

6.5 WEDDING PAVILION



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6.5.1 INTRODUCTION

A new wedding pavilion is proposed to the lawns adjacent to Grade II listed Leonardslee House within the Grade I listed Park and Gardens. A large marquee was approved as part of a 2018 planning application (Ref: DC/18/0687) in this location which was installed temporarily and is now removed. A smaller more refined offering is now proposed to provide an external setting which could be used to hold intimate wedding ceremonies, partially protecting the bride and the groom from the elements.

6.5.2 HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE

The 1879 OS Map shows the application site before it was formalised in the later 19th century.

The sale of the estate in 1888 to Sir Edmund Loder was followed by a period of extensive re-landscaping, including the extension and formalisation of the lawns to the south-west of the house. The OS map of 1899 shows fewer trees and vegetation to the south-west of the house. Whilst these were largely cleared forming a more formal rectangle of lawn, some isolated trees were in fact retained but were not shown on the 1899 OS map. A linear axial path aligning with the south-east elevation of the house was laid out, which widened into a circular feature at the centre of the lawn.

The lawn was now bounded to the south-west by a clearly delineated line of trees, through which passed an informal curved path. These landscaping developments introduced a more formal quality and a more open aspect from the house looking across the parkland to the south.

The OS map of 1899 also shows this area of garden was closely connected to the site of the wallaby and sheep enclosure, and the associated Pulham rockwork, to the south-west of the house. This had been laid out in 1890. In fact the axial path extending from the south-east elevation of the house ran directly to the rockwork and the enclosure. The formal landscaping was clearly intended as an area for the family and their guests to walk out across the lawn with the enclosure as a terminating feature and destination, before walking back to the house via the belt of trees to the north-west of the lawn.

By the 1909 OS map, small clumps of trees had been introduced at the south-west edge of this rectangular lawn, although the open aspect of the site remained largely unaltered.



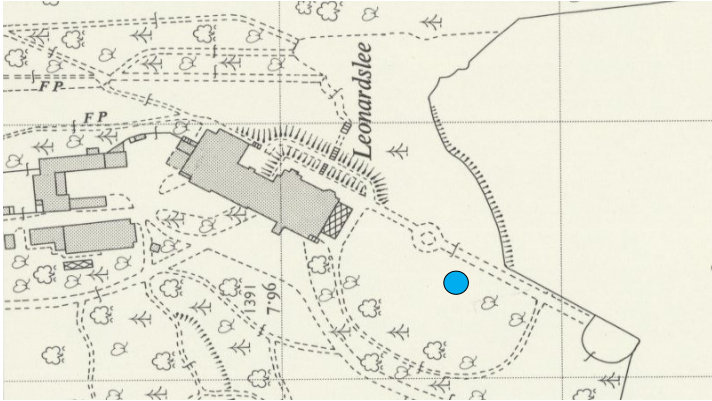
1879 Ordnance Survey Map (approximate location of proposal shown in blue)



1899 Ordnance Survey Map (approximate location of proposal shown in blue)



1909 Ordnance Survey Map (approximate location of proposal shown in blue)



1957 Ordnance Survey Map (approximate location of proposal shown in blue)



Undated 20th century photograph showing Leonardslee House from the woodland gardens



Historic photo of Leonardslee date unknown

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6.5.3 OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

As noted in the introduction, the proposal has been developed in line with the adopted CMP and GCMP for Leonardslee Gardens. The relevant policies and notes on management and future use proposals can be seen to the right.

Whilst there are no specific policies relating to the lawns in the GCMP there are notes which discuss the potential for using this area for wedding events. It also highlights the issue of maintaining the grass here, this is due to the number of existing events/footfall and the impact of the previous large marquee. By introducing a smaller refined pavilion, this addresses the future use suggestion and will reduce the impact of large temporary structures on the grass.

The policies from the CMP discuss the Use of the Gardens. It notes the need to retain the special character of the Estate and how all proposals should be appropriate and not detract from its significance. The proposal does not take away from the character of the lawns, and will provide a more appropriate wedding event solution in both scale and management of the surrounding landscape.

Proposals and new planting
There are plans for a bandstand adjacent to the house for potential wedding use.

CGMP Proposals for the Lawns - section 6.9, page 62

Management
Due to the numerous events which take place here throughout the year the grass to lawn doesn't really grow well. Even with the matting and bark laid for the illumination event the grass still gets destroyed and needs replanting.

CGMP Management notes for the Lawns - section 6.9, page 63

1. The special character of the gardens at Leonardslee should be carefully managed to ensure any proposed developments will not detract from the significance of the designated heritage asset.
2. Each individual character area has significance in its own right as well as part of the overall gardens and these areas should be looked at as part of the whole estate when identifying new uses for each area.
3. Garden Infrastructure The location of proposed new infrastructure, including children's play area, and other large structures, within the gardens needs to be carefully considered. The clustering of new infrastructure within one area of the gardens should be discouraged so as to not permanently change the character of any one area. New infrastructure and buildings should be carefully considered as to the most appropriate location based on the appearance and scale. There is potential to encourage visitors to the outer reaches of the parkland with new visitor infrastructure in these locations. This will encourage more of a spread of visitors across the site rather than staying within the paths close to the lake and house, minimising any potential harm caused.

CMP Policies for the Use of the Gardens - section 4.2.4, page 37

1. Before any work is carried out to the buildings or landscape at Leonardslee Park and Gardens advice should be sought on the necessary consents required, and these consents should then be properly obtained from Horsham District Council to facilitate the lawful development of the site.

CMP Policy for the Planning in relation to the Gardens - section 4.4, page 42



Aerial view showing the former temporary marquee for weddings established on the lawn in 2018

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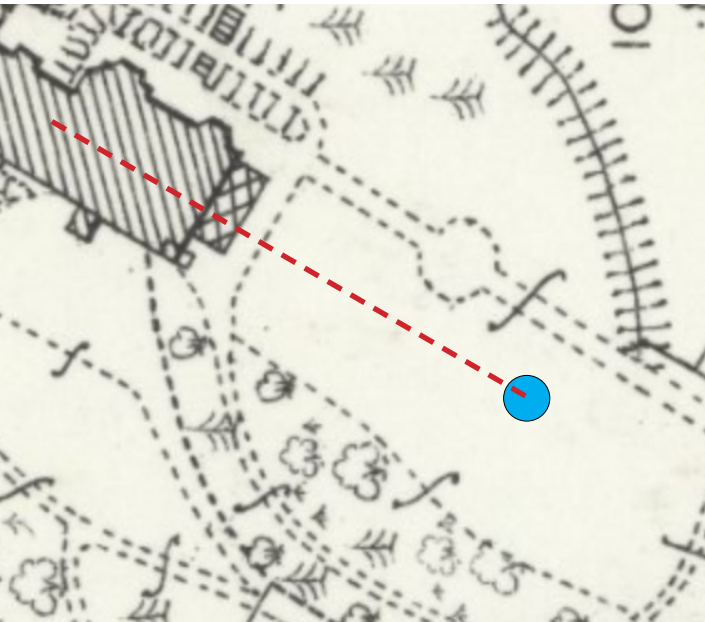
6.5.4 OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE WEDDING OFFERING

Leonardslee House provides the opportunity to hold outdoor wedding ceremonies within its grounds, with receptions accommodated inside the reception rooms.

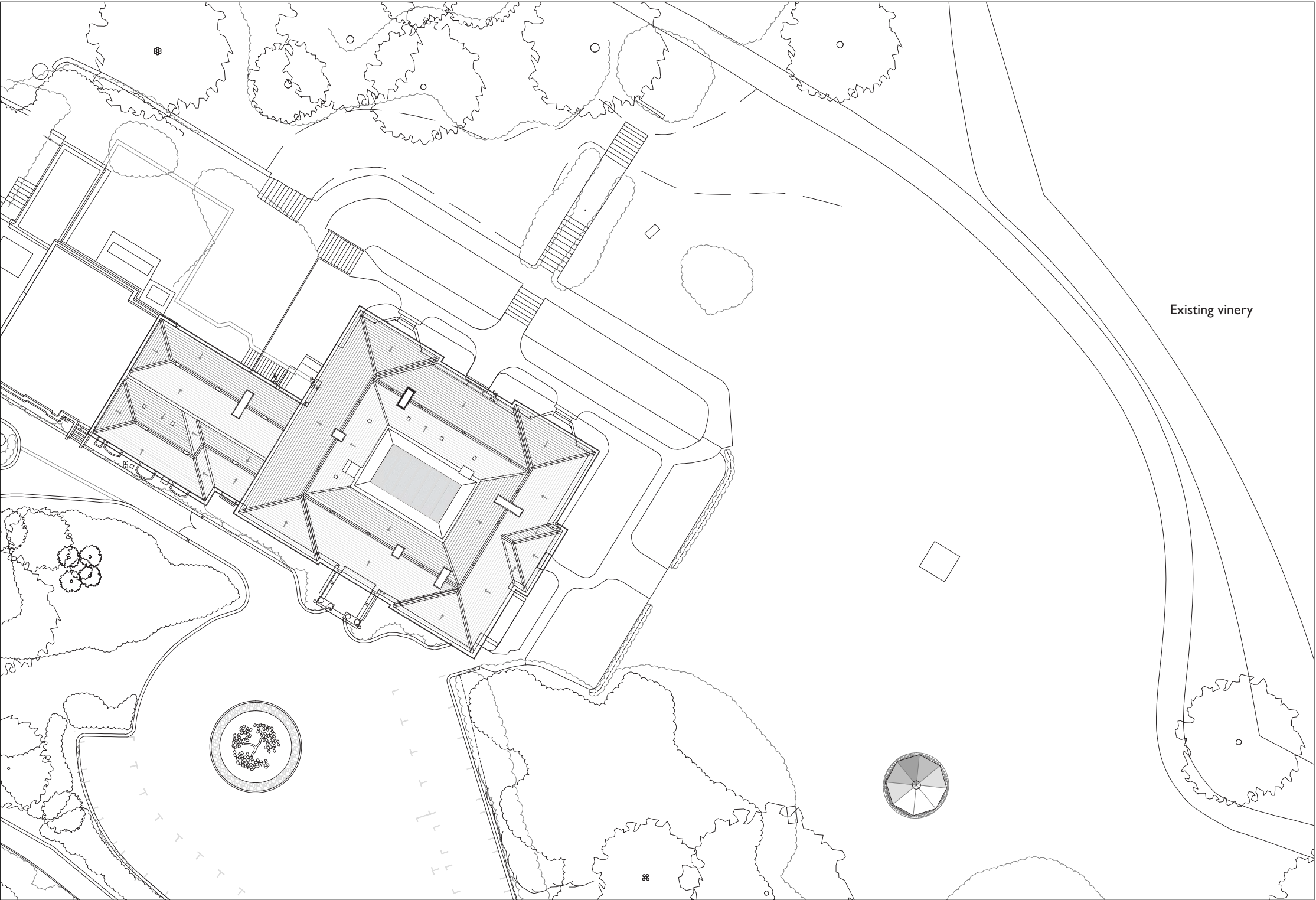
A key offering is to provide an external setting which could be used to host a limited amount of external ceremonies in good weather; partially protecting the couple and key persons involved with the ceremony from the elements.



Past wedding event held inside Leonardslee House



Historic Map from 1879 (approximate location of proposal shown in blue)



Proposed wedding pavilion plan

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6.5.5 PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

The proposed traditional wedding pavilion is clearly subservient to Leonardslee House in terms of it's scale, mass and proportions. The structure is approximately 35m from the House, providing a clear separation and ensuring the pavilion stands as a garden structure, as opposed to an extension of the house.

Similar structures by the same fabricator have been erected in a number of historic settings. In 2018 permission was obtained for permanent footings serving a marquee a similar area adjacent to Leonardslee House. In comparison, the scale of the proposed pavilion is much less and more transparent. No permanent seating is proposed to limit visual clutter and offer flexibility.



Swynford Manor, Newmarket



The Pear Tree, Wiltshire.



Thicket Priory, York - Grade II listed (ref: 1148430)



Elevation showing the scale of the proposed Wedding Pavilion (left) in relation to Leonardslee House (Right)

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6.5.6 DETAIL PROPOSALS - APPEARANCE AND MATERIALITY

The structure is a proposed delicate painted metal frame with a painted metal roof, clearly contrasting to Leonardslee House. The side elevations are transparent with fine detailing and decoration at low level. An immediate base of limestone paving will be formed around the base, with a decorative circular pattern, flush to the lawns to enable level access.

6.5.7 ECOLOGY

The proposal has little to no impact on the ground and landscape due to its size. If anything, it is an improvement on the previously approved marquee, which had a negative impact on the grass of the lawns and clutter in the intricate setting of Leonardslee House.

6.5.8 IMPACT ON VIEWS

The pavilion has been placed on the central axis of the house, in response to the symmetrical proportions of the secondary south facade. The pavilion will therefore not affect the relationship between the Grade II listed house and the Grade I Registered Parks and Garden setting.

The wedding pavilion proposal will provide a smaller, refined and more discreet solution than that of the previously approved large marquee which sat on the lawns. This will be a permanent, small structure therefore minimising the impact on the landscape itself. As mentioned, the previous marquee had adverse impact on the grass of the lawns due to its size.

6.5.9 SUMMARY

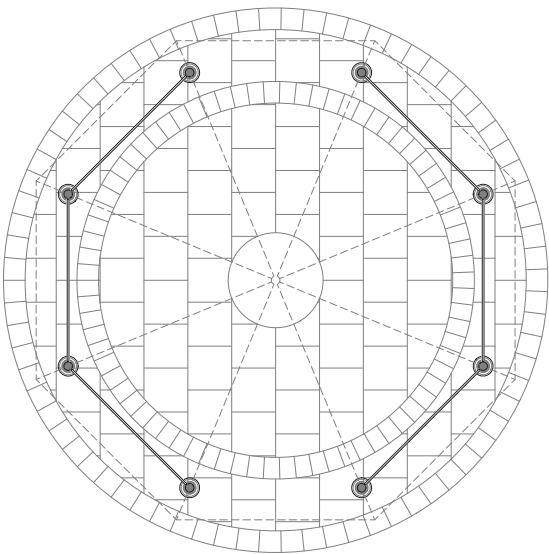
As noted in section 6.5.3, the proposal has been developed in line with the adopted CMP and GCMP for Leonardslee Gardens.

Whilst there are no specific policies relating to the lawns in the CGMP there are notes, which discuss the potential for using this area for wedding events. It also highlights the issue of maintaining the grass here, this is due to the number of existing events/footfall and the impact of the previous large marquee. By introducing a smaller refined pavilion, this addresses the future use suggestion and will reduce the impact of large temporary structures on the grass.

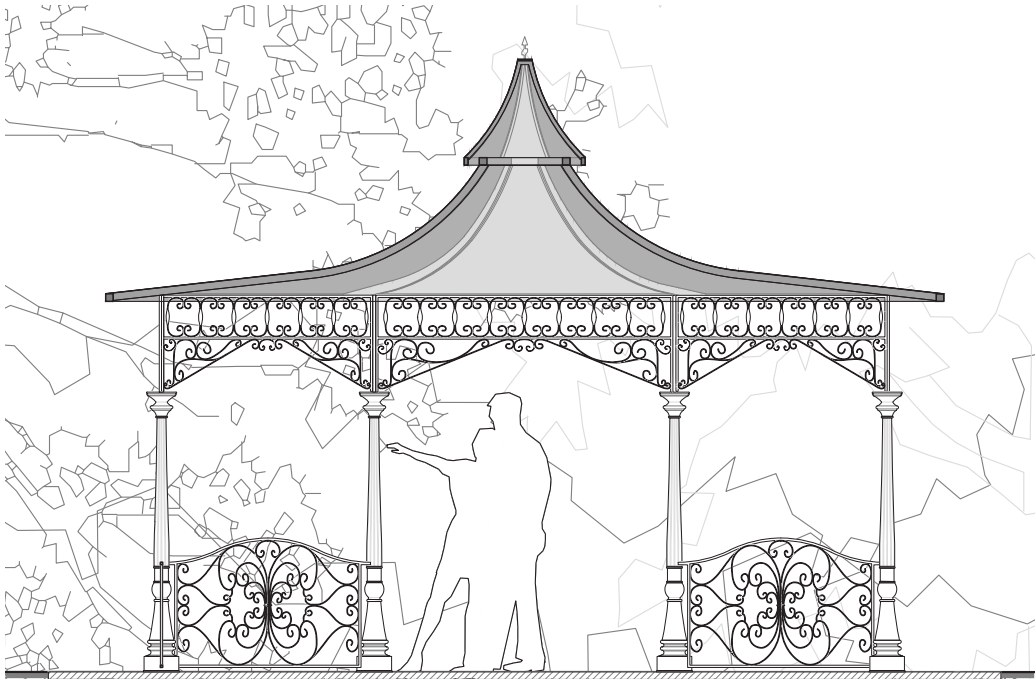
The policies from the CMP discuss the Use of the Gardens. It notes the need to retain the special character of the Estate and how all proposals should be appropriate and not detract from its significance. The proposal does not take away from the character of the lawns, and will provide a more appropriate wedding event solution in both scale and management of the surrounding landscape.



Proposed south elevation with Leonardslee House in the background



Proposed plan showing stone pavers to the base



Proposed detailed elevation showing the intricate metalwork

6.6 GUEST ACCOMMODATION

