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The Gardens of Rothamsted Manor - Management Plan

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C1 Vision

Rothamsted Research

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PART C VISION

C1 Vision

Over the next 20 years, management of the gardens and wider estate will:

1. **Think of and treat the gardens and estate as parts of an integrated whole**
   This holistic vision for the site will be central to high-level strategic planning, and will structure management objectives at all levels.

2. **Develop and adopt a Management Plan**
   The preparation of the Management Plan will be the process by which the future strategy for the gardens is developed and agreed. It will describe the significance and value of the site, set out the vision, and identify policies and actions to achieve it. It will be monitored and updated to provide the basis for management over the next 20 years.

3. **Take the long view**
   The gardens will be managed for the long term, with an understanding of their past. The interests of future generations will be considered in planning maintenance of fabric and renewal of planting.

4. **Recognize and cherish the gardens' value**
   The unique qualities and value of the gardens will be more widely recognized and understood.

5. **Increase available resources**
   Further resources for the upkeep and development of the gardens will be sought and found. This may be through any combination of: increased funding from the estate; revenue generation; grants; fund-raising; increased productivity of staff; voluntary labour. A specific and appropriate budget will be allocated to the gardens.

6. **Maintain and enhance the value of the gardens**
   The objective of management will be not only to uphold the existing value of the gardens, but where possible to enhance their value for the future.

7. **Respect and build on the gardens' history, design, and existing strengths**
   Change in the gardens will always take the past and present of the gardens as a starting point. New features and uses will not be imposed without understanding and respect for their context. The existing strengths and established character of the gardens will be respected.

8. **Conserve, repair or restore the gardens' key features**
   Management will aim to maintain or restore all of the gardens' features unless a positive decision has been taken to remove, replace or abandon them. The key features include built fabric, plants, and design elements and compositions.

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9. Embrace new ideas, and adapt to current conditions, opportunities and needs

New ideas will be embraced where these meet current and future needs, are compatible with long-term objectives, and arise from an understanding of the site. New uses, plantings, design ideas and management strategies will be needed for the gardens to adapt to change, and to keep them alive for the future.

10. Enhance wildlife value

As a whole, the gardens will be managed to encourage wildlife and diversity. A increased variety of habitats will be created and maintained. This objective will be pursued in balance with other considerations as appropriate to each area of the site.

11. Increase access and use

The gardens will be visited and used by more people, both from within the institute and beyond. New uses and ways to experience the gardens will be found. Within the gardens, access and use will be extended to as many areas as possible.

12. Increase the gardens' role in the research institute

The gardens will increase their contribution to the life of the institute and estate as a whole. They will provide a unique and high quality resource for the institute, and will help it to engage with the outside world.

13. Increase connections

The comparative isolation of the gardens from the rest of the estate and the outside world will be reduced. Management will aim to revive and strengthen existing connections, and to form new links where possible. At the same time, care will be taken to preserve the rather private and enclosed character of the site.

14. Present and interpret the gardens to a wider audience

The significance and interest of the gardens will be available to a wider audience both within the institute and beyond. The presentation of the site and interpretative material will allow as many groups as possible to enjoy and benefit from a visit. Depending on the amount of access, this may include the local community, schools, students, special interest groups, and the wider public.

15. Get more people involved

More people will be encouraged to take an interest in the gardens and will be given a stake in their management and future.