

## PLEASURE GROUNDS: BOUNDARIES

PG1



### Description:

- The boundary walls of the pleasure grounds consist of the Victorian materials and details extant in this section of the Garden prior to refurbishment, and were rebuilt in-situ in the late 1990s.
- All the boundary walls of the pleasure grounds are red sandstone, probably local. The northern wall is more random whereas the eastern and southern ones are coursed. All have a tooled, semi-circular section sandstone coping.
- The western boundary of the pleasure grounds consists of the Yew hedge already described as the eastern boundary of the Kitchen Garden.

**Significance:**

- The walled garden is the remaining central feature of the Grappenhall Heys estate. Unusually it contains kitchen garden and pleasure grounds within one walled area. Considered to be of strong regional and local significance.

**Issues:**

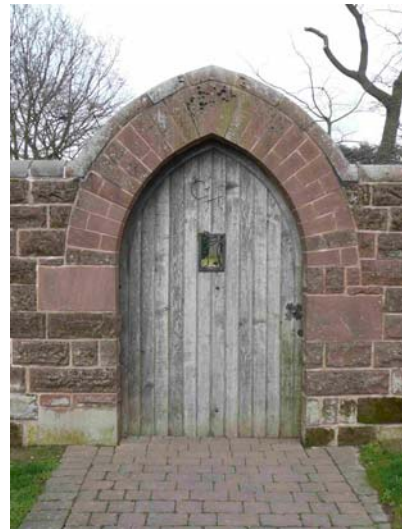
- None, boundaries recently repaired/rebuilt with original/authentic materials; endowment covers cost of maintenance.

**Policies:**

- To develop the garden as an education and community resource
- To develop the garden as a community resource to facilitate the integration of 'old' and 'new' Grappenhall
- To develop the relationship with the Friends of Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden Group, and to support the Friends Group where necessary

## PLEASURE GROUNDS: GATES

PG2



### Description:

- Northern and southern walls: both contain one pedestrian, braced, oak gate with metal fittings, constructed in the late 1990s, copied from the extant Victorian detail with the exception of the aperture/grill. These gates open onto the main pedestrian access to the Garden, and therefore both contain an aperture framed by an ornamental grill.
- Western walls (in two sections): one pedestrian and one vehicular, braced, oak gates as above, both with metal fittings but without grills.

**Significance:**

- External boundaries have restored timber doors; considered to be of strong local significance.

**Issues:**

- None, endowment covers cost of maintenance

**Policies:**

- To develop the garden as an education and community resource



## PLEASURE GROUNDS: FOOTPATHS

PG3



### Description:

- North-south brick paver footpath: the principal feature to be introduced in the early 2000s. At both ends it links with a footpath/cycleway which runs around the outside of the Garden wall.
- Herringbone central panel with two banded borders. The western border contains a brick drainage channel with the occasional cast-iron grill, the latter are replicas from elsewhere in the Garden (see KG3).
- Bound gravel path adjacent to the south wall/Holly Walk: excavated in the early 2000s, this is a section the circular footpath which followed the full extent of the sandstone walls, as shown on the 1875 and 1899 Ordnance Survey (OS) maps.
- Bound gravel path south of the Yew Hedge: excavated in the early 2000s, this is the shorter section of the L-shaped footpath which followed the line of the hedge, as shown on the above OS maps.

**Significance:**

- The main footpath in the Pleasure Grounds is not in a historic location nor of sympathetic construction. However it is on the shortest through-route and is suitable for wheel-chairs/buggies. Considered to be of low local significance. The original footpaths are thereby saved wear and tear; latter considered to be of medium local significance.

**Issues:**

- None, endowment covers cost of maintenance

**Policies:**

- To develop the garden as an education and community resource
- Education - to develop interpretation which explains the historical use of the garden and how this differs from today

## PLEASURE GROUNDS: FOOTPATHS, MATERIALS

PG3



### Description:

- Brick (clay) pavers, with associated red sandstone steps into Kitchen Garden, and low red sandstone walls supporting raised bed in northern half. Furness sandstone. All early 2000s.
- Raised bed, as above: design intention to provide increased horticultural interest along main footpath if the Kitchen Garden were closed.
- Bound gravel paths: small white chippings embedded in compacted earth. Appeared to be the Victorian/Edwardian surface, since no other top-dressing material was excavated.

### Significance:

- The original footpaths are in their historic locations and of original materials; latter considered to be of medium local significance.

### Issues:

- Maintenance of historic paths; lack of appropriate material and skill to re-dress when required

### Policies:

- To develop the garden as an education and community resource
- Education - to develop interpretation which explains the historical use of the garden and how this differs from today



## PLEASURE GROUNDS: PONDS & STREAM

PG4



### Description:

- The Pleasure Grounds contain 3 ponds, which from historical maps pre-date the Garden and probably originated as marl pits in agricultural land
- Wall pond: the south eastern pond which is fed by a culvert under the wall from an adjacent similar pond
- Heron pond: the north eastern, largest pond which contains carp. It is fed by a small stream from Wall pond
- Beech pond: the western pond, fed by a culvert from Heron pond. This pond discharges into a culvert which runs under the wall and thence under Witherwin Avenue.
- All the ponds are lined with puddled clay, and have sandstone edgings and features, see following page. The ponds were overgrown and silted, and were de-silted in the mid-1990s.



**Significance:**

- Ponds pre-date the enclosure of the garden. Unusual for a walled garden to contain ponds; considered to be of strong regional and local significance.

**Issues:**

- Public safety in proximity to deep water

**Policies:**

- To develop the garden as an education and community resource, with a staff presence during visits and public opening hours
- Education - to develop interpretation which explains the ecological value of the garden, and its historical use and how this differs from today

## PLEASURE GROUNDS: WATERFOWL ACCESS FEATURES IN PONDS

PG5



### Description:

- Wall pond and Heron pond: both contain sets of shallow sandstone steps leading into the water. These details were extant in this part of the Garden and were rebuilt/re-pointed in the 1990s.
- Wall pond has one small set of steps. Heron pond has two sets, one smaller the other much larger
- These are thought to be accesses for waterfowl, of which the Parrs had a significant collection. The waterfowl collection may have been the original motivation for enclosing the ponds within the Walled Garden.

### Significance:

- Features likely to relate directly to the Parrs use of the garden; considered to be of medium local significance.

### Issues:

- Public safety in proximity to deep water

### Policies:

- To develop the garden as an education and community resource, with a staff presence during visits and public opening hours
- Education - to develop interpretation which explains the ecological value of the garden, and its historical use and how this differs from today

## PLEASURE GROUNDS: MATURE TREES

PG6



### Description:

- The mature trees all occur within the Pleasure Grounds. They are over 100 years old ('mature' or 'fully mature' in arboricultural terms), and are evidence of the Victorian/Edwardian design. Their general location is also shown on the OS maps of 1875 and 1899.
- Oak groups around Wall and Heron ponds: informal groups of *Quercus robur* groups around ponds, typical of rural Cheshire. An arrangement, if not the individual specimens, that is likely to have pre-dated the Garden.
- Cut-Leaf Beech (*Fagus sylvatica asplenifolia/incisa*) between Wall and Heron ponds: a fine specimen and the principal tree in the Garden. Large sections reverted during the dereliction of the Garden, and the variety is likely to be subsumed by *Fagus sylvatica* in the future.
- Beech group on western side of Beech pond: likely to have been planted for the Garden. Showing more signs of stress and failure than the Oaks.
- Blue Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica glauca*): planted later than the above groups, a line of five follows the northern and eastern walls

**Significance:**

- Mature trees indicate the Victorian/Edwardian designed landscape within the one encompassing wall. Considered to be of strong regional and local significance.

**Issues:**

- Health and safety: aging tree population requires regular risk assessment in relation to public access
- Public perception of change: aging tree population will require more work, removal and re-planting in future
- Endowment covers cost of replacements and maintenance.

**Policies:**

- To develop the garden as an education and community resource
- Education - to develop interpretation which explains the ecological value of the garden, its historical use and arboricultural change



## PLEASURE GROUNDS: YOUNGER TREES

PG7



### Description:

- Semi-mature trees: due to the dereliction of the Garden there are very few trees in this age range, most are either mature/fully mature or young, planted in the early 2000s.
- Young trees: planting space has been limited due to the extensive canopies of the mature trees. The strategy is to wait until a failure creates space and light.
- The following trees were planted in the early 2000s where space permitted, mostly adjacent to the ponds. They were planted as specimens to provide future focal points. Species chosen were available in the Victorian period - Handkerchief Tree (*Davidia involucrata*), Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), Northern Beech (*Nothofagus antarctica*) and Red Oak (*Quercus coccinea*) and Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*).

**Significance:**

- Tree species of historically sympathetic period recently planted. Considered to be of medium local significance.

**Issues:**

- None; endowment covers cost of replacements and maintenance.

**Policies:**

- To develop the garden as an education and community resource
- Education - to develop interpretation which explains the ecological value of the garden, and arboricultural change

## PLEASURE GROUNDS: MATURE SHRUBS

PG8



### Description:

- Mature shrubs: some species have survived from Victorian/Edwardian times through the period of dereliction. All occur within the Pleasure Grounds and are species capable of tolerating the shade cast by the trees which grew over them.
- Hollies: the most extensive range of mature shrubs, the majority being of the smooth-leaved, *altaclarensis* type or variegated cultivars. Their locations follow the walls of the Pleasure Grounds, and they must therefore have bordered the original circular walk. An historical photograph also shows mature Hollies in the central part of the garden clipped as domes.
- Rhododendrons and Azaleas: a narrower range of Rhododendron cultivars. Again their arrangement follows the walls/circular walk and the other L-shaped original path. Miniature Rhododendron and Azalea survive at the edge of Heron pond.
- Gaultheria and Skimmia: a large Gaultheria specimen survives by Heron pond, and a similar area of Skimmia adjacent to the mature Beech group.

**Significance:**

- Mature shrubs indicate the Victorian/Edwardian designed landscape within the one encompassing wall. Considered to be of strong regional and local significance.

**Issues:**

- Health and safety: aging tree/shrub population requires regular risk assessment in relation to public access
- Public perception of change: aging shrub population will require more work, removal and re-planting in future
- Endowment covers cost of replacements and maintenance.

**Policies:**

- To develop the garden as an education and community resource
- Education - to develop interpretation which explains the ecological value of the garden, its historical use and horticultural change



## PLEASURE GROUNDS: RECENT SHRUB PLANTING

PG9



### Description:

- As with the trees, due to the dereliction of the Garden there are very few mid-age shrubs, they are either mature or planted in the early 2000s.
- Planting space is limited due to the extensive canopies of the mature trees. Either planting is carried out when a tree failure creates light, or species capable of tolerating the shade are chosen.
- The following areas were planted in the early 2000s where space permitted: areas adjacent to the main north and south gates, at the middle of the north-south footpath, and a replacement along the wall-side of the circular walk now referred to as the Holly Walk. Plants chosen were the species available in the Victorian period, as follows:
  - 3 beds on main path: a range of evergreen shrubs including Fatsia, Garrya, Griselinia, Mahonia, Pittosporum, Prunus, plus Azalea, Hydrangea, Parrotia, Viburnum
  - Holly Walk: an extensive range of cultivars from large shrub/tree to groundcover types, were sourced from Highfield Hollies, Hampshire

**Significance:**

- Shrub species of historically sympathetic period recently planted. Considered to be of medium local significance.

**Issues:**

- None; endowment covers cost of replacements and maintenance.

**Policies:**

- To develop the garden as an education and community resource
- Education - to develop interpretation which explains the ecological value of the garden, and horticultural change

## PLEASURE GROUNDS: RECENT HERBACEOUS PLANTING

PG10



### Description:

- No garden herbaceous perennials were extant in the Pleasure Grounds and currently there is no documentary evidence for them in this part of the Garden. An historical photograph does show them in the Kitchen Garden.
- Herbaceous planting was introduced into the Pleasure Grounds in the early 2000s, as the majority of the planting in the raised bed associated with the main footpath, see earlier.
- A contemporary planting style was used including many grasses and *Verbena bonariensis*. Some shrubs such as *Elaeagnus*, *Hamamelis* and *Pittosporum* have been used as focal points.

Replace

### Significance:

- Modern planting design recently implemented. Considered to be of low local significance.

### Issues:

- Minor: endowment covers cost of maintenance, the most modern aspects of the planting could be changed.

### Policies:

- To develop the garden as an education and community resource
- Education - to develop interpretation which explains horticultural change

## PLEASURE GROUNDS: SEATING

PG11



### Description:

- No Victorian/Edwardian seats remained in the Pleasure Grounds prior to refurbishment, and currently there is no documentary evidence for them.
- A carved Oak memorial seat was installed north of Wall pond in the mid-1990s, and is now showing some decay.
- Three Broxap 'Eastgate' benches, with cast-iron ends and teak slats, were installed in 2005, two along the main footpath (and one in the centre of the Kitchen Garden). Some visitors find the low height and lack of arms make the benches difficult to use.
- Two seats with cast-metal arms and timber slats were donated and installed in 2006 and 2008. Both are replicas in the style of domestic, Victorian/Edwardian garden furniture.

Replace

### Significance:

- The current seating has been recently installed. Considered to be of low local significance.

### Issues:

- None; donations have funded new seats and endowment covers cost of maintenance.

### Policies:

- To develop the garden as an education and community resource
- To develop the relationship with the Friends of Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden Group, and to support the Friends Group where necessary



