sloped and more level gradients for both practical and aesthetic reasons, such as the Croquet Lawn and the view over the Long Border.

In order to achieve this in the least invasive manner, we are proposing local re-levelling of the four main garden areas that run along the north-south axis. This shall create four 'terraces' in the southern garden to account for the level change across this area.

From west to east we hope to create the following gradients:

- Croquet Lawn level
- Spring Walk 1:20
- Long Border 1:70
- Rose and Topiary Garden 1:15

Garden Areas

1. Lodge entrance landscape and drive

The drive entrance off Shady Lane is to be embellished with the introduction of brick piers and ornate gates befitting the main access entrance to the Hall. Low aesthetic value trees and shrubs on either side of the entrance are to be removed to create a more open and grand approach.

Informal shrub screening behind the proposed estate railing include native species such as Yew, Hazel and Holly. A specimen standard tree, such as Liriodendron tulipifera, is proposed on one side of the drive to mirror the retained Sycamore.

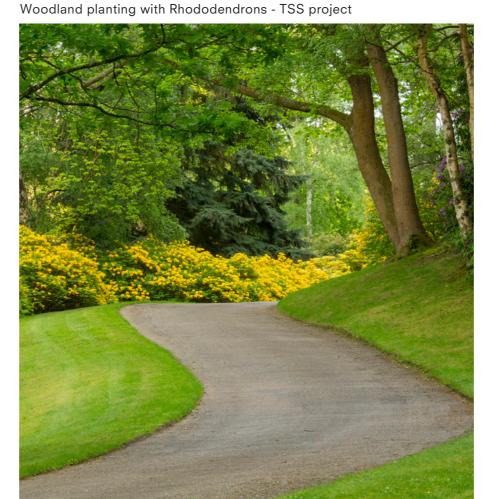
Along the drive, the woodland is to be managed to reduce the incidence of Rhododendron ponticum, introducing cultivar rhododendrons and native shrubs.



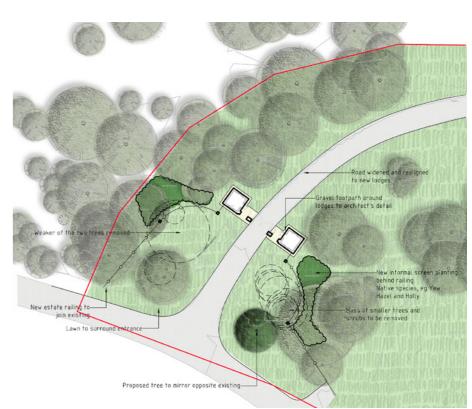
Proposed Tulip tree - Liriodendron tulipifera



Existing drive entrance



Mown edge to drive - TSS project





Garden Areas

2. Alteration of the driveway approach 3. Reinstated pond

4. Screened area for parking

On passing Cuerden Close, an additional pair of metal gates have been introduced to create a distinct boundary and entrance to the Hall from the publicly used main drive. Metal estate gates have been designed to provide security whilst allowing views through them and onto the hall, thereby not cutting the Hall off visually from Cuerden Close and local residents. Upon entering the Hall grounds through these gates, a slight curve has been introduced to the drive way to create a more flowing and sinuous route in its form up to the main entrance, offering a less formal and more inviting sense of arrival. This also creates a more gradual and grand view of the property on the approach. The area of hard surface in front of the house has been significantly reduced, with the majority of the existing tarmac removed.

Effort has been made to protect the impressive existing trees to the north of the property. Tree planting is proposed across the extended areas of lawn, which shall be populated with bulbs in the spring.

The pond, that was constructed by Thomas Townley Parker in 1893, has been overgrown by self-seeded woodland species and dries up for most of the year. The pond shall be dredged and repaired in order to reinstate it as a hydrologically healthy and aesthetically pleasing feature. The freeboard of the pond is aimed to be reduced to around 300mm, so that it is visible from the Hall's northern facade but also on the drive approach. The reinstatement of the pond and proposed planting around it shall be an important ecological feature in the landscape. The intention will be to retain a natural character in this area, with a small amount of woodland management.

The original pond island shall also be made accessible via a simple timber boardwalk, with a small timber 'Teahouse' structure planned for it's centre.

An area for staff parking has been proposed within a clearing of the surrounding woodland and shall be screened from the Hall and the drivrway with large native shrubs and trees, such as; Yew, Hazel, Holly, Beech and hybrid Rhododendron.

Cuerden Hall - Landscape Design Statement