

Simon Bates
Green Infrastructure Project Manager
Planning Services
East Devon District Council
The Knowle
Sidmouth

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Dear Sirs

Proposal to remove a 130m section of hedge at Rockbeare Manor

Thank you for consulting the Devon Gardens Trust on the proposal to remove a 130m section of hedge at Rockbeare Manor. Rockbeare Manor is an historic designed landscape, included by Historic England on the *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest* at Grade II.

It was apparent at our site meeting yesterday that the removal of the 130m section of hedge would considerably improve the main vista across the parkland from the first floor drawing room and balcony of the Grade I house. Gerard Noel stated that the removal of the hedge was part of the ongoing improvements to the parkland and this would be followed by planting a number of individual specimen parkland trees in the fields. This would considerably improve the designed historic landscape and is fully supported by the Devon Gardens Trust.

Rockbeare Manor was laid out in the English Landscape Style, in common with countless estates throughout the country, which were 'improved' from the eighteenth century onwards. The park at Rockbeare Manor was created in c1820 from some thirty previous enclosures and some of the mature deciduous trees survive from the earlier field boundaries. The removal of the hedge is, therefore, a continuation of a long standing tradition of parkland improvements.

The Devon Gardens Trust would also suggest that the parkland would be further enhanced by the removal of the hedge which runs along the stream, dissecting the parkland. This hedge is rather thin in places, consisting largely of brambles.

Yours faithfully
John Clark
Conservation Officer



38 Monmouth Street
Topsham
Exeter
EX3 0AJ

t. 01392 873912

e. jcgardenhistory@gmail.com