

# introduction to the project

Ealing Council is planning a major programme to conserve and develop Walpole Park and Pitzhanger Manor House. The grade 1 listed manor house is regarded as an architectural treasure and was designed and owned by the highly respected British architect Sir John Soane whose best-known work is the Bank of England. Walpole Park is a 12-hectare public park and is included in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest, classified grade 2.

## Overall project aims for Walpole Park

The Walpole Park project is part of an emerging masterplan, which will set out the vision for the whole of the site of Pitzhanger Manor and Walpole Park. The manor house and its forecourt will be the subject of a separate application to Heritage Lottery Fund although the park and manor house project are being treated as one.

## Project aims

- Conserve listed and other historic structures and recreate the Regency planting design as a setting to the manor
- Re-open lost views, protect and maintain important views and minimise intrusive views
- Promote community engagement and support community values
- Promote sustainable management
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Improve park facilities sensitively sited within the historic site
- Improve visitor facilities (café, toilets, and signage)
- Improve play facilities
- Develop an interpretation, exhibition, volunteering and activity programme

## Core design team

Architect and Lead Consultant: Jestico + Whiles  
Landscape Architect: J & L Gibbons  
Interpretation Designer: Ralph Appelbaum Associates  
Historic Landscape Consultant: Sarah Couch Historic Landscapes  
Conservation Architect: Julian Harrap Architects  
Landscape Management Consultant: Land Management Services  
Structural Engineer: Ellis & Moore  
Services Engineer: King Shaw Associates  
Cost Consultant: AppleyardsDWB

## The vision

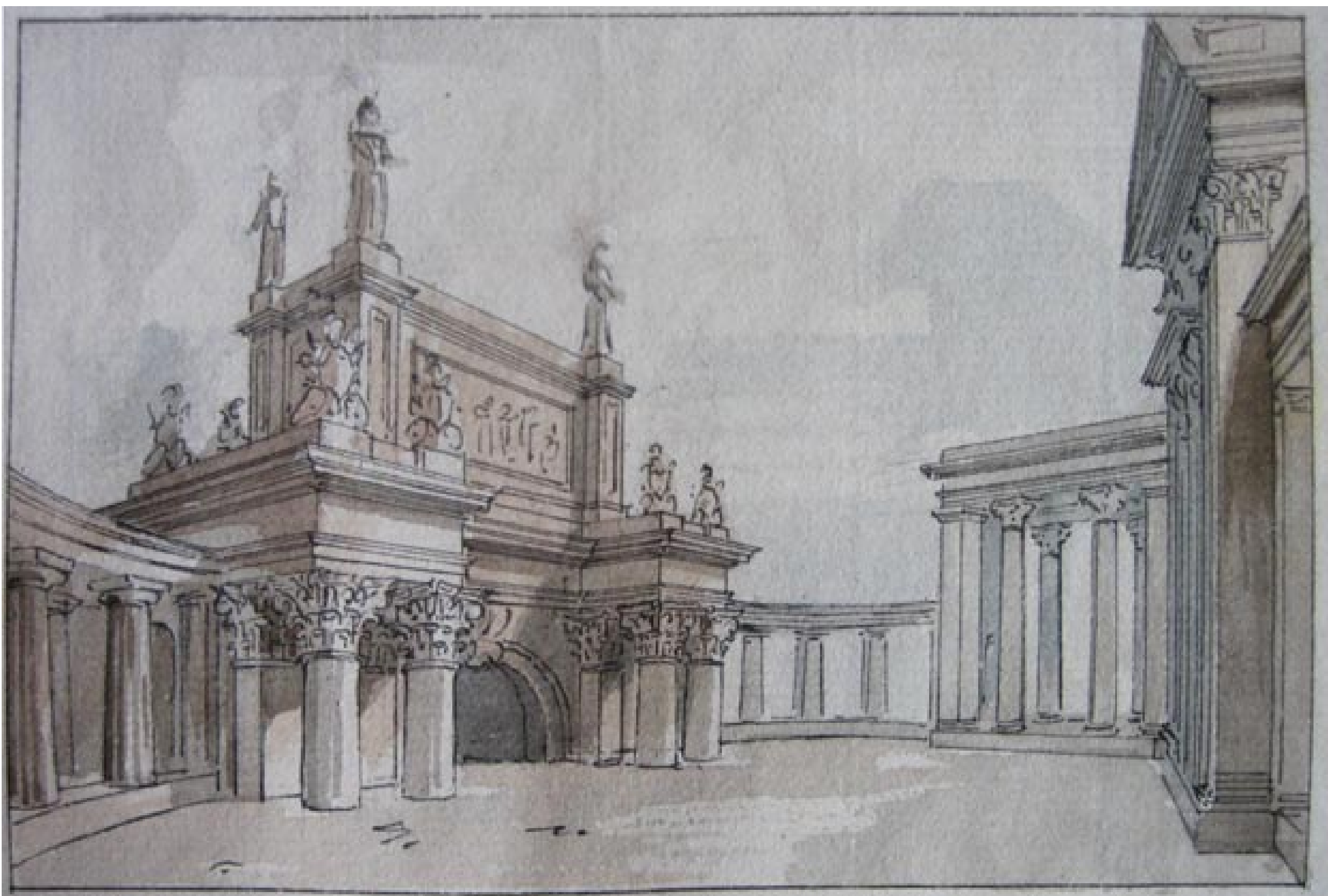
Walpole Park, the manor house and its immediate setting, as well as being much-loved local facilities and landmarks are of national importance. The project will restore Walpole Park as Ealing's premier heritage park and reveal the original Regency landscape. New opportunities for learning, volunteering and other activities will be provided. The project will create a unified design for the park and Pitzhanger Manor and celebrate the national significance of Sir John Soane's legacy.



Birds-eye view by C.J. Richardson c 1832  
By courtesy of the Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum, ref. SM\_Vol 90-1-1r



Photograph from the roof of Thames Valley University, April 2010  
© J & L Gibbons



Soane's sketch of vanished ruins  
By courtesy of the Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum, ref. SM\_87\_15\_ruins\_25-09\_1832



The entrance archway  
By courtesy of the Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum, ref. SM\_87\_1\_entrance gate 1832

Boards that introduce key considerations and opportunities for these areas are located throughout the park. Please follow the trail to learn more and let us know your feedback.



# introduction to the heritage of the park

## Sir John Soane (1753-1837)

Soane is one of the most celebrated and influential British architects. He developed a very individual neoclassical architecture, full of surprises, which continues to delight and inspire. He was best known as architect of the Bank of England, but also designed many country houses, including his own at Pitzhanger, which shares close stylistic links with the Soane Museum at Lincoln's Inn Fields.

## Soane and Haverfield at Pitzhanger Manor

In 1800, Soane purchased Pitzhanger Manor where he intended to build his 'dream' house - his own country villa as a showcase for his many guests and to educate his sons in the art of architecture. Soane had an active involvement in the design and use of the gardens and park. John Haverfield (1744-1820) who was a royal gardener at Kew and seen as one of the top landscape designers of his day, compared with Humphry Repton, worked frequently with Soane, advised on the laying out of the grounds. The resulting landscape was a miniature landscape park, suited to a Regency country villa. This included imitation ruins, lawns, shrubberies, exotic trees, a flower garden, a kitchen garden, a serpentine lake with rustic bridge with arbour above (in imitation of a Roman temple at the water's 'source'), an ornamental shrubbery walk and a great number of classical fragments, all set within a small park. It is a very rare surviving example of Soane's close involvement with gardens and also a rare example of the work of John Haverfield, who was celebrated in his lifetime but is now relatively unknown.

## The Walpoles and Percevals

Soane sold the Manor to General Nevill Cameron in 1811. There followed a series of owners who made relatively minor changes to the landscape, for instance the addition of hothouses, and possibly the round lily pond (by 1865); the lake was drained by 1839 and the north wing of the manor was rebuilt. In 1843 the Manor was purchased by Spencer Walpole and it became home to four of his sisters-in-law, the Perceval sisters, who brought some of the stone urns from their nearby house at Elm Grove.

## From Regency landscape to Public Park

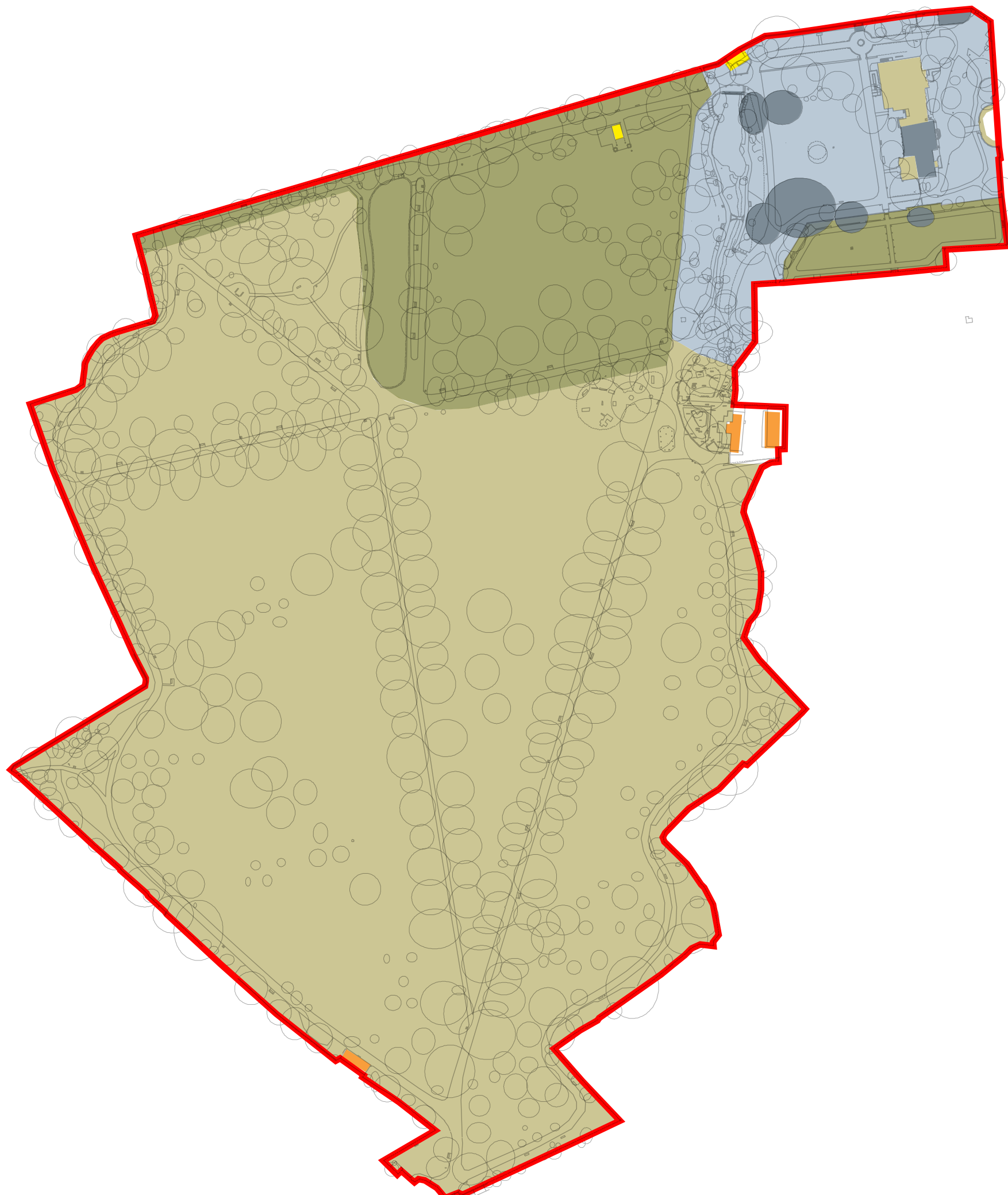
The next significant phase of the park's history began in 1901 when it was opened as a public park. Although the initial intention was that the park be maintained 'as a park and not a garden' and that 'no steps be taken towards floricultural development', new planting, park facilities, new paths and avenues were added and water bodies redesigned. The fishing pond was widened and redesigned as a skating and model boating lake, with islands, a fountain and ornamental planting. In the 1930s the former serpentine lake became a sunken water garden. The manor was extended to house a public library, converted to a gallery in 1987. Over time, the addition of ornamental trees, hedges and bedding changed the character of the gardens into that of a municipal park and the gardens around the manor became visually isolated from the rest of the park.



Aerial photograph of Pitzhanger Manor and Walpole Park, 2007  
© Crown copyright Landmark Information Group - OS Licence LA100019807



Sale Plan, 1832  
By courtesy of the Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum



- Buildings and trees of high significance
- Features of national (high) significance
- Features of regional (medium) significance
- Features of local (low) significance
- Features of neutral significance
- Negative or poorly located features

Boards that introduce key considerations and opportunities for these areas are located throughout the park. Please follow the trail to learn more and let us know your feedback.



# pitzhanger manor proposals

## Pitzhanger Manor

The project aims to reinstate Pitzhanger Manor as the major feature within the park. Walpole Park formed the original grounds of this grade 1 listed house, designed in 1800 by Sir John Soane.

If funding is successful the project will restore Soane’s architectural vision for the buildings, reveal Pitzhanger Manor’s rich history, make the buildings more accessible and improve visitor facilities to create a world-class heritage attraction.

The manor and lodge will be restored to open more period rooms to the public, improve accessibility and re-instate lost connections with the park. New visitor facilities will include a café, toilets, shop, and exhibition and education spaces.

An application for a Heritage Lottery Fund Major Grant for the restoration of the Manor House will be made in November 2010.

## Learning

A strategy is being developed as part of the proposals to help visitors understand the local, regional, national and international importance of the heritage of the house and park.

Some of the learning themes that could be explored are:

- Regency landscapes;
- Growing and catching food;
- Soane and his contemporaries;
- the Arts and the Enlightenment;
- Friendship;
- Festivities and Entertaining;
- Play;
- Classicism and the Gothic;
- the geographical development of London;
- the change in Ealing’s landscape over 200 years;
- local Ealing people;
- Memorial Gardens.

Do you have any suggestions for interpretation themes?



Front elevation of Pitzhanger Manor



The library in Pitzhanger Manor



View from forecourt, 1832  
By courtesy of the Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum, ref. SM\_87\_2\_entrancefront\_1832



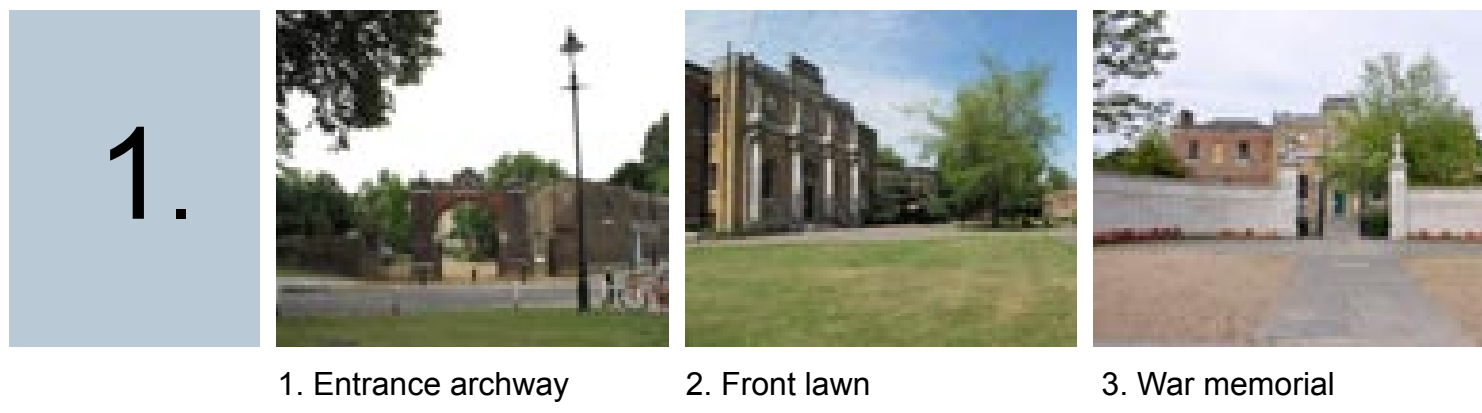
The breakfast room in Pitzhanger Manor



# visual analysis of park by character areas

Character areas of the park have been established by historic research and reflect much of the landscape design laid out in the early 19th century by Soane. Significantly these areas are generally still recognisable despite the grounds having been used as a public park for over 100 years.

## Forecourt



## Lawn and flower garden



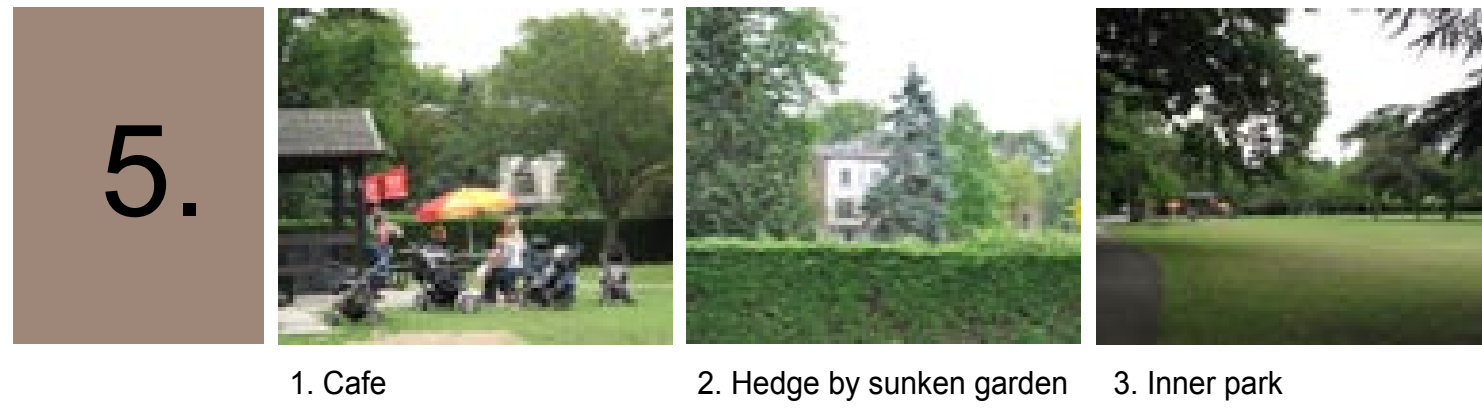
## Walled garden



## Sunken garden



## Inner park



## Fish pond



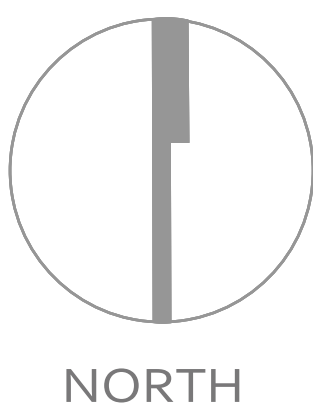
## Shrubbery walk



## Wider parkland



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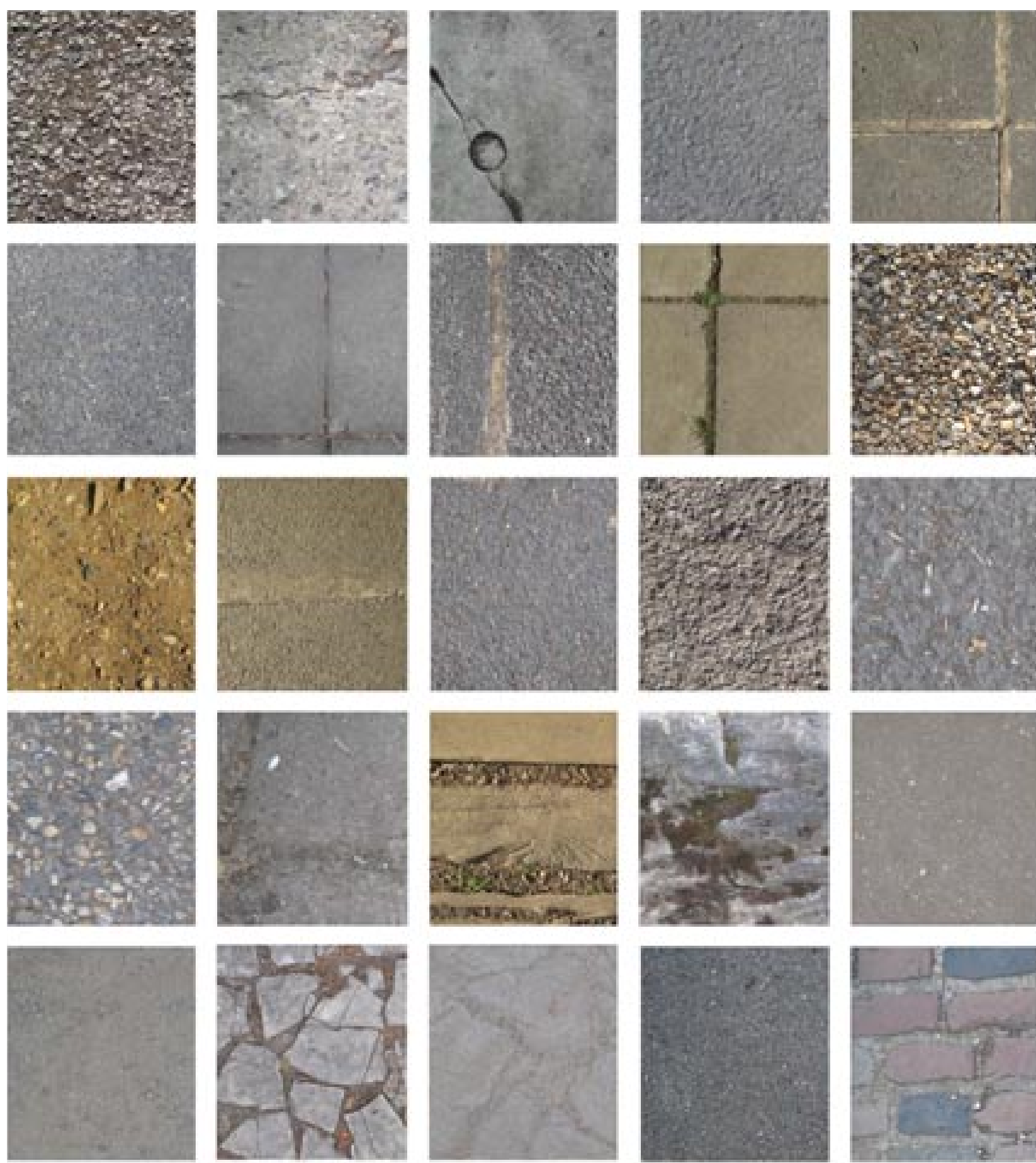
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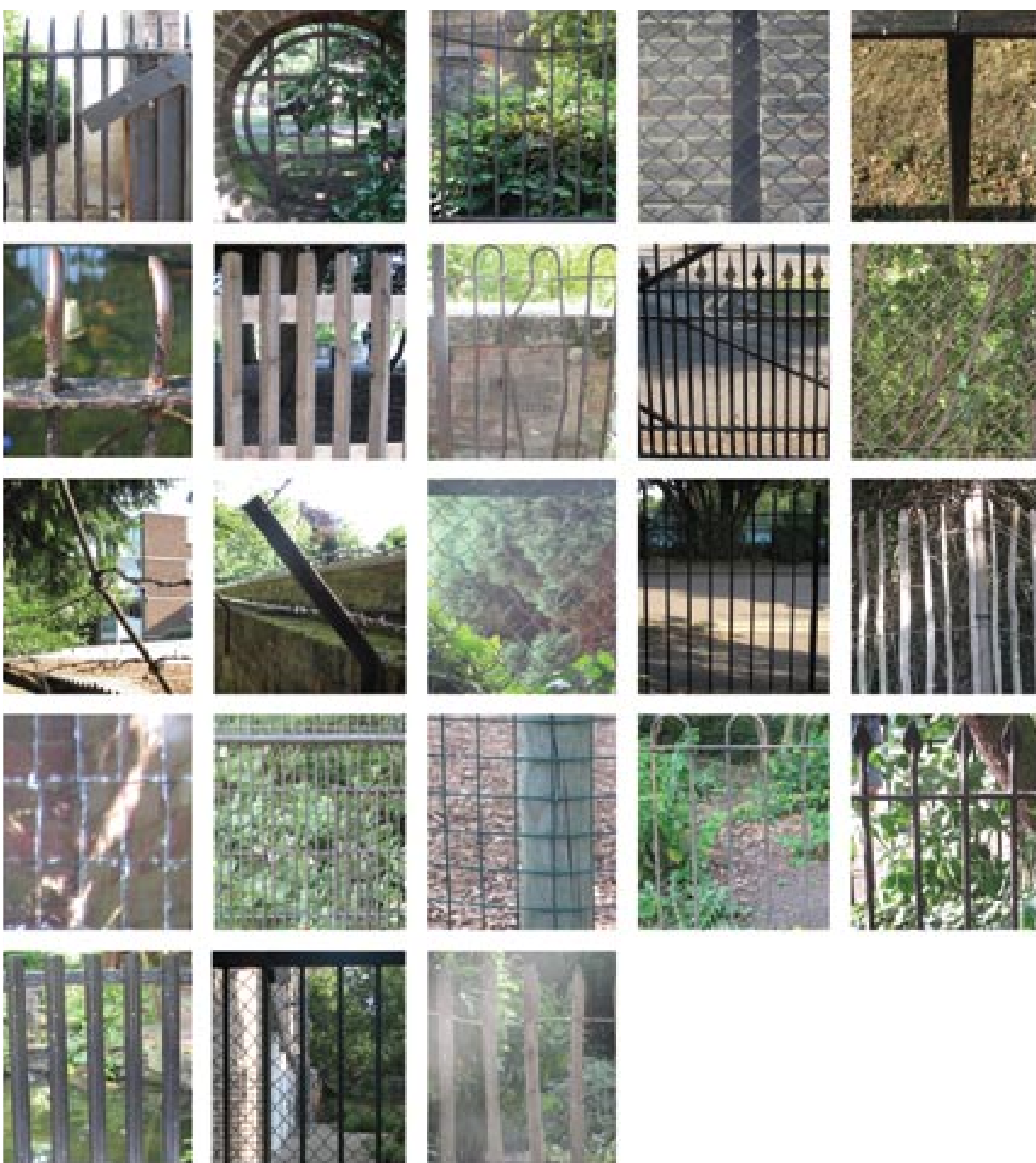
# visual survey of park - issues

This project represents the first opportunity in over 100 years to review all materials, furniture and structures within the park. The project can help improve fundamental issues such as universal accessibility throughout the park, but can also rationalise materials and facilities in a way that is more appropriate to a park of such heritage importance. A holistic approach to these issues will also mean that it will be easier to maintain the park and unify and upgrade park elements in the future.

These images are part of an in depth visual and analytical survey of the park.



Existing paving



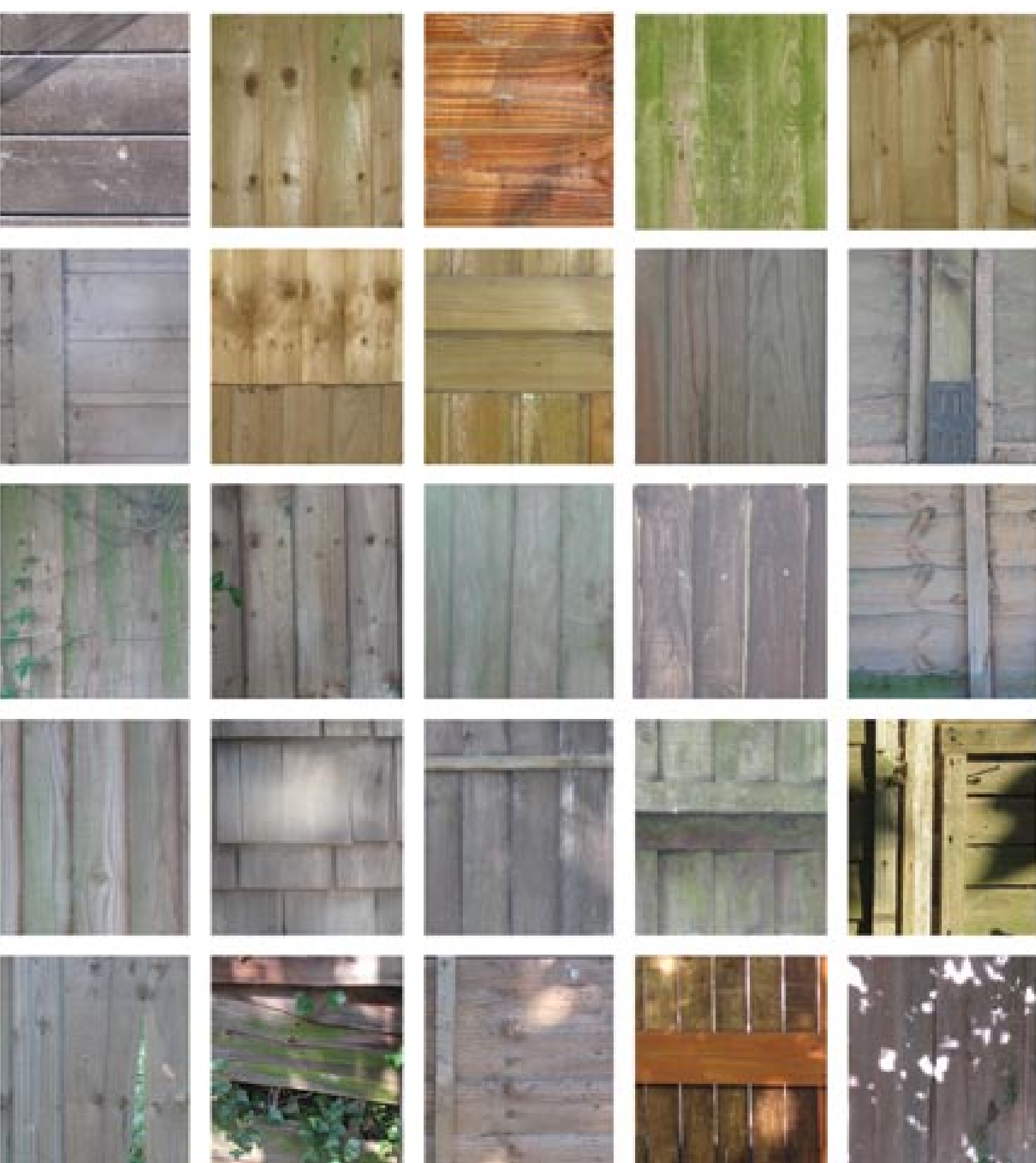
Existing railings and fences



Existing edges  
Existing litterbins



Existing brick walls



Existing timber fences



Existing park benches



# trees in the park

The trees in Walpole Park are a combination of many generations of planting. There are only a few trees in the park that predate Soane or are from the Soane period, and relatively few from the 19th century:

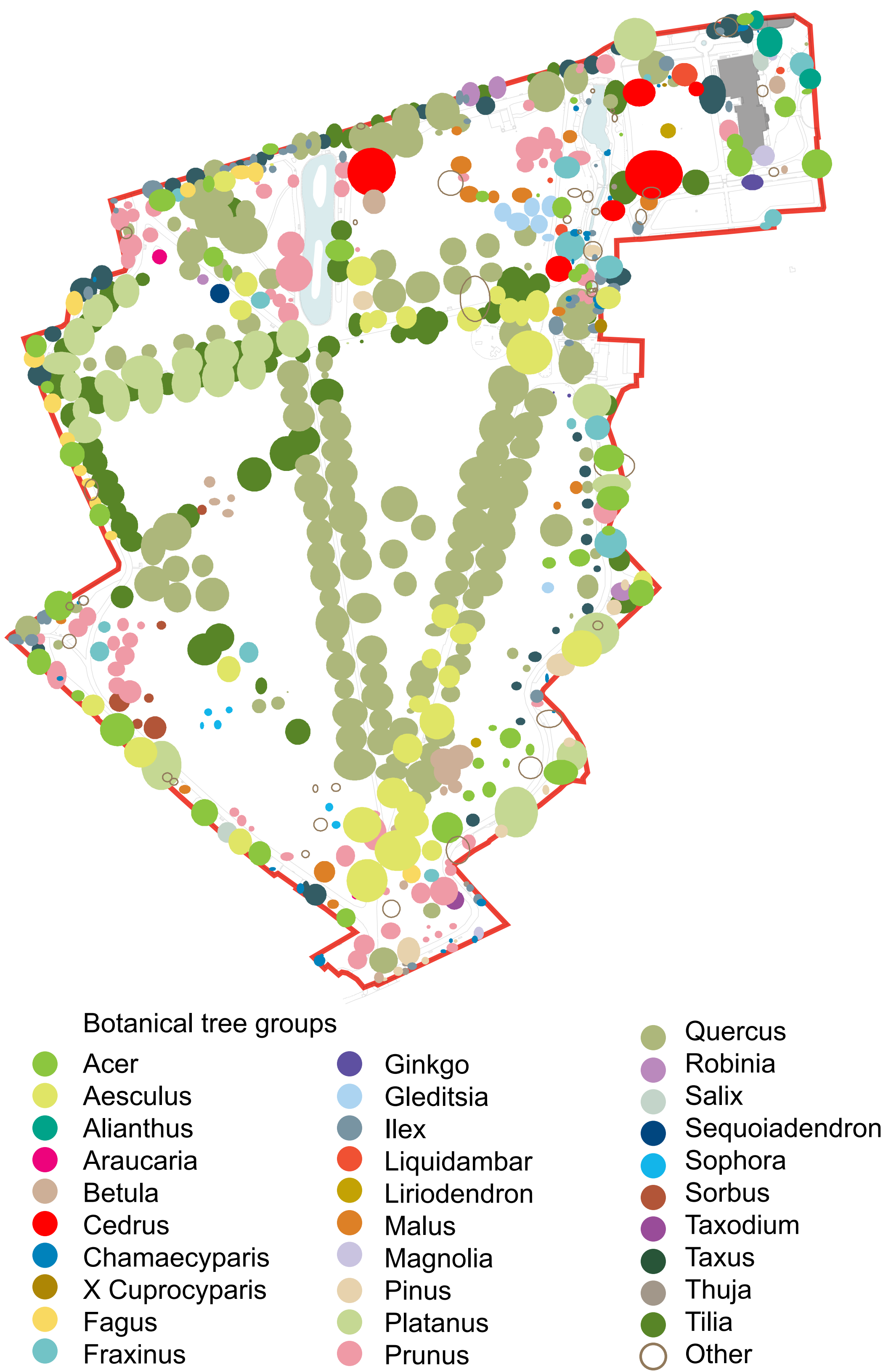
- 4 to 6 trees probably predate Soane
- 8 to 10 trees date from early 19th century, possibly of Soane period
- 36 trees date from 1843-1901 (Walpole/Percevals)
- 218 trees date from 1901-1950 (Early public park)

Now is an opportunity to plan for the benefit of future generations regarding tree planting. A tree strategy for the park will need to consider tree management to improve the health of existing trees and issues such as:

- Selected tree removal to allow some trees to grow to maturity and to re-open lost views.
- New tree planting to diversify the age range.
- Replacement of some of the significant historic trees that are at the end of their natural life or that are in poor health.

The health of the cedar and lime trees on the lawn at the back of Pitzhanger Manor is currently being assessed to determine the future of the trees, you can read more about the investigations on the boards on the fence around these trees.

What is most important about the trees in the park to you?



# views

There are many significant views within the park that have been lost over the last 100 years, in particular two key views:

1. The original view from Ealing Green to the manor house, which originally consisted of a green screen of trees planted at the boundary with the Manor only revealed as you came in through the archway off Mattock Lane;
2. The views between the manor house and the wider park.

Views are also an important part of appreciating a landscape, creating a sense of space and enhancing community safety.

The opportunity to open views of heritage significance will be closely aligned to the tree strategy for the park. The views were designed to create a sequence of experiences as you walked through the park with glimpses of what lay beyond.

Reinstating these views may be a case of subtly raising tree canopies to a consistent height to give views across the wider parkland. In other instances some trees would need to be removed to reinstate views of heritage significance. More recent additions, such as the park café and toilets, obscure important views. This project represents an opportunity to relocate these facilities elsewhere within the park, where they will be more sensitively to the park's heritage.

What are your feelings about selected removal of trees and planting to reinstate historic views?



Boards that introduce key considerations and opportunities for these areas are located throughout the park. Please follow the trail to learn more and let us know your feedback.



# memorials

The park is home to a great number of memorials, including the extensive Mayor’s Avenue of Trees, other memorial trees, the Great War Memorial and the Empire Windrush Memorial.

This project will consider how the existing memorials are preserved and restored and a strategy for how future memorials are better integrated in the park. This needs to be considered in the context of all other uses of the park and the other strategies such as the tree strategy, and repairing the heritage structure of the landscape.

Would you support an overall strategy for all memorials in the park?



Memorial tree plaque



Empire Windrush Garden



The Great War Memorial

# events

The annual Ealing Summer Festival is held during July with the majority of the events in Walpole Park. Many people enjoy the mela, comedy, opera, jazz, blues and global music. It is a cultural highlight in West London.

Within the context of this project a review of how the park is used for events will take place including consideration of what type of events are programmed and where they are located. Inevitably the events put pressure on the park and cause additional maintenance including de-compacting the ground which affects the health of trees and site drainage. The park infrastructure and events management would need enhancing to support events of this nature and reduce impact on the condition of the heritage parkland.

Do you think the types of events are appropriate to Walpole Park?

Do you think the size of events is appropriate to Walpole Park?

Are the locations of events areas appropriate?



The Summer Festival



Hoarding at the Summer Festival



Heavy events machinery around existing trees



# facilities

There are a number of facilities within the park, such as the café, toilets, disused animal centre and unused tennis pavilion.

This project needs to consider the current use of all facilities, assess the quality of provision and consider which other facilities would make Walpole Park better equipped for a range of potential activities.

There is an opportunity to redevelop the disused animal centre site, with its ideal location at the heart of the park near the play area, to create a new park hub. It is intended that the new building will contain a state-of-the-art learning studio for school groups and adult education, as well as facilities for volunteers, secure and accessible public toilets, and a café.

Would you like better toilet facilities?

Do you support redeveloping the animal centre site as a park hub for community park facilities?



Cafe  
© J & L Gibbons



The playground  
© J & L Gibbons



Disused animal centre  
© J & L Gibbons

# play

As part of the project there is the opportunity to explore and develop the possibilities for play around the park in addition to the playground adjacent to the bandstand.

Informal play across the whole park could be promoted, such as natural play, water play, wildlife play, edible play and sensory play.

What kind of play would you like to see in the park?



Balance  
© J & L Gibbons



Discover  
© J & L Gibbons



Pond dipping  
© John Sturrock



Investigate  
© J & L Gibbons



Kick about  
© J & L Gibbons



Bird watching  
© J & L Gibbons



Nurture  
© J & L Gibbons



Build  
© J & L Gibbons



Get fit  
© Sarah Couch Historic Landscapes



Gardening  
© J & L Gibbons



Relax  
© J & L Gibbons



Picnic  
© J & L Gibbons



# activities and park use

Walpole Park is used for a wide variety of activities. The park provides one of the main informal recreation assets in central Ealing, with active recreation sitting comfortably alongside areas for quiet contemplation and relaxation. This project represents an opportunity for the local community to review and influence the type of activities that take place and in Walpole Park.

Many informal activities in Walpole Park might benefit from small changes to the park infrastructure to make activities more enjoyable, such as clean and safe toilets or provision of drinking fountains to name two suggestions.

What activities would you like to get involved in, in Walpole Park?

Work in a community kitchen garden	Learn about growing fruit, vegetables and flowers	Cooking	Look after wildlife (conservation)
Bees and honey	Pond dipping	Night walks – bats and moths	Help monitor and look after bats and birds
Be a tour guide – heritage or nature	Go on a tour of the park – heritage or nature	Sculpture	Arts
Photography	Film making	Poetry	Print making
Creative writing	Parent and child activities	Outdoor theatre	Dance
Comedy	Organised children's games e.g. rounders,	Storytelling	Music
Wifi connection	Recording memories of the park	Developing a park archive	Community picnics
Themed activities e.g. Halloween, festivals of light, Spring, Harvest	Boule / Petanque	Jogging / fitness groups	Fitness trails or equipment
Local history	Community fairs or festivals	Spring watch / autumn watch	Drawing and painting



Filming  
© J & L Gibbons



Painting  
© J & L Gibbons



Dog walking  
© J & L Gibbons



Yoga  
© J & L Gibbons



Jogging  
© J & L Gibbons



Working out  
© J & L Gibbons



Socialising / picnicing  
© J & L Gibbons



# consultation summary

Ealing Council has been working with the local community to ensure that they are involved in the development of the Walpole Park and Pitzhanger Manor project. These activities are ongoing and to date have included focus groups, pond dipping and seed planting workshops, tree and archaeology walks, the installation of the pop up kitchen garden and the Big Lunch event.

We are talking to people about all aspects of the park including the types of activities, spaces and facilities they would like in the park. Please leave your feedback at the end of this exhibition to help us to further shape our proposals and the way you would like to be involved.



The Big Lunch, 19.07.2009  
© J & L Gibbons

## walpole friends

Walpole Friends is a voluntary membership group established in 2009 in response to Ealing Council's plans to apply for Heritage Lottery Funding and to invest in Walpole Park and Pitzhanger Manor. The Friends provide a local stakeholder voice and grass roots input and are working to preserve the integrity of Walpole Park, Pitzhanger Manor and Lammas Park and Enclosure.

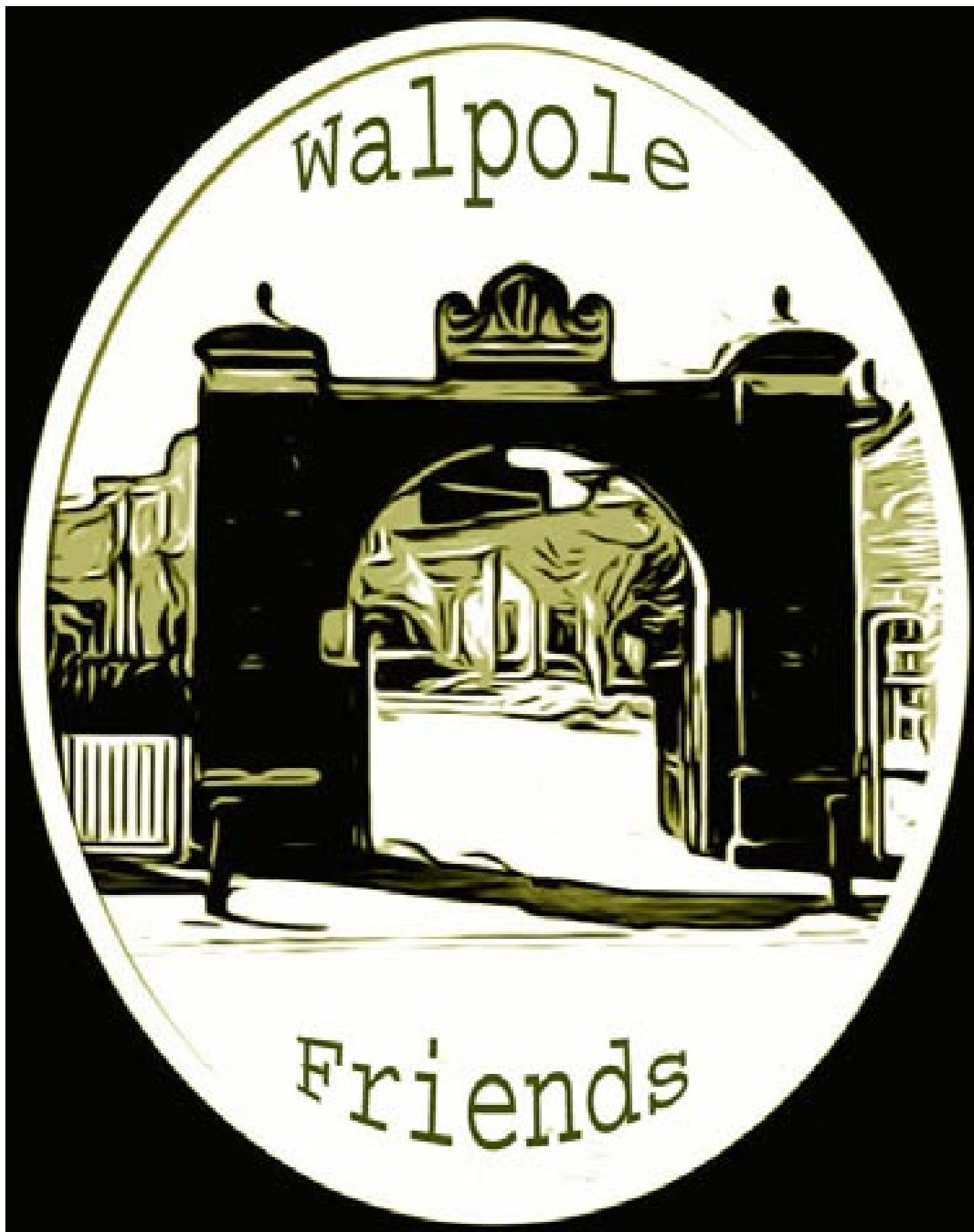
Walpole Friends sees its role as helping to raise the profile of the manor and parks, both locally and further afield, and to help in the understanding and appreciation of their historic importance. The Walpole Friends' interest extends to the grade I listed manor, which is in need of major renovation and improvement.

Walpole Friends' key objectives are to:

- Preserve the integrity, history and architecture of the area
- Increase involvement with all demographics of park users
- Ensure that services offered are appropriate for all cultures within our community
- Engage with the youth of Ealing through the manor and parks
- Encourage our members and other groups to volunteer in the manor and parks

For further information or to join Walpole Friends please visit:

[www.WalpoleFriends.org](http://www.WalpoleFriends.org)



Friends Group at the Summer Festival 2010  
© Sarah Couch Historic Landscapes

## next steps

**End of October 2010:**  
Public exhibition in the park

**Autumn 2010:**  
Comment from public exhibition integrated into development of the park plan

**January 2011:**  
Public consultation on proposals for park

**February 2011:**  
Submit Stage Two Parks for People application to the Heritage Lottery Fund

**June 2011:**  
Receive decision from Heritage Lottery Fund

**Late 2012:**  
Works start in Walpole Park

Please note, all these dates are subject to funding and may change.



Tree walk in the park, Summer 2010  
© John Sturrock



Pop-up kitchen garden, Summer 2010  
© Sarah Couch Historic Landscapes



# 1. forecourt

The forecourt was redesigned by Soane to provide a dramatic diagonal entrance to the Manor House through the striking flint archway. The manor house was framed by flowering shrubberies, which concealed the service wing (the kitchen block). The construction of the war memorial in 1921 altered the approach to the manor from Ealing Green. In the 1980s Ealing Council carried out the partial restoration of the Soane drive and Haverfield planting.

The forecourt provides the principal space for orientation and access to both the park and the manor house.

The detailed design of this area is most closely aligned to the proposals for the manor house. For this reason this area has been excluded from the Parks for People application and will be included in the Major Grant application along with the manor house proposals. However, there will be an integrated masterplan for the whole site.



The entrance drive with the old cedar tree in the background  
Old postcard, J & L Gibbons collection



Key plan

Key considerations and opportunities for this area are:

- 1. To repair the setting and function of the listed entrance archway as the main entrance with regard to both Pitzhanger Manor House and Walpole Park. To enhance the diagonal approach, this could include locking the gates of the war memorial and reopening the smaller gate off Ealing Green to the south.
- 2. Reinstate significant heritage trees such as the Cedar of Lebanon lost in 1953 and the tree lined boundary to Ealing Green.
- 3. Review the approach to the house through reconfiguring the existing path and realigning the planting, creating glimpses of the house from the entrance gate, framed by trees and appropriate flowering shrub planting.

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS  
AND VISIT THE EXHIBITION IN THE BANDSTAND



Early 20th century  
Old postcard, J & L Gibbons collection



Existing, 2010



Proposed

Ealing & West  
London College

Brick wall

Walled garden



Pitzhanger Manor and front lawn

Gallery

Lodge

Entrance archway

← south

north →

Existing photographic elevation



# 2. lawn and flower garden

The earliest layout for this area was a formal parterre. By the time Soane bought Pitzhanger, there was a circular lawn with mature cedars and a fruit garden to the north. The design of the lawn was softened into a more informal arrangement of lawn running down to the serpentine; it was enclosed by shrubberies, framing views of the main house and the garden to the north became a flower garden. It later became an entrance to the public park.

The lawn is dotted with annual flowering beds. Formal flowerbeds are located adjacent to the listed wall on Mattock Lane. There are several specimen trees located within the lawn, some, namely the cedars, predate Soane's designs.

Architectural fragments of the Regency landscape are also located in this area, including the Portland Stone bench, Mattock Lane wall and several smaller carved stone pieces. The lawn is designed as the connection between internal spaces of the house and external spaces of the gardens and park. This relationship has been eroded over time through the removal of Soane's conservatory, addition of built structures in the park as well as extensive additions to the Manor House and the planting.

The re-establishment of the relationship between house and garden is an important consideration for the new proposals.



The flower garden, circa 1910  
Source: Paul Fitzmaurice



Key plan

Key considerations and opportunities for this area are:

- 1. **Reinterpret the historic arc of planting** to the house bordering the lawn on three sides.
- 2. **Reinstate the view** over the sunken garden into the park.
- 3. **Removal or transplanting of trees** that obscure the view between the wider park and the house including the Princess Diana Memorial tree.
- 4. **Active conservation of cedars and limes** in poor condition through investigation, propagation, reduction or replacement.
- 5. **Restore features** such as the listed wall on Mattock Lane, the Soane bench, small pond and reinstatement of some of the lost urns.
- 6. **Reintroduce the Regency flower garden** adjacent to Mattock Lane with wall fruit, flowers and places to sit.



Circa 1910



Existing, 2010



Proposed

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS AND VISIT THE EXHIBITION IN THE BANDSTAND



Existing photographic elevation



# 3. walled garden

The walled garden, located close to the manor house, was an important part of the estate, providing produce for a succession of ‘Gothic scenes and intellectual banquets’. Food was close to Soane’s heart - he contributed to an influential recipe book and he recorded details of his dining companions and of purchases including vegetable seeds and fruit trees. In the early years of the public park the walled garden was closed to the public and there was a campaign to save it from use by a new school. Later it was redesigned as a rose garden and opened to the public, and was used by the county school to grow potatoes in 1917 and 1918.

The garden is enclosed on three sides by brick walls and shares a boundary to the south with Ealing and West London College. There are two entrances to the garden. The walled garden has a secluded character. This area has the potential for far greater community use, especially as the interest in food growing increases.

In the summer of 2010 a “pop-up” kitchen garden was created, the installation has been inspired by early 19th century gardening techniques; it generated considerable interest and has been the focus of a range of activities since.



The gardens at Chelsea Hospital, where Soane worked as Clerk of Works

By courtesy of the Trustees of Sir John Soane’s Museum, ref. SM\_Vol 79-4-1r



Key plan

Key considerations and opportunities for this area are:

- 1. **Reinstate the kitchen garden** promoting community involvement, training and voluntary activities whilst promoting sustainable practices.
- 2. **Promote the kitchen garden** to supply produce for the park cafe.
- 3. **Introduce flower plant species** including roses to encourage honeybees and possibly beehives.
- 4. **Consider a new access into the walled garden** on the historic alignment from the Manor House.

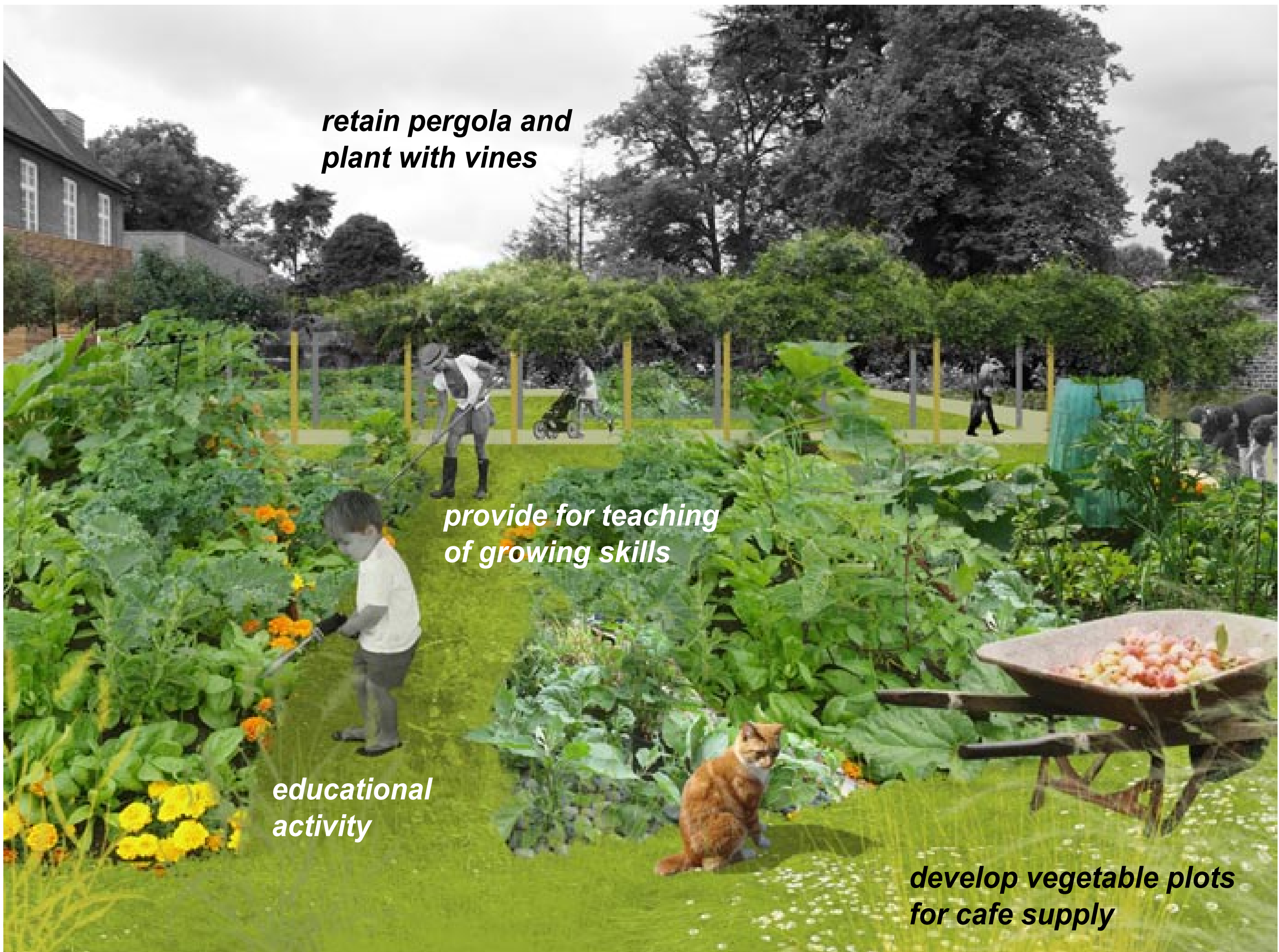
PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS AND VISIT THE EXHIBITION IN THE BANDSTAND



The walled garden early 20th century  
Reproduced by permission of Ealing Libraries



Existing, 2010



Proposed

Boundary brick wall to Ealing Green

Ealing & West London College

Pergola

Rose beds in the walled garden

Brick wall

Inner park



← east

west →

Existing photographic elevation



# 4. sunken garden

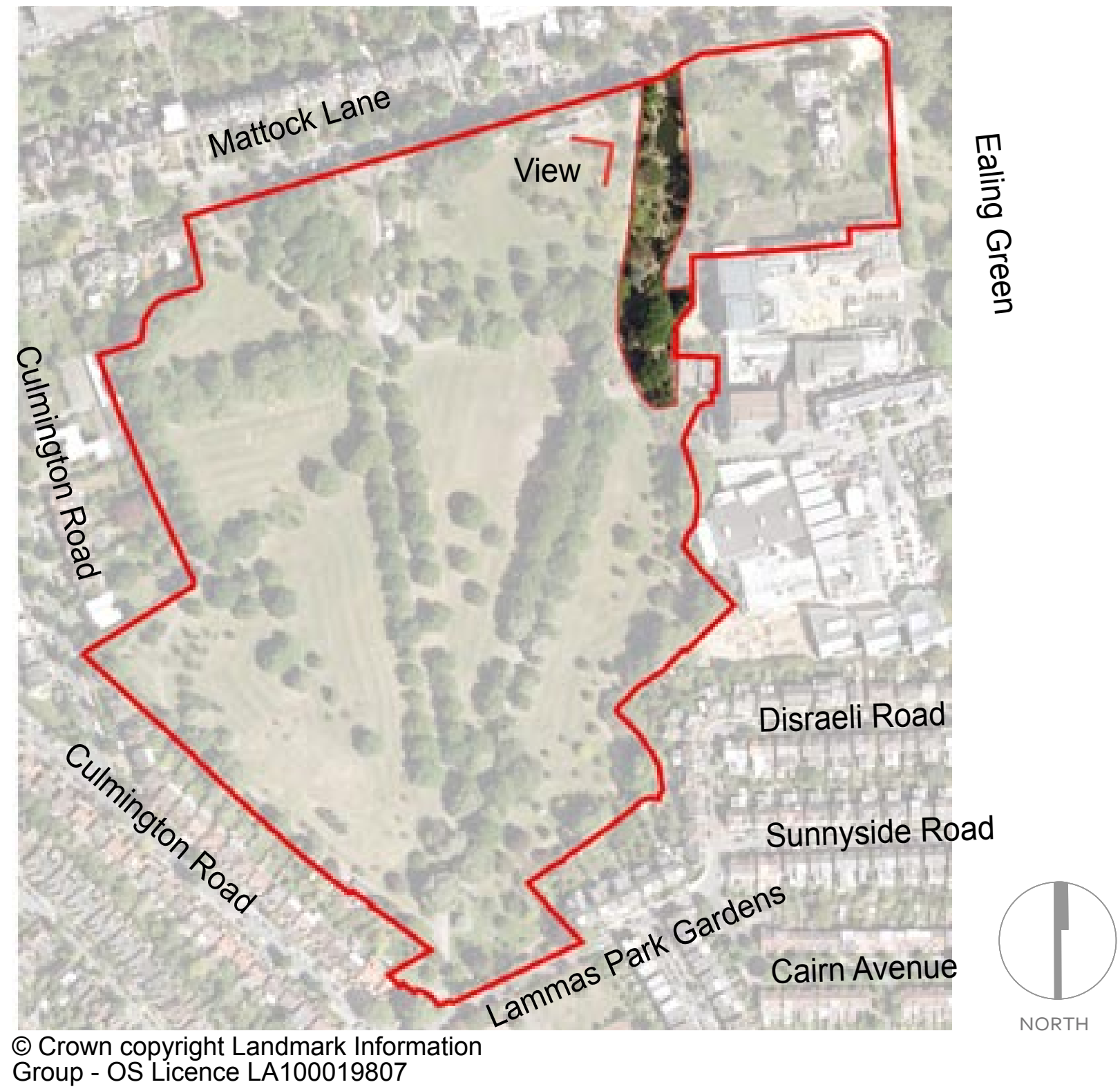
In Soane’s time the sunken garden was a serpentine lake, which formed the setting for his remodelled bridge, but by 1839 it was already dry. In the 1930s it was redesigned and planted as a sunken water garden.

The sunken garden marks the change from the formal garden spaces adjacent to the house and the wider parkland. The sunken garden intentionally prevents open movement of sheep and cattle between the gardens and park, as Soane’s serpentine did, acting as a kind of ha-ha (a ditch with a wall on its inner side below ground level, forming a boundary to a park or garden without interrupting the view) between garden and park.

The sunken garden is lower than the surrounding park and partly enclosed by hedges, shrubs and railings in a cluttered arrangement that limits views beyond. It is one of the few areas within the park that has an intimate character, encouraging small groups to occupy secluded spaces. The unsightly public conveniences are located adjacent to the sunken garden.



The serpentine shown in birds-eye view by C.J. Richardson c 1832  
By courtesy of the Trustees of Sir John Soane’s Museum, ref. SM\_Vol 90-1-1r



Key plan

Key considerations and opportunities for this area are:

- 1. **Restore the rustic bridge** in its original setting reinterpreted through clearance of the vegetation in front of the bridge and a redesign of the sunken garden to create a healthy and thriving water garden.
- 2. **Improve the setting of the Manor House** by selective clearance of fences, hedges, trees and vegetation and creation of larger water garden.
- 3. **Improve water quality** through new filtration equipment and deepening and widening the water body to enable enhancement of biodiversity, creating a sustainable management and maintenance regime.
- 4. **Reprovide some of the quieter semi private spaces** within the sunken garden elsewhere within the park.
- 5. **Relocate and build new toilets elsewhere** within the park in a cluster of park facilities.



Early 20th century  
Reproduced by permission of Ealing Libraries



Existing, 2010



Proposed

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS AND VISIT THE EXHIBITION IN THE BANDSTAND



Existing photographic elevation



# 5. inner park

In Soane’s time the inner park was let for grazing and maintained its traditional parkland appearance in the early years of the public park. Mature elms were a feature of the park, including the main avenue. During the Second World War a theatre was erected as part of the Holidays at Home Campaign, and the area is now used for a funfair during the Summer Festival.

This area is an open field with scattered trees and is enclosed by tree-lined boundaries to the north and south.

The northern boundary is Mattock Lane and is a combination of trees and shrub planting. The Mattock Lane boundary is articulated with a low wooden fence and to the south the boundary is a tree-lined avenue. A small café is located in the northeast with some uncovered outdoor seating. To the west is the fish pond and to the east is the sunken garden.



Specimen parkland trees, 1901  
Reproduced by permission of Ealing Libraries



Key plan

Key considerations and opportunities for this area are:

- 1. **Selective removal of trees** to open up views from the fish pond back to the manor house.
- 2. **Planting with substantial new parkland trees** of appropriate species and in locations to help frame these views.
- 3. **Replant avenues and specimen parkland trees** as part of a long term programme of tree management.
- 4. **Provide a new cafe** better located elsewhere within the park in a cluster of park of facilities.



1903  
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Existing, 2010



Proposed



Existing photographic elevation



# 6. fish pond

The fish pond is an early feature of the park. In Soane's time this was a narrow lake used for fishing, a pastime that Soane shared with the painter JMW Turner as well as his teenage sons. In 1904, in the early years of the public park, the fish pond was adapted and enlarged to form a skating and boating pond with new planting.

The fish pond is a linear water feature with two small islands and two fountains. The pond was constructed by the unemployed labour of Ealing in 1904, making it an important cultural and landscape feature of the public park.



The fish pond, circa 1913  
Old postcard, J & L Gibbons collection



Key plan

Key considerations and opportunities for this area are:

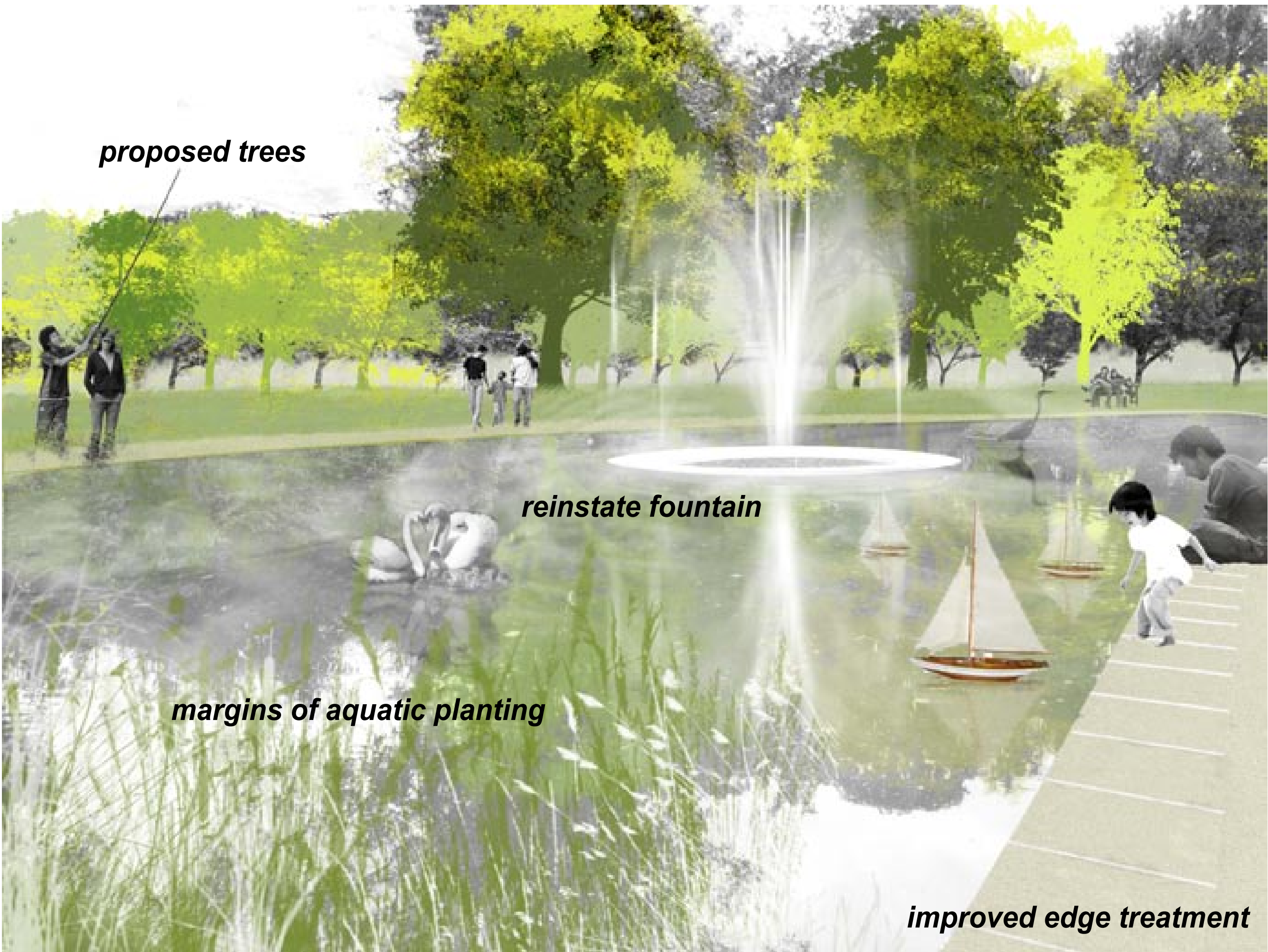
- 1. **Reinstate the formal character and its promenade** through redesign of the edges and appropriate planting.
- 2. **Introduce aquatic planting** giving the pond an added ecological value.
- 3. **Redesign the filtration system** and conceal below ground.



Early 20th century  
Old postcard, J & L Gibbons collection

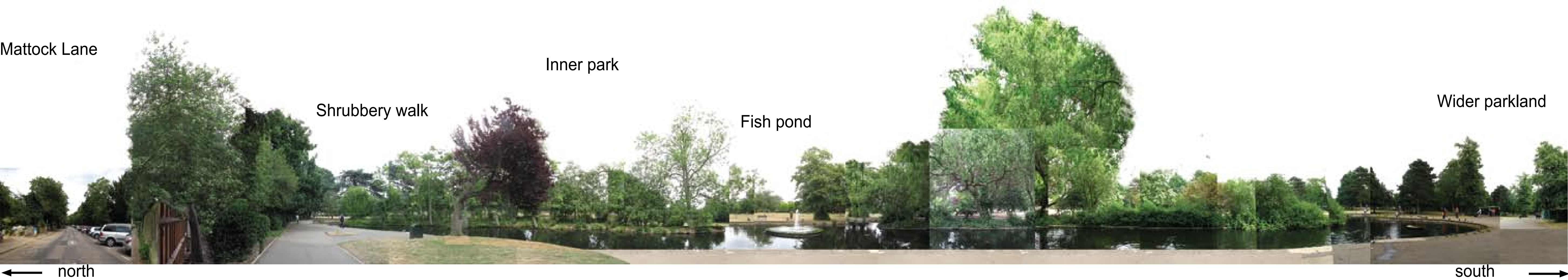


Existing, 2010



Proposed

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Existing photographic elevation



# 7. shrubbery walk

The shrubbery walk was a feature of Soane’s Regency garden design and would have featured a winding walk between flowering shrubs along the northern boundary of the park. The walk was straightened and simplified as part of the public park.

Much of this character has now been lost resulting in a fairly weak boundary edge. The relationship between the shrubbery walk and the parkland has potential for significant improvement.



The shrubbery walk, circa 1905  
Old postcard, J & L Gibbons collection



Key plan

Key considerations and opportunities for this area are:

- 1. **Realign the path and introduce planting** to create a varied edge to the park and increase biodiversity.
- 2. **Provide an interpretative walk** along the length of the path where there would have been structures, moments of interest and places to stop and rest; these experiences could be recreated.
- 3. **Enhance the woodland area** to the west of the fishpond to create a woodland garden.

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1905  
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Existing, 2010



Proposed



Existing photographic elevation



# 8. wider parkland

In Soane’s time the wider parkland was let for grazing and was used for haymaking in the early years of the public park. Many mature elms, now lost, and oaks were the remnants of hedgerows; some oaks survive. The avenues were added to the public park in the early 20th century and this tradition has continued.

This area is the largest area of the park, characterised by large open areas of grass, divided by memorial tree-lined avenues.

The perimeter is planted out with mature trees and drifts of shrub planting. The perimeter routes are often used as part of informal jogging circuits. A small play area is located within this area adjacent to the enclosure of the disused animal centre.



Haymaking  
Reproduced by permission of Ealing Libraries



Key plan

Key considerations and opportunities for this area are:

- 1. Create areas of higher wildlife value by changes of maintenance regime in some areas.
- 2. Manage and replant avenues and parkland trees as part of a long term programme of tree management.
- 3. Create a cluster of facilities including toilets, café kiosk, education and volunteer space.
- 4. Create informal play opportunities throughout the park.
- 5. Remove the old tennis pavilion.
- 6. Review status and treatment of informal paths across the park.

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS AND VISIT THE EXHIBITION IN THE BANDSTAND



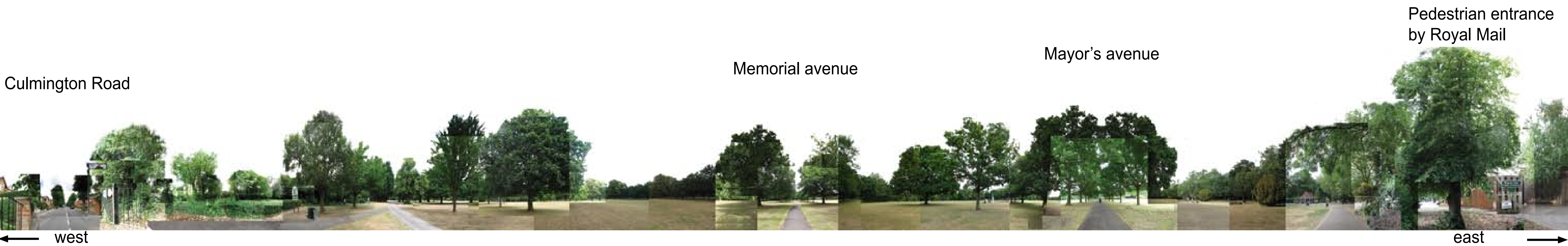
Newly planted avenue trees, 1914  
Reproduced by permission of Ealing Libraries



Existing, 2010



Proposed



Existing photographic elevation