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Havant Thicket Reservoir Visitor Centre

Portsmouth Water
Landscape Design and Access Statement
Condition 28 of Reserved Matters Application

19.08.2026

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Portsmouth Water

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Pre - Commencement Conditions

Portsmouth Water have commissioned a design team to provide detailed design proposals for the Havant Thicket Reservoir Visitor Centre. Fira Landscape Limited has provided landscape architectural design proposals for the reserved matters application associated with Phase 9 of the development of Havant Thicket Reservoir (Application no APP/20/00990). The reserved matters are limited to the design of the visitor centre and associated recreational facilities within the north-west corner of the reservoir.

In numerical order, the planning conditions associated with the landscape proposals are as follows:

Condition 14 - Signage Strategy

The signage and wayfinding strategy in this document sets-out the principles
for the location, proposed signage products and information.
It will refer to the wider wayfinding and signage strategy for the wider development (by others).

Also refer to:

- Landscape Site Plan (LP2412-FIR-XX-XX-DR-L-0001
- Signage and Wayfinding Strategy (LP2412-FIR-XX-XX-DR-L-0003)

Condition 28 - Landscape Details

This relates to:

- Written specifications (including cultivation and other operations associated with plant and grass establishment)
- Planting methods, tree pits and guying methods
- Schedules of plants, noting species, planting sizes & proposed numbers/densities where appropriate
- Retained areas of grassland cover, scrub, hedgerow, trees and woodland
- Manner and treatment of watercourses, ditched and banks
- Details of all hard surfaces, such as paths, access ways, seating areas and parking spaces, including their depth and permeability.
- A timetable for the implementation of the landscape works.

The landscape section of the Design & Access Statement explains the design rationale of the landscape design.

Also refer to:

- Landscape Site Plan (LP2412-FIR-XX-XX-DR-L-0001
- Soil Management Strategy (LP LP2412-FIR-XX-XX-DR-L-0002)
- Signage and Wayfinding Strategy (LP2412-FIR-XX-XX-DR-L-0003)
- Seeding Strategy (LP2412-FIR-XX-XX-DR-L-0004)
- Site Context (LP2412-FIR-XX-XX-DR-L-0005)
- Hard Landscape Strategy (LP2412-FIR-XX-XX-DR-L-0006)
- Planting Plans (LP2412-FIR-XX-XX-DR-L-5001, 5002, 5003, 5004 & 5005)
- Plantiing Schedules (LP2412-FIR-XX-XX-SH-L-7001 & 7002)

Condition 39 – Soil Management Plan

The sustainablity strategy to retain and re-use site-won topsoil & subsoil
is set out in section 1.2 (Landscape Design Principles)

Also refer to:

- Soil Management Strategy (LP2412-FIR-XX-XX-DR-L-0002)

1.0 Introduction

1.2 Landscape Design Principles

The landscape design is guided by the sustainable design principals:

Retain	Reuse	Enhance
Retain existing infrastructure, where possible.	**Reuse existing material on site.**	**Enhance existing landscape and biodiversity.**

The design focuses on developing the outdoor spaces to improve user's health and well-being and enhance the setting of the Visitor Centre. It aims to minimize the environmental impact, enhance the natural character of the Hampshire landscape in the locality, and develop sustainable, low carbon solutions. The key principles include using natural, local, sustainable materials, improving water and soil health and establishing a diverse, sustainable range of habitats.

These drivers will establish an informal, naturalized landscape that is both attractive and cost effective.

The principal landscape spaces are:

01 The Car Park

Retain and re-use as much of the hard-standing that has been constructed for the site compound. We recognise it make environmental and financial sense to retain the existing infrastructure, where possible.

New areas of hardstanding will reflect the informal spaces already established for Staunton Country Park.

02 The Play Area

The water play area offers the opportunity to be a major attraction for visitors, increasing visitor numbers and dwell-time. We have developed the design with specialist suppliers during Stage 3.

03 Cycle, Pedestrian & Bridleway Network

The cycle and footpath network around the Visitor Centre forms the focal point for the network connecting Havant Thicket and Staunton Country Park. The scheme also incorporates a dedicated bridleway corridor, establishing an important equestrian link within the wider green infrastructure network.

The material palette for the hard landscape is informal:
- Tarmac surfaces in areas of higher use
- Natural bound gravel in an informal network

04 Network of Green Infrastructure

The green infrastructure is based on core environmental principals conserve water, improve the existing soils and use native plant species adapted to the site's conditions. Key elements include:

01 Woodland Structure Planting – for visual screening and creating wildlife corridors.
02 Wildflower Meadow for improved biodiversity
03 Dipping Pond for Education
04 Reed Beds for improved biodiversity of the wetlands
05 Water Margins to biodiversity and safety
06 Picnic Area - A key amenity and eventt space.

1.0 Introduction

1.3 Creating Safer Spaces for All

Havant Thicket Reservoir Visitor Centre forms a great opportunity to lead in creating a mixed-use public space, which is safe and accessible *to all* ; prioritising biodiversity, education *and* safety.

To ensure we are doing the upmost to create a safe, inclusive public area, the current landscape design proposal has been reviewed against the guidance document:

'Safer Parks' : Improving Access for Women and Girls

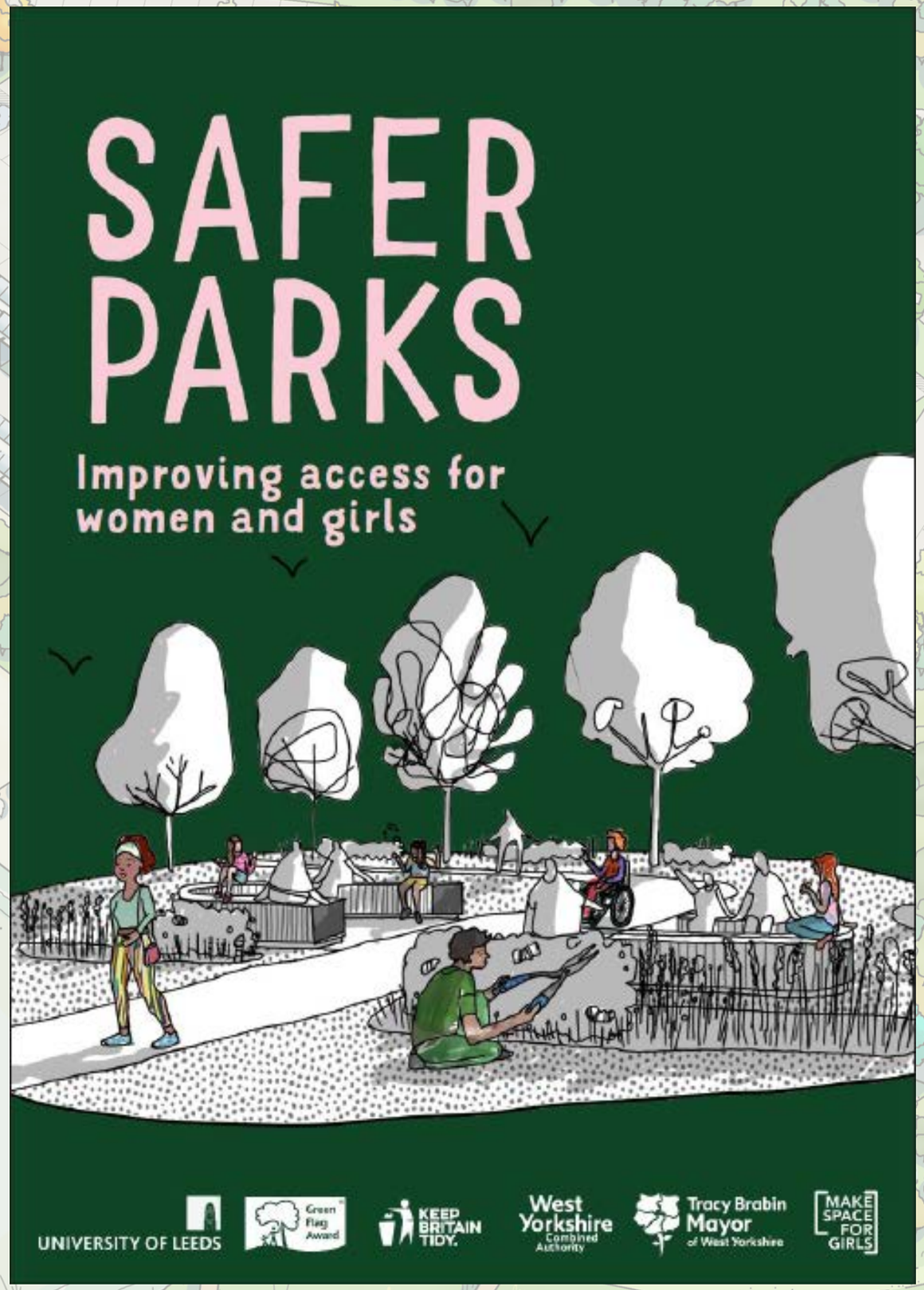
The document is built upon the foundation of research exploring women and girls' perceptions on what makes parks safe or unsafe, ultimately creating a set of principles we can work towards.

The guidance predominately covers how park managers, operational staff, designers and developers, community groups, planning staff, law enforcement and stake holders can collaborate to ensure the principles are established within urban public parks.

The landscape proposal has also been designed with the principles of:

BS8300-1:2018

This document provides guidance for designing external built environment, including streets, parks, landscaped areas, the approach to a building and the spaces between and around buildings, ensuring it is inclusive and can meet the needs of all who use it.



1.0 Introduction

1.4 Landscape Visualisation

01	Main Car Park	12	Meadow
02	South Car Park	13	Woodland Buffer
03	Bus / Coach Drop off	14	Culvert Display Avenue
04	Play Area	15	The Visitor Centre
05	Picnic Area	16	The Visitor Hub Building
06	Viewing Area	17	Cycle Shelter
07	Reedbeds	18	Visitor Centre Access Walkway
08	Boardwalks	19	Barrier Control
09	Bin Store	20	No-through Access
10	The Education Bird Hide	21	Swale
11	Pond Dipping Platforms	22	PV (Indicative only)

2.0 Landcape Proposal

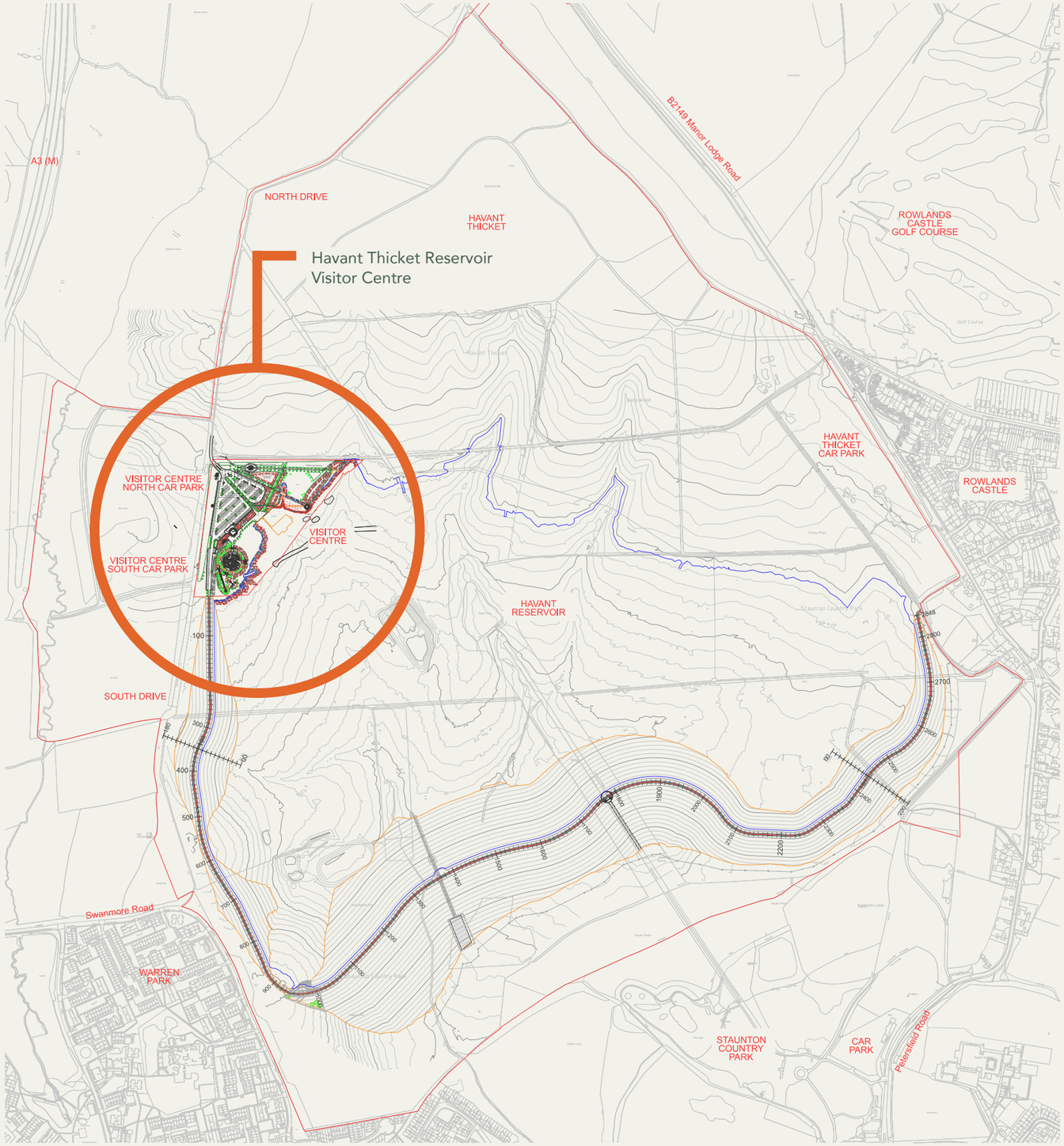
2.1 Landscape Site Context

Havant Thicket Reservoir Visitor Centre (HTRVC) is located in the north-west corner of the wider proposal for Havant Thicket Reservoir. The new reservoir spans approximately 1.6km from east to west and 800m from north to south. The area of the red line boundary is approximately 6,600sqm.

HTRVC will be an important structure within the wider context of the reservoir develoment. It will be accessible by car, bus, cycles, footpath and existing bridleways from both the south and north access routes. This is established in the Access and Recreation Implementation Management Plan (January 2025). The HTRVC will provide a new focal point, which will complement the existing facilities at Staunton Country Park, to the south, and Havant Thicket Woodland.

The landscape proposals for the Visitor Centre will provide:

- **Car parking connected to the northern and southern drives.**
- **A children's play area and open play space (located away from the wetland to minimise disturbance).**
- **Education facilities**
- **Picnic Areas**
- **Bird watching facilities**
- **New wetland and woodland**
- **Connection to a network of walking, cycling and horse riding routes with associated signage and information boards.**
- **Retained culvert structure for education**



Landscape Masterplan

2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.2 Landscape Masterplan

The proposed Landscape Masterplan is shown in the image to the right.

The principal spaces consist of the following:

The Visitor Centre is located at the heart of the development, set on the water with views overlooking Havant Thicket Reservoir and The Wetlands. It is located on a diagonal tree-lined axis from the northern approach road. This enables visitors to quickly orientate themselves as they enter the site.

The axis establishes the division between the principal areas of recreation and leisure to the south and the more naturalized areas and education to the north.

The Terrace is located on the shoreline at the centre of the axis. It forms the main pedestrian area connected to the Visitor Centre via a board walk. The Terrace provides space for orientation and way finding for the Visitor Centre facilities and the wider reservoir grounds.

Parking and trafficked areas are condensed to the western edges of the site to ensure that vehicles are excluded from areas adjacent to the reservoir and wetlands.

The main northern car park is situated on the existing areas of hard standing built for the construction compound. The secondary southern car park is located to the south with links to Warren Park. There is not direct connection between the car parks to prevent creating a short-cut across the site. Further details of the car parks are provided in a subsequent section.

The coach drop-off is located to the north of the main axis, providing a segregated set-down and pick up point away from the main car parks to reduce congestion.

The play area is located closely to south, making it more accessible to the local community. It is located next to the picnic area.

Landscape Masterplan

2.3 Landscape Proposal

The Car Park

01 Coach & Bus Drop off
02 Central treeline
03 East Car Park
04 West Car Park
05 Path to Display Culvert
06 Car Parking Machine

The design of the car parks has been informed by the Havant Borough Residential Parking and Cycle Provision Supplementary Planning Document.

A total of 296 bays are provided within the revised layout. It is largely situated on the existing hard standing formed for the construction site to retain as much of the existing infrastructure as possible.

The car parks a divided into the North Car Park, providing 255 parking spaces. 14 of these are set aside for mobility spaces and located close to facilities within The Hub building. An additional 28 spaces provide EV charging facilities.

The South Car Park is not connected to the main car park. It provides spaces for 41 cars with provision of 3 spaces for both mobility spaces.

2 Spaces have been provided for a horse box layby and 3 spaces have been provided for a bus layby.

The car parks are screened by mounds and woodland planting to minimise their visual impact.

A central pedestrian avenue has been designed to frame the Visitor Centre and lead visitors towards the Terrace as the view widens to the reservoir.

2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.4 Access Control

Access to both car parks will be controlled by automated barrier controls systems at the entrance to the northern and southern car parks.

As at Staunton Country Park, parking charges will apply with payment by card-only.

Final parking charges are to be discussed with neighbouring stakeholders

Pay and display parking meter.

Manual Barrier Control.

Automated barrier controlled entrances with number plate recognition cameras recording entry and exit times. Parking will be charged at the same rates as those at Staunton Water and Havant Thicket car parks.

Height restriction and manual traffic barrier between the car parks

Manual Barrier Control

Vehicle Height Restriction

Automated Barrier Control

£ Payment Points

Access Control Diagram

2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.5 Car Park Circulation

The design of the car parks has been informed by the Havant Borough Residential Parking and Cycle Provision Supplementary Planning Document. The car park are screened by mounds and woodland planting to minimise their visual impact.

Standard parking bays are a minimum of 2.4m x 4.8m, with a distance of no less than 6m between bays to allow vehicles to manoeuvre.

A total of 296 bays are provided within the revised layout. It is largely situated on the existing hard standing formed for the construction site to retain as much of the existing infrastructure as possible.

The car parks are divided into the North Car Park, providing 255 parking spaces. 14 of these are set aside for mobility spaces and located close to facilities within The Hub building. An additional 28 of these provide EV charging facilities.

The South Car Park is not connected to the main car park. It provides spaces for 41 cars with provision for 3 accessible spaces.

A network of pedestrian routes provide clear and segregated way finding for pedestrians leading to the The Terrace on the shoreline opposite The Visitor Centre.

Shared cycle and pedestrian routes connect the Visitor Centre with Warren Park to the south and Havant Thicket, to the north. Cycle parking is located in a convenient location adjacent to The Visitor Hub, at the heart of the site.

Sheltered parking for 36 bikes in Sheffield stands is proposed. Provision for e-bikes, tandem bikes, cargo bikes and adapted mobility bikes will be developed at the next stage.

Bus Routes

Pedestrian Routes

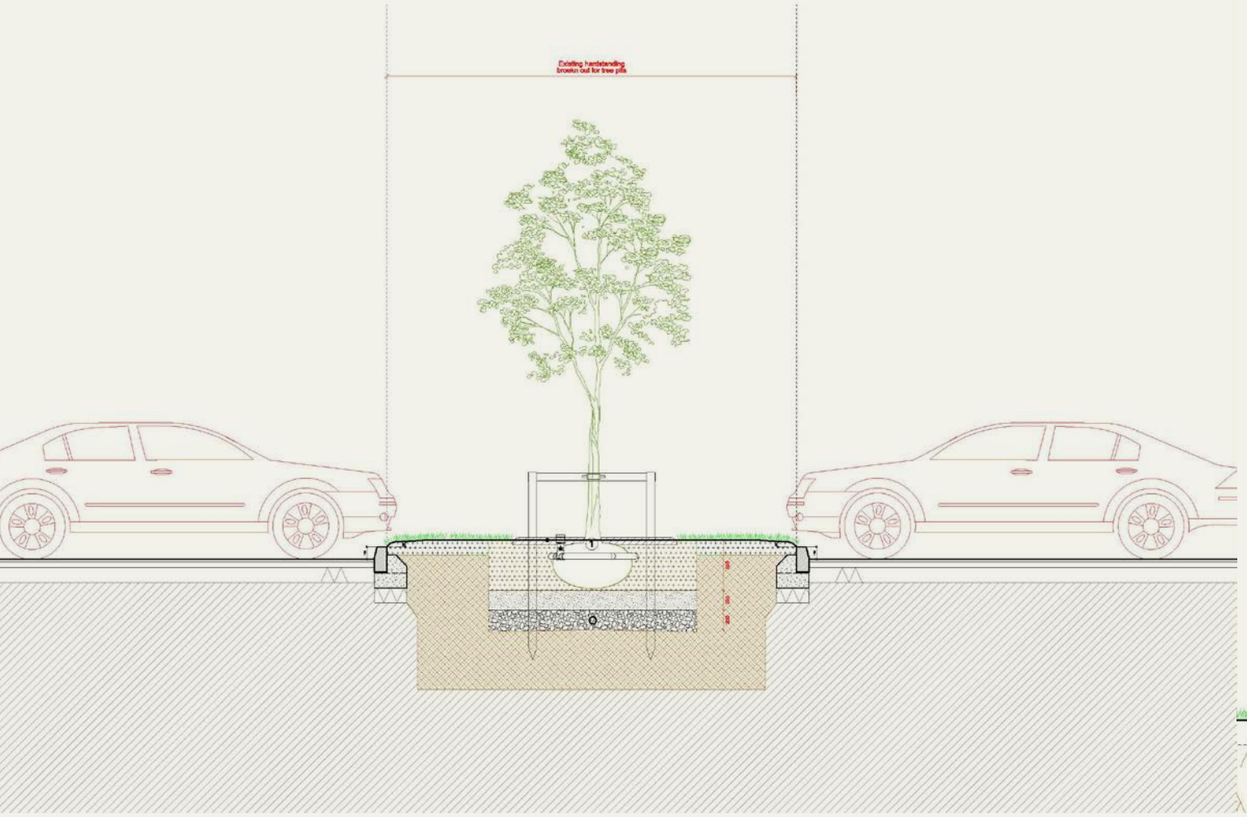
Transport Network Diagram

2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.6 Car Park Screening

The existing compound car park does not contain any trees, which is detrimental to its character and does not provide shade or visual screening.

Informal native tree planting is proposed to break up the expanse of the car park by puncturing through the existing hard standing to form tree pits with soft landscape. Such spaces could also act as rain gardens.

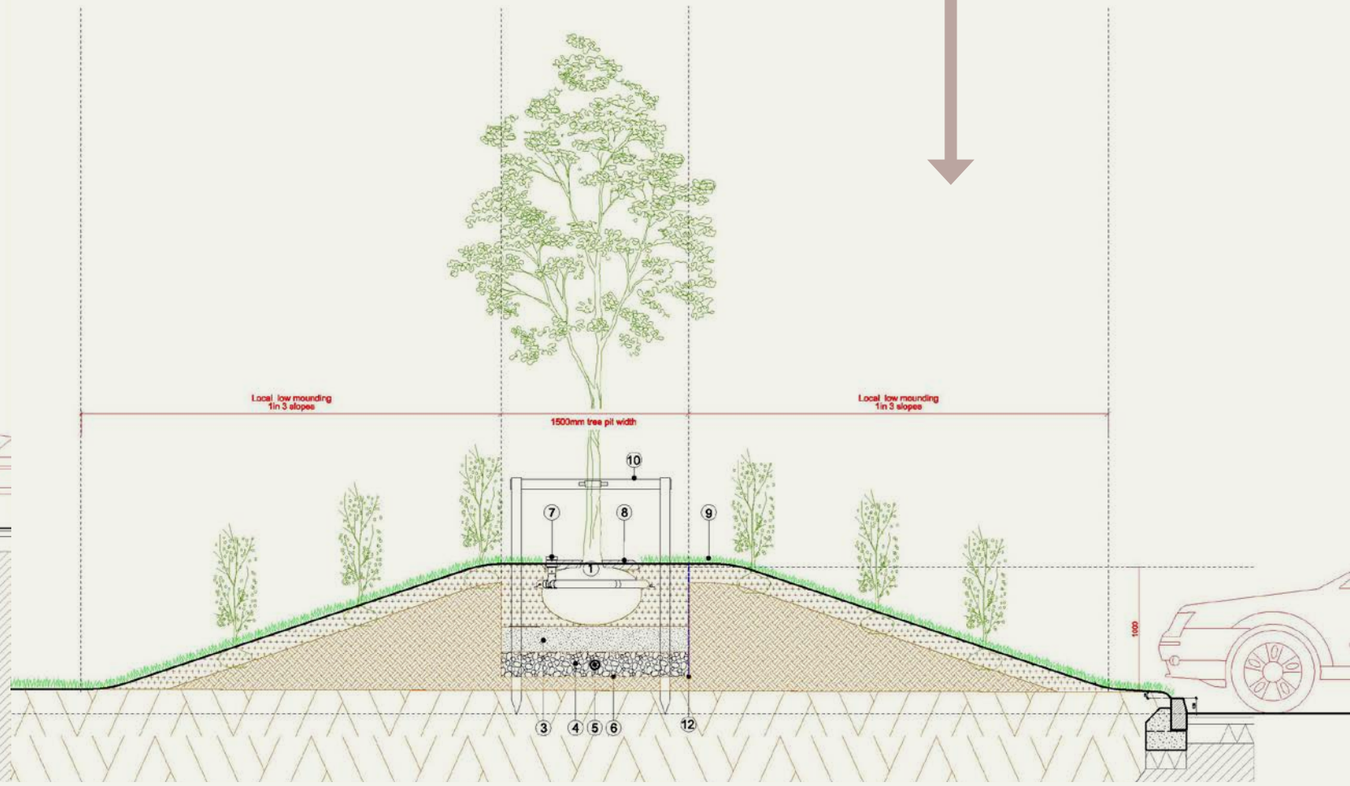


Car Park Tree Planting

Screening

Low mounds around the perimeter of the car park will provide visual screening. It will also allow the existing hard standing to remain insitu by breaking it up to allow free drainage.

The mounds will retain and re-use existing soil and subsoil from the site. Native tree and shrub planting will be planted on the mounds.



2.7 Landscape Proposal

Cycle, Pedestrian & Bridleway Network

01 Cycle Shelter
02 Shared Surface Avenue
03 Boardwalks
04 Meadow strips
05 Horsebox Layby
06 Bridleway Connection

Connecting the site to the surrounding cycle network using shared cycle and pedestrian routes link the Visitor Centre with Warren Park to the south and Havant Thicket, to the north.

Cycle parking is located in a convenient location adjacent to The Visitor Hub Building, at the heart of the site. Sheltered parking for 36 bikes in Sheffield stands is proposed. Provision for e-bikes, tandem bikes, cargo bikes and adapted mobility bikes will be developed at the next stage.

Connection to the bridleway has been designed with guidance from the British Horse Society, including non-slip surface materials and no obstructions for riders.

2.0 Landcape Proposal

2.8 Cycle, Pedestrian & Bridleway Network Context

The proposed development for Havant Thicket Reservoir is shown in the image to the right.

The development offers a comprehensive network of circular walks of various lengths. Careful consideration was given to creating suitable distances for both short and long walks that link to existing long-distance paths.

The longer circular route, which loops around the reservoir using the crest, spans 5 km (3.1 miles), while the shorter route through the northern woodland is under 2 km (1.25 miles).

An operational maintenance track and crest pathway, both 4 meters wide, are proposed, along with permissive paths around the Visitor Centre that will be at least 2 meters wide.

Connectivity to paths within Staunton Country Park is also a key feature, integrating the development into the broader walking network.

The scheme incorporates a dedicated bridleway corridor, establishing an important equestrian link within the wider network.

Connections adjacent to communities are indicative and to be dealt with other reserved matters conditions.

Bridleway Route

Network to connecting neighbourhoods

5km Pedestrian Route

2km Pedestrian Route

Cycle & Pedestrian Network Context

2.9 Landscape Proposal

Amenity Areas

01 Picnic Area
02 Play Area
03 Marginal Planting
04 Viewing Area
05 Shared surface
06 Car Parking
07 Bin Store
08 Cycle Shelter
09 Visitor Centre Drawbridge

Providing high quality play and public amenities will be an important element to ensuring Havant Thicket Visitor Centre provides important social value for the community, inclusive access and educational benefit.

It has the potential to provide space for safe interactive play with water may reduce the desire to approach the reservoir as will form an important part of Portsmouth Water's safety strategy.

Locating the primary amenity space near the south of the site ensures accessible access to the local community and draws visitors away from the biophylic areas to the north.

The provision of shared cycle and pedestrian routes connect the Visitor Centre to the south, and Havant Thicket to the north.

Cycle parking is located in a convenient location adjacent to The Hub, at the heart of the site.

Provision for e-bikes, tandem bikes, cargo bikes and adapted mobility bikes will be developed at the next stage.

Creating aquatic experiences away from the reservoir discourages visitors to make contact with the reservoir water, and instead interact with water in a safe, controlled manner using play equipment, pond dipping or safe water margins.

2.0 Landscape Proposal

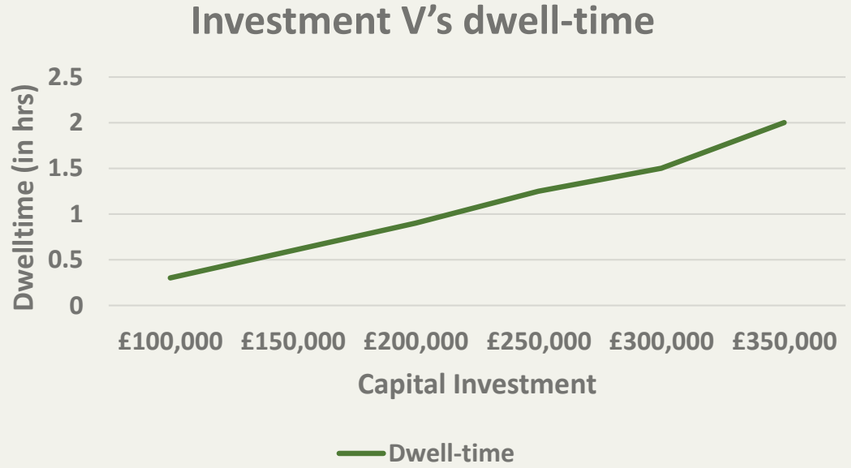
2.10 Value of Play Investment

Landscape Strategy for Phased Development of the playground.
Refer to separate Timberplay document.

The guidance document, Timberplay - The Economics of Play Investment, highlights the commercial benefits of including a substantial play area within the proposals for the Visitor Centre. The landscape proposal (shown in Section 3) provides a complete play area that increases dwell time and consequently - visitor numbers, in comparison to the simplier proposal shown on the left.

The report demonstrates the link between investment, visit-motivation, dwell-time and spend per visitor as a result of quality play areas.

In order to motivate visitors to to travel 30-minutes or more, as opposed to visiting cheaper/ free parks, the quality and scale of the offer must be adequate to deliver at least 4 hours of entertainment, anything less than 4-hours and the parking charge and travel time become barriers to most local residents.



2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.11 Play Area

A research paper "Nowhere to Play" (2016) by the Play Association of Play Industries (API) shows that many play areas run by local authorities are closing or planned for closure. The survey also showed that parents are worried about the impact the lack of outdoor play having on their children's mental and physical health.

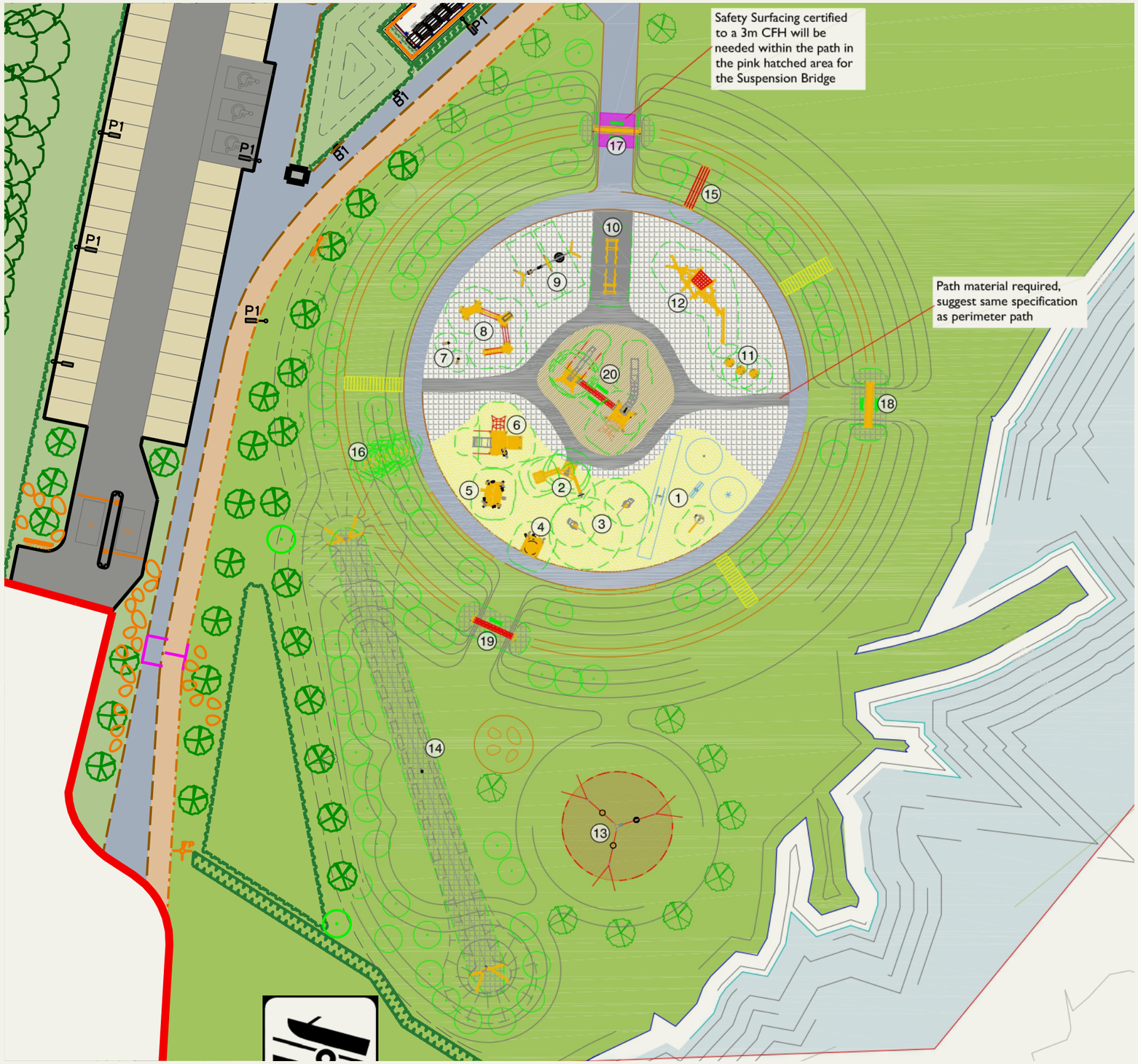
Children are hardwired to play. From their early years, they naturally gravitate towards movement, play, activity and fun.

The Play Area includes bridges across the earth mounding, movement play (including slides, swings and logs), dedicated space for infant play, water spray columns and provision of action play space suitable for older children.

Investment in quality play areas have been shown to be a huge draw for families, optimising chance for return visits.

Please refer to separate Stage 3 report: Timberplay - The Economics of Play Investment, which highlights the commercial benefits of including a substantial play area within the proposals for the Visitor Centre.

01	Forest Fountain, Type 02
02	Timber Waterplay Combination
03	Small Excavator x2
04	Sandplay Platform for Wheelchair Users
05	Building Site
06	Platform House
07	Swinging Horse x2
08	Totter Trail Type
09	Small Triple Swing
10	Wheelchair See-Saw
11	Jumping Disc x3
12	Climbing Structure
13	Queen Swing
14	50m Cableway
15	Climbing Ropes
16	Stepping Log x18
17	5m Suspension Bridge
18	5m Chain Path
19	5m Rope Bridge
20	Feature Tower Combination



2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.12 Play Area Illustration

(Indicative illustration)

The illustration shows an extensive play area to respond to the "Mediuem" visitor number model, with a footfall of 300,000 people or more.

It includes all elements that have been discussed during client meetings. These feature areas of physical play (slides and climbing frames); infant play, water areas, sand play & more vigorous play (Zip Wire, Tyre Swings).

The play area nestles within earth mounds, connected by bridges for additional exploration and accessibility, with woodland planting to create a sense of enclosure and to reduce its visual impact.

Play Features

01 Outdoor Dining
02 Main Entrance
03 Earth Mounds
04 Play for All
05 Circulation & Seating
06 Infant Play Area
07 Water Spray Columns
08 Sand Construction Play
09 Feature Play Towers
10 Action Play (Zip Wire & Swings)

2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.13 Play Area Visualisation (Entrance)

Play Area View

2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.14 Play Area Visualisation (Car Park View)

Play Area View

2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.15 Play Area Visualisation (Play Space)

Play Area View

2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.16 Play Area Visualisation (Water Play)

Play Area View

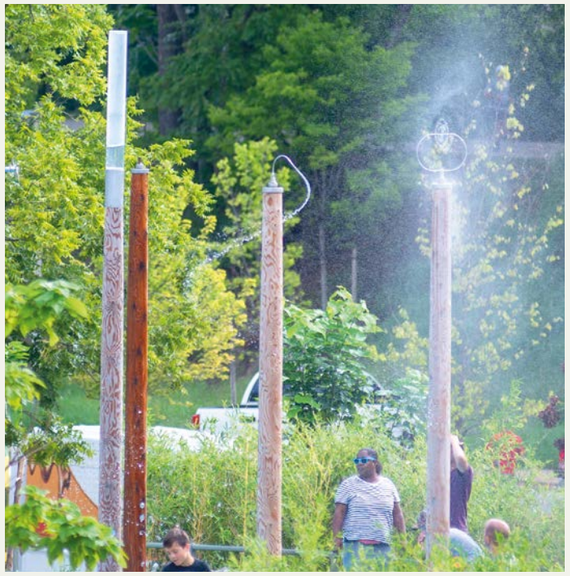
2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.17 Play Area Visualisation (Sand Play)

Play Area View

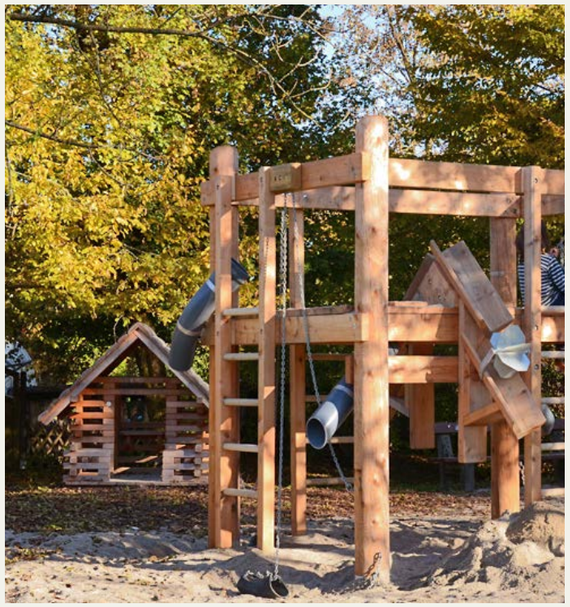
2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.18 Play Equipment (Sand & Water Play)



Timberplay Forest Fountain

Timberplay Water Combination



Timberplay Building Site

Timberplay Small Excavator

2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.19 Play Equipment (For All Ages & Abilities)

Timberplay Feature Towers and Slide

Timberplay Swing Set

Timberplay Queen Swing

Timberplay Jumping Discs

2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.20 Play Equipment (For Embankments)

Timberplay Zipline

Timberplay Bridge

Timberplay Stepping Logs

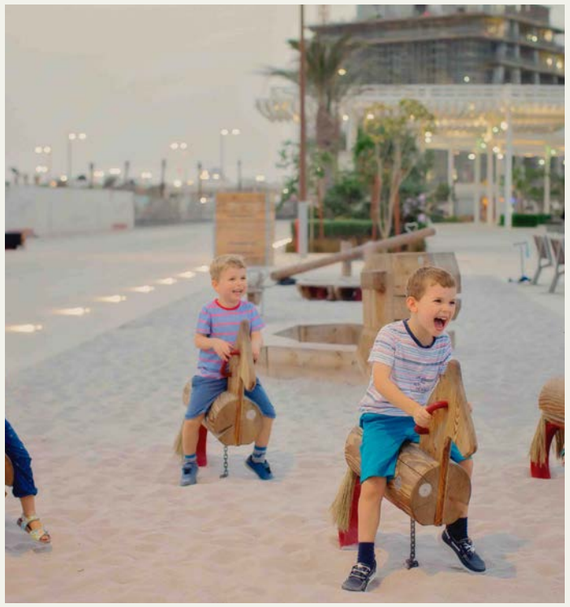
Timberplay Suspension Bridge

2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.21 Play Equipment (For Younger Children)

Timberplay Platform House

Timberplay Climbing Rope

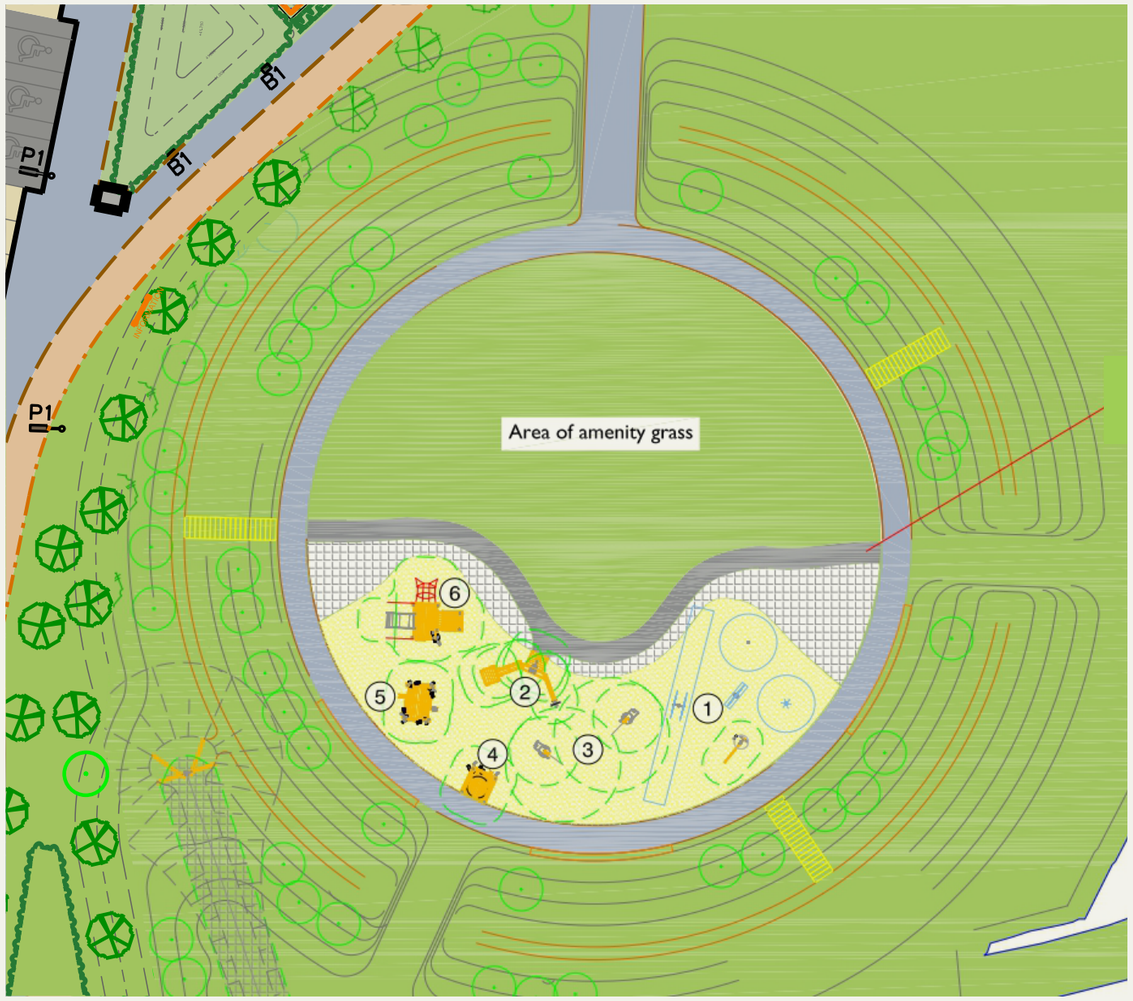


Timberplay Swinging Horse

Timberplay Totter Trail

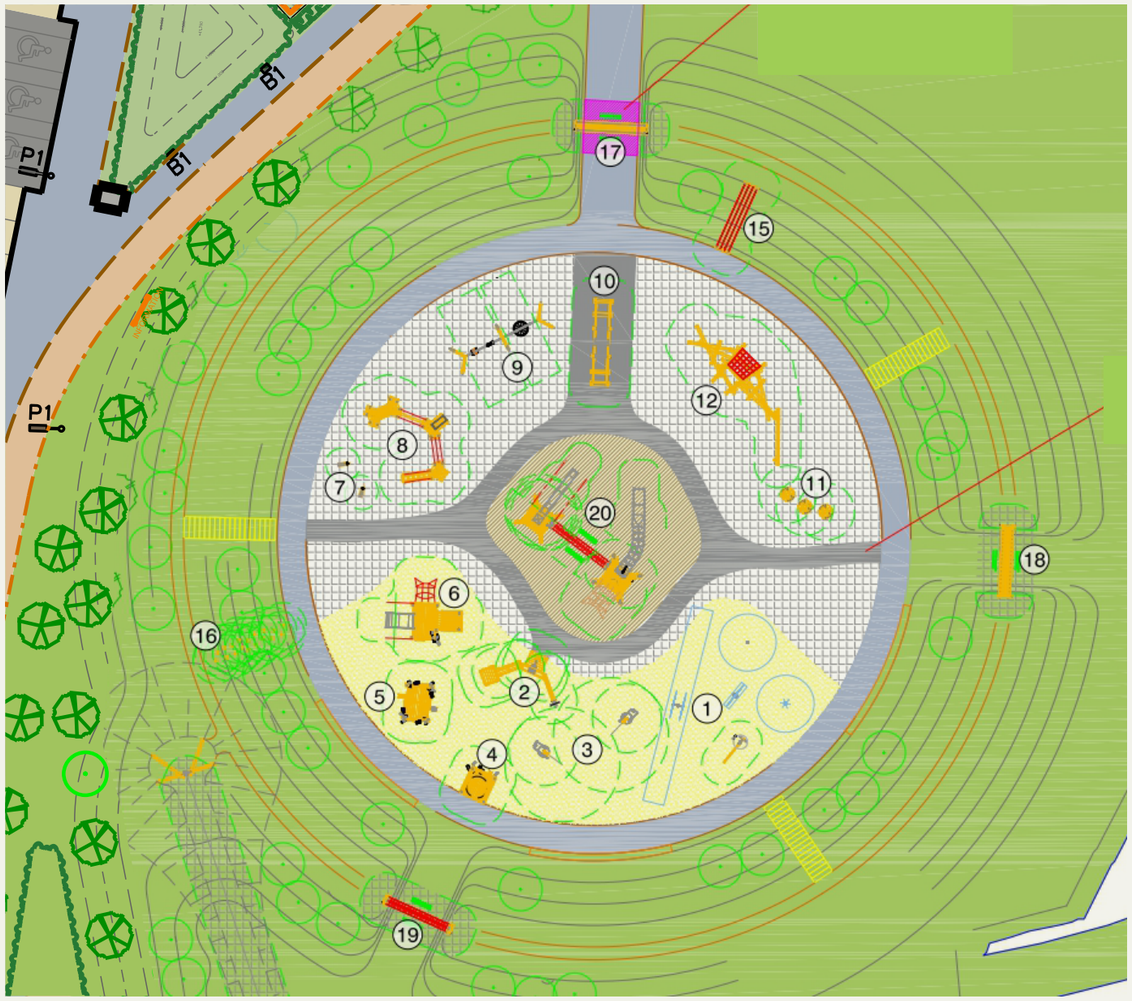
2.0 Landscape Proposal

2.22 Play Phasing Strategy



01 Initial Phase

(Indicative illustration)



02 Final Phase

(Indicative illustration)

2.23 Landscape Proposal

Green Infrastructure

01 Boardwalks
02 Reedbeds
03 Marginal Planting
04 Woodland Buffer
05 Path to Display Culvert
06 'The Dipping Pond'
07 Meadow
08 Swale

Havant Thicket , Staunton Country Park and Bells Copse are part of The Forest of Bere, a former Royal Forest. It is characterised by a mosaic of habitats of mixed woodland, coppice, open space, ponds, streams and heathland.

The northern part of the site connects the Visitor Centre with the natural landscape, providing biodiversity and links to the nature reserve provided along the northern shore of the reservoir.

The mosaic of landscape character types is proposed in response to Policy CS18 for Havant Thicket Reservoir, which states that natural and rural character should be conserved in particular by limiting impacts on biodiversity including the creation of additional habitats; compensating for the loss of, and effects on, sites of importance for nature conservation, the listed park and conservation area; enhancing adjacent sites of importance for nature conservation.

The wildflower meadow and woodland buffer create a buffer between the wetlands and the centres of visitor activity to the south of the Visitor Centre. The mosaic landscape is typical of the intermittent headwaters of Riders Lane Stream, which will feed the wetlands.

Havant Thicket & Bells Copse are already very popular with mountain bikers, joggers and dog walkers. Information at the Visitor Centre will provide guidance for dog walking in existing parts of Havant Thicket to minimise disturbance of wildlife sensitive areas.

The Education Bird Hide offers space education. It provides space for outdoor teaching, linked to the outdoor classroom and to the dipping ponds.

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Havant Thicket Reservoir Visitor Centre

3.0 Planting Strategy

3.1 Woodland Planting

Planting Typologies:

Woodland Canopy Planting

Planted with standard clear stem, 175-200cm, 3 breaks

Woodland Understorey Planting

Transplant 1+1 whips of single slender stem, seed raised

Woodland creation shall be undertaken through a combination of block planting as well as natural regeneration and succession around planted clumps, as recommended by Havant Thicket Landscape Ecology and Conservation Plan.

The proposed woodland planting aims to create corridors between the existing surrounding woodland; Havant Thicket, Bells Copse and Staunton County Park.

Woodland Planting Strategy Plan

Woodland Planting

Image: mixed native woodland

Acer campestre (Field maple)

Betula pubescens (Birch)

Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)

Ilex aquifolium (Common holly)

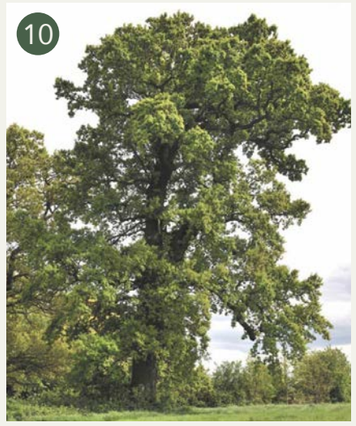
Castanea sativa (Sweet chestnut)

Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)

Alnus glutinosa (Alder)

Corylus avellana (Hazel)

Tilia cordata (small-leaved lime)



Quercus robur (Oak)

3.0 Planting Strategy

3.2 Avenue Planting

Planting Typologies:

Row Avenue Tree Planting

Avenue Planting to assist in wayfinding and clear routemaking.

Car Park Tree Planting

Car Park tree planting to assist in visual softening of tarmac.

As discussed in the 'Safer Parks' guidance document, Avenue Trees will be used to showcase clear routes and act as a wayfinding tool to ensure visitors feel safe and understand where primary and busier walkways may lead.

Ensuring each avenue is unique and variates seasonally allows each route to feel individual and aid sense of place.

Avenue Planting Strategy Plan

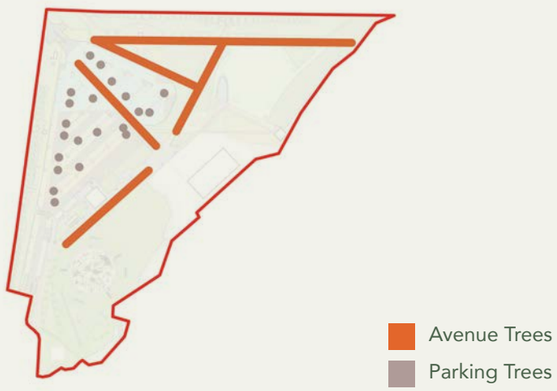
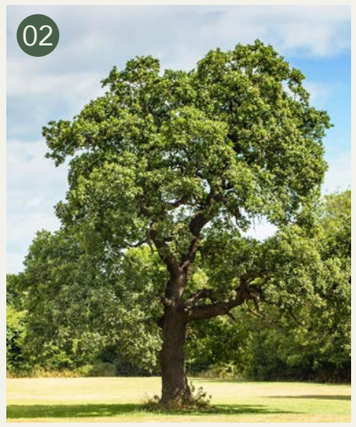


Image 1: Young tree avenue

Carpinus betulus Fastiagata



Quercus robur (Oak)

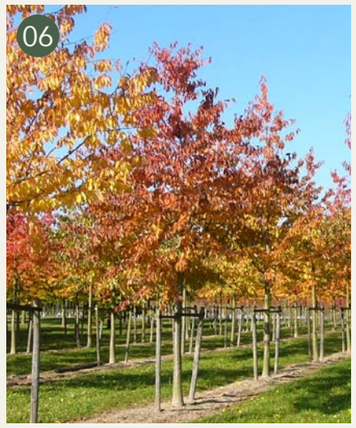
Image 2: Mature tree avenue

Acer campestre (Field Maple)

Tilia cordata (Small-leaved lime)

Image 3: Tree planting within car parking

Betula pendula (Silver birch)



Prunus avium (Wild cherry)

3.0 Planting Strategy

3.3 Avenue Planting Species

Avenue Tree Planting Diagram

Avenue Tree Species

Avenue Mix 1

Castanea sativa (Sweet chestnut)

Quercs robur (Oak)

Alnus glutinosa (Alder)

Avenue Mix 2

Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)

Acer campestre (Field maple)

Tilia cordata (Small-leaved lime)

Avenue Mix 3

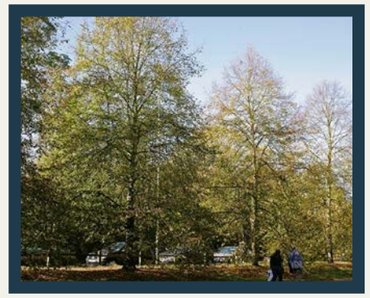
Betula pubescens (Dawny birch)

Alnus glutinosa (Alder)

Acer campestre (Field maple)

Monoculture Avenues

Carpinus betulus Fastigiata



Tilia cordata (Small-leaved lime)

Plan Key:

- Avenue mix 1
- Avenue mix 2
- Avenue mix 3
- Carpinus betulus Fastigiata
- Tilia tomentosa

3.0 Planting Strategy

3.4 Water Margins

Water margins offer the opportunity to develop rich wildlife communities. They are also a source of risk for the general public, and especially children, who are naturally drawn to the water's edge.

The design for these areas needs to be carefully considered to maximise there value ass recommended by Havant Thicket Landscape Ecology and Conservation Plan.

Key elements include:

- Make the slopes shallow to cater for variations in water depth to attract a variety of fauna and flora, whilst also offering people the opportunity to get out of the water if they fell-in.
- Create seasonal variations of areas of permanent and temporary water to support a variety of plant communities, invertebrates and amphibians.
- Create variations in substrates to attract a variety of flora.
- Ideally the maintenance of the margins should be a grazed to avoid the areas reverting to shrub and tree belts, which will overshadow the marginal habitats.
- Avoid fencing: The water margins at Staunton Park are not fenced and operate with public access with safety.

Marginal Planting Strategy Plan

Achillea ptarmica (Sneezewort)

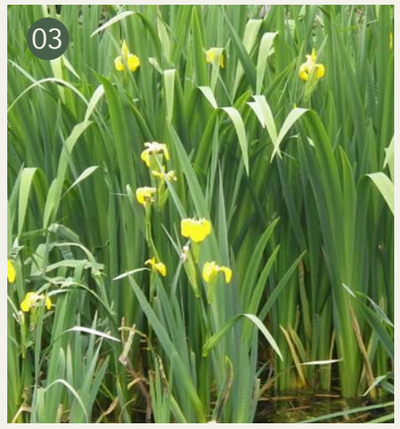
Betonica officinalis (Common hedgenettle)

Carex pendula (Pendulous sedge)

Centaurea scabiosa (Greater birdsfoot trefoil)

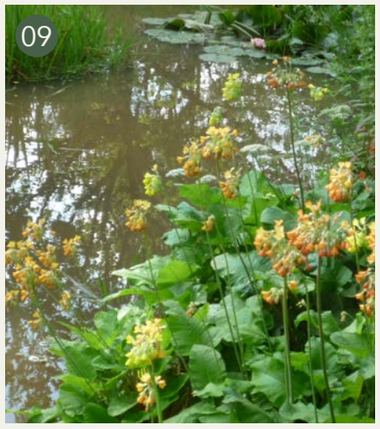
Alopecurus pratensis (Meadow foxtail)

Ranunculus acris (Meadow buttercup)



Iris pseudacorus (Yellow flag iris)

Prunella vulgaris (Self heal)



Primula versis (Cowslip)

3.0 Planting Strategy

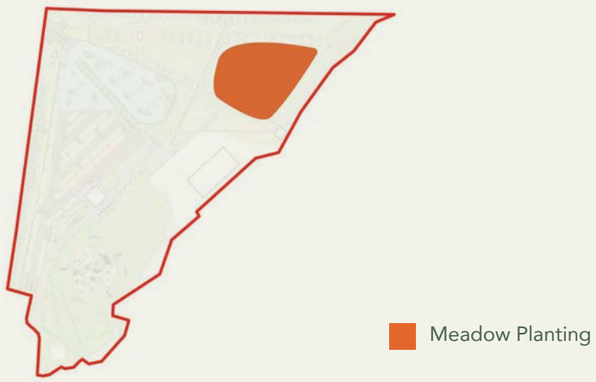
3.5. Meadow Grassland

The area to the north of the site is dominated by the perennial wildflower meadow as part of the mosaic landscape recommended by Havant Thicket Landscape Ecology and Conservation Plan.

Perennial meadows generally take longer to establish – most take at least two years to flower well from seed, but then continue for years to come. They can contain a wide range of species including ox-eye daisies, red campion, knapweed and field scabious.

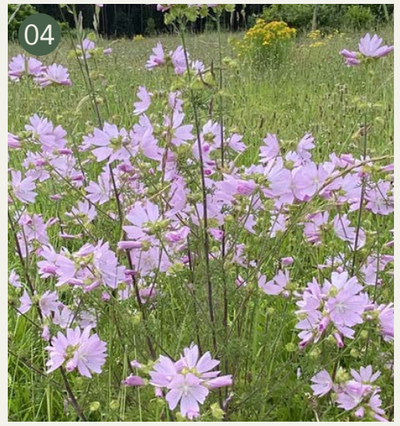
The meadow offers great opportunity to contribute 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG). Once established, it will support a range of insects as a food source for mammals and birds at the margins of the reservoir wetlands.

The restoration of meadows as part of a mosaic landscape is a key target of Hampshire's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).



Meadow Planting Strategy Plan

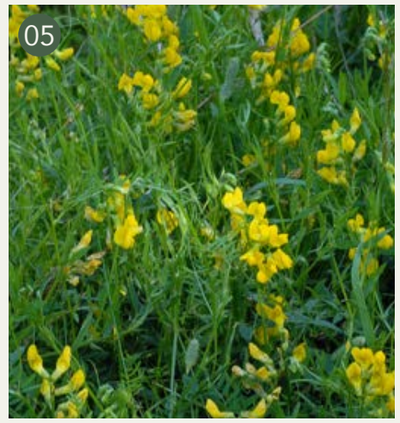
Achillea millefolium (Yarrow)



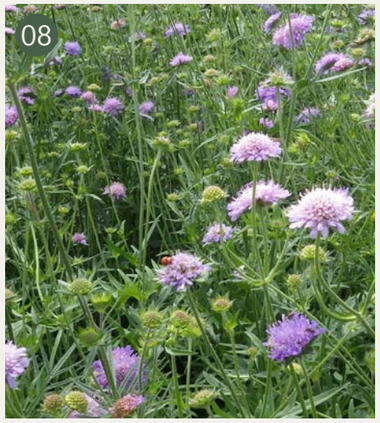
Malva moschata (Musk mallow)

Centaurea nigra (Common knapweed)

Gallium album (Hedge bedstraw)



Lathyrus pratensis (Meadow vetchling)



Knautia pratensis (Field scabious)

Hypochaeris radicata (Cat's ear)

Leucanthemum vulgare (Oxeye daisy)

Lythrun salicaria (Purple loosestrife)

3.0 Planting Strategy

3.6 Reed Beds

The area of reed beds extent the shallow margins of the wetlands in the northern part of the site. They serve to deter large numbers of the public using the northern parts of the site. Visitors are attracted to the broader landscape spaces to the south, close to the car park and The Hub building.

The area of the reed beds also provides some compensation for the area of water covered by the Visitor Centre.

Boardwalks crossing the reed beds will have parapets for safety where required. The design of the reed beds will follow guidance such as “The Urban Wetland Design Guide”. The reeds will provide additioanal space for wildlife and education for people. Well designed reed beds and wetlands provide an interesting, diverse landscape for increased biodiversity and improve public health and wellbeing.

The extent of the reed beds will ebb and flow during the seasons with the changing water levels. The ideal water depth for emergent wetland plants is from 100-300mm, while shallow margins. small seasonal ponds and islands provide a diverse range of habitats for wildlife.

As recommended by Havant Thicket Landscape Ecology and Conservation Plan.

Reed Planting Strategy Plan

Juncus conglomaterus (Compact rush)

Juncus effusus (Soft rush)

Phragmites australis (Common reed)

Carex acutiformis (Lesser pond sedge)

4.0 Safety & Connectivity

4.1 Safer Parks Strategy

Following the guidance document 'Safer Parks : Improving Access for Women and Girls' and BS8300-1:2018 The Landscape Masterplan has been developed with consideration of:

01	**Connectivity**	05	**Visibility**
02	**Access**	06	**Openness**
03	**Wayfinding**	07	**Lighting**
04	**Familiarity**	08	**Belonging**

Open play area near safe points

Clear entrance / exit

Distinct trees / artwork aid wayfinding

Clear tree avenues focuses main routes

Circular routes create clear open views

4.0 Safety & Connectivity

4.2 Visibility & Openness

1. **OPEN SPACES**
Open play areas maximise visibility, enabling clear views of 'safety points' and areas of higher footfall at the heart of the site.

2. **PLANTING FOR SAFETY**
Well defined tree lines frame key routes with canopies above head height to ensure clear view. Planting along water edge creates strong visual barrier between land and water.

3. **PROXIMITY**
Adequate proximity between areas allow for correct survellience of each zone, using land mounds to hide visual ditractors (such as the car park), creating visual links to help orientation, and using vantage points to give good views.

Landscape Visibility

4.0 Safety & Connectivity

4.3 Connectivity & Access

1. **CENTRALISATION OF 'SAFETY POINTS'**
- providing clear access routes to central and busy areas of the site ensure guests understand where to seek others.

2. **WALKING ROUTES**
- by encouraging active travel such as walking, wheeling and cycling increases the chance of encountering others and feeling busier to increase feelings of safety.

3. **CLEAR ENTRANCE/EXITS**
- connecting the site via public transport with clear 'drop off' zones allows circulation to flow correctly. Circulation between surrounding areas with wide openings ensures great natural surveillience.

PEDESTRIAN / CYCLE ENTRANCES
- connecting the site to the wider landscape network.

Landscape Connectivity / Access

4.0 Safety & Connectivity

4.4 Connectivity & Access Context

1. **CENTRALISATION OF 'SAFETY POINTS'**
- providing clear access routes to central and busy areas of the site ensure guests understand where to seek others.

2. **CIRCULAR RUNNING/ WALKING ROUTES**
- by encouraging active travel such as walking, wheeling and cycling increases the chance of encountering others and feeling busier to increase feelings of safety.

3. **CLEAR ENTRANCE/EXITS**
- connecting the site via public transport with clear 'drop off' zones allows circulation to flow correctly. Circulation between surrounding areas with wide openings ensures great natural surveillience.

Landscape Connectivity / Access

4.0 Safety & Connectivity

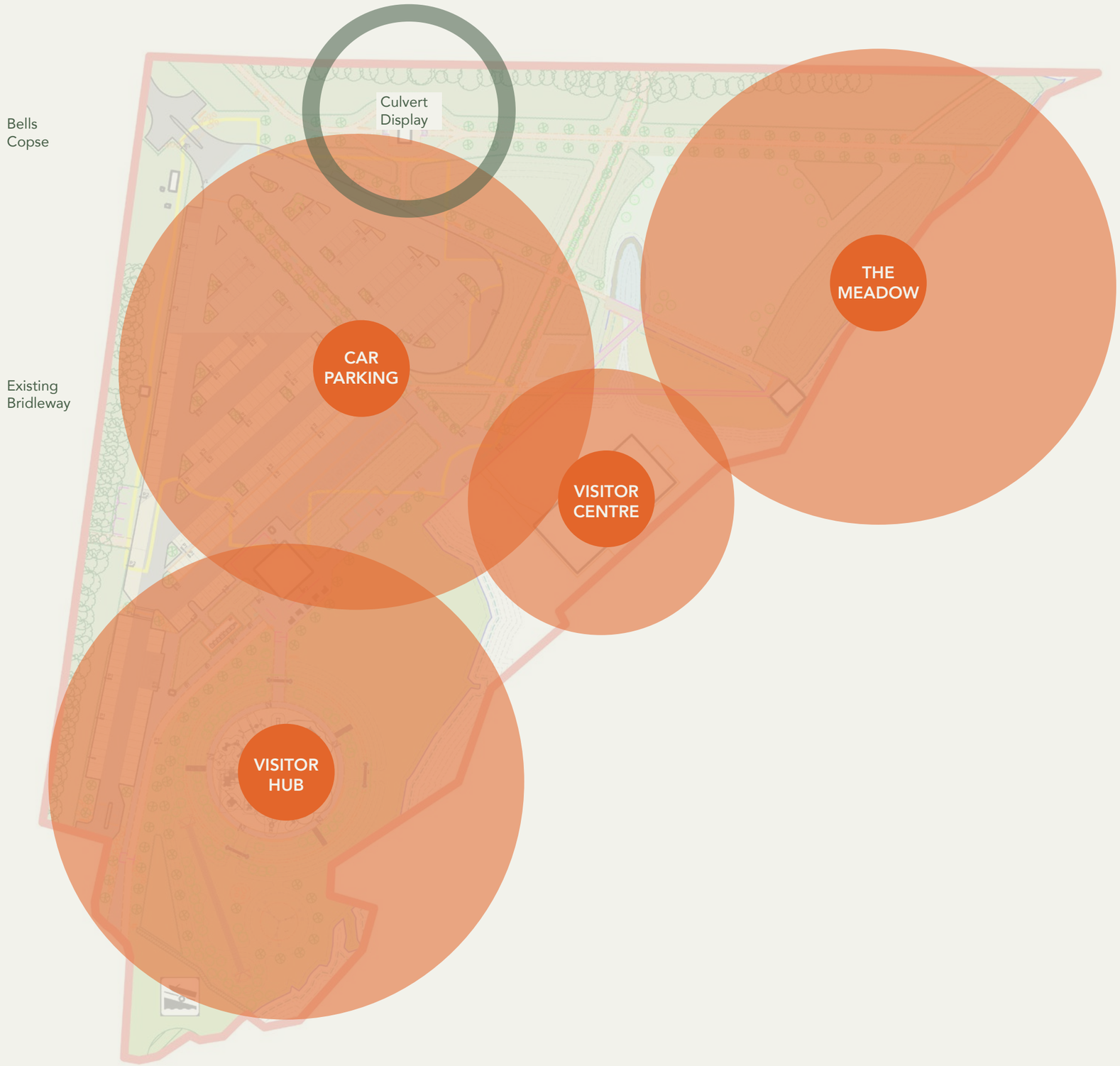
4.5 Wayfinding, Belonging & Familiarity

1. **NAMED ZONES**
Creating distinct zones within a site has shown to broaden the appeal to users. Spaces have multiple uses and approachable. Legible areas also aid 'meet-up points'

2. **FAMILIARITY**
Information displays and artwork indicate belonging, and aid wayfinding particularly near high circulation areas. Consistent planting and materials shows a sense of care and familiarity.

3. **CLEAR SIGNAGE**
Research shows that women and girls feel safer when they know where they are and how to get there. Signage should include a park map and indicate the main routes.

Signage will link the Visitor Centre to the wider estate, linking it to Havant Thicket Country Park & Staunton Park.



4.0 Safety & Connectivity

4.6 Lighting Zones

1. LIGHT PRIORITY ROUTES
Primary connection routes will be prioritised for even lighting to ensure access is safe.

2. UNDERSTANDING 'SAFE' LIGHT

A Brighter light does not mean safer as it can create strong contrast and shadows

B Ambient, even light is preferred

C Human-scaled lighting (not floodlights) is preferred

3. ZONING USING LIGHTING
Lighting will be used to identify zones across the site to help visitors understand what may be a preferred route and predict conditions, entrances and exits.

Lighting should be used as a tool to ensure all visitors feel safe at the site during early mornings, evenings and night, maximising 'round-the-clock' site use, particularly for women and girls.

The lighting strategy will be co-ordinated with the ecollogical requirements of the wider setting. The Car Park and VC will be the core areas of lighting, while the The Play Zone is not intended to be used after dusk. The Meadow area will be be unlit to avoid disturbance to wildlife.

Landscape Lighting

5.0 Materials

5.1 Hard Landscape Materials

All furniture, materials and design elements shown are illustrative and subject to further design development, product availability and project requirements at the time of delivery.

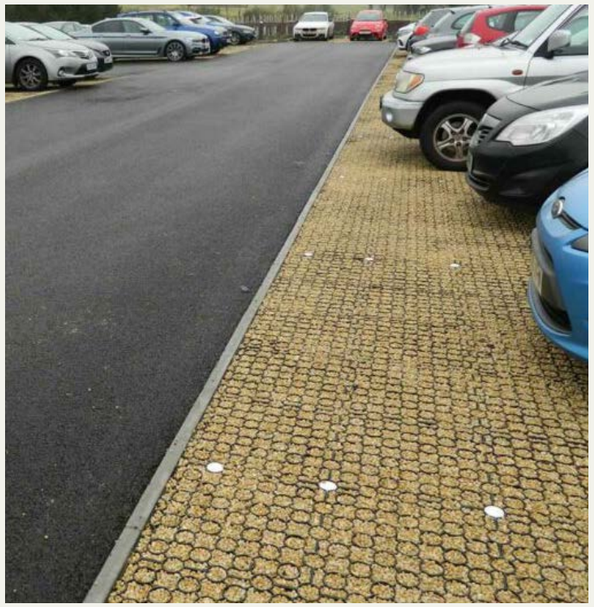
Seeded Tarmac

Timber Barricades

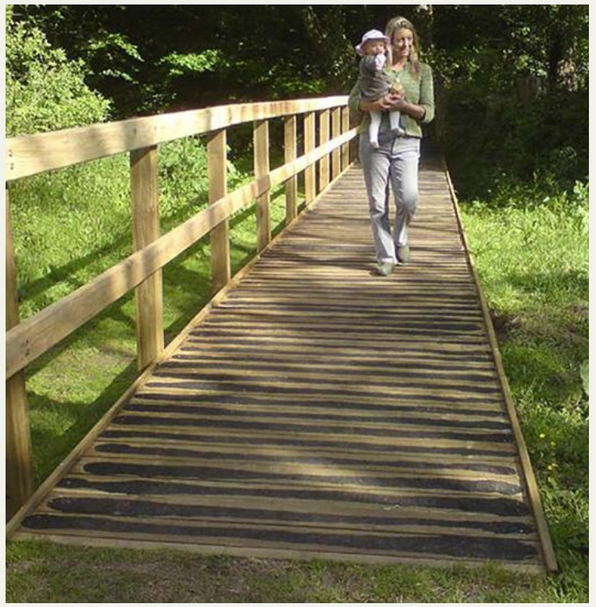
Self binding Gravel

Timber bridge (Staunton Park)

Tarmac broken out for Tree Planting



Sudspave Car Park



FSC sourced timber boards

Gravel Car Park (Staunton Park)

5.0 Materials

5.2 Street Furniture & Signage

All furniture, materials and design elements shown are illustrative and subject to further design development, product availability and project requirements at the time of delivery.

Fitzpatrick Woolmer Corten Steel Lecturn

Woodscape Backless Bench

Woodscape Type 2 Seat

Woodscape Picnic Set

Fitzpatrick Woolmer Corten Steel Information Boards

Timber and Metal Wayfinding Posts

Streetlife Corten Steel Litter Bin

Broxap Cycle Shelter with Sedum Roof

5.0 Materials

5.3 Public Art Proposals

Portmouth Water Logo in Resin Bound Gravel

Portmouth Water Logo in Weathered Steel

01 Portsmouth Water Display
02 Information Boards
03 Viewing Platform
04 Culvert Display
05 Entrance Signage

(subject to further design development, product availability and project requirements at the time of delivery and will be developed at a later stage)

5.0 Materials

5.4 Public Art Proposals

02

Fitzpatrick Woolmer Corten Steel Lecturn

02

Fitzpatrick Woolmer Corten Steel Information Boards

01 Portsmouth Water Display
02 Information Boards
03 Viewing Platform
04 Culvert Display
05 Entrance Signage

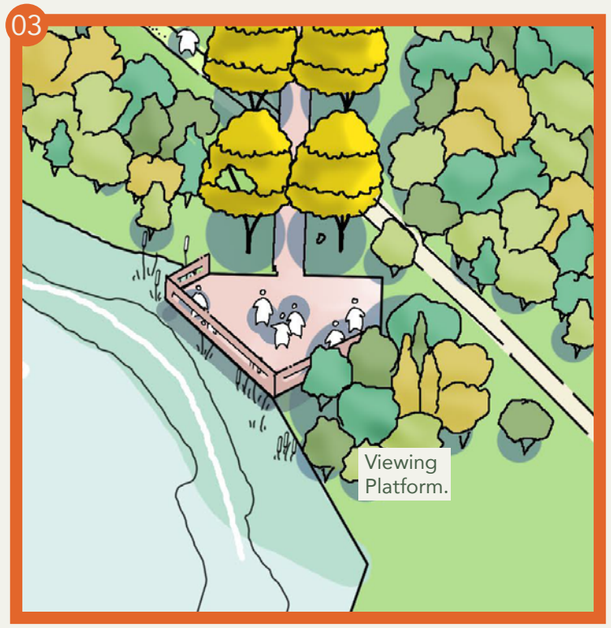
(subject to further design development, product availability and project requirements at the time of delivery and will be developed at a later stage)

5.0 Materials

5.5 Public Art Proposals

The Viewing Platform is subject to further design development, and will be developed at a later stage.

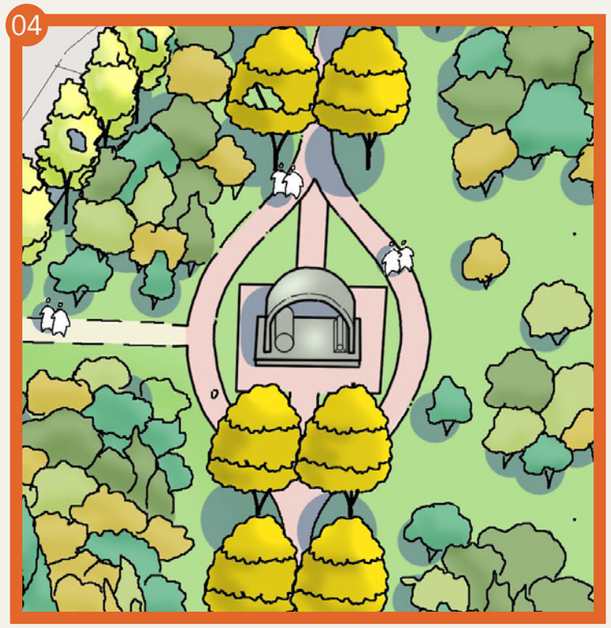
01 Portsmouth Water Display
02 Information Boards
03 Viewing Platform
04 Culvert Display
05 Entrance Signage



5.0 Materials

5.6 Public Art Proposals

Havant Thicket Reservoir Culvert Section



Havant Thicket Reservoir Culvert Section Illustration

01 Portsmouth Water Display
02 Information Boards
03 Viewing Platform
04 Culvert Display
05 Entrance Signage

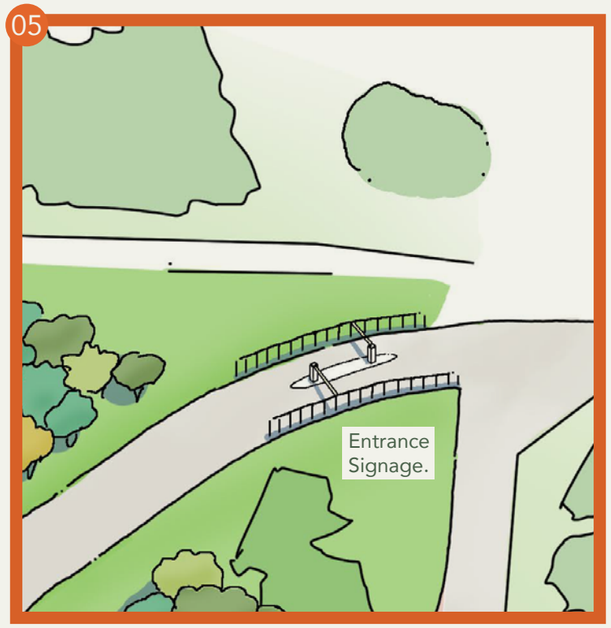
(subject to further design development, and will be developed at a later stage.)

5.0 Materials

5.7 Public Art Proposals

Entrance signage public art installations are subject to further design development, product availability, project requirements at the time of delivery and will be developed at a later stage.

01 Portsmouth Water Display
02 Information Boards
03 Viewing Platform
04 Culvert Display
05 Entrance Signage



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