

6.3 NEW ENTRANCE AND LINK BUILDING

The new main entrance and link building are key components of the proposed development. The proposed extension is situated at the western end of the entrance yard, against the rear facade of the west wing and along the facade of the servant's cottage.

Its purpose is to enhance the sense of arrival at Grandpont House and to provide an accessible entrance, consolidating a larger use of the ground floor of the property, which is currently unused and fragmented.

The new addition includes an entrance foyer and a connection between the outbuildings and the principal house. The proposed construction features high-quality modern design expressed on both the west and south elevations as glazed infill with simple solid timber framing capped by a thin, dark zinc roof fascia. The plan form follows the arrangement of the existing buildings and remains subservient to its setting.

The proposal involves demolishing the altered coal and wood store and the 20th-century west wing toilet extension, resulting in a more rational arrangement that improves the setting of the main house and outbuildings.

The use of glass provides a lightweight addition and maintains a clear reading of the historic masonry structures that it abuts and those which are set behind. These include the original rear wing elevation and the masonry wall to the servant's cottage, which is restored, with its original arched openings reinstated as doorways to the new common functions behind.

The entrance building is designed with a ceiling height to match the ground floor rooms of the west wing to maintain a balanced hierarchy between the two spaces. The height of the roof is slightly higher than the adjacent pedestrian walkway boundary wall. A shadow gap is formed with a recessed



Image 38: Proposed section through the principal building and new entrance yard extension

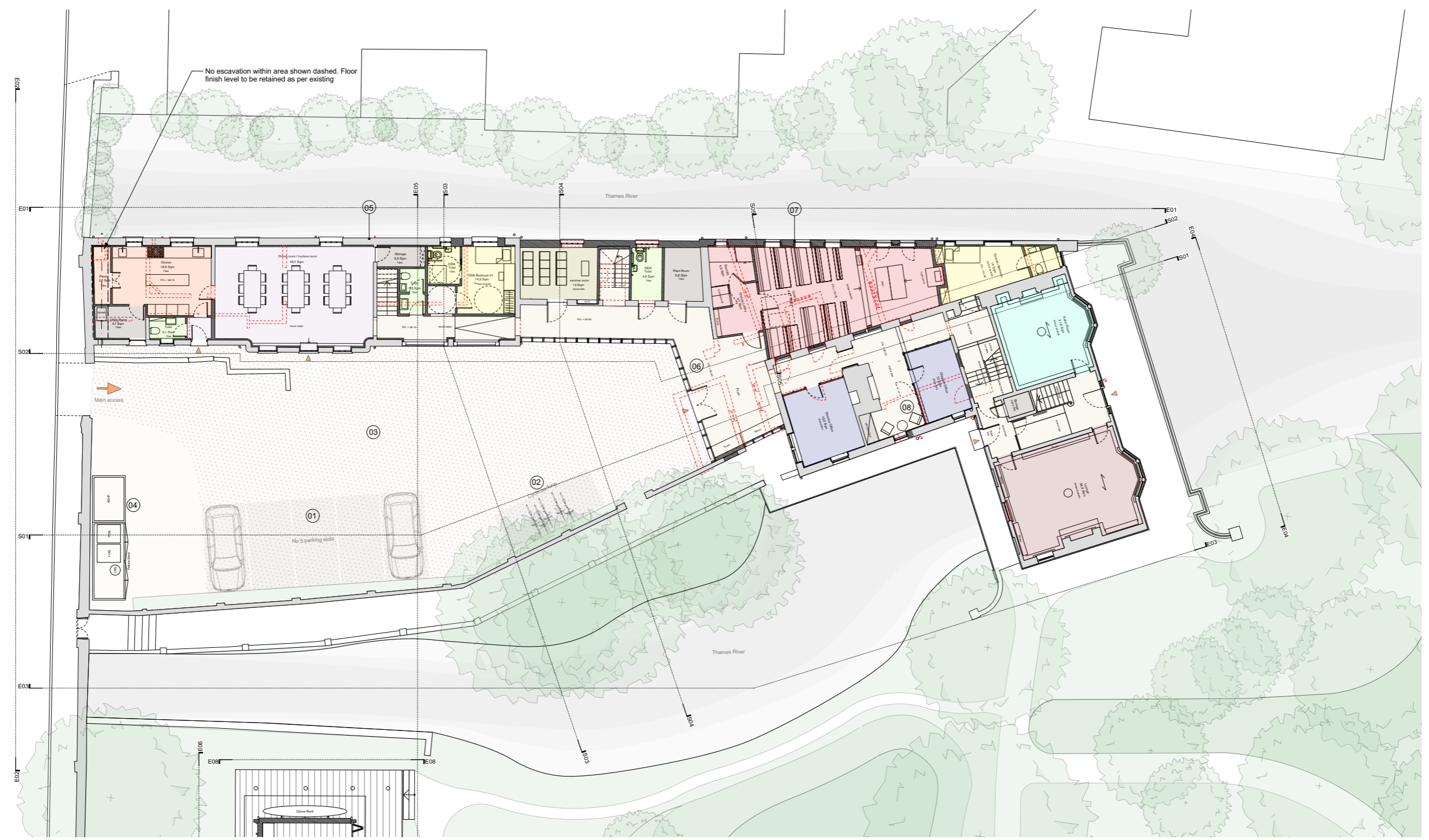


Image 39: Proposed ground floor plan and brief uses

gutter that sits below the top of the wall to provide a clear reading between the two. The same principle is applied to the west facade by creating a vertical setback in dark zinc cladding, between the timber structure and the face of the masonry wall.

The new entrance is formed through a set of timber-framed glazed doors that are set within the rhythm of the timber framing and aligned with the existing door opening in the rear facade of the west wing.

The northern portion of the west wing ground floor serves as the primary circulation connecting the east wing to the entrance foyer, up to the stables block. The existing doorways along this route are slightly widened to improve accessibility. The historic joinery to the central doorway adjacent to the chimney breast is carefully restored and maintained as part of the altered opening.

The plan form of the west wing is improved by removing the later addition 20th-century partitions and reinstating, in part, the original eastern room volume of the wing. This is manifested by reinstating the floors to their original level and creating an open area around the central chimney breast to be used as seating and breakout space.

The remaining areas will be used to form the Chaplain and Director's offices, located in good proximity to the new entrance. These rooms will be formed using lightweight timber-panelled partitions to read as later additions.

6.4 NEW ORATORY BUILDING

The oratory is one of the key functions outlined in the brief and plays a significant role in the daily routines of guests and visitors to Grandpont House. Its location needs to be easily accessible, close to the entrance, and in proximity to most of the common functions.

To meet the requirement for the oratory, the design proposal relocates the chapel function away from the principal building into the former service yard, situated north of the west wing. This area has undergone various extensions and alterations in the 20th century to provide support facilities to the main

house. The servants' lounge and pantry are demolished, restoring the original plan layout of the service yard.

This new location for the oratory provides a suitable plan form for its function. The wider western portion is suitable for congregation spaces, while the narrower eastern portion is designated for the sanctuary.

The oratory is designed to accommodate a maximum of 24 people, reflecting the expected maximum occupancy of the property at any one time. Its adjacency to the entrance foyer provides the necessary circulation and breakout space for a larger congregation.

The reinstated former service yard area is covered by a lightweight, self-supporting roof. The new pitched roof is slate-covered with traditional lead gutters and flashings, following the plan form of the main house and the north river boundary wall.

The proposed height, slope, and materials of the roof are designed to remain subservient and sympathetic to the character of the historic building. The roof ridge is set away from the west wing's north facade, and the eaves line sits below the first-floor window openings.

The insertion of the new oratory infill building will necessitate the rebuilding of the north river boundary wall, which has suffered significant degradation to its mortar bedding. The wall will be carefully demolished and rebuilt using salvaged brickwork. The proposed elevation will be similar to the existing one, but with a rationalized profile and new brick header window openings. The new openings are designed to be proportioned to the facade of the oratory building and expressed with a consistent and simple rhythm, with slight variations following the different plan functions of the oratory behind.



Image 40: Visualization of proposed entrance yard and outbuildings