

Landscape Strategy Plan

Proposed Padel Courts at Greenway Hall Golf Club, Stanley Road, Stockton Brook, ST9 9LJ

1. Purpose

This Landscape Strategy Plan accompanies the planning application and provides a detailed approach to the design, planting, and management of the site's landscape. It specifically addresses the Council's request for robust screening along the northern boundary to protect views from the adjacent Caldon Canal Conservation Area and the wider setting of nearby listed buildings.

2. Objectives

- Screening: Reduce the visual impact of the courts when viewed from the Caldon Canal towpath and adjacent heritage assets.
- Integration: Ensure the development integrates with the established golf club landscape and surrounding countryside.
- Ecology: Enhance biodiversity through the use of native species of high ecological value.
- Character: Reinforce the traditional, rural character of the canal corridor through sympathetic boundary treatments.

3. Planting Proposals

Northern Boundary (towards the canal)

- Native Hedgerow (2.0m width strip):
 - *Species Mix*: Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), with occasional Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*).
 - *Planting Density*: 5 plants per linear metre in double staggered rows.
 - *Purpose*: Create a dense, continuous green screen to soften views into the site.
- Tree Planting (at intervals within the hedgerow):
 - *Species*: Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Oak (*Quercus robur*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*).
 - *Spacing*: Approx. 10–12m intervals, alternating species to create variety.
 - *Purpose*: Break up the vertical line of the court fencing and provide layered screening.
- Ornamental Shrub Bed: Mixture of Berberis and Pyracantha, consistent with existing golf course planting.
 - *Purpose*: Provide visual interest for members while maintaining coherence with wider planting.

Eastern and Western Boundaries

- Retention of Existing Mature Trees: All mature Oak, Sycamore, and Silver Birch identified on the site survey will be retained and protected.

4. Boundary Treatments

- Canal Edge: The existing picket fence will be repaired and extended along the northern boundary, in combination with the hedgerow planting, to maintain a traditional canal-side character.
- Court Enclosure: The courts will use open mesh and glass panels, visually recessive in appearance, with planting used to soften views.

5. Lighting Strategy

Floodlighting is limited to 6m high columns, with directional, low-spill fittings targeted only at the playing surface. This ensures:

- Minimal light intrusion into the Conservation Area.
- No excessive glare towards canal users or nearby dwellings.

6. Tree Protection

All retained mature trees will be safeguarded during construction in accordance with BS 5837:2012. No excavation will take place within identified root protection areas.

7. Management and Aftercare

- Hedgerow Establishment: Hedgerows to be maintained at 2–2.5m height and trimmed annually outside the bird-nesting season.
- Tree Establishment: Staked and protected for the first five years. Replacement planting will be carried out for any failures.
- Shrub Beds: Maintained for weed control and mulched annually.

8. Conclusion

This landscape strategy provides a comprehensive approach to screening and integrating the proposed Padel Courts. It will:

- Protect and enhance the setting of the Caldon Canal Conservation Area.
- Soften the visual impact of the development.
- Enhance biodiversity with a strong palette of native species.
- Reinforce the rural and historic character of the area.