

# Mere Court Park Sketch Design



Mere Court Park - Aerial.Bingmaps Site boundary

## Historical Notes;

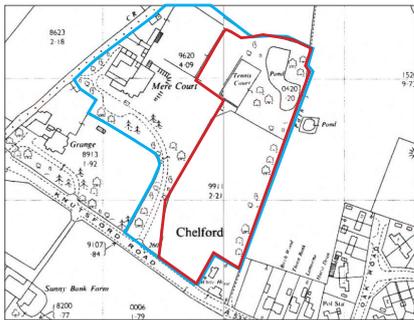
At around 1870 Mere Court Park was part of a large agricultural field extending north of the current site. The west boundary of the field neighboured the domestic gardens of two large Victorian houses, Mereleigh (demolished circa 1985) and The Grange (as indicated) with yellow X. At this time the pond is present and one of a series of three with several more large ponds further north. It is likely that these ponds were natural ponds used for watering livestock and drainage.

By 1910 much of field is incorporated into the curtilage of Mereleigh and indications are that it was beginning to develop into a large parkland garden which included two of the ponds. These being merged into one larger pond, this is the pond we now have in Mere Court Park. We do know that at this time Mereleigh belonged to Mr F Grant and his family, records show his son Henry, attended Eton College at this time.

Through the 1940s and 50s the map evidence does not indicate any large changes to the site and it continues as a domestic parkland garden. This is likely to have included a kitchen garden and orchard.

By the 1970s a tennis court has been constructed close to the pond and a fence line is indicated portioning off the southern end of the site, this is perhaps a paddock.

In approximately 1985 Mereleigh or Mere Court as it had become known, was sold and demolished to make way for housing.



Mere Court - 1970  
Original site  
Mere Court Park



## Key Features



New enhanced main (feature) entrance.



Enhanced pond with aeration system.



Accessible footpaths.



Improved play for all age groups.



Nature trail and pocket glades.



## Play Equipment



Clear space around the bolder features. Great for imaginative play.



Challenging and exciting junior play on a wild theme.



Play area would include classic elements.



New toddler play equipment.

## Mini Nature Trails and Pocket Glades



Two nature trails will aim to provide the opportunity to explore two ecological themes; woodland and pond.



Information boards will give ideas for activities, information about flora, fauna and wildlife you might expect to find, along with suggested web sites for further information.



Small clearings or 'pocket glades' will provide spaces for educational opportunities and areas for woodland flora and fauna to grow.



Throughout the site there will be features made with natural materials to encourage wildlife.

## Planting Palette



Woodland edge planting. Shade loving plants to add interest and increase insect activity.



Marginal pond planting.



Introduction of a community orchard. Great for pollinating insects.

## Furniture and Materials Palette



Seating.



Picnic benches.



Interpretation and information boards. The theme will be carried over to other local green spaces.



New signage. This will give directions to other green spaces in the local area.