

**SITE OF HOUSE AND STABLES, AND DRIVE**

**HS1**



**Description:**

- Site of Grappenhall Heys house: the derelict house was demolished in the 1970s. The site was investigated in the 1990s as part of the development of a network of public open spaces for adjacent residential areas. The footprint of the house walls was marked with stone blocks (from the house) set into the grass. Pieces of dressed stone which had formed the portico and other detailing of the neo-classical house were set into the footprint. The corner of the portico marks the corner of the main entrance facing towards the drive.
- The stables and ancillary buildings: from historical maps, these appear to have been between the house and the Walled Garden. Currently they are an area of woodland and hard-standing. No investigation has been carried out here. This site and that of the house are now owned by the Woodland Trust.
- The drive: remains in situ as a track. It leads from the extant western lodge, past the porch, stables and round the outside of the Walled Garden. It is owned by Warrington Borough Council.

Interpret

Archaeology prior to creation of small parking area?

**Significance:**

- Site of the house for over 100 years of a prominent Warrington family, both in business and civic terms. Centre of the Grappenhall Heys estate and essential to understanding the context of the walled garden. Considered to be of strong local significance.

**Issues:**

- Sites and track not within the ownership of the Parish Council
- Some of the stables/ancillary buildings site may be required to provide disabled/staff parking
- Current condition and construction of the drive/track poor; will not sustain increased usage

**Policies:**

- Education - achieve improved interpretation and use of the historic estate; develop relationship with Woodland Trust to further this aim
- Parking - achieve improved parking; develop relationship with Woodland Trust to further this aim
- Access - achieve an improved access; develop relationship with Warrington Borough Council to further this aim

**FORMAL GARDENS ADJACENT TO THE HOUSE: RELICT TREES & SHRUBS**

**HS2**



**Description:**

- Formal gardens: from historical OS maps and photographs, three lawns lay between two terraces on the south side of the house, plus a bowling green on the lowest level. The extensive lawns were framed by groups of ornamental trees and shrubs.
- Relict trees and shrubs: relict mature Beech, Holly (one variegated), Rhododendron and Yew (one fastigate) remain in situ, surrounded by younger woodland which has developed since the demise of the house. The whole area is now owned by the Woodland Trust.
- Screen planting south of the stables: from the OS map of 1875 apparently mixed trees and shrubs of which 3 mature Beech (vandalised) and Holly remain.
- Planting north of the bowling green and side of conservatory: from 1875, appears to be predominantly large shrubs with a few trees. Yew remain and 1 low-branched Beech.
- Either side of porch: young woodland only.
- North of stables, (opposite side of track): mature Holly, Yew and Rhododendron varieties.

Interpret

**Significance:**

- Evidence of the designed landscape which surrounded the house. Centre of the Grappenhall Heys estate and essential to understanding the context of the walled garden. Considered to be of medium local significance.

**Issues:**

- Sites not within the ownership of the Parish Council
- Overall condition fair; some of the sites are subject to vandalism and the base of the trees to compaction due to cycling and skate-boarding

**Policies:**

- Education: develop relationship with Woodland Trust to foster interpretation, outreach and thereby ameliorate misuse of the sites if possible

**FORMAL GARDENS ADJACENT TO THE HOUSE: TERRACES AND STEPS**

**HS3**



**Description:**

- Formal gardens, terraces: from historical maps and photographs, three lawns lay on terraces on the south side of the house, connected by two short flights of steps. The steps were removed in the 1980s and basically only the slopes between the terraces remain. They are subject to erosion and vandalism caused by the use of mountain bikes and skate boards.
- Upper slope: ground form remains but few foundations left.
- Middle slope: ground form and foundations remain.
- From the lowest lawn, another, steeper slope dropped down to a bowling green.
- Lowest slope: ground form and almost complete flight of steps to bowling green remain. This is the only extant set of steps (dressed stone), somewhat protected by the woodland which has developed on all the lawns and the green. It appears to have been the longest flight of steps.

Interpret

???

Repair? Relocate?

**Significance:**

- Evidence of the designed landscape which surrounded the house. Centre of the Grappenhall Heys estate and essential to understanding the context of the walled garden. Considered to be of medium local significance.

**Issues:**

- Sites not within the ownership of the Parish Council
- Overall condition poor; two sets of steps removed, terraces subject to vandalism/erosion by cycling and skate-boarding
- Last remaining set of steps in tact, but unsafe and at risk of theft

**Policies:**

- Education: develop relationship with Woodland Trust to foster interpretation, outreach and thereby ameliorate misuse of the sites if possible
- Conserve steps in situ

**FORMAL GARDENS ADJACENT TO THE HOUSE: HA-HA**

**HS4**



**Description:**

- Ha-ha: from historical maps this remains in situ and runs the full extent of its original length. It divided the formal gardens to the north east from the parkland to the south west, thereby preventing the entry of any stock. It is a rubble red sandstone retaining wall which supported the formal garden to the rear, with a grassed ditch in front of it. It runs at a right angle to the three slopes.
- The extant set of steps to the bowling green site are immediately to the rear of the step down in the (repaired) coping.
- Woodland is now on the site of the lawns, and is owned by the Woodland Trust.
- The ditch of the ha-ha was bridged in early 2000s.

Interpret and repair

**Significance:**

- Evidence of the designed landscape which surrounded the house, representing the division between the formal gardens and parkland. Centre of the Grappenhall Heys estate and essential to understanding the context of the walled garden. Considered to be of high local significance.

**Issues:**

- Site not within the ownership of the Parish Council
- Overall condition good, but locally poor and vandalised

**Policies:**

- Education: develop relationship with Woodland Trust to foster interpretation, outreach and thereby ameliorate misuse of the site if possible
- Repair ha-ha