

# MASTERPLAN ENGAGEMENT JANUARY 2026

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# RICKMANSWORTH AQUADROME PROJECT

## CONCEPT MASTERPLAN REVIEW

(RIBA Stage 2: Concept Designs)

1. Where we are now
2. RIBA Stages of Work
3. Concept Masterplan:
  - Nature Recovery
4. Concept Masterplan:
  - People and Place
5. Concept Masterplan
  - Story Mapping
  - Art Trail
6. Engagement Next Steps
7. Project Next Steps



## Where we are now...

- Successful outcome on National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Development Phase application - £736,515
  - Permission to start by the NLHF agreed 4 July 2025
- Flood modelling from the EA received 2 October 2025.

Funding for the following approved NLHF Development Phase purposes:

- High Visibility of the NLHF Logo and approved marketing
- Small scale activity programme – nature workshops and citizen science
- Detailed designs, tender packages and relevant consents: e.g. Planning
- Consultation and engagement with the community
- Next phase of the Hydrological Study
- Conduct an Access Audit – improving accessibility
- Asbestos assessment for delivery phase capital works
- Creation of site wide Masterplan
- Tree & Vegetation Strategy and Action Plan for Delivery Phase
- Develop an Activity Plan in preparation for Delivery Phase
- Appoint project staff for Development Phase



# RIBA Plan of Work Stages of Development

*Royal Institute of British Architects*

Stage 0: **Strategic Definition** – Initial project case/decision to proceed

Stage 1: **Preparation & Brief** – detailed brief is developed

Stage 2: **Concept Design** – initial high level design proposals

Stage 3: **Spatial Coordination** – co-ordinated, detailed designs to resolve issues. For planning, FRAP and Lottery consent.

Stage 4: **Technical Design** – creating tender packages, technical drawings and specifications for tender and construction.

Stage 5: **Manufacturing and Construction** – capital works to handover in Stage 6.

- National Lottery Heritage Funded Projects follow the RIBA Stages of Work
- During Development Phase, projects traditionally cover stages **2** and **3**.
- TRDC are accelerating and working beyond this to deliver **stage 4** during Development Phase.
- Therefore, should TRDC be successful, Delivery Phase can commence immediately at **Stage 5**.

**The Concept Masterplan is Stage 2 of the RIBA Stages of Work, with the earlier stages being completed pre-Development Phase.**



# The RIBA Stages: Where we are

Pre-development phase



Lottery permission to start summer 2025.  
RSK design team onboarding autumn 2025.

RIBA Stage 3 design and Lottery and  
Planning submissions on target for May 2026.

RIBA 2 Masterplan now complete.  
Work now starting on RIBA 3 design.



# Concept Masterplan – Nature



**Nature**

**People**

**Place**



## Nature – Woodland Walk

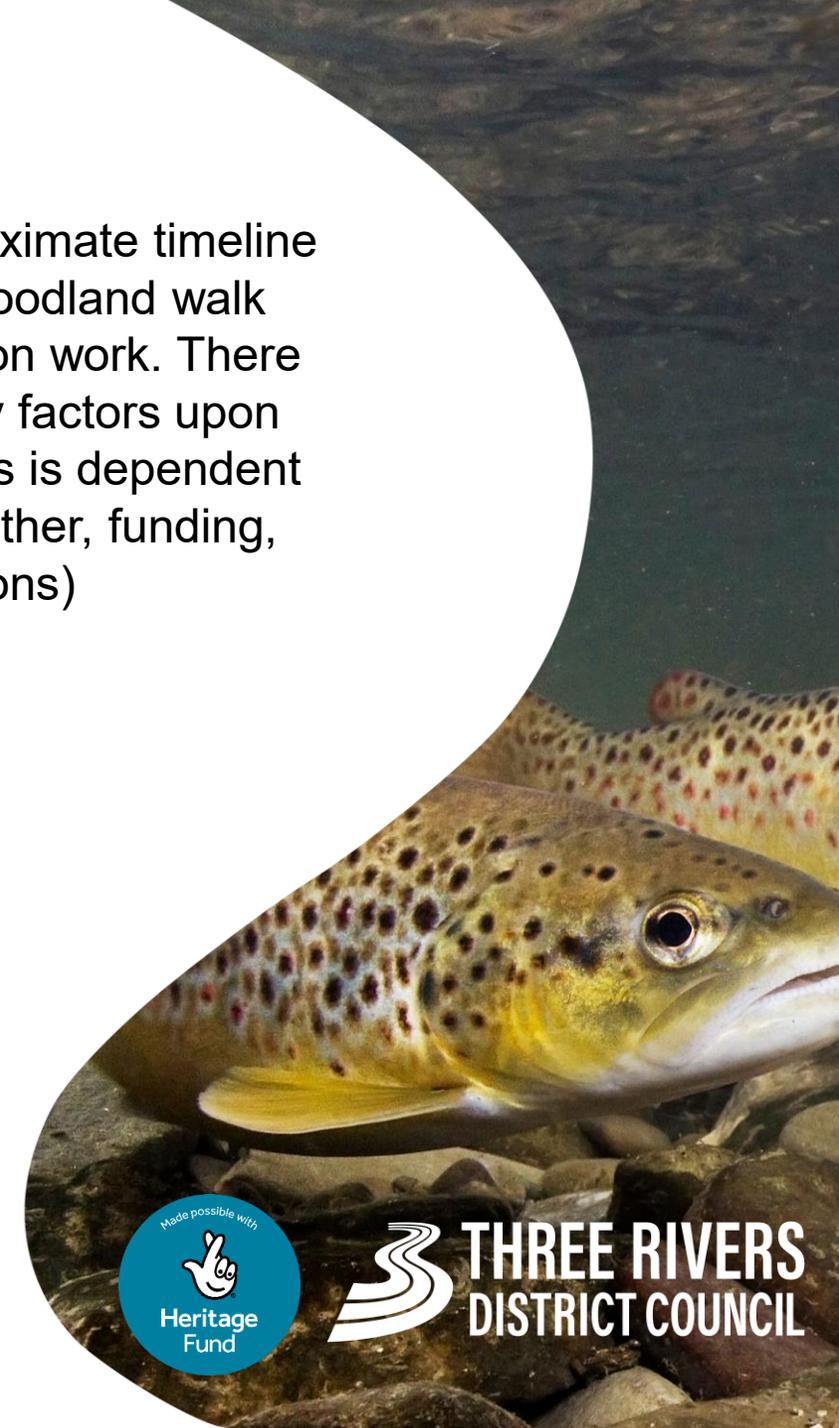
The woodland walk design reflects the outcomes of the hydrological study and ecological baseline (2024). It includes raised boardwalks above wetter ground with short sections of retained/improved sealed surfaces in drier areas. The design includes occasional resting spots along the woodland walk with seating.



## Nature – Woodland Walk

Approximate Date	Progress
March 2024	Hydrological Study commenced
October 2025	Environment Agency Upper Colne Model received
December 2025	Hydrology Data collection & testing completed
January 2026	Concept designs
February 2026	Hydrological Study complete
May 2026	Detailed designs complete
May/June 2026	Required consents sought (Planning & EA FRAP)
August 2026	NLHF Development Phase complete
November 2026	NLHF Delivery Phase Application submitted
January – March 2027	Procurement
March/April 2027	Funding Outcome & if successful contract award
April 2027	Work commences on site
Autumn 2027	Anticipated completion

An approximate timeline for the woodland walk completion work. There are many factors upon which this is dependent (e.g. weather, funding, permissions)



## Nature - Pinetum

The pinetum will provide an inclusive access via a raised boardwalk that will remain open during flood events. The boardwalk will widen at intervals for seating and will include information boards celebrating the natural heritage of the area.



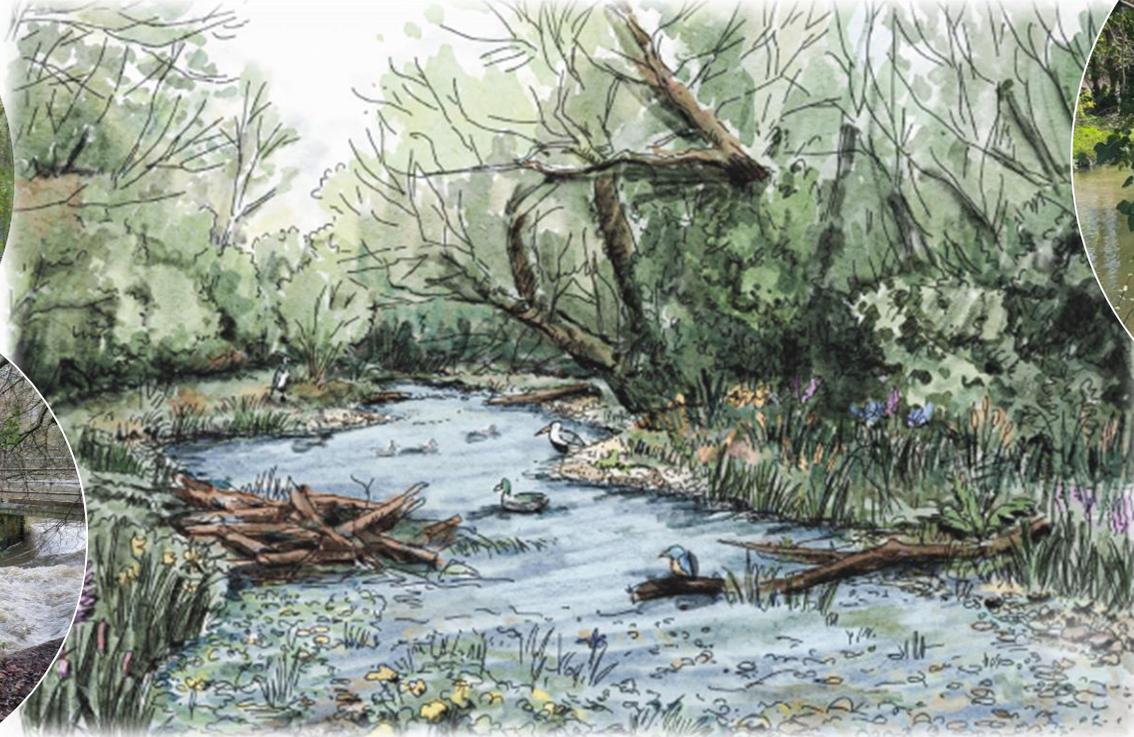
## Nature – The Causeway & Western Lake Edge

Raise the path between Bury Lake and Stocker's Lake to maintain year-round, step-free access. Replace eroded viewpoints with robust rest platforms and new seating, taking cues from recent fishing platforms but focused on respite rather than angling, alongside sympathetic bank restoration along lake edges.



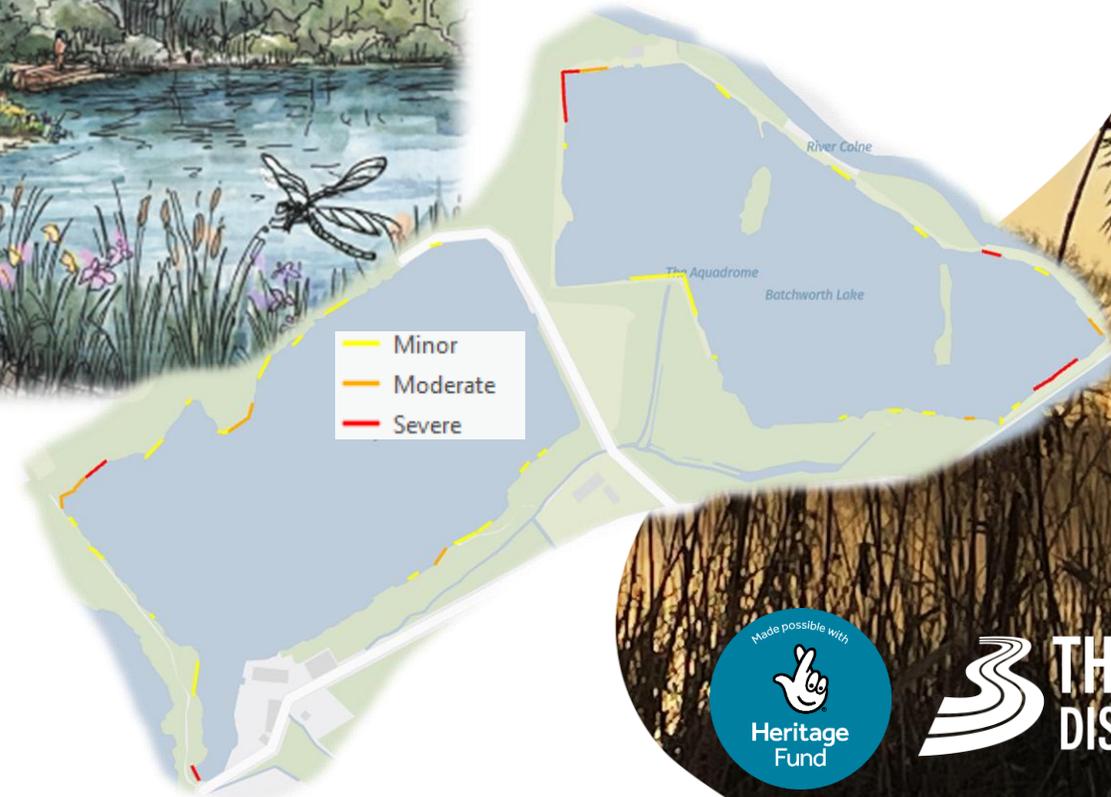
## Nature – River Restoration

Restore a more natural flow regime, improve water quality and fish passage, and reduce maintenance requirements. Bank repairs and in-channel features will stabilise edges and enhance habitat complexity.

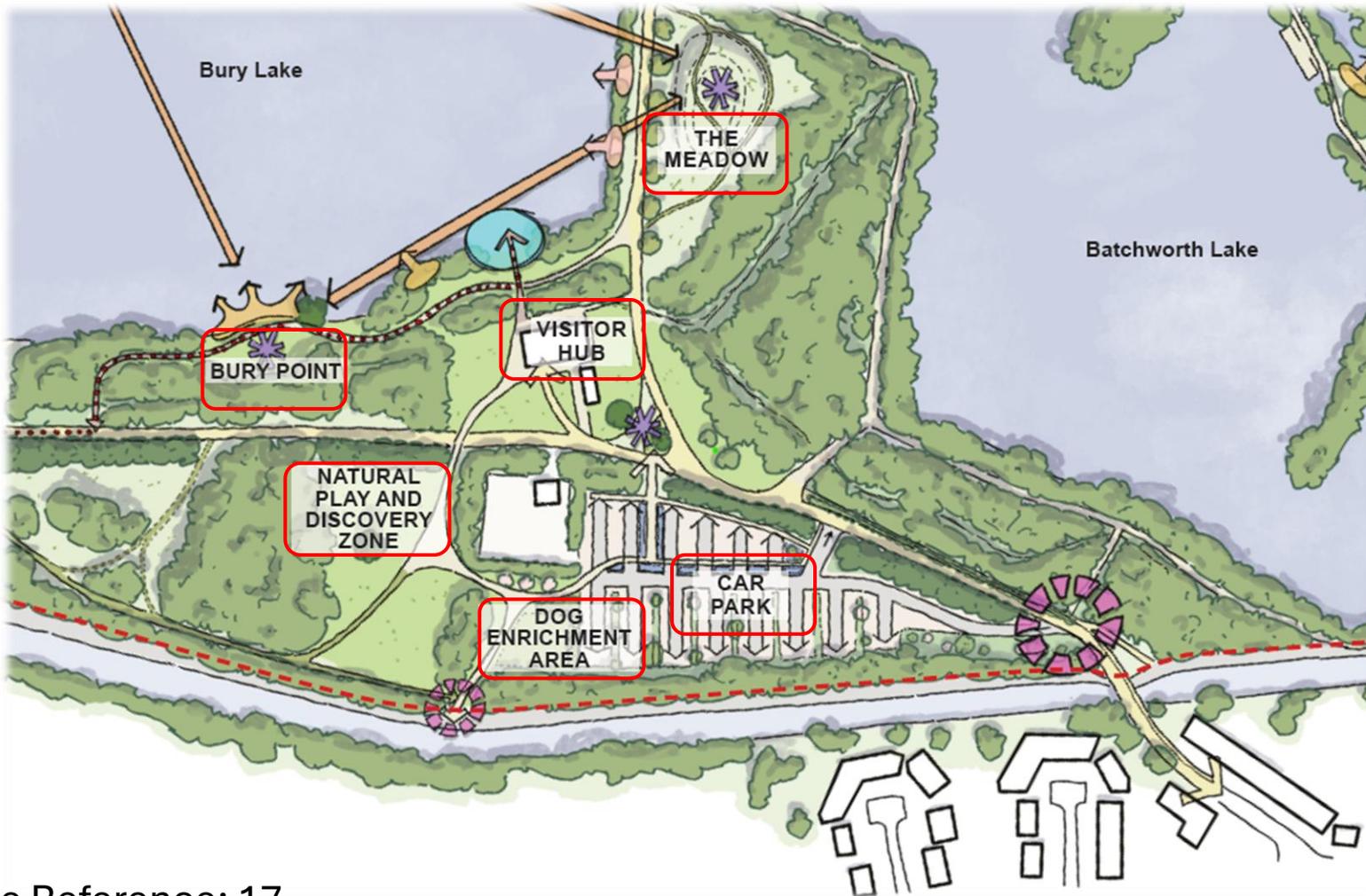


# Nature – Lake Edge Management

Lake-edge works to stabilise the banks, mitigate future erosion and create habitat. Bank works will create marginal benches and reed fringes dissipating energy protecting the banks as a self-sustaining nature-based solution.



# Concept Masterplan – People and Place



-  **Nature**
-  **People**
-  **Place**



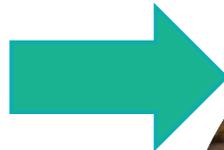
## People & Place – Visitor Hub

The proposals will create a welcoming lakeside picnic terrace with new bridge crossing from the café and footpath access along Bury Lake. A modest bird-viewing platform, akin to the new platform overlooking Batchworth Lake, will frame safe, elevated views while protecting marginal habitats.



## People & Place – Bury Point

Rationalise seating and introduce a restrained surfacing palette for inclusive access. A new, semi-enclosed shelter offering prospect and refuge will form a focal point, including memorial options with vantage points around Bury Lake. A robust edge platform will provide space for model boating and quiet dwelling, alongside sensitive bank improvements.



## People & Place – The Meadow

A gently undulating floodplain landscape that balances water storage with ecology, new habitat creation and everyday access and amenity. Broad grass swathes and wildflower meadow offer informal recreation, picnicking and quiet dwelling with long views across the lakes. A heritage-informed sculptural marker anchors the centre of the Site, acting as a landmark and meeting point.



## People & Place – Natural Play & Discovery Zone

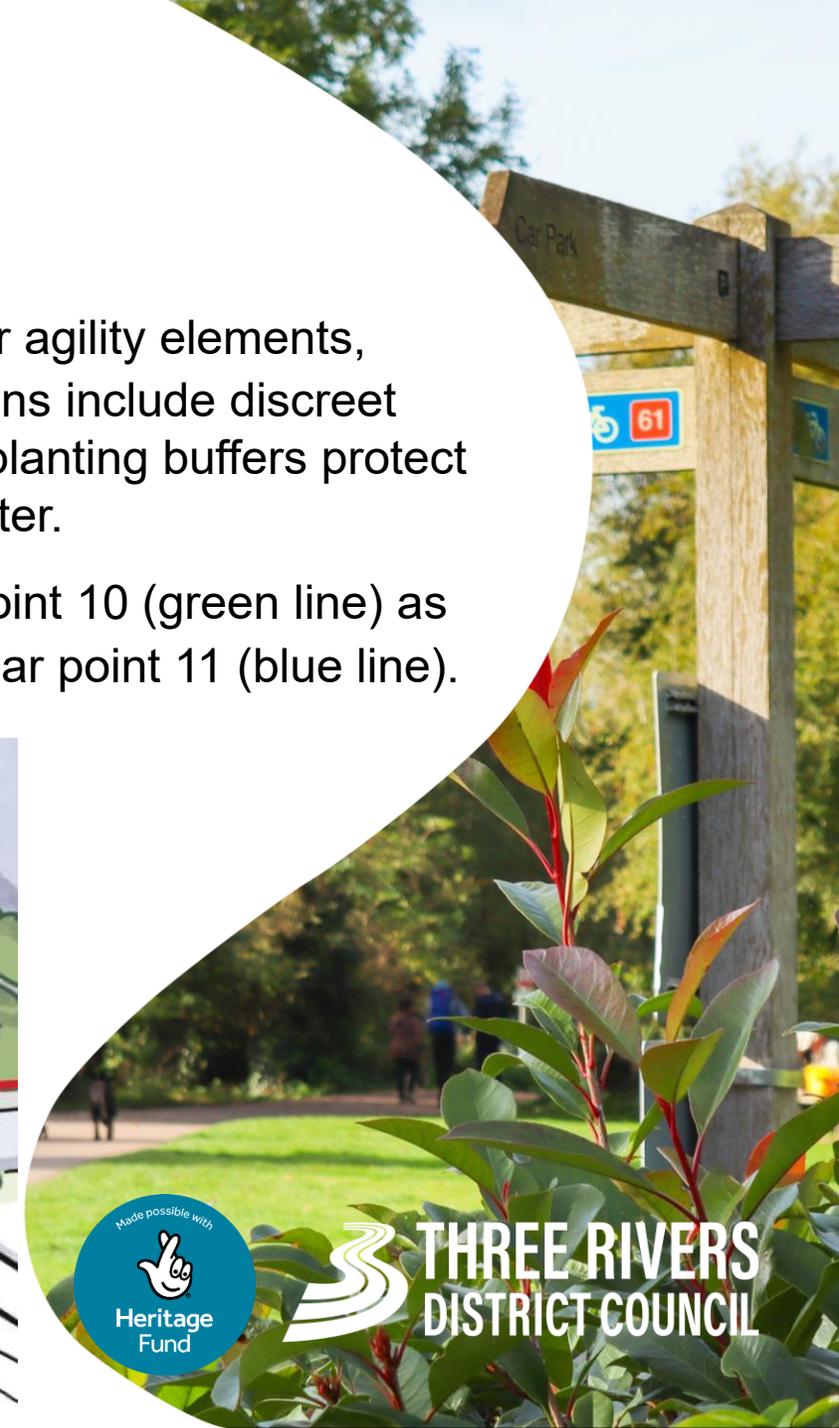
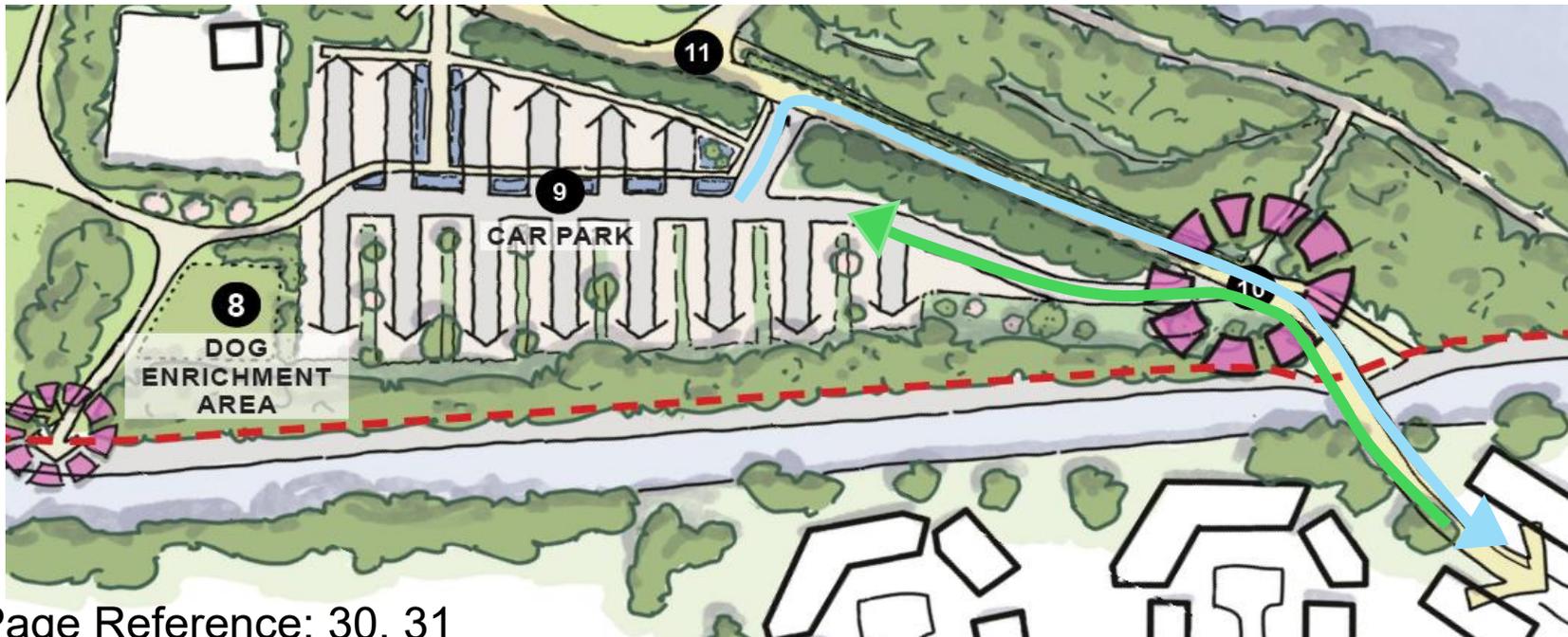
Create a dog-free, nature-led playful area with picnic tables and shaded seating. The space will include provision of a new access path from the canal as the main route to the Visitor Hub (bypassing the car park). The space will incorporate natural play features (low mounds, stepping and balancing logs) preferably sourced on Site.



## People & Place

**Dog Enrichment Area** providing a secure off-lead zone with simple timber agility elements, seating and bins to support longer stays and positive social interaction. Designs include discreet boundaries and clear etiquette signage support safety. Native or naturalised planting buffers protect sensitive habitats, reducing conflicts while retaining a natural, low-key character.

**Car Park** improvements consider a one-way system, with cars entering at point 10 (green line) as they come over the bridge and exiting from the existing entrance/exit point near point 11 (blue line).



# People & Place– Accessibility Audit Outcomes

The Aquadrome is an inviting space for people with a variety of disabilities and needs. Its offer includes good accessible car parking, a relatively flat terrain with good quality pathways around the site's two large lakes offering access to nature.

The audit, conducted by Inclusion and Accessibility UK, outlined a number of areas for improvement:

- Information at the visitor hub to be provided in many formats (written, audio and tactile)
- Improved signage, wayfinding & interpretation
- All boardwalks to include handrails and a tapping rail for mobility canes
- Consider introducing a Changing Places facility
- Improved seating to allow easy transfer and use
- Promoting the accessibility of the site within the website & across social media
- Promote the Aquadrome as an accessible site across national networks
- Increase locations for opportunities to shelter in inclement weather
- Parking – increase in the number of disabled parking

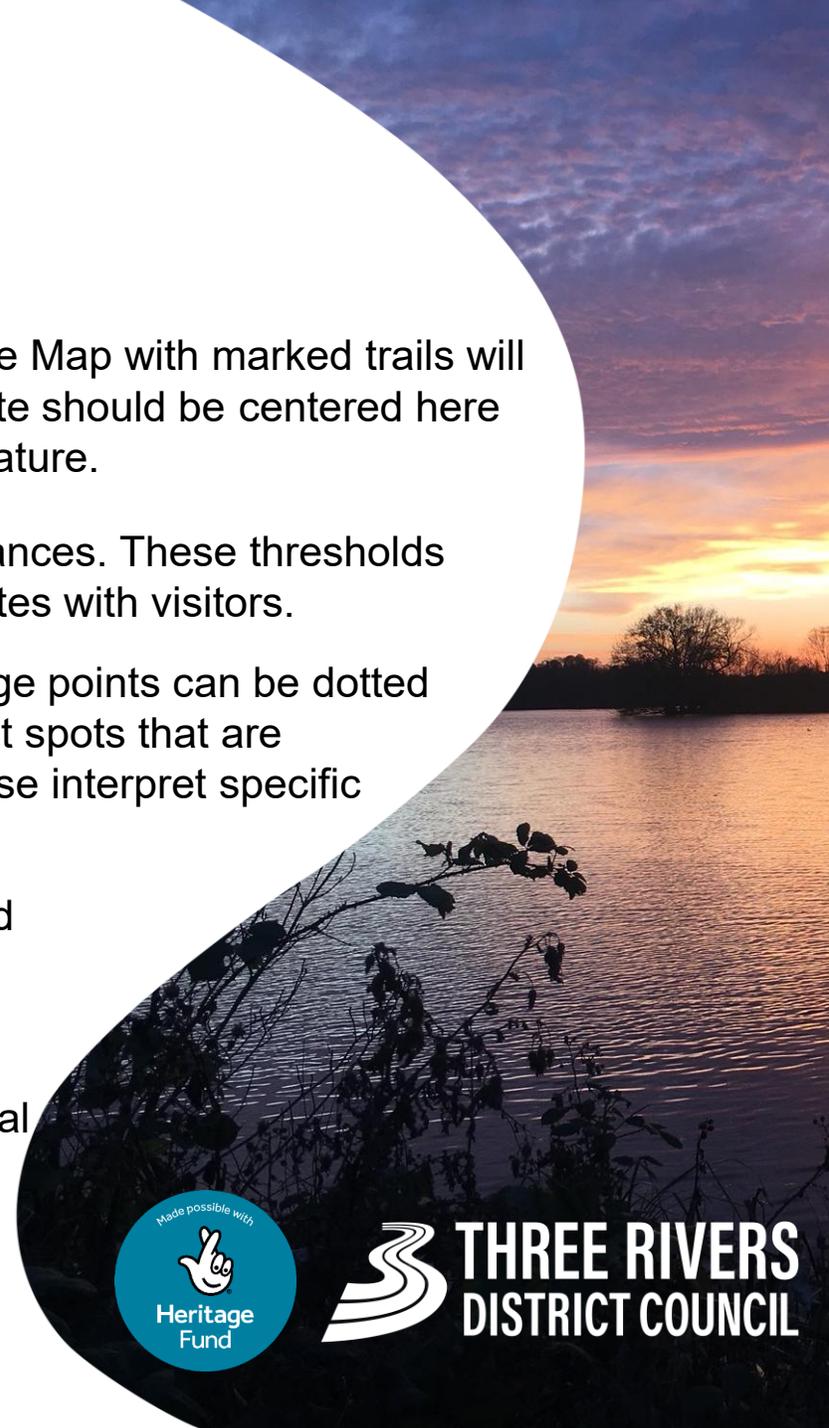


# Story Mapping

-  **Main Site Interpretation:** Areas where most people will start their visit. A clear Site Map with marked trails will allow visitors to orient themselves and plan their visit. Interpretation about the Site should be centered here allowing people to get an overview of what the Site has to offer, its history and nature.
-  **Gateway Signage:** Visitors can arrive at Rickmansworth Aquadrome via six entrances. These thresholds are important arrival points and set the tone for how the Aquadrome communicates with visitors.



-  A series of interpretive signage points can be dotted around the main pathways, at spots that are accessible to all visitors. These interpret specific views or interest points.
-  Within the more informal, wild areas of the Aquadrome, signage should be playful without interpretive texts. These will relate to the Natural Rickmansworth theme. They will invite visitors to use their senses and be more present in the natural settings.



## Art Trail

Within the more informal, wild areas of the Aquadrome, it is proposed to include site-specific art installations and interpretive signage to encourage visitors to experience the Aquadrome from new perspectives.

These will relate to the Natural Rickmansworth theme and highlight the different species, plant details, or mythical nature stories. They will invite visitors, young and old, to use their senses and be more present in the natural settings, including encouraging visitors to look up high into the trees, look down to woodland soil to spot insects, touch moss or bark, smell wildflowers, or listen to bird songs. The trail will be developed in collaboration with the local community and with local writers/artists and integrated into the activity plan that will be delivered during “Delivery Phase”.



## Next Steps - Engagement

- Weekly drop-in sessions with the Aquadrome Community Engagement Officer – Marcus Day
- Public Engagement: 11 February 2026 – Monday 16 March 2026
  - Online through the Have Your Say Platform
  - In person drop in event – Saturday 7 March 2026 at Rickmansworth Aquadrome
- Engagement meeting with Site Stakeholders, including BLYM, Rickmansworth Waterski Club, Uxbridge Rovers Angling and Conservation Society, Parkrun and Cafe in the Park: Wednesday 25 February 2026
- Steering Group Meeting: Wednesday 11 March 2026
- Letters will be sent to properties bordering the River Colne inviting them to take part
- Engagement will be publicised across the website, social media, in My Ricky News and on-site notices.



## Next Project Milestones – NLHF Dictated

- Flood Risk Activity Permit Submissions: **April 2026**
- RIBA Stage 3 Visitor and Welcome Hub detailed designs: **April 2026**
- RIBA Stage 3 Masterplan and Landscape Design Package – planning submission documentation: **May 2026**
- RIBA Stage 3 Hydrological Detailed Designs: **May 2026**
- Tree and Vegetation Strategy and Action Plan, including any capital works specifications: **June 2026**
- RIBA Stage 4 tender packages: **July 2026**
- Updated Rickmansworth Aquadrome Management and Conservation Plan, including future Maintenance of the site: **August 2026**
- Development Phase review with the National Lottery Heritage Fund: **July 2026**
- Development Phase Completion: **August 2026**
- Delivery Phase Funding Application Submission: **November 2026**
  - Approx. £5million – all packages included to increase chances of success
- Outcome of Delivery Phase Funding Application: **March 2027**
- Capital Works on site: from **April 2027**
- Delivery Phase completion: **March 2030**



Thank you for your continued support and we welcome any questions

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