



Chownes Mead Hotel

Landscape Strategy

How to use this pack:

This pack displays the landscape strategy and baseline information for Chownes Mead Hotel. These drawings are for planning purposes only and not suitable for construction.

Queries and RFIs should be sent to:
nd@nicholasdexter.com

0228-NDLD-L-0001-Landscape strategy
Date: 19.02.2026

SITE LOCATION



Chownes Mead



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project:
Chownes Mead

client:
RCM Partnership LLP
drawn by:
ND

issued:
14/01/2026
scale:
N/A
print size:
A3
stage:
Planning

drawing:
Landscape Spec

drawing title:
0228 - NDLD - L - 3

revision:
P01

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0228 - NDLD - L - 4

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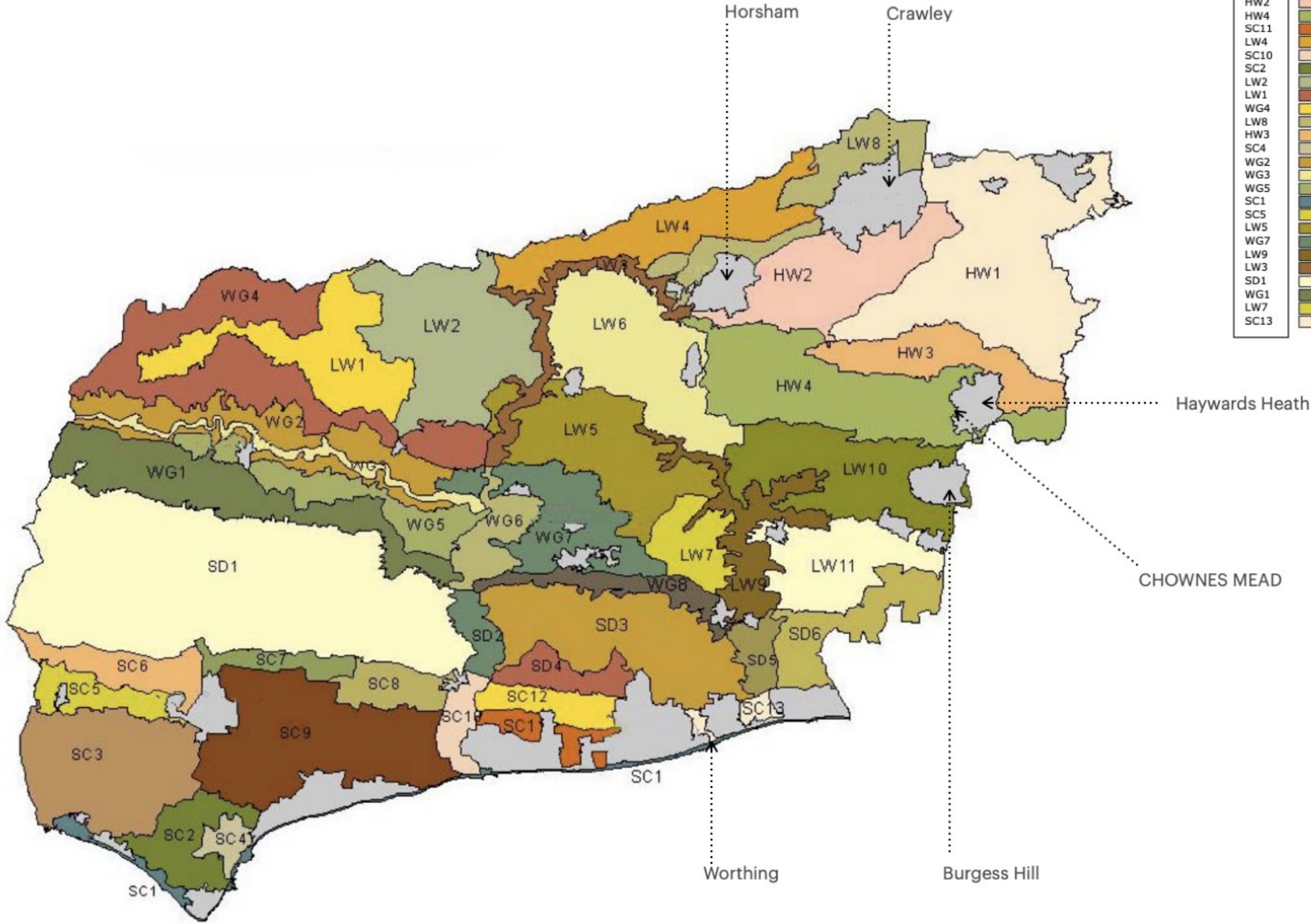
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SITE LOCATION

Chownes Mead Lane is located West of Haywards Heath in Landscape Character Area HW4: High Weald Fringes.

The main landscape character features are listed below. Specific features relevant to Chownes Mead have been highlighted Bold.

- Wooded, often confined rural landscape of intimacy and complexity partly within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- South and east-draining gills and broad ridges sweeping gently down to the Low Weald.
- Western part drained by the headwaters of the River Arun, eastern part around Scaynes
- Long views over the Low Weald to the downs.
- Significant woodland cover, a substantial portion of it ancient, and a dense network of shaws, hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
- Pattern of small, irregular-shaped assart fields and larger fields, and small pockets of remnant heathland.
- Orchards and horticulture on lower slopes, particularly to the west.
- Biodiversity concentrated in the valleys, heathland, and woodland.
- Network of lanes, droveways, tracks and footpaths.
- Dispersed historic settlement pattern, close to Horsham, the principal settlements Cuckfield, Haywards Heath and Lindfield and a few villages and hamlets.
- Some busy lanes and roads including A and B roads bounding the area to the west, and other roads crossing north to south, including the A23 Trunk Road.
- London to Brighton Railway Line crosses the area at Haywards Heath.
- Varied traditional rural buildings built with diverse materials including timber-framing, Horsham Stone roofing, Wealden stone and varieties of local brick and tile-hanging.
- Designed landscapes and exotic treescapes associated with large country houses.
- Major gill woodland garden and visitor attraction at Leonardslee.



This guidelines should be read in conjunction with County-wide Landscape Guidelines set out in A Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape (November 2005) published by West Sussex County. Objectives and actions contained in the High Weald AONB Management Plan 2004 (Adopted March 2004) published by the High Weald AONB Joint Management Committee.



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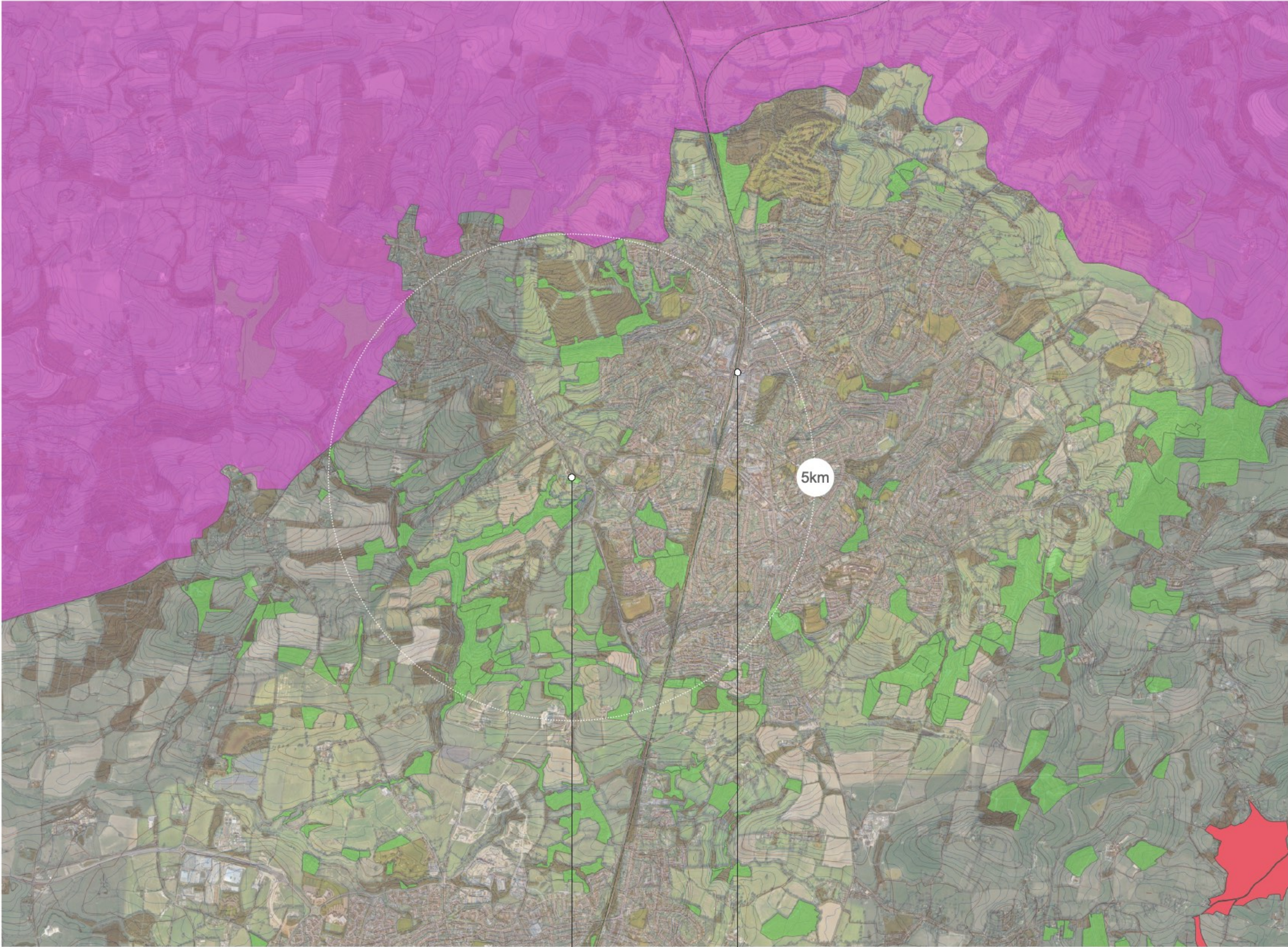
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HABITATS & DESIGNATED SITES:
WIDER LANDSCAPE



- High Weald AONB
- SSSI
- Ancient Woodland

Chownes Mead Haywards Heath Station



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revision:
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ANCIENT WOODLAND



Ancient Woodland

The architectural and landscape proposal is situated within a designated Ancient Woodland. Given the sensitivity and ecological importance of this environment, all landscape work will be carried out with great care to minimise disturbance and actively enhance the site's biodiversity.

Ecological monitoring and site supervision will be essential to ensure that the existing trees, soil, and surrounding habitats are properly protected throughout the project. This careful approach will help preserve the integrity of the woodland and its ecosystems for future generations.



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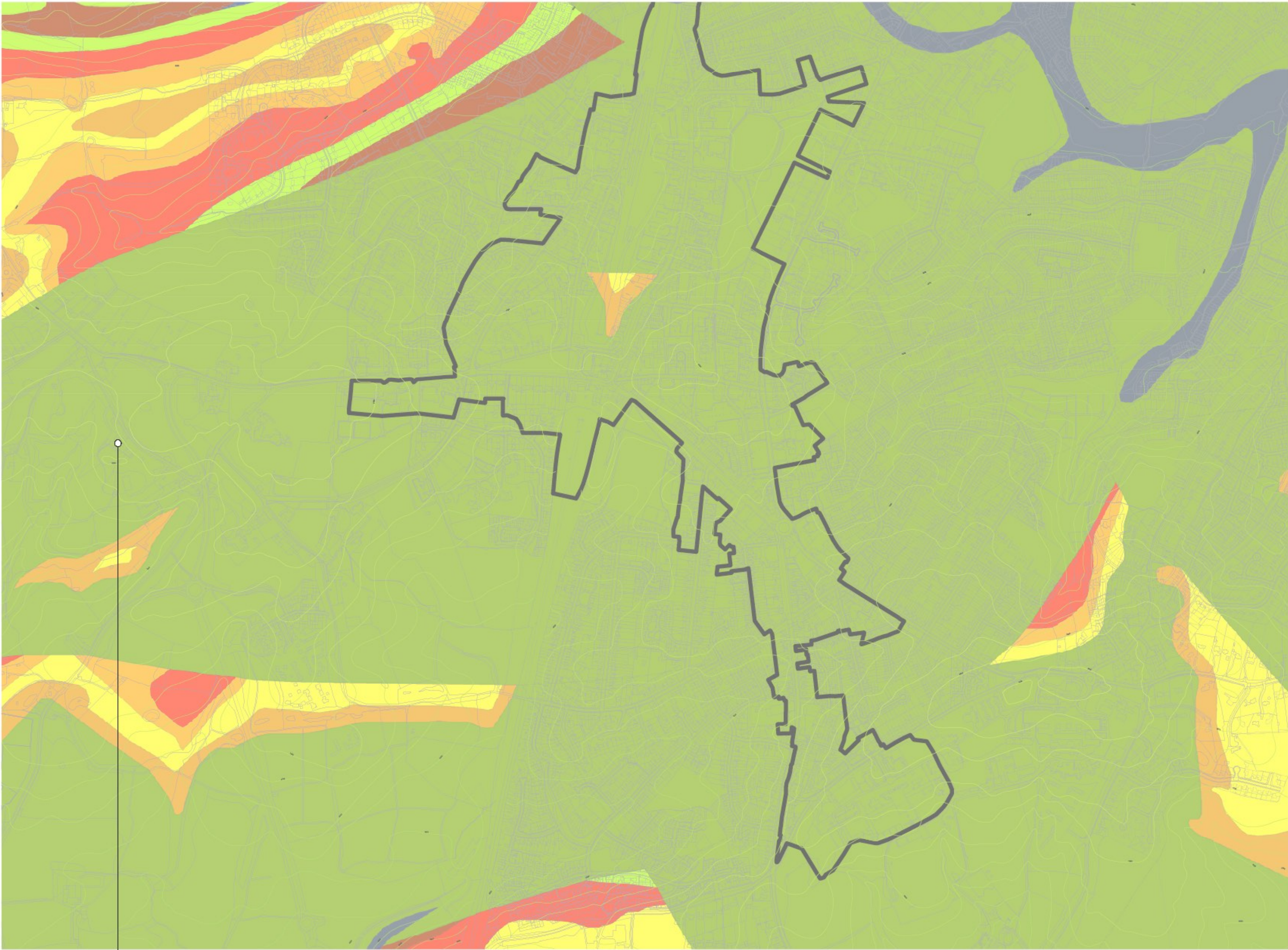
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GEOLOGY



Chownes Mead

- Drift geology**
- ALLUVIUM
 - HEAD [UNDIFFERENTIATED]
- Solid geology**
- ARDINGLY SANDSTONE
 - CUCKFIELD STONE MEMBER
 - LOWER GRINSTEAD CLAY
 - LOWER TUNBRIDGE WELLS SAND
 - UPPER GRINSTEAD CLAY
 - UPPER TUNBRIDGE WELLS SAND
 - WADHURST CLAY FORMATION

Chownes Mead sits on Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand, a geological formation in southeastern England's Weald Basin, part of the Wealden Group from the Early Cretaceous period. Named after Tunbridge Wells in Kent, this formation consists of fine to medium-grained sandstones, interbedded with siltstones and mudstones, and characterised by quartz grains, cross-bedding, and ripple marks from fluvial environments. Its colour ranges from light grey to yellowish and reddish-brown due to iron content, and it can be up to 60 meters thick. Fossils, including plant material and occasional dinosaur footprints, indicate a terrestrial environment.

The Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand lies above the Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand and below the Grinstead Clay or Weald Clay. Deposited in a fluvial setting, it suggests a rich terrestrial ecosystem. Historically, its sandstones have been used as building stone and are significant for understanding regional groundwater resources.



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AERIAL MAP / TOPO SURVEY



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SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Top Left:
The existing gravel drive to the main house will be retained as a drop-off area for hotel guests and will also provide space for disabled parking.

Top Right:
The raised bed terrace currently features hybrid tea roses. These beds were originally planted with a mixture of perennials and exotic plants typical of the period.

Left:
The driveway beyond the stone wall. The proposal includes a new gravel path running along the base of the wall, providing access to the gated pillars and steps pictured to the right of the image.



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SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Top Left:
New path created to link parking to the main house and gardens.

Top Right:
The bank to be replanted. Rocks (original water cascade) to be left in-situ. Conifers to be removed.

Left:
The main house viewed across the hollow. Sloping banks to be replanted. Rocks (original water cascade) to be left in-situ. Conifers to be removed.



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SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Top:
The view away from the main house reveals the hollow where the pond will be reinstated, with the banks replanted to enhance circulation through the landscape.

Left:
The 1960s terrace, adjacent to the house, will be restored with appropriate paving and planting.



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SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Above :
Area of Ancient Woodland opposite the existing swimming pool. The Ash will be removed (diseased) but all other trees are retained.



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SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Top Left / Right / Bottom :
1960's terrace adjacent to the House to restored
with appropriate paving and planting.



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SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Left:
The area within the Ancient Woodland Zone has been laid with concrete hardstanding.

Below:
Area outside Ancient Woodland adjacent to tennis court where proposed car-park will be located.



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P 01

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Left:
Area outside Ancient Woodland adjacent to tennis court where proposed car-park will be located.

Below:
Games Lawn (retained) adjacent to existing tennis court. New Estate fence will be re-instated to define inner garden and outer parkland



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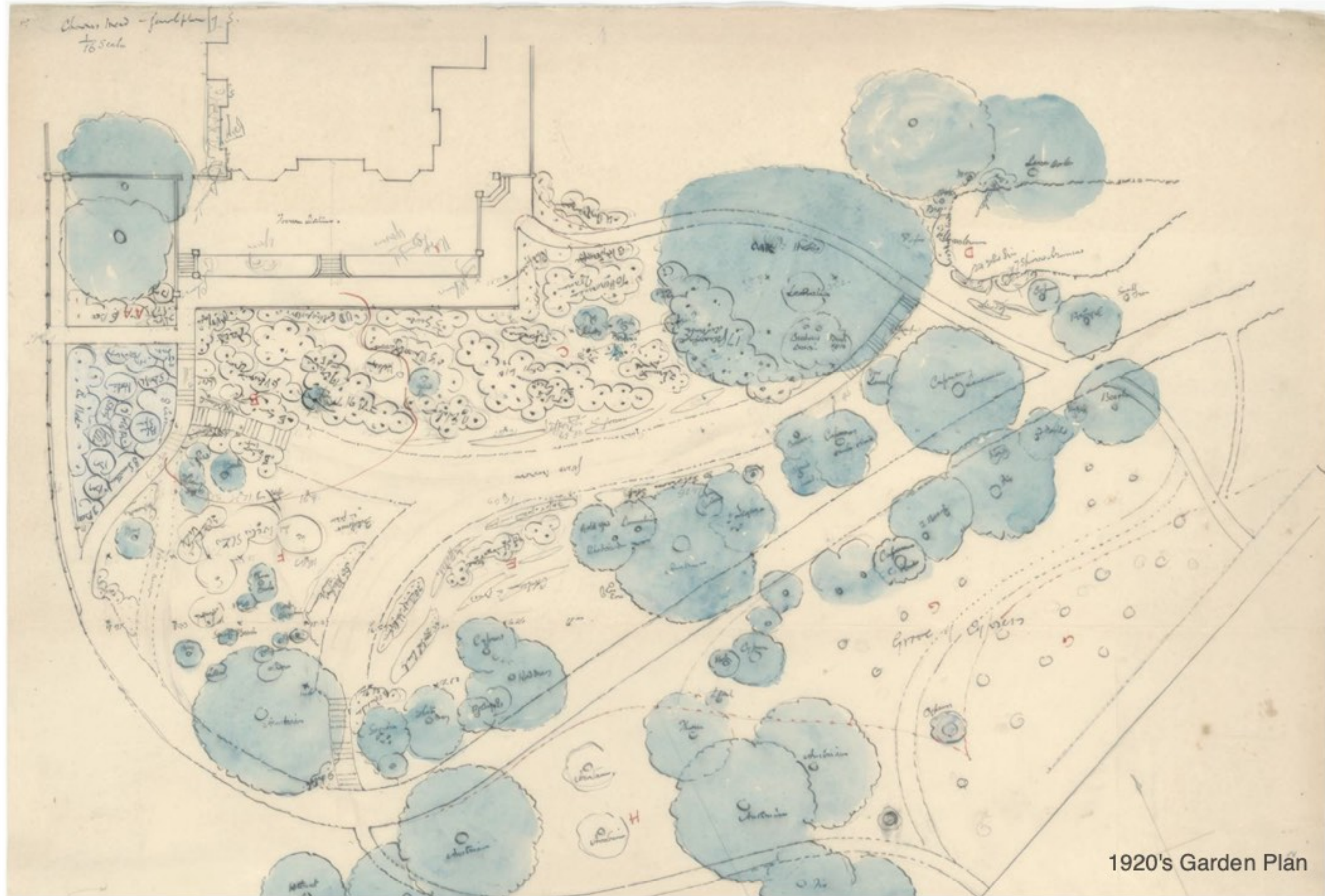
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GARDEN HISTORY



1920's Garden Plan



1940's Photo

Early History

19th Century: Chownes Mead was originally developed as a private estate, typical of large country estates in England, which often featured extensive gardens designed to complement the main house.

Gertrude Jekyll's Involvement

1901–1921: Gertrude Jekyll was commissioned to design the gardens at Chownes Mead, with her involvement spanning two decades. Her design masterfully blended formal and informal elements, with a strong emphasis on colour, texture, and seasonal variation. Jekyll favoured a mix of perennials, shrubs, and climbers, aiming to provide visual interest throughout the year.

Current Situation

The original Jekyll garden has mostly disappeared, with only a few shrubs and rocky outcrops remaining. Given the loss of the original design, attempting to recreate a Jekyll garden in its entirety would not only be impractical but could result in a pastiche that lacks authenticity and fails to resonate with the present day.

Top Left:

The Jekyll layout plan from the 1920s shows pathways descending into a woodland glade. While the plant names are difficult to decipher, the size and spacing suggest a combination of shrubs underplanted with a groundcover mix. Photos (Right) show the work being carried out.

Bottom Left / Below:

The photo, taken 1940's, shows the pond and waterfall rock cascade. Colour restoration has been applied to provide a clearer impression of the original features.



1920's Photo



1920's Photo



1920's Photo



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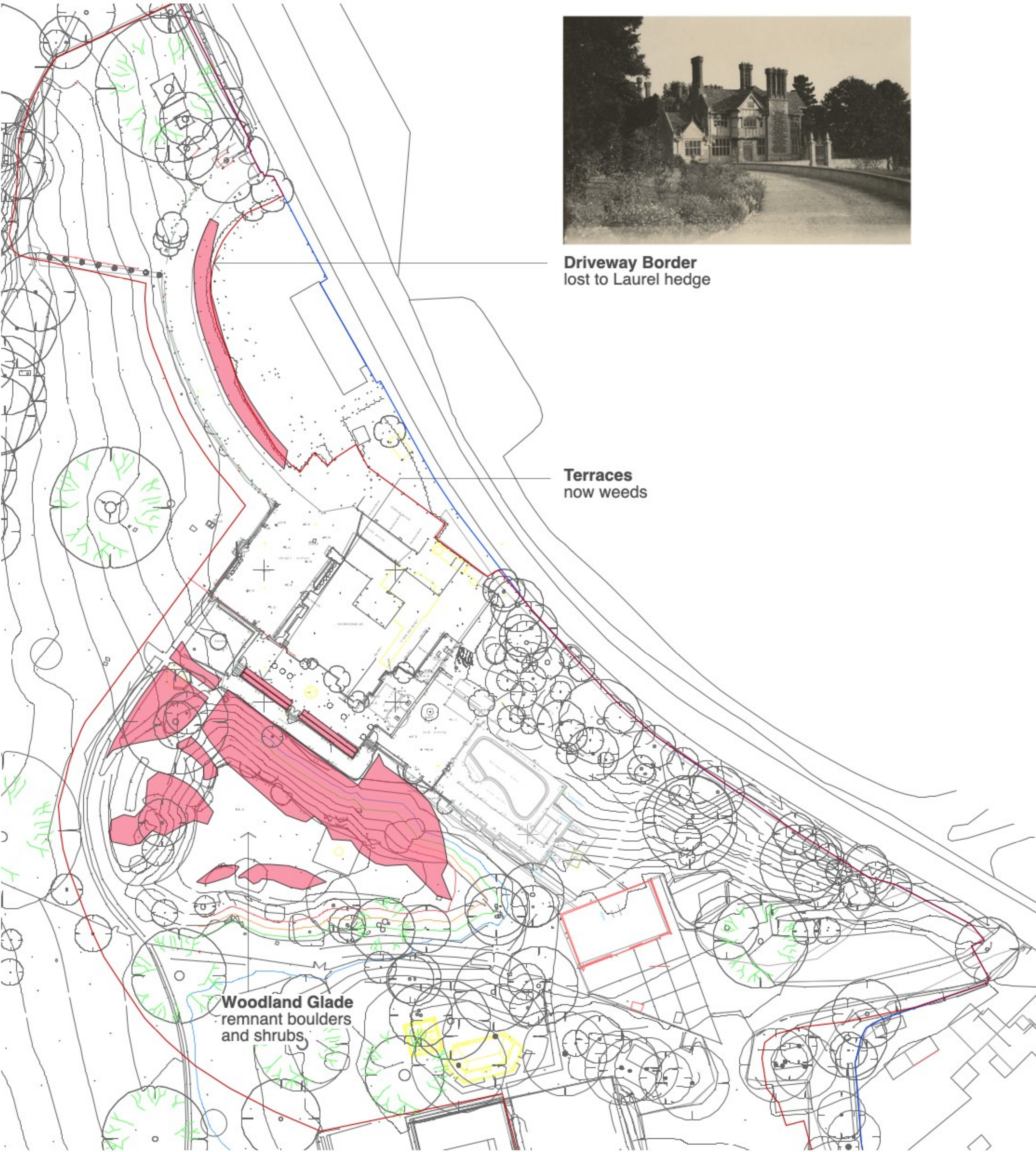
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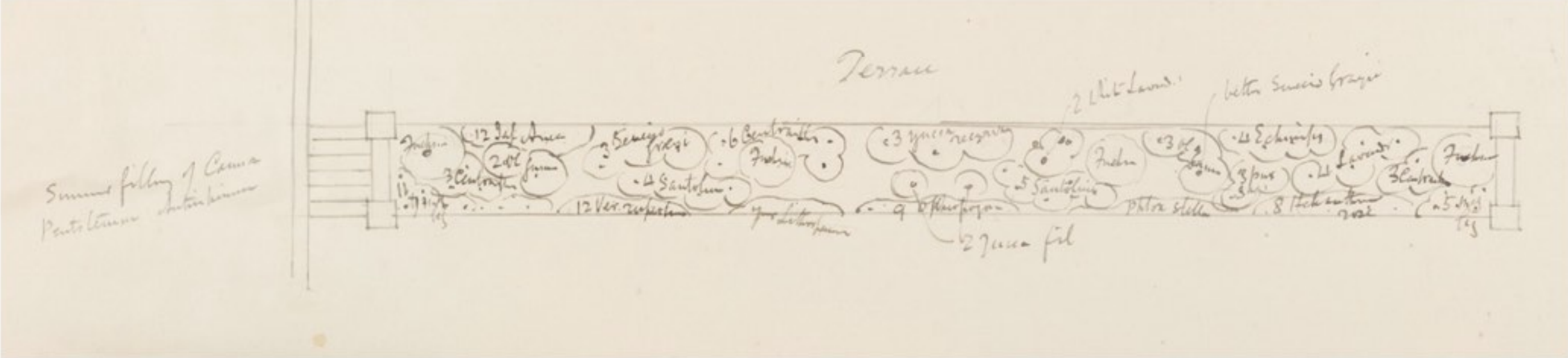
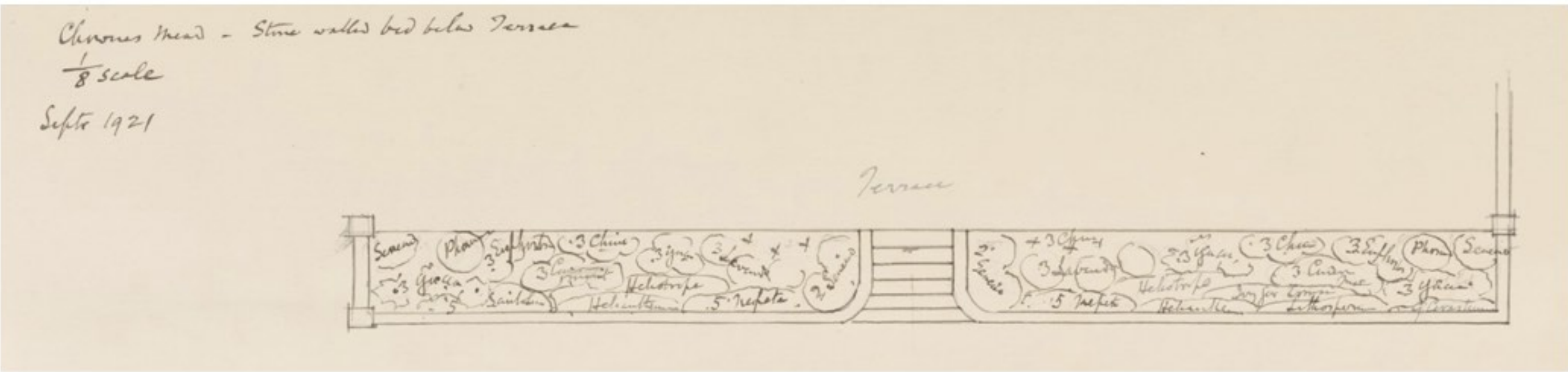
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GARDEN HISTORY



Driveway Border
lost to Laurel hedge



Jekyll Planting Plans for terrace borders



Phlox
(Phlox)



Phormium
(New Zealand Flax)



Santolina
(Lavender Cotton)



Heliotropium
(Heliotrope)



Veronica
(Speedwell)



Fuchsia
(Fuchsia)



Nepeta
(Catmint)



Helianthemum
(Rock Rose)



Yucca
(Yucca)

The shift in species selection from the 1920s to today reflects broader changes in design trends, ecological awareness, and horticultural practices. While early 20th-century gardens often emphasised visual beauty and the use of exotic plants, modern gardens prioritise sustainability, biodiversity, and the use of native species to create healthier, more resilient landscapes.

Bold, bright colours and exotic species like Phlox, Fuchsia, and Hemerocallis (as seen in the image) will be substituted with new planting that prioritises a more subtle and muted palette.

1 Subdued Tones: The new planting will feature plants with more neutral shades, creating a softer, more understated aesthetic, avoiding the garish or overly bright colours.

2 Native and Wildlife-Friendly Species: By emphasising native plants and wildlife-friendly selections, the new planting will not only support biodiversity but also blend more naturally into the surrounding environment.

3 Textural Variety: The new design will focus on texture, form, and structure—using grasses, seed heads, and plants with subtle foliage contrasts to create a more naturalistic atmosphere.

4 Sustainability Focus: Modern planting is also about low-maintenance and sustainable approaches, which might include drought-tolerant species and native perennials, leading to a more environmentally sensitive landscape.



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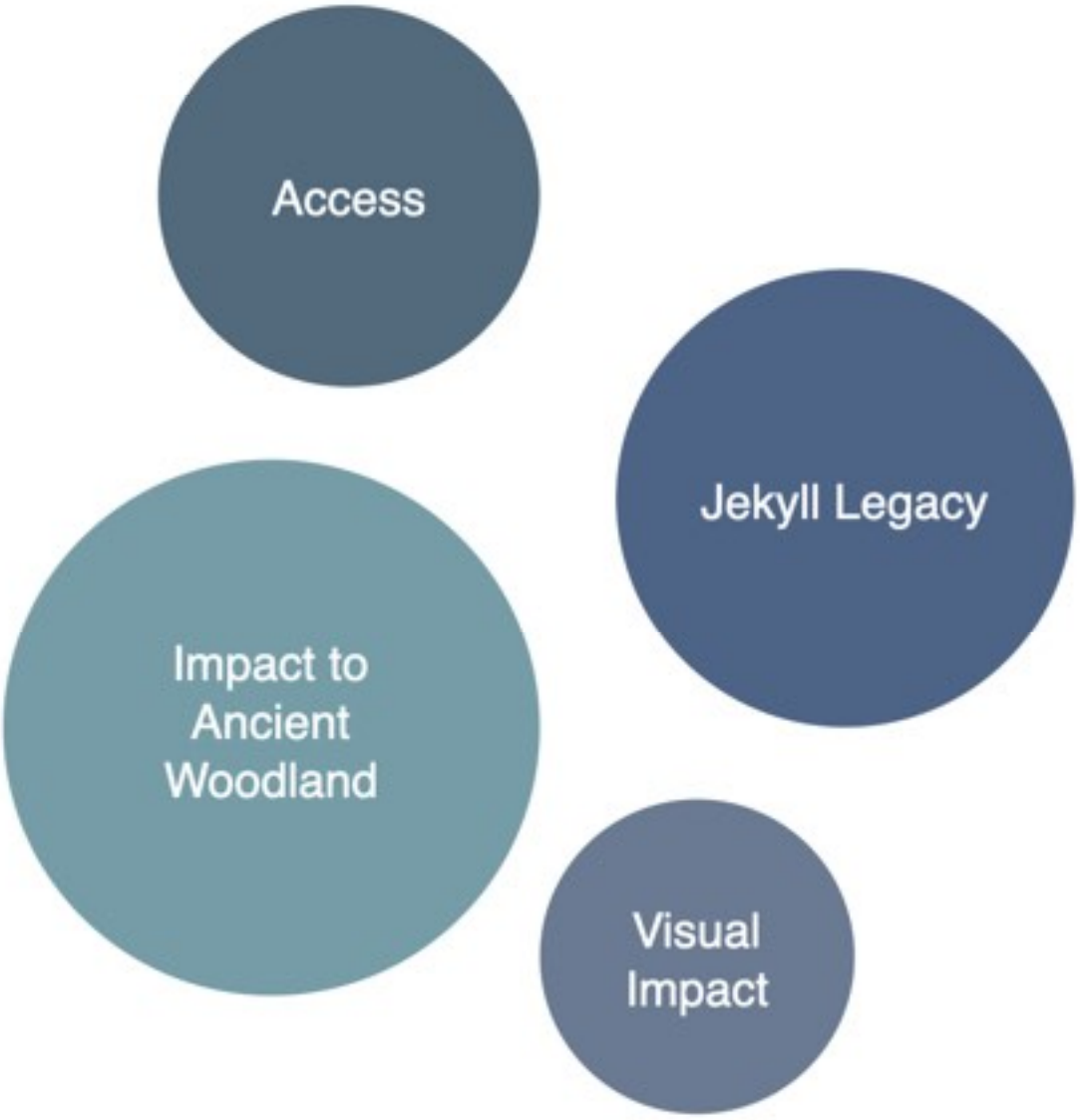
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P 01

LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONCEPT



CONSTRAINTS



OPPORTUNITIES



The **preliminary sketch** (left) outlines the key areas and routes within the landscape. Pathways leading into the wider landscape are indicated, with the potential for further development over time. However, these pathways are positioned outside the Red-Line boundary.

The **Constraints and Opportunities** diagram (above) highlights that the positives outweigh the negatives, offering the potential to develop a biodiverse landscape that restores and enhances this neglected, historic asset.



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project:
Chownes Mead

client:
RCM Partnership LLP
drawn by:
ND

issued:
14/01/2026
scale:
N/A
print size:
A3
stage:
Planning

drawing:
Landscape Spec

drawing title:
0228 - NDLD - L - 20

revision:
P 01

PRECEDENTS



This refined preliminary sketch (above) paints a picture of the new building sitting within a wild-landscape. Parking areas have been moved away from the neighbouring cottages and extend no further than the tennis courts.

All weather / DDA compliant access routes through the landscape are shown, including a ramp from the main house to the gardens.



The central aim is that the landscape design creates a natural landscape that is appropriate for the site and reflects the local geology, fauna, landscape character.

The design should work with the natural features, ensuring it remains authentic to the location.



Top:
The heathland landscape, consisting of heathers, grasses, and ferns (bracken), is typical along the High Weald ridge to the north. This landscape typology extends around Haywards Heath, providing context for the proposed planting mixes.



Middle:
Hammer ponds are a characteristic feature of the Sussex Weald, created during the medieval and early modern periods to power iron forges and furnaces. These artificial ponds were formed by damming streams to generate water power for the local iron industry, which thrived in the Weald from the 15th to 18th centuries. Today, many hammer ponds remain as tranquil features in the landscape, providing important habitats for wildlife and reflecting the region's industrial heritage.

Bottom:
19th-century parkland landscapes feature large expanses of grassland with scattered mature trees, designed to look natural but carefully planned. These landscapes often include tree clumps, meandering paths, and water features, creating a sense of grandeur and serenity typical of country estates during the period.



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0228 - NDLD - L - 21

revision:
P 01

PRECEDENTS

The main reference point for the landscape starts with Jekyll. Although her work has been lost the reference to water and woodland glades can be restored.



Vann Garden
Jekyll provided planting designs for the Vann Estate, known for its water garden, wildflowers, and classic Jekyll border plantings that blend formal elements with naturalistic surroundings.



Munstead Wood
Munstead Wood is the historic home and garden of renowned British garden designer Gertrude Jekyll, located in Surrey, England.



Above / Left:
Gravetye Manor with Herbs and Grasses
breaking up paved surface



Left:
Sawn Yorkstone paving slabs / cobbles
creating a visual reference to historic existing
sandstone flags.



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0228 - NDLD - L - 22

revision:
P 01

PRECEDENTS



- Top Left Clockwise:
- 1. Meadow planting meets architecture
 - 2. Wakehurst Lake & Woodland Paths
 - 3. Long-grass Parkland
 - 4. Wakehurst Boardwalk
 - 5. Weir providing movement



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P 01

GENERAL ARRANGMENT PLAN



Landscape Strategy

All landscape design should reflect the location and architectural character of the site. Given the rapid decline in biodiversity, landscape professionals must prioritise improving habitats and food sources for wildlife by using suitable plants.

At Chownes Mead, the existing arts & craft house and specimen trees are the dominant feature within the landscape. The proposed architecture respects this hierarchy, adding a bold yet understated element that complements the site's character.

A key feature of the new design is the creation of a lake in front of the house, providing a focal point with movement, sound, and reflections. The water feature will also offer a crucial wildlife habitat. Restoring this feature (the lake) is in keeping with the tradition of classic garden design, as seen at Borde Hill, Wakehurst Place, Gravetye Manor, and Sheffield Park.

Pathways will wind organically through existing evergreen and broadleaf trees, leading visitors through spaces defined by meadow grasses and low ground cover offering glimpses to the parkland beyond.

The planting scheme will prioritise texture over colour, using native and sustainable species suited to the local environment. The aim is to establish natural plant communities that enhance biodiversity while requiring minimal maintenance.

Even practical elements like parking areas can be aesthetically integrated. The entrance will create a strong first impression, conveying a sense of wild, natural beauty in a sustainably designed space.

Signage will be crafted from timber repurposed from the woodland, reinforcing the site's connection to its natural surroundings. Bug hotels and Bird boxes will be installed across the site to encourage nesting.



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0228 - NDLD - L - 24

revision:
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PLANTING ZONES



- Main House / Dining Terrace
BNG Class: Introduced Shrub
- Pond Perimeter Planting
BNG Class: Introduced Shrub
- Meadows
BNG Class: Other neutral grassland
- Woodland Shade Shrubs
BNG Class: Lowland Decid Woodland
- Woodland Shade Planting
BNG Class: Mixed Scrub
- Car Park Native Planting
BNG Class: Introduced Shrub
- Marginal Pond Planting



Car Park Mix
naturalistic shrubby mix



Woodland trails (higher ground)
wildflower + shrubs



Main House / Dining Terrace
Mixed ornamental planting



Marginal Pond Planting
Aquatic native species



Pond trails (lower ground)
Mixed ornamental planting



Parkland Meadow
wildflower meadow along estate fence
boundary



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P 01

TREES



Tilia x europea
A large, deciduous tree. The heart shaped leaves are green turning yellow in autumn. Fragrant flowers in summer are cream but scarcely visible. In the winter, the young twigs are red bronze.



Sequoiadendron giganteum
The branches form a rounded dense conical crown towards the top with individual branches sweeping downwards with upturned ends. It has distinctive spongy reddish-brown bark with small scale-like blue-green, shaped leaves 6-12mm long arranged spirally round the shoots.



Quercus robur
A large deciduous tree developing a magnificent broad crown, the leaves with shallow, rounded lobes, turning reddish brown in autumn. Inconspicuous yellow-green catkins followed by characteristic acorns.



Fagus sylvatica
Fagus sylvatica also known as the Common Beech, is a native tree that has yellow to green leaves in the spring turning a rich russet brown in the Autumn.



Pinus sylvestris
P. sylvestris is a large evergreen tree to 25m, with the upper trunk and branches orange-brown, developing a picturesque, irregular outline with maturity. Twisted grey-green needles are borne in pairs. Cones 5cm in length



Alnus glutinosa
A. glutinosa is a deciduous tree to 25m, broadly conical in habit when young, with grey-purple buds and young catkins conspicuous in winter, and rounded bright green leaves



Betula pendula (multistemmed)
Betula pendula, or the Common Silver Birch tree, is native to the UK and has white bark which develops diamond shaped cracks towards the base as it matures.



Acer campestre
A. campestre is a medium-sized deciduous tree with a compact bushy crown. Leaves with 5 blunt lobes, turning yellow or red in the autumn. Flowers small, green, forming typical winged maple fruits



Euonymus europaeus
Euonymus europaeus is a twiggly upright spreading deciduous shrub native to Europe with narrowly ovate leaves which are dark green in summer turning yellow-green to reddish-purple in autumn.



Amelanchier lamarckii
Amelanchier are small deciduous trees or shrubs with showy white flowers in early spring, red to purple fruits and often good autumn colour



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0228 - NDLD - L - 26

P 01

PLANT SPECIES

Planting surrounding Chownes Mead House & Terrace



Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln'



Achillea millefolium



Hyssopus officinalis



Ballota pseudodictamnus



Phlomis fruticosa



Nepeta 'Walker's Low'



Geranium renardii



Echinacea 'Pallida'



Calamintha nepeta



Santolina chamaecyparissus



Euphorbia characas subsp. wulfenii



Libertia grandiflora



Origanum laevigatum 'Herrenhausen'



Sesleria autumnalis



Miscanthus sinensis 'Malepartus'



Thymus vulgaris



Knautia macedonia



Salvia officinalis purpurascens



Rosmarinus officinalis



Lavandula angustifolia 'Munstead'

Pennisetum alopecuroides (Fountain Grass)
A clumping grass that produces soft, bottlebrush-like blooms, loved by pollinators for providing shelter.

Achillea millefolium (Yarrow)
A flowering perennial that supports pollinators with its flat-topped clusters, great for butterflies and bees.

Hyssopus officinalis (Hyssop)
An aromatic herb with blue flowers that is excellent for attracting pollinators, particularly bees.

Ballota pseudodictamnus (False Dittany)
A soft-textured plant that provides nectar for bees and other pollinators through its small pinkish flowers.

Phlomis fruticosa (Jerusalem Sage)
Its bright yellow flowers attract bees and other beneficial insects, while its seeds provide food for birds.

Nepeta 'Walker's Low' (Catmint)
A fragrant perennial with blue flowers that attracts bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

Geranium 'Mavis Simpson'
A hardy geranium known for its long-lasting pink flowers, ideal for pollinators like bees and hoverflies.

Echinacea 'Pallida' (Pale Coneflower)
A tall, drought-resistant perennial that attracts pollinators, particularly bees and butterflies.

Calamintha nepeta (Calamint)
This aromatic herb attracts pollinators, including bees and butterflies, with its fragrant lavender flowers.

Santolina chamaecyparissus (Cotton Lavender)
A compact shrub with bright yellow flowers, providing nectar for bees and habitat for beneficial insects.

Euphorbia characias (Mediterranean Spurge)
Produces unusual green flowers that support pollinators and provides a habitat for beneficial insects.

Libertia grandiflora (Libertia)
An evergreen perennial with white flowers, providing interest for pollinators and small wildlife.

Origanum vulgare (Oregano)
A classic herb with pinkish-purple flowers, excellent for attracting bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

Sesleria autumnalis (Autumn Moor Grass)
A hardy grass that supports wildlife by providing shelter for insects and other small creatures.

Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light' (Chinese Silver Grass)
A striking ornamental grass that provides structure and habitat for pollinators and birds.

Thymus vulgaris (Thyme)
A low-growing herb with small, fragrant flowers that attract bees and butterflies.

Knautia macedonica (Knautia)
A perennial with deep red flowers, loved by pollinators for its abundant nectar.

Salvia officinalis 'Purpurascens' (Purple Sage)
Aromatic leaves and blue-purple flowers that are a favorite of bees and butterflies.

Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary)
Its blue flowers provide an early source of nectar for pollinators in the spring.

Lavandula angustifolia (Lavender 'Munstead')
A fragrant, drought-tolerant shrub with purple flowers that are rich in nectar, attracting bees and butterflies.



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0228 - NDLD - L - 27

revision:
P 01

MARGINAL PLANT SPECIES

Caltha palustris (Marsh Marigold) – UK Native
Bright yellow flowers in early spring, often found in pond margins and damp soils.

Iris pseudacorus (Flag Iris) – UK Native
A tall iris with yellow flowers, ideal for pond edges and wetland habitats.

Carex acutiformis (Lesser Pond Sedge) – UK Native
Grows in wet soils and marshy areas, great for pond margins.

Carex pendula (Pendulous Sedge) – UK Native
Arching grass-like sedge for damp, shady areas, often near water.

Lythrum salicaria (Purple Loosestrife) – UK Native
Striking purple flowers in summer, suited for wet soils and pond edges.

Alisma plantago-aquatica (Water Plantain) – UK Native
Delicate white-pink flowers, thrives in shallow water and marshy areas.

Juncus effusus (Common Rush) – UK Native
A rush with cylindrical stems, often found in wet soils and alongside ponds.

Carex riparia (Greater Pond Sedge) – UK Native
A robust sedge that thrives in very wet conditions, perfect for pond edges.

Myosotis scorpioides (Water Forget-me-not) – UK Native
Small blue flowers, excellent for softening the edges of ponds.

Hydrocotyle vulgaris (Marsh Pennywort) – UK Native
Low-growing plant with small white flowers, often used as ground cover near water.

Sagittaria sagittifolia (Arrowhead) – UK Native
White flowers with purple centers, grows well in shallow water.

Butomus umbellatus (Flowering Rush) – UK Native
Graceful pink, star-like flowers in summer, adds height to wetland areas.



Caltha palustris
Marsh marigold



Iris pseudacorus
Flag iris



Carex acutiformis (Lesser Pond
Sedge)



Carex pendula (Pendulous
Sedge)



Lythrum salicaria (Purple
Loosestrife)



Alisma plantago-aquatica
(Water Plantain)



Juncus effusus
Common rush



Carex riparia
(Greater Pond Sedge)



Myosotis scorpioides (Water
Forget-me-not)



Hydrocotyle vulgaris
(Marsh Pennywort)



Sagittaria sagittifolia
(Arrowhead)



Butomus umbellatus
(Flowering Rush)



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revision:
P 01

PLANT SPECIES

Management of large planting areas is often challenging, so ease of maintenance has been carefully considered.

The majority of soft landscaping will consist of long-grass meadows, using the existing sward as a base. Plug plants will be added to enhance species diversity, with shrubs introduced to provide colour and structure during autumn and winter, as well as berries for wildlife.

Around the pond, the planting will be more diverse, combining grasses, perennials, and shrubs. Large swathes of plants will be used to reflect Jekyll's style, while also simplifying maintenance and plant identification for the gardening team.

Meadow + Shrub Mix

Plug-Planted Long Grass Meadow Base interplanted at random intervals (min 1.0M spacing) with Shrubs



Lower Planting Pond Areas

Carex pendula	Molinia caerulea	Calluna vulgaris	Vaccinium vitis-idaea	Geranium phlaeum
Deschampsia cespitosa	Polystichum setiferum	Ajuga reptans	Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire'	Dryopteris affinis
Achillea millefolium	Filipendula vulgaris	Miscanthus sp.	Viburnum opulus	Persicaria 'Fireglow'
Sanguisorba officinalis	Eupatorium maculatum	Stachys 'Hummelo'	Symphyotrichum 'Little Carlow'	Phlomis russeliana
Cornus canadensis	Salix repens	Polypodium vulgare	Genista tinctoria	Erica cinerea



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P 01

PLANT SPECIES

The entrance to the site is located near the eastern boundary. To provide greater buffering and separation, new trees and shrubs will be planted to enhance the existing woodland mix.

A native mix of shrubs and grasses will be planted around the car parking areas to promote a natural setting that reflects a woodland character.

A combination of bare-root whips and standard trees will be used to gap up the existing tree line.



Top Left:
Newly planted trees in Long Grass Meadow Mix

Top Right:
Mixed Woodland Buffer Planting

Bottom Right:
Car park in natural woodland setting
King Alfred's Tower, National Trust

Woodland Edge Buffer



Parking Areas



- Acer campestre (Field Maple)** Deciduous tree with small, yellow-green flowers in spring, followed by winged seeds.
- Cornus sanguinea (Dogwood)** Deciduous shrub with dark green leaves and clusters of creamy-white flowers in early summer.
- Corylus avellana (Hazel)** Native deciduous tree with pale yellow catkins in early spring and edible nuts.
- Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)** Thorny shrub with white flowers in late spring and red berries in autumn.
- Ilex aquifolium (Holly)** Evergreen shrub with spiny, dark green leaves and bright red berries in winter.
- Deschampsia cespitosa (Tufted Hair Grass)** Evergreen grass with airy panicles of silvery-purple flowers from summer to early autumn.
- Erica cinerea (Bell Heather)** Evergreen shrub with bell-shaped purple flowers from summer to early autumn.
- Ajuga reptans (Bugle)** Ground cover with blue-purple flowers from mid to late spring.
- Polystichum setiferum (Soft Shield Fern)** Evergreen fern with soft, finely-divided fronds, ideal for shady areas.
- Athyrium filix-femina (Lady Fern)** Deciduous fern with feathery, light green fronds, thrives in moist, shaded locations.



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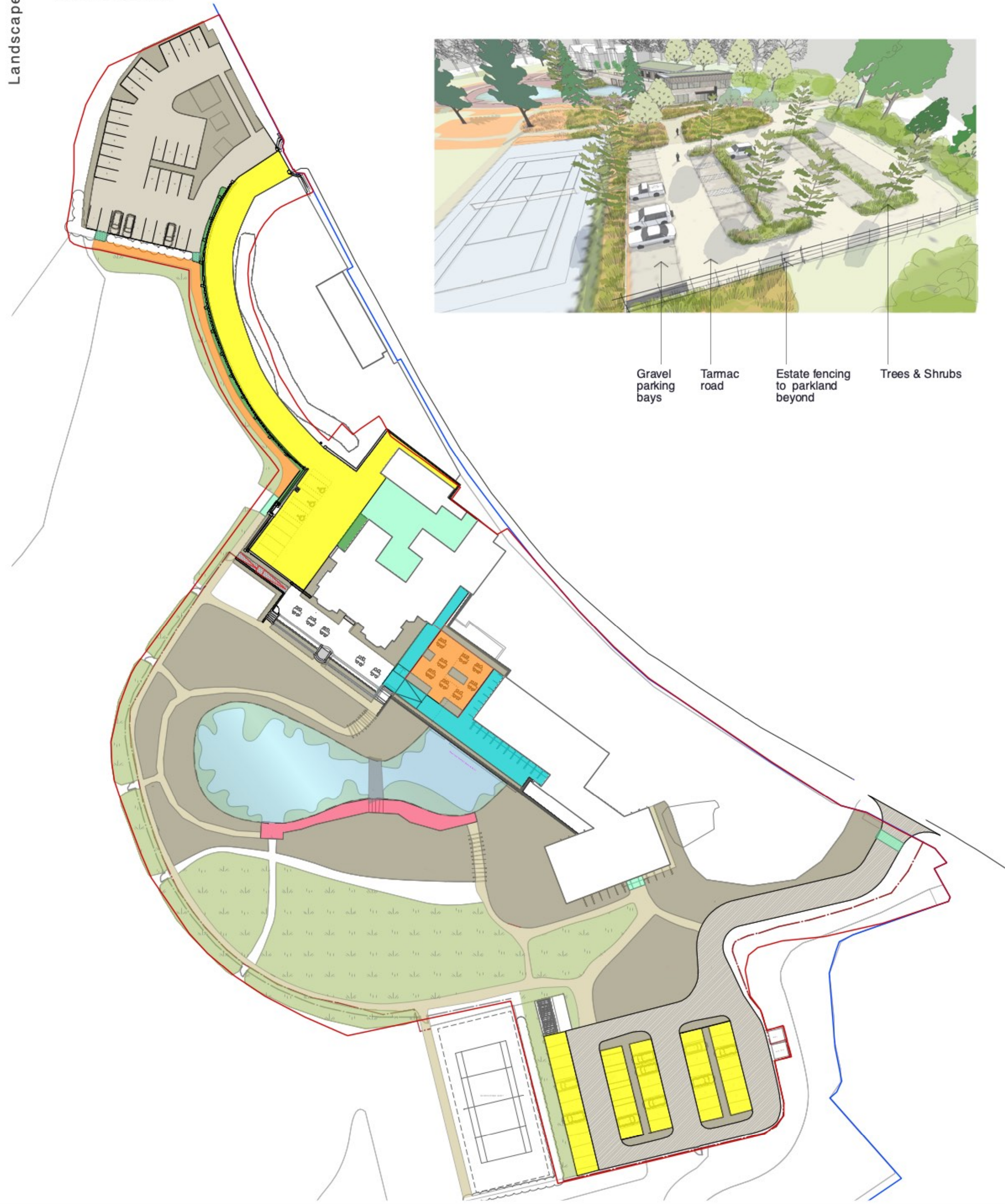
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MATERIALS

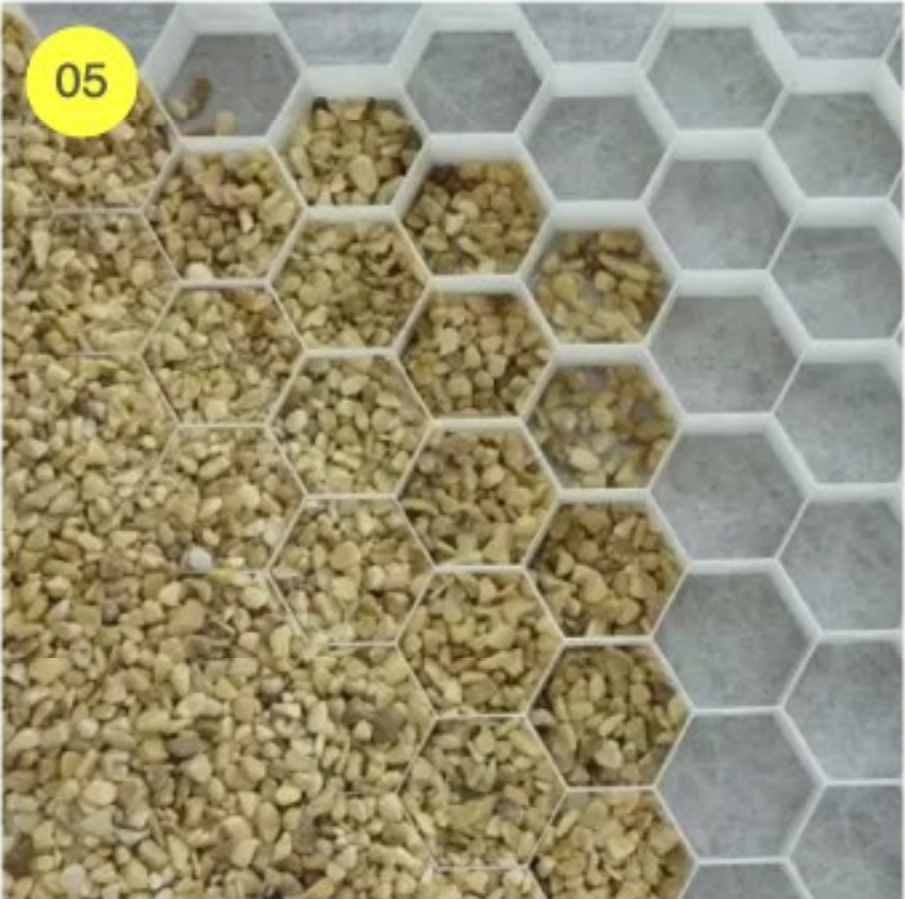
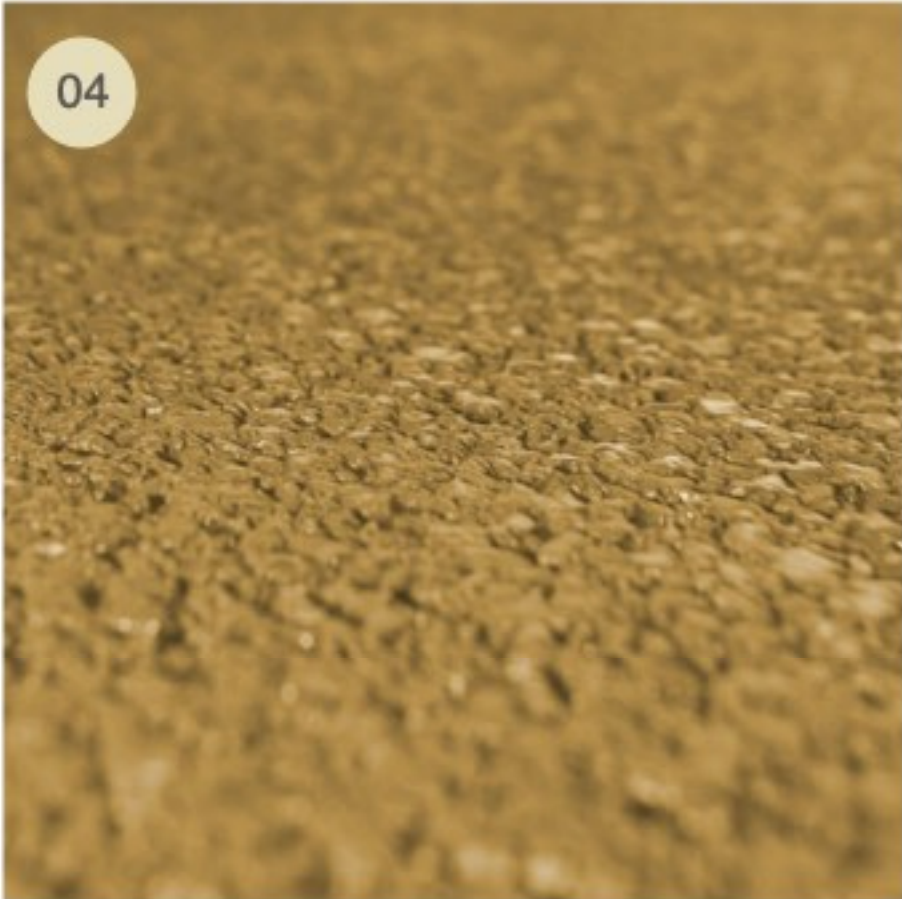
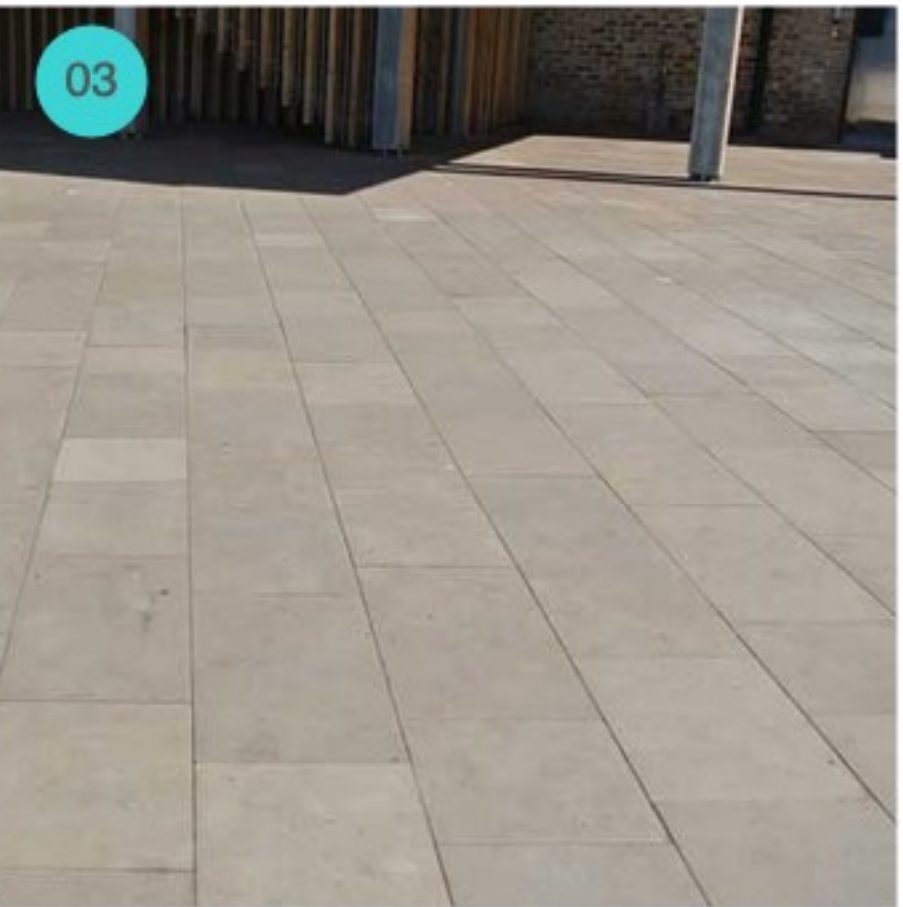


External Surfaces

The landscape design focuses on preserving the estate's natural character, using materials that complement the rural setting. Allowing access around the site at all times of year was considered when selecting the hard-landscape palette.

The images below depict the key materials:

- **Estate fencing** (1) defines the more intensively managed areas.
- **Sandstone Cobbles** (2) add texture and durability to the site.
- **Sawn Sandstone Paving** (3) matches existing slabs, providing smooth surfaces and ease of movement.
- **Buff tarmac** (4) offers a durable surface for vehicular traffic, fitting the rustic aesthetic of the estate.
- **Reinforced gravel** (5) provides a cellular-bound loose surface, ideal for work near tree roots and DDA-compliant for public access.
- **Self-binding gravel** (6) creates compacted pathways, well-suited for woodland and rural settings.



1. Parkland estate
2. Sandstone Cobbles
3. Sawn Horsham Stone Paving
4. Buff tarmac (Natrutex)
5. Reinforced Gravel (Core-Drive)
6. Self binding Gravel (Breedon)



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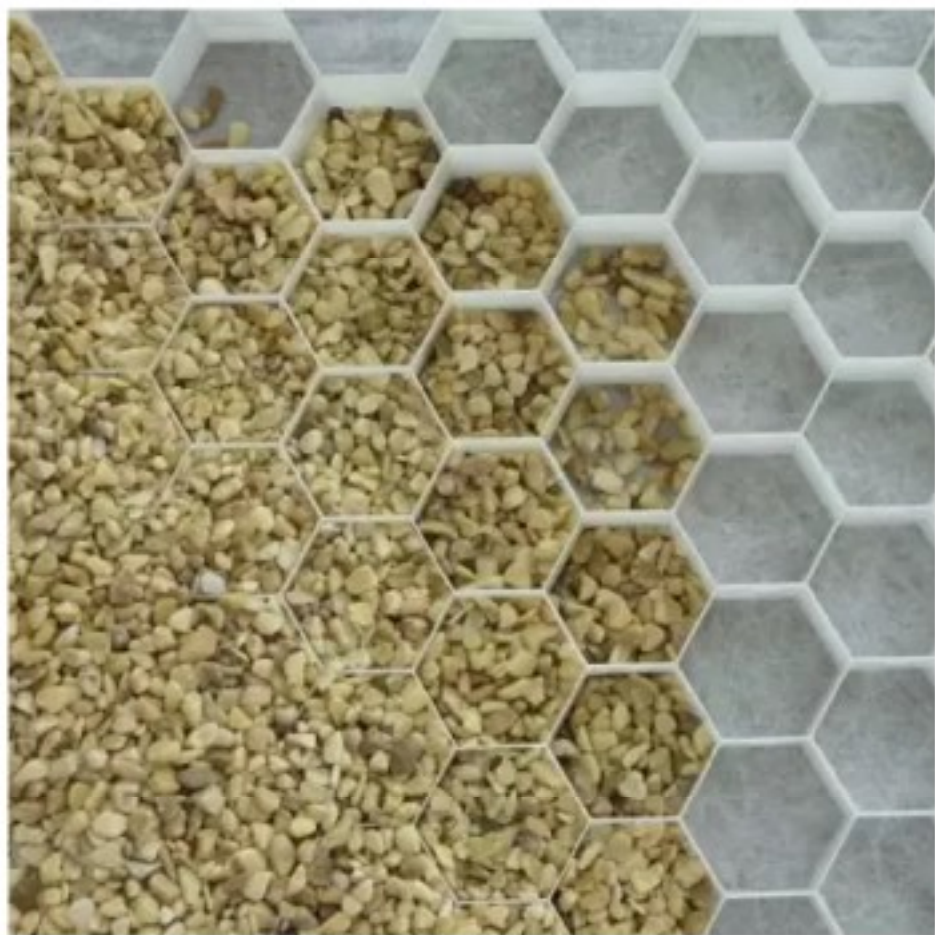
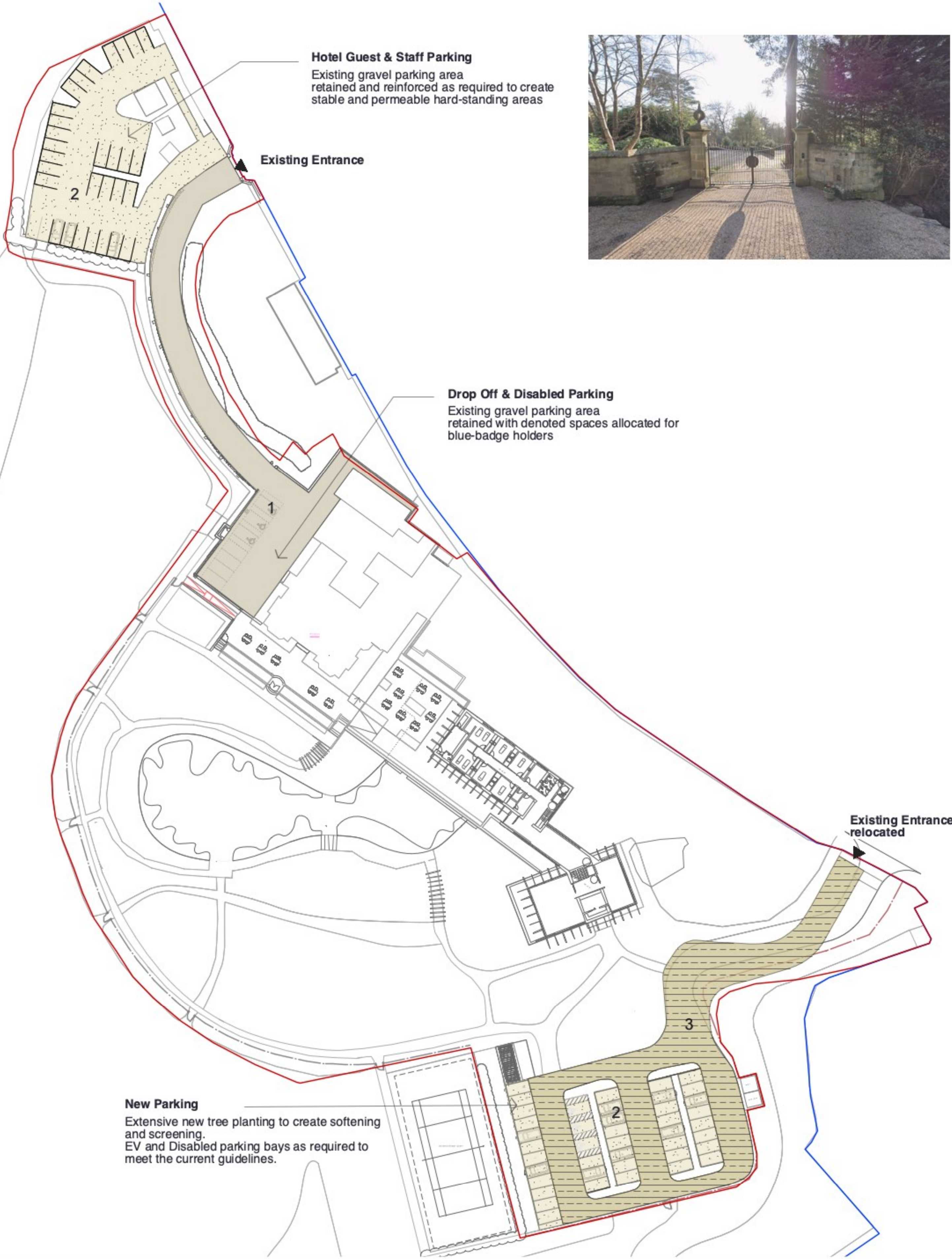
issued:
14/01/2026
scale:
N/A
print size:
A3
stage:
Planning

drawing:
Landscape Spec

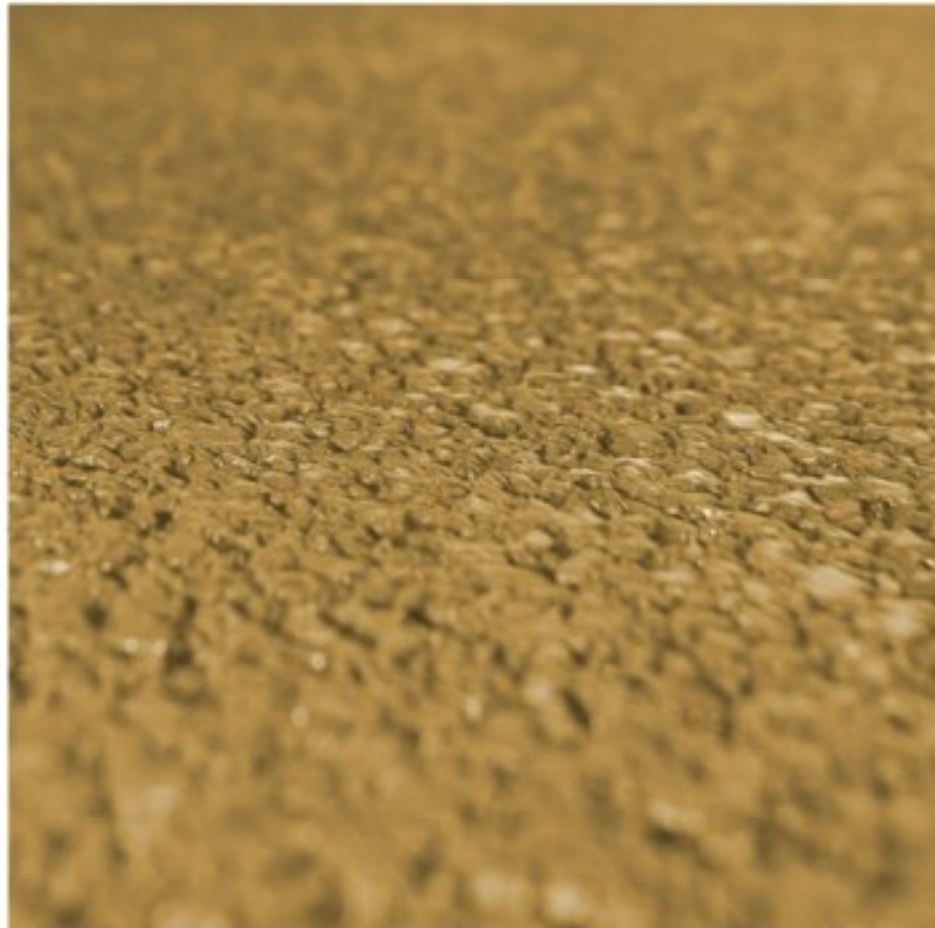
drawing title:
0228 - NDLD - L - 40

revision:
P 01

ACCESS & PARKING AREAS



Reinforced Gravel (Core-Drive)



Self binding Gravel (Breedon)



Acer campestre



Cornus sanguinea



Crataegus monogyna



Ilex aquifolium



Corylus avellana



Carpinus betulus



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- general notes:
1. Only figured dimensions are to be worked from.
 2. Contractors must check all dimensions on site.
 3. Discrepancies must be reported to the Landscape architect before proceeding.
 4. Not suitable for construction unless stated below.
 5. This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant architects drawings, specifications and other Consultant's information.

SOCIETY OF
GARDEN +
LANDSCAPE
DESIGNERS
REGISTERED MEMBER

project:
Chownes Mead

client:
RCM Partnership LLP
drawn by:
ND

issued:
14/01/2026
scale:
N/A
print size:
A3
stage:
Planning

drawing:
Landscape Spec

drawing title:
0228 - NDLD - L - 41

revision:
P 01

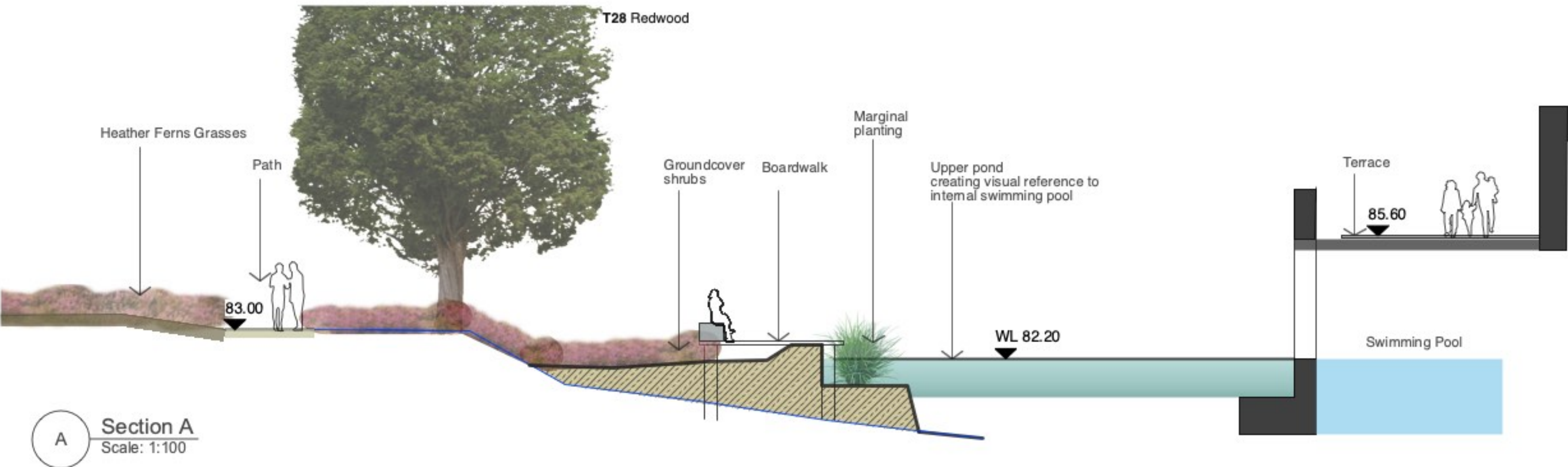
POND / BOARDWALK

The most significant feature of the proposed landscape is the reinstatement of the pond that once occupied the lower hollow. A historical photo from the Slaughtam Archive supports this restoration, showing the pond's original presence as an integral part of the estate's design. Reinstating the pond not only restores a key element of the landscape's heritage, in line with Gertrude Jekyll's design principles, but also enhances the ecological value and visual appeal of the site.

The pond will be designed at two levels to create movement and to work harmoniously with the site's natural contours. The upper pond will be aligned with the Lower Floor Level of the new spa building, establishing a strong visual connection between the interior and exterior spaces.

To ensure that the existing trees are not affected, water will be kept away from the Root Protection Zones (RPZs). For example, soil levels around T28 Redwood will remain undisturbed. To soften the pond edge, a boardwalk will be installed, allowing visitors to experience the water up close while enhancing the overall design.

Ponds and water features bring numerous benefits to the landscape, both visually and ecologically. They provide valuable habitats for a wide range of wildlife, including amphibians, insects, birds, and mammals, supporting biodiversity by offering spaces for breeding, feeding, and shelter. Water elements also enhance the aesthetic appeal of the landscape, creating a sense of movement and tranquility. Additionally, ponds can improve the microclimate by providing cooling effects and reflecting light, making them a dynamic and functional part of the overall design. Reinstating the pond at Chownes Mead will not only restore a historic feature but also contribute to a richer, more vibrant ecosystem.



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drawing title:
0228 - NDLD - L - 42

revision:
P 01