



Rickmansworth
Aquadrome

Public Engagement Session
Wednesday 16th September



Overview

1. Information that Informed the Design
2. Summary of capital works and designs
3. Activity Plan
4. Interpretation and Communication
5. Consultation and Engagement
6. Next Steps



Welcome

Thank you and welcome to everyone who has taken the time to join us either in person or online.

To begin, we felt it is important to remind everyone about the vision for the Aquadrome, the priorities and what we hope to achieve through this project:

Vision:

'For the Aquadrome to be enhanced, nurtured, and protected. To achieve a balance so nature can flourish, and visitors can connect with and discover beautiful and unique habitats whilst understanding the importance of the environmental heritage of the site.'

Priorities:

- enriching biodiversity and sustainability
- understanding and managing the risks of flooding
- improving accessibility throughout the site
- creating an engaging, but sensitive site identity, with improved signage and interpretation

The Aquadrome has given us so much across the generations. By working together to enhance the Aquadrome's waters, wetlands and walkways, we can **restore** and **protect** its legacy for now and the future.

Every decision and every proposed addition to the site has all been made with this vision and these priorities in mind. The council is committed to ensuring **wildlife and people** benefit. That we protect the site's **natural and social heritage** and celebrate having unique and rare landscapes, such as a chalk stream and wet woodland on the fringe of an urban area.

This project will aim to secure approximately **£5 million** from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



Rickmansworth
Aquadrome

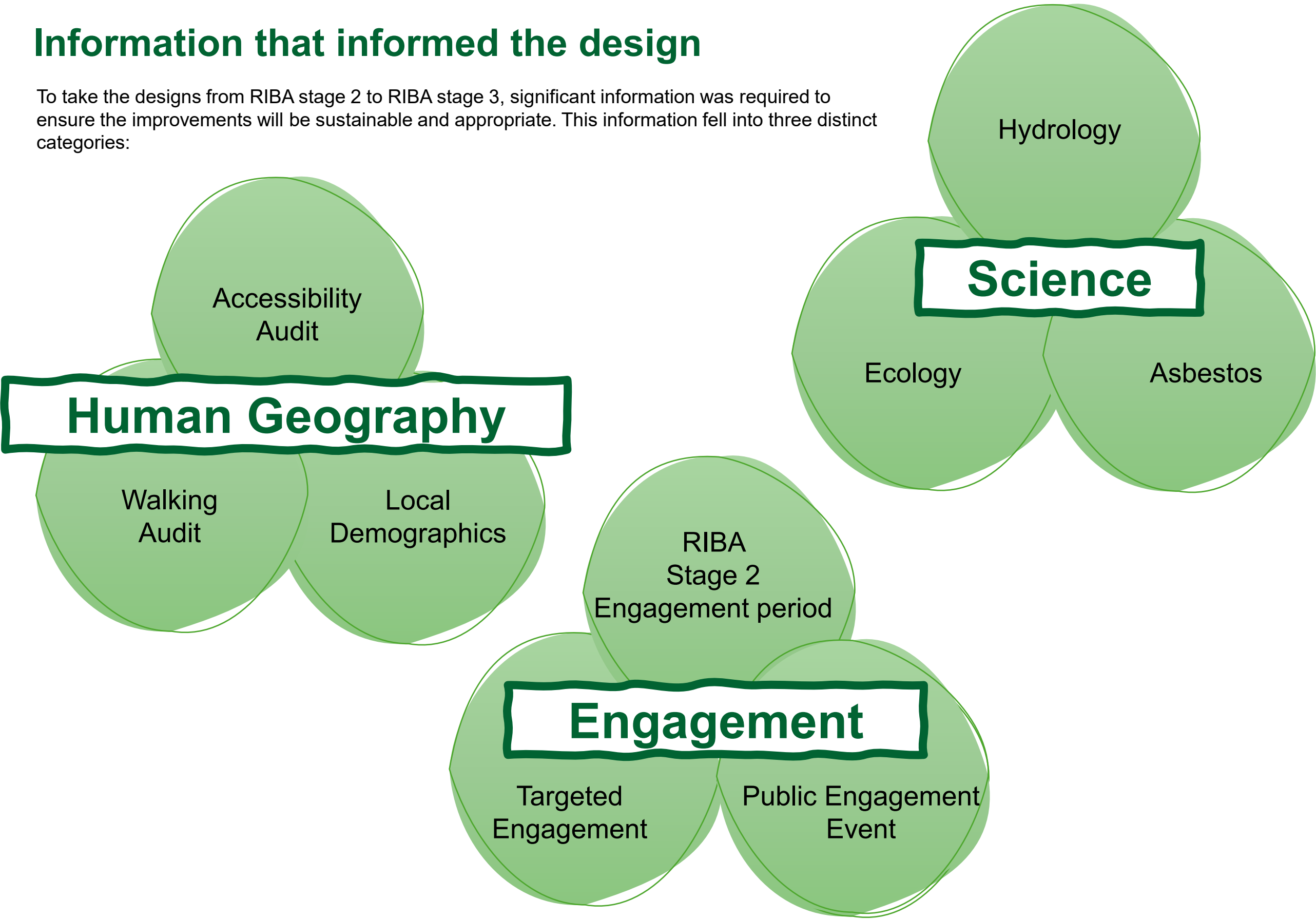
1. Information that Informed the Design



**THREE RIVERS
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Information that informed the design

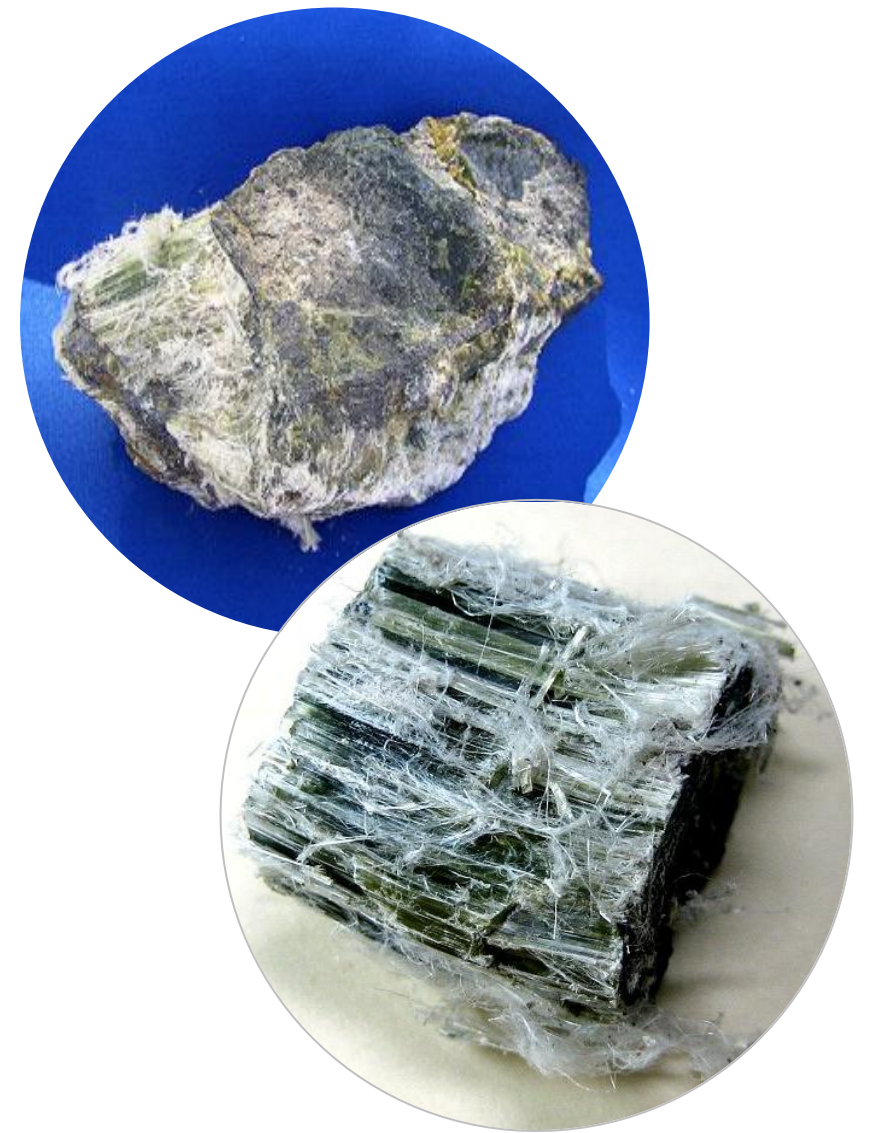
To take the designs from RIBA stage 2 to RIBA stage 3, significant information was required to ensure the improvements will be sustainable and appropriate. This information fell into three distinct categories:



Asbestos – an introduction

Types of Asbestos

- There are three common types of commercially used asbestos fibres (two mineral groups):
- **Serpentines** (curly fibres)
 - **Chrysotile** (white)
- **Amphiboles** (needle-like fibres)
 - **Amosite** (brown) is an acronym correct geological term is 'Fibrous Grunerite'
 - **Crocidolite** (blue)
- *Fibrous Anthophyllite, Actinolite, Tremolite (no significant commercial use)*



Friability

- The tendency of a solid substance to break into smaller pieces under duress or contact
- Risk from a particular asbestos containing material is dependent on the ease in which fibres are released into the air
- Varies with each asbestos product and condition
- Greater tendency to release fibres results in greater risk

Relative Risk of ACMs

- Some materials pose more of a risk than others and this depends on how easy it is for the fibres to be released from the material into the air, so an individual could then breathe the fibres in
- Reflected in the legislation – higher risk materials can usually only be worked on by licensed asbestos contractors

Asbestos – Duty to Manage

Regulation 4 – ‘The Duty to Manage’

- The duty comprises:
 - Identifying where asbestos is on the premises (carrying out an asbestos survey)
 - Assessing the risk that these materials pose
 - Preparing and implementing a written plan to manage the risk
 - Ensuring identified asbestos materials are kept in good repair
 - Ensure remedial actions are taking as necessary, such as repair, encapsulate, remove
 - Ensuring all maintenance and construction works are controlled
 - Ensuring information is provided to those who require it
 - Putting in place procedures for incidents and emergencies

Regulation 4 – ‘The Duty to Manage’ – Aquadrome Asbestos Management Plan

- Factual site management document in line with Control of Asbestos Regulations.
- “No dig” policy – however, digging can take place subject to mitigation in line with the management plan e.g. RAMS.
- The safety concern arises not simply from the presence of asbestos but whether it is disturbed or not and the type of asbestos found.
- The Aquadrome Asbestos Management Plan has been prepared with consideration to how the Aquadrome is used and enjoyed, and the actions required to manage the risk of asbestos on the site are proportional and sensible measures to keep people safe and allow them to enjoy the activities that they always have.
- National Lottery Heritage Fund project allowed for further investigations into the presence of asbestos in order to reduce the risk during capital works in delivery phase.

Asbestos – Development Phase Investigations

Investigative work to understand the potential presence of asbestos at key locations as part of the project plans for infrastructure improvements have been conducted.

The site investigations comprised of:

- 36 hand dug trial pits at a maximum depth of 1.2m
- Cone penetration testing at 14 locations to a maximum depth of 10mbelow ground level

The ground investigations and associated site walkovers identified 10 new Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM's) locations. One high risk, two medium risk and seven low risk areas were identified, of which four, including the high and a medium risk location, are within the vicinity of the Woodland Walk. The specialist consultants have recommended that access to this area remains restricted. A surface pick of the ACMs was commissioned and took place over a two-week period in April and May 2026.

Details of all newly identified ACM locations where they are located in proximity to any of the planned capital delivery works, will be incorporated within the tender specifications and contractor work under the Aquadrome Asbestos Management Plan.



Site investigation locations for Trial Pits and Cone Penetration Testing

For more information on asbestos please see the Aquadrome webpage for the [Asbestos Management Plan](#).



Example equipment used for the Cone penetration testing (left) and asbestos waste discovered in the wet woodland (right)

Asbestos - Remediation

- *High risk asbestos* – i.e. asbestos which is licensable and has a high friability was identified within the proximity of the woodland walk
- Specialist advice to keep this area closed to the public
- Options were considered including complete removal, encapsulating and restricting access
 - Complete removal was financially unviable
 - Encapsulating would not work – ground disturbance and flooding would continually expose the high-risk asbestos. Due to the proximity to the chalk stream, the area could not be tarmacked – this would also not be suitable environmentally.
 - Restricting access is the resultant action and permanent fencing will be erected in the autumn
- *Medium risk asbestos* – i.e. lower friability and un-licensable was identified within the proximity (scrub area) of the access to the canal.
- Options again considered
 - Section will be encapsulated in tarmac to allow continued safe use (not near the chalk stream)
 - Areas will be fenced with a standard 1.2m high bow top fence due to the lower risk and lower public usage
 - Work to take place this autumn.



Example of bow top fencing to be used in the medium risk area



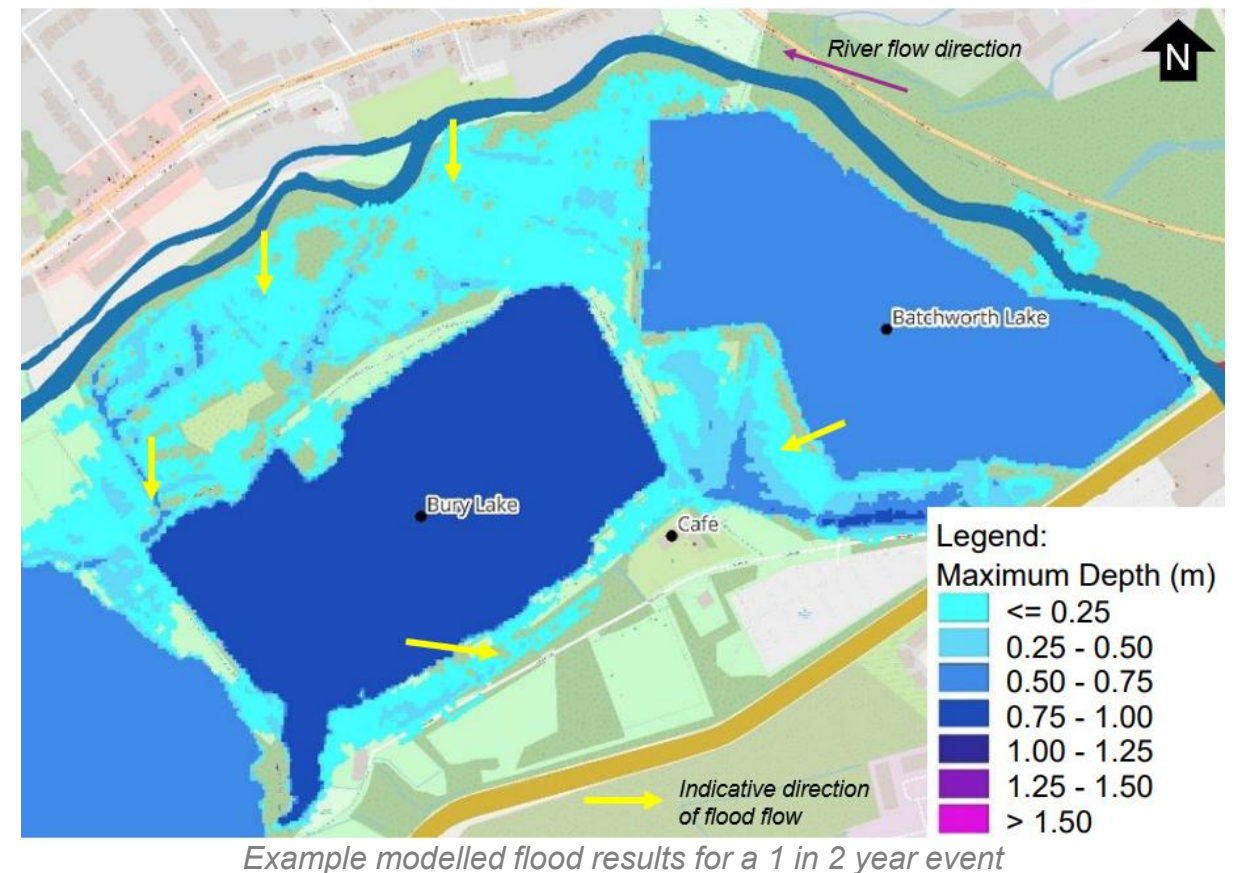
Example of palisade fencing to be used in the high-risk area

The Hydrological Study

The Hydrological Study considered the key complexities of the Rickmansworth area:

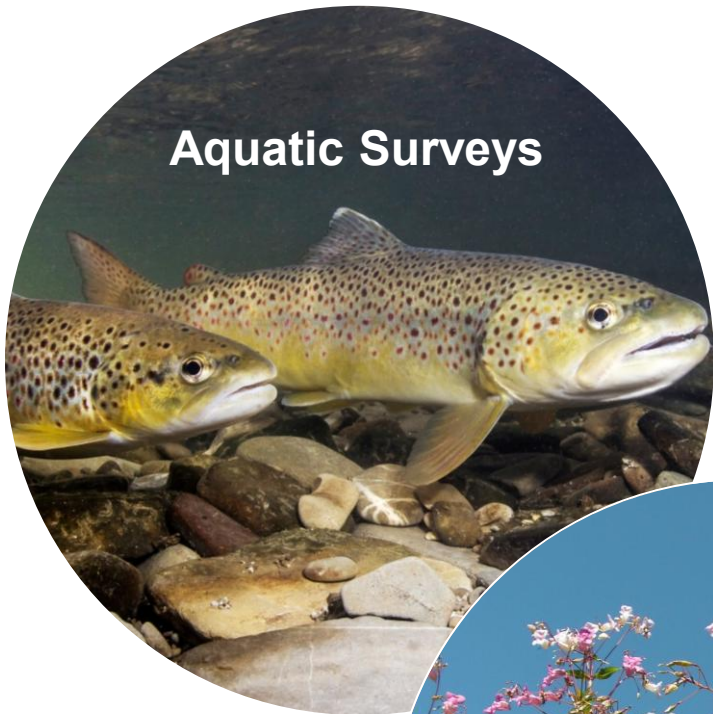
- Complex hydrology that can lead to complicated water level information
- Overland flood water from kilometres upstream
- A mixture of water from the rivers Chess, Colne, Gade and the canal which each have different flows, water levels and interactions
- Overtopping of water from adjacent lakes

Building on this, detailed local information was gathered on the topography (study of forms and features of land surfaces) and bathymetry (study and measurement of underwater depth in lakes, rivers, and oceans) of the Aquadrome. Upon this, flood modelling was conducted using highly technical computer programs to replicate the existing situation. The model was then subjected to a range of flooding scenarios to gain insight into the consequences and how the landscape can be expected to react. The modelling yielded interesting and invaluable information on the anticipated extent of future flooding – this has directly fed into and strongly influenced the design process.



For more information on Hydrology please see the Aquadrome Project webpage for the [Hydrological Summary](#).

Ecological Assessments



Aquatic Surveys



Invasive Non-Native Species



Protected Species

The PEA was conducted using the UK Habitat survey classification which identified four priority habitats within the Aquadrome: **Wet woodland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, eutrophic standing water and rivers**. Once the Aquadrome was surveyed the PEA was able to highlight ecological constraints that works must be aware of along with opportunities for ecological enhancement.



Habitat map of the Aquadrome following UK Hab methodology

For more information on ecology please see the Aquadrome Project webpage for the [Biodiversity Data Hub](#).



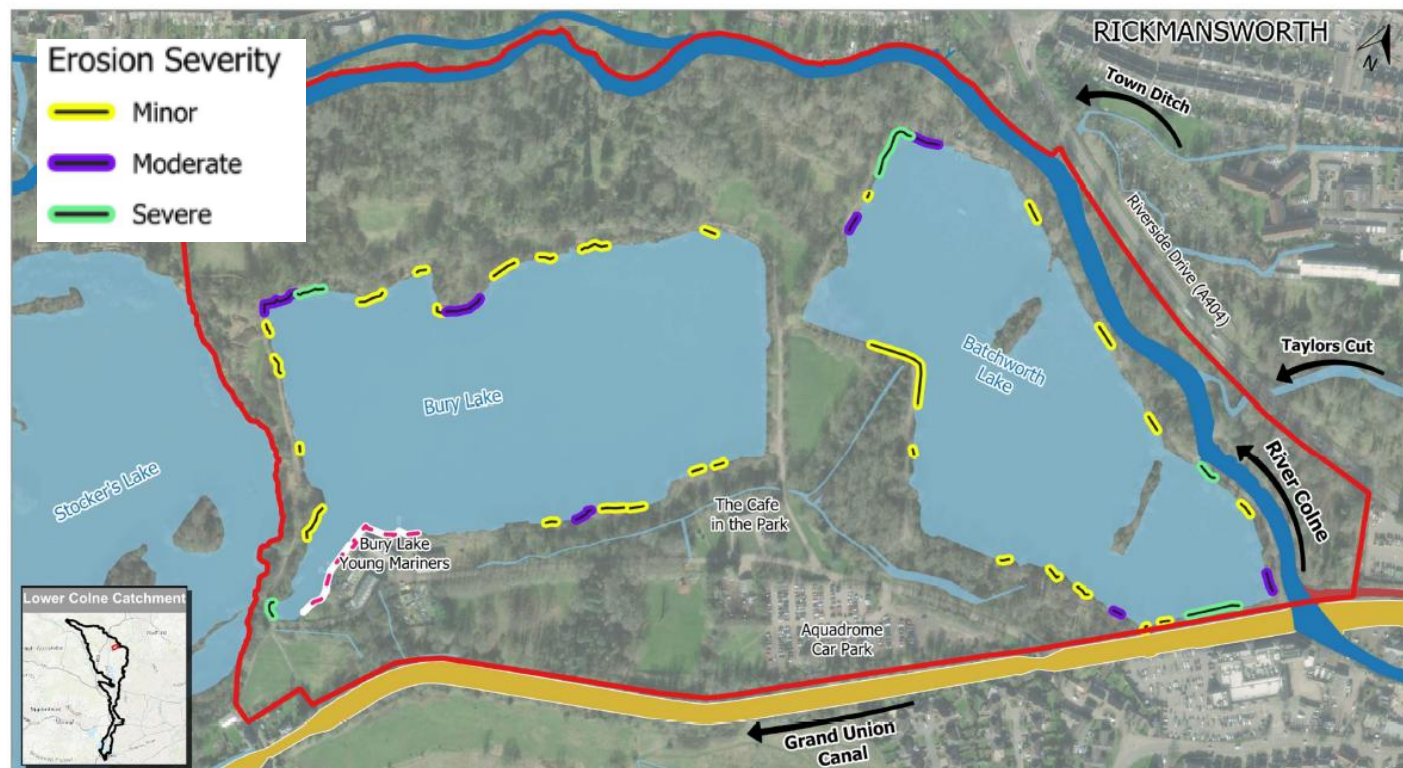
Tree & Vegetation Strategy

The Aquadrome is made up of a mosaic of habitats each requiring individual management. To ensure this management is coordinated throughout the site and pairs well with the improvements planned, a Tree & Vegetation Strategy is in development. This strategy will identify opportunities for habitat improvement and enhancement through a variety of management options.

The Tree & Vegetation Strategy will generate an action plan that can sustainably be delivered to improve the ecological condition.

Some of the habitat management techniques being used include:

- Coppicing
- Pollarding
- Cop-parding
- Scrub Clearance
- Planting
- Dead-wooding
- Crown Reducing
- INNS control
- Tree Felling or Thinning
- Grassland Management
- Wetland Management
- Retention of fallen trees into water



Accessibility

An accessibility audit of the Aquadrome by Access & Inclusion UK was conducted to inform the Landscape and Environmental Design project (the masterplan), focused on accessibility of the aquadrome from pan-disability, neurodiversity and linguistic perspectives. It considered pre-visitor arrival and journey through the Site, wayfinding and digital offering in the context of current best practice for inclusion and accessibility.

Key findings of the audit are summarised below, with many aspects of the Aquadrome's existing offering are very good from an accessibility perspective, including:

- Expansive car park with accessible parking spaces;
- Accessible toilet provision;
- Level access to the principal points of scenic, visual and nature interest via the wide, solid surfaced paths around the lakes;
- Large café with good degree of circulation space.

Areas which offer improvement potential are:

- To increase the number of blue badge spaces in the car park in line with the recommended minimum for recreational and leisure venues (6% of the total complement);
- To provide a Changing Places Toilet on Site;
- To provide multi-format visitor information/interpretive material at the Welcome Hub and throughout the Site, and enhanced signage and wayfinding more generally;
- Accessible play provision in the new play area and for incidental play;
- Provision of shelter for disabled or mobility impaired users;
- Provision of a greater number of accessible fishing pegs.

These findings were further supported by Age Friendly Hertfordshire (Age Concern) who conducted a Walking Audit. They assessed the access from an older persons perspective. Further identifying the main reasons for visiting were for socialising, gentle exercise and time outdoors in nature.

This reinforces the importance of the Aquadrome as a much-loved location for older adults to enjoy health walks, the flat pathways and connect with nature.



Images left to right: two people enjoying the Aquadrome; example tactile map; accessible fishing swim

To view the Accessibility Audit please see the Aquadrome Project webpage on [The story so far](#)

RIBA Engagement



RIBA Stage 2 Engagement Period

RIBA Stage 2 public engagement ran from 12 February 2026 to 17 March 2026.

- There were 157 responses to the online survey, 1635 people viewing the web pages and over 600 document downloads.
- Also conducted online engagement, community engagement event and targeted engagement (including with the steering group, Environment Agency, user forum and neighbouring residents).
- Direct correspondence was received from a group of local residents with feedback on the proposals.

Public Engagement Event

A community drop-in session was held at the Aquadrome on 7th March 2026 to present the masterplan and emerging RIBA Stage 2 / 3 designs along with the proposed themes for the interpretive, storytelling and wayfinding approach.

- Staffed by representatives from Three Rivers, Countryside Management Service and the RSK design team developing the project for both the Planning Application and The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant application.

Feedback was gathered via:

- informal discussion sessions on the day
- Through the Councils 'Have Your Say' web page where the online survey for RIBA Stage 2 masterplan was also hosted. This enabled respondents to comment in greater detail.

Upwards of 160 people attended the drop-in session, with approximately 30-40 people spending 30 minutes or more discussing the plans in detail with experts. A total of 80 people actively participated in the interactive engagement activity, prioritising interpretation themes and key wildlife and heritage features.

Several residents with property backing onto the River Colne attended the session to discuss river restoration proposals.



Images from the Engagement event on 7th March



Rickmansworth
Aquadrome

2. Summary of Capital Works



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RIBA 3: The Masterplan



Figure 13 Masterplan

RIBA 3: Car Park

Current Situation	The carpark experiences significant surface water flooding often resulting in large puddles reducing the opportunity for parking. In contrast, during the summer, the carpark often reaches capacity. The limited direction within the carpark carries the risk of accidents between cars or with pedestrians.
What the science says	The accessibility audit highlighted there are insufficient disabled parking bays and that the ones present are not the correct dimensions. Through engagement, 68% of respondents supported the carpark improvements including provision for a one-way system. Opportunities for maximising the space within the carpark were also realised through the tree and vegetation strategy to reduce some of the scrub encroachment. The one-way system was also subjected to swept-path analysis to ensure easy vehicle movement around the one-way system and into the Grounds Maintenance depot for staff. Due to the known presence of asbestos, opportunities to delineate the carpark may use bunds with trees or vegetation also increasing opportunities for shade and wildlife.
Design Outcome	The RIBA stage 3 carpark design includes a one-way system where access is directly from Frogmore Bridge, and the exit follows the existing access route. Within the carpark vegetation management has increased the capacity of the carpark and to mitigate some of the lost habitat, bunds will be used to delineate rows. There is provision for a greater number of disabled parking spaces (both for cars and minibuses) of correct dimensions. The access into and out of the Grounds Maintenance depot has been adjusted to reduce the collision risk and there will be clear signage within the carpark directing the visitor into the Aquadrome. Currently there are no plans to charge for car parking.



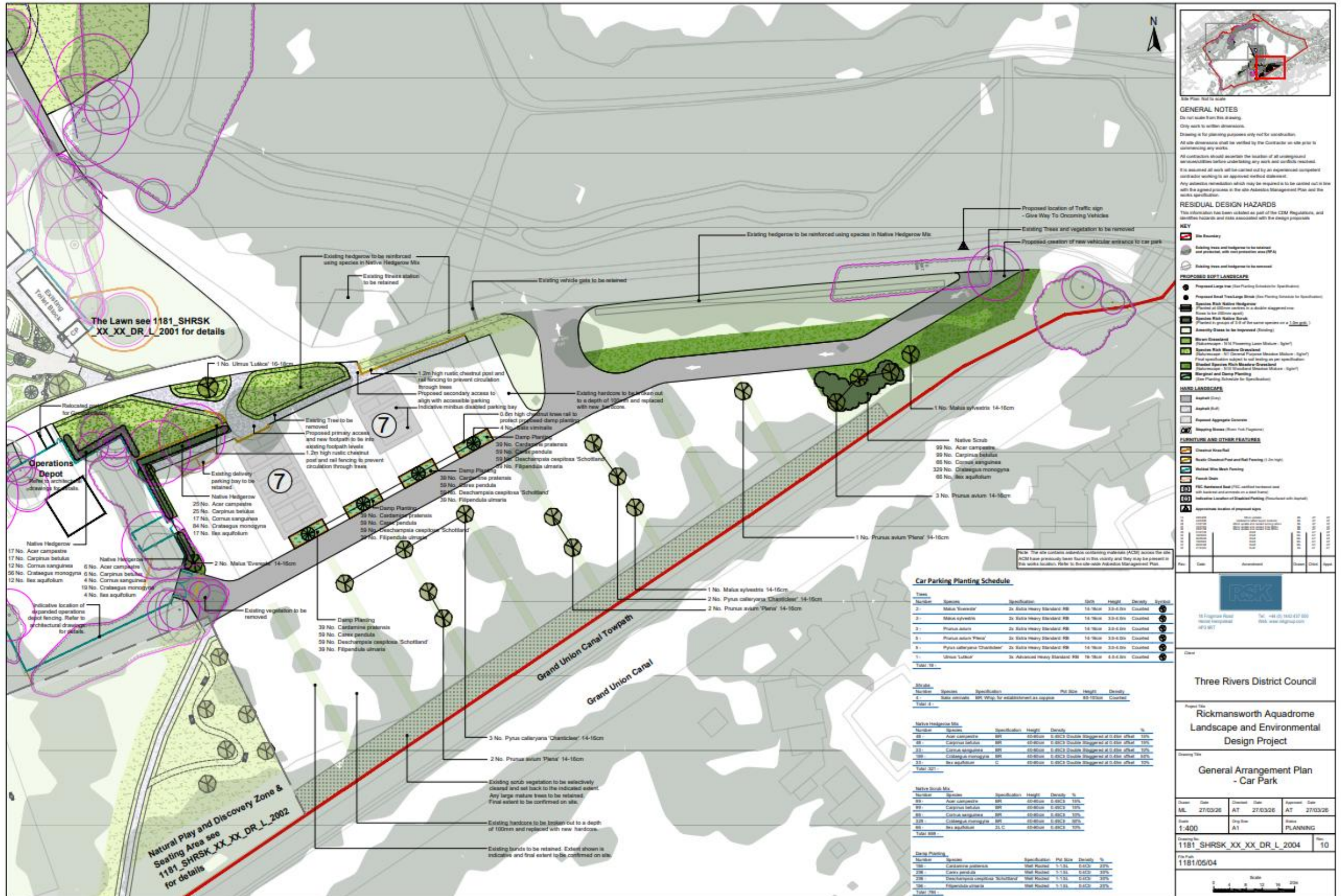
Current condition of the carpark during times of heavy rain.



Current carpark layout; light green polygon highlights space that could be gained.

For more information on the Car Park, please see drawing number 2004.

RIBA 3: Car Park



This proposal will be subject to the outcome of a planning application.

RIBA 3: Visitor Hub & Changing Places Toilet

Current Situation

The current arrival to the Aquadrome lack's identity, there are limited spaces to gather and interpretation is limited.

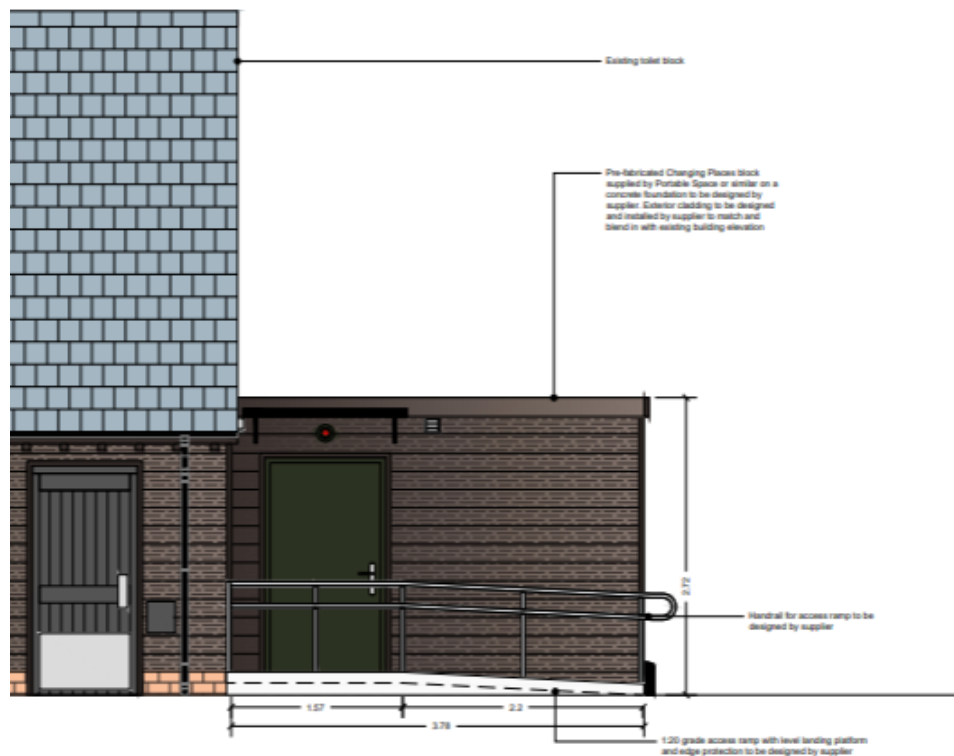
What the science says

Through the public engagement, 67% were very supportive/supportive of the proposed concept plans for the Visitor/Welcome Area. In addition to the main RIBA 2 engagement, 27% of respondents to the Accessibility Survey, identified that having accessible toilets / changing places toilet, would improve their experience of visiting the Aquadrome. Thousands of people with profound and multiple learning disability, as well as other disabilities that severely limit mobility, cannot use standard accessible toilets. These people may need equipment to help them or may need support from one or two carers to either get on the toilet or to have their continence pad changed. Without these, people often get changed on the floor, which is dangerous, unhygienic and undignified. By providing a Changing Places Toilet in the Aquadrome, it will make a dramatic difference to those people who visit the site and desperately need the facilities.

Design Outcome

As a result of the positive engagement, these proposals have been developed further to provide an extensively enhanced seating and welcome area, along with a new Changing Places Toilet.

The main visitor hub will provide a variety of individual and communal seating areas, with raised mounds for informal play and new planting to further enhance the biodiversity of the nature reserve. The layout of this space and the area behind the Café in the Park has been further developed to provide a single bridge over the ditch network and across the area of land next to the Lake. A new pathway will run from the main footpath into Bury Point, before exiting out onto the main avenue leading to Bury Lake Young Mariners. Along this pathway will also include new picnic benches and a bird viewing platform on Bury Lake.



For more information on the Visitor Hub, please see drawing number 2001 and 2009.

RIBA 3: Visitor & Welcome Area



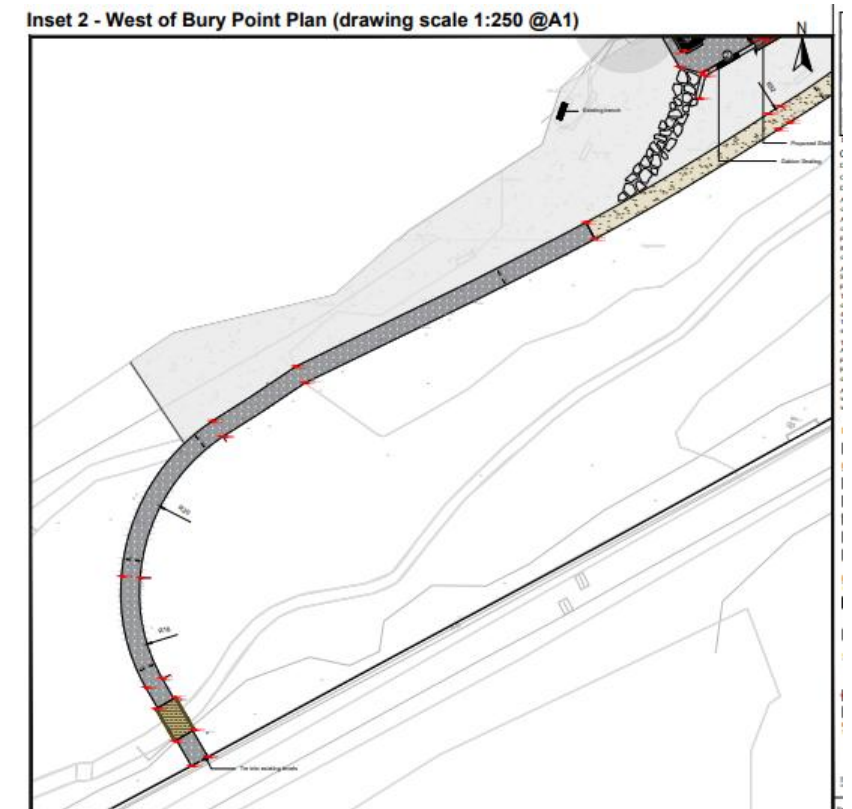
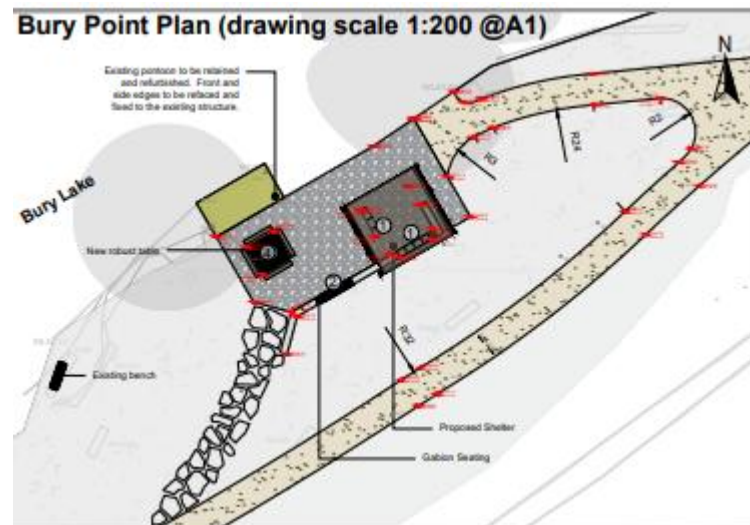
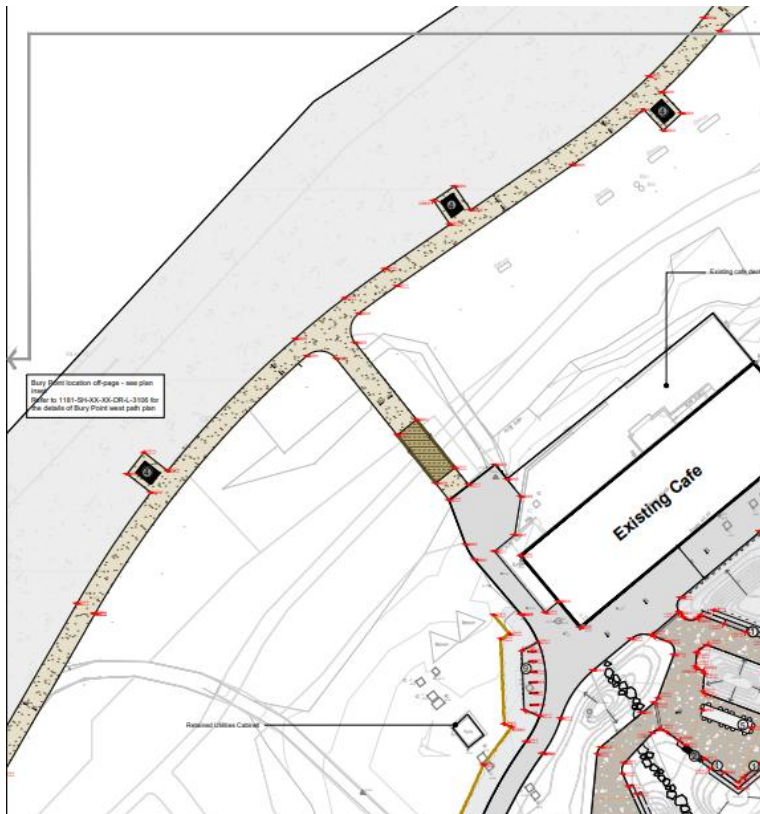
This proposal will be subject to the outcome of a planning application.

RIBA 3: Bury Point

Current Situation This peaceful area of the Aquadrome is difficult to access, especially during wetter weather. It is valued by clubs operating on the lake and holds potential to be a reflective and contemplative space.

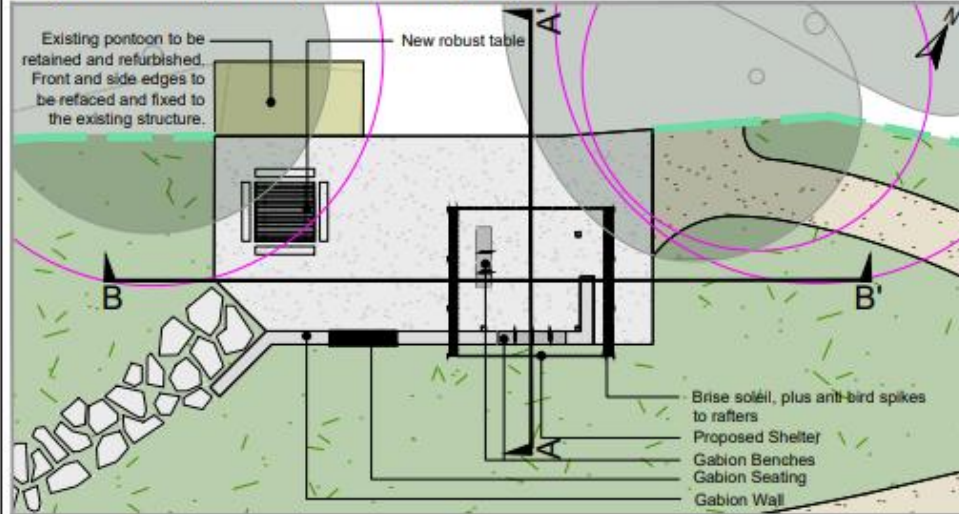
What the science says 70% of respondents to the survey were very supportive/supportive of the indicative proposals to develop a quiet, contemplative area at the newly named, Bury Point.
Bury Point is also home to the Three Rivers Radio Yachting Club, part of Bury Lake Young Mariners. During inclement weather, this group tend to suffer from the elements and as such highlighted the need for an in-keeping shelter. Through engagement, these designs have progressed to provide a small shelter, similar to a small boat shed, with seating that provides opportunities to sit and quietly reflect across Bury Lake.

Design Outcome Through engagement, these designs have progressed to provide a small shelter, similar to a small boat shed, with seating that provides opportunities to sit and quietly reflect across Bury Lake. The structure while open on all sides will provide shelter and is accompanied by a variety of seating including a picnic table and more bespoke seating. The open area will allow the model yachters to prepare their crafts before launching into the water.
Pathways to and from the area will be linked into the main path network providing access in all weathers.

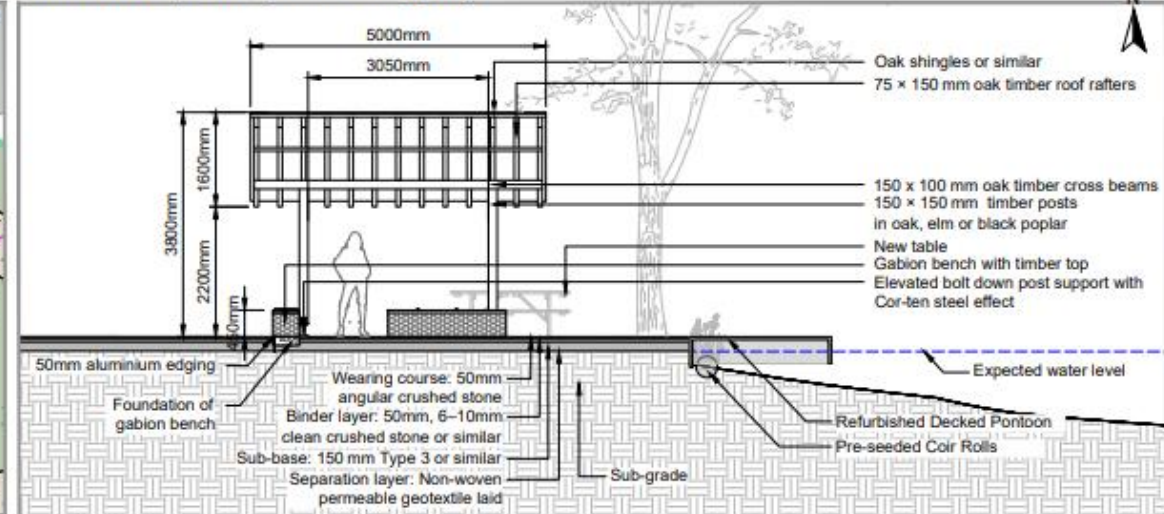


RIBA 3: Bury Point

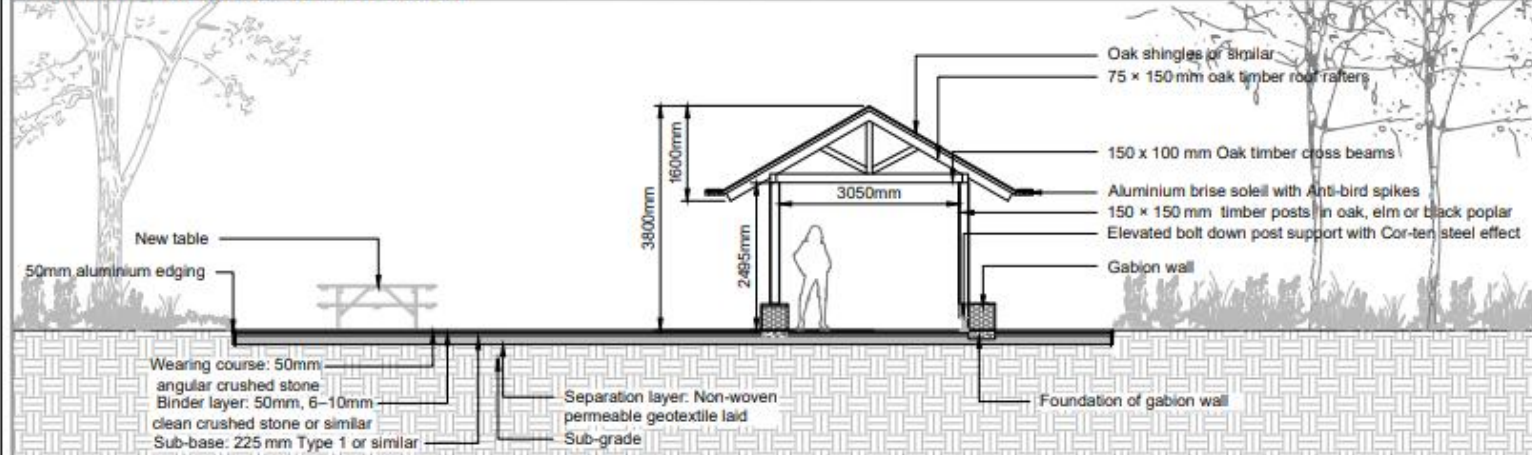
Bury Point Plan (drawing scale 1:100 @A1)



Section A-A' (drawing scale 1:50 @A1)



Section B-B' (drawing scale 1:50 @A1)



Bury Point Proposal

A calm and reflective lakeside place where designed elements are sensitively integrated within the natural context. Through the careful use of a restrained palette of natural materials, the design seeks to harmonise with the existing environment and the distinctive landscape character of the Aquadrome, while framing expansive views across the lake. A semi-open shelter provides both prospect and refuge. The improved edge space supports remote-control boating activity, while generous memorial gabion seating defines an understated and open threshold along the water, invites visitors to pause, engage with the place, and experience moments of quiet contemplation.

Shelter Detail:

The shelter mainly adopts the longevity of an oak timber frame with a simple gable form, emphasising openness and permeability, as well as a built form which sits low to the water's edge and recalls a boat house architectural idiom. The timber weathers naturally to a soft grey, blending with the surrounding woodland. Selective use of Cor-ten steel effect introduces subtle contrast and depth, and recalls the existing design language at the site.

Gabion Seating Detail:

Place gabion seating beneath the shelter and extend to edge space, serving functional and commemorative roles to encourage pause and reflection.

The below images illustrate potential forms for gabion seating and memorial elements that would be appropriate for use on site.

Sketch Visualisation



This proposal will be subject to the outcome of a planning application.

RIBA 3: Natural Play & Discovery Zone

Current Situation	Within the dog-free picnic area there are limited opportunities for play and the large veteran oak trees are impacted due to impaction of their roots. There is also conflict surrounding dog behaviour to wildlife, fellow dogs and people.
What the science says	<u>Natural Play</u>: 69% of respondents to the engagement exercise showed support for the natural play and discovery zone plans which was therefore progressed to RIBA Stage 3. A root protection assessment was conducted on the veteran oak tree which created a root protection area and proposed the location of a fenceline to protect the tree. <u>Dog Enrichment Area</u>: Within the RIBA 2 plans there was provision for a Dog Enrichment area which would be a designated enclosed space to safely exercise dogs. Following the engagement period, it was deemed that the dog enrichment area would not be progressed. Principally this was due to very limited support for this element; comments included “I support the design except for the dog enrichment area” and “We do not need a dog enrichment area.” Also, during the asbestos investigative work, the area proposed was learned to be a particular hotspot for asbestos. When paired with the limited support for the scheme, this reduced its viability.
Design Outcome	<u>Natural Play</u>: The natural play features are placed to expand the current play offer with a natural style fence around the veteran tree for its protection. <u>Dog Enrichment Area</u>: Many were passionate about retaining the ability for dogs to walk off lead through the site; whereas others were concerned about dog conflict with wildlife, other dogs and people. In addition to comments about dog fouling and acknowledging that there are many responsible dog owners who utilise the Aquadrome; the opportunities for increased engagement with dog owners has been included within the Activity Plan for the Aquadrome Project. This would encourage responsible dog ownership through picking up and disposing of dog waste, preventing dogs from bothering wildlife and keeping dogs under close control. The aim of this will be to protect wildlife, ensure dogs are able to safely exercise within the Aquadrome and so that both dog owners and those without dogs can enjoy the site.

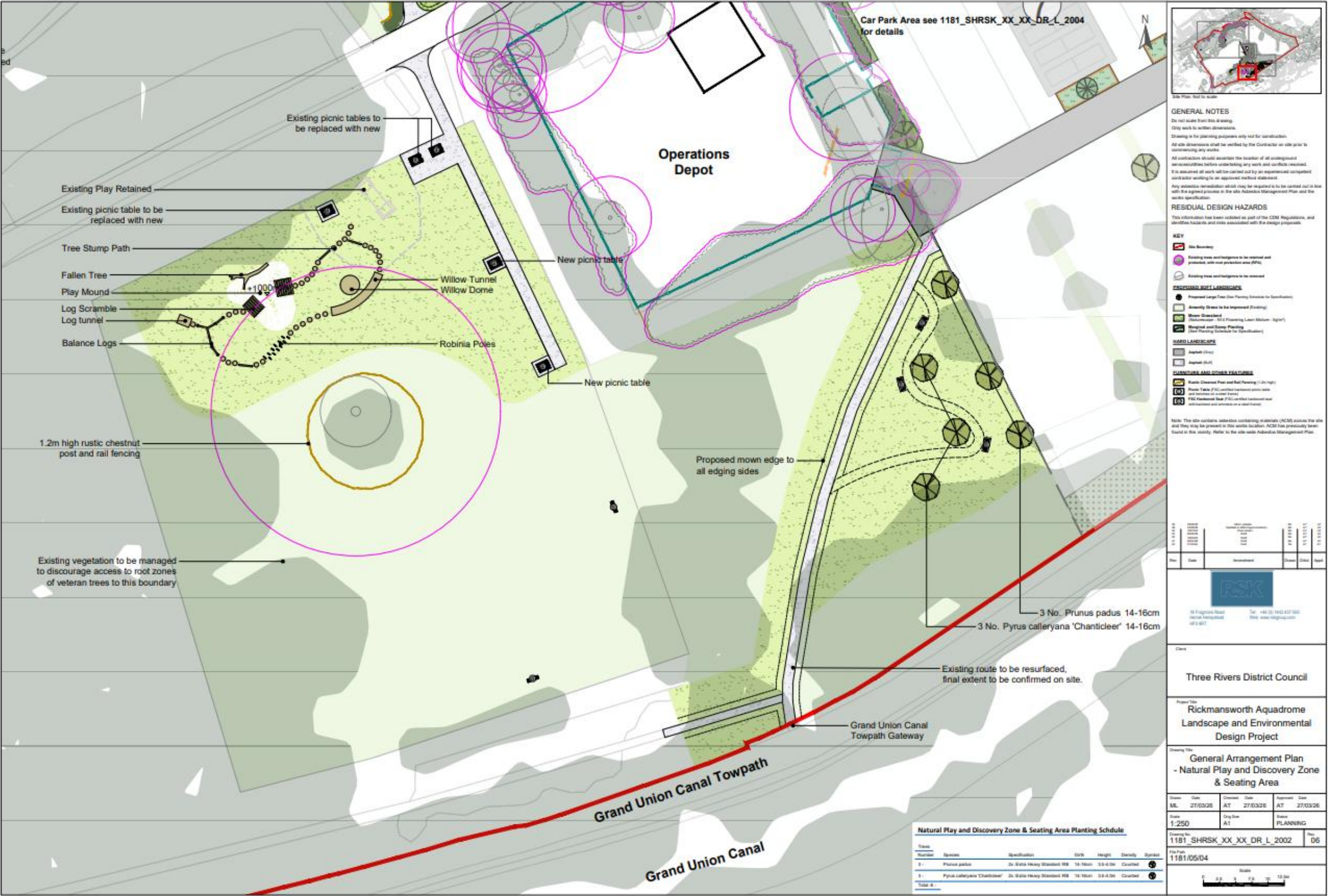


LOOK & FEEL



For more information on the Natural Play & Discovery Zone, please see drawing number 2002.

RIBA 3: Natural Play & Discovery Zone



RIBA 3: Meadow

Current Situation	An open area of grassland cut as a hay meadow with old picnic furniture. Flooding has resulted in significant erosion within the bird feeding area, and the paths here often become slippery with bird waste in summer.
What the science says	Opportunities to increase the potential for flood storage was explored here using a cut and fill technique. In this instance an area of floodplain is lowered by removing soil and this soil (if appropriate) is used to create a mound feature. In creating this area of storage, a wetland habitat is also supported increasing the biodiversity of the area. Lake erosion is limited along the eastern bank of Bury Lake likely due to presence of vegetation and hard engineering (in the form of concrete slipways). Vegetation management should support both the bank stability but also the opportunities for marginal vegetation with sufficient light.
Design Outcome	The floodplain storage and mounded area will support biodiversity and create different views through the Aquadrome. Platforms over the concrete slipways will provide bird viewing, resting and picnicking opportunities. Vegetation management along the lake banks will open views over the water, enhance marginal vegetation and support the banks.



RIBA 3: Meadow



For more information on the Meadow, please see drawing number 2008.

RIBA 3: Woodland Walk & Pinetum Path

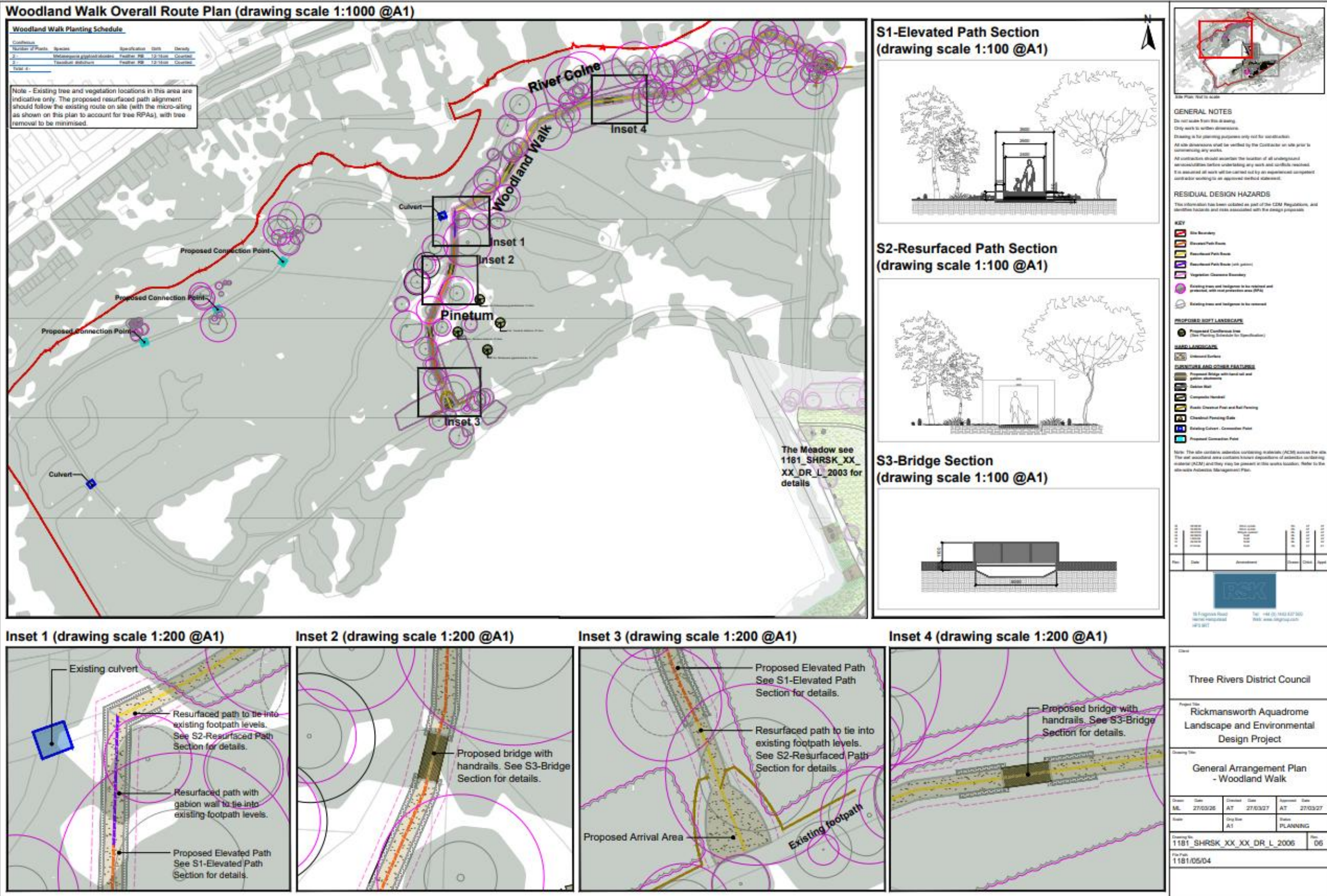
Current Situation	The woodland walk was closed in 2024 and deemed unsafe due to significant erosion of the path surfacing resulting from flooding. As a very popular path through the site, the woodland walk has been a priority area considered within this process.
What the science says	The outcome of the hydrology design work recommends several floodplain connectivity points along the River Colne, adjacent to the wet woodland. These connectivity points are approximately 3-4m in length and up to 500mm in dept and aim to support controlled flow into the wet woodland
Design Outcome	Proposals for the formal route through the pinetum and wet woodland have been developed in accordance with the hydrology recommendations to ensure safe accessibility during high river flows. Two bridges over the connectivity points are proposed along the woodland path with a natural material installed as the formal pathway surface. With greater understanding of the asbestos presence in this area, the likelihood of future flooding locally and to ensure the sustainability of the path; the formal route has been revised to provide access through the pinetum, turning north-east along the River Colne to re-join the main footpath network at Batchworth Lake. The remaining section from the Bury Lake entrance will see the pathway returned to a natural surface with the existing end of life tarmac removed. The proposals for a raised boardwalk have also been removed in this area. Chestnut fencing and gates will be installed at the main entrances to the Pinetum Path and Woodland Walk, so that in the event of significant flooding it can be closed temporarily to protect public safety until the flooding has receded.



Indicative illustrations of the Woodland walk (left) and Pinetum path (right)

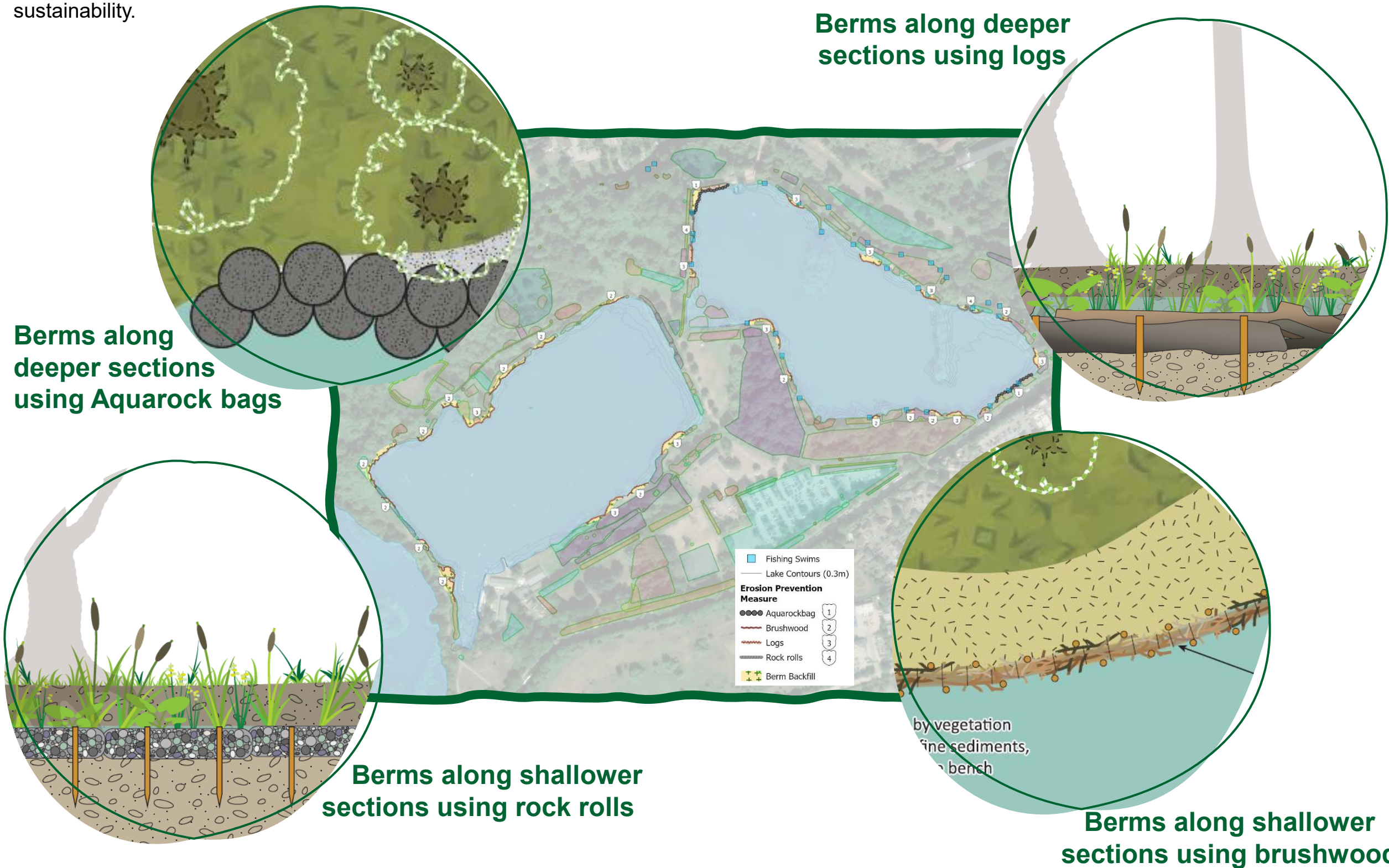
For more information on the Woodland Walk & Pinetum Path, please see drawing number 2006.

RIBA 3: Woodland Walk & Pinetum Path



Lakeside Habitat Management & Shore Protection

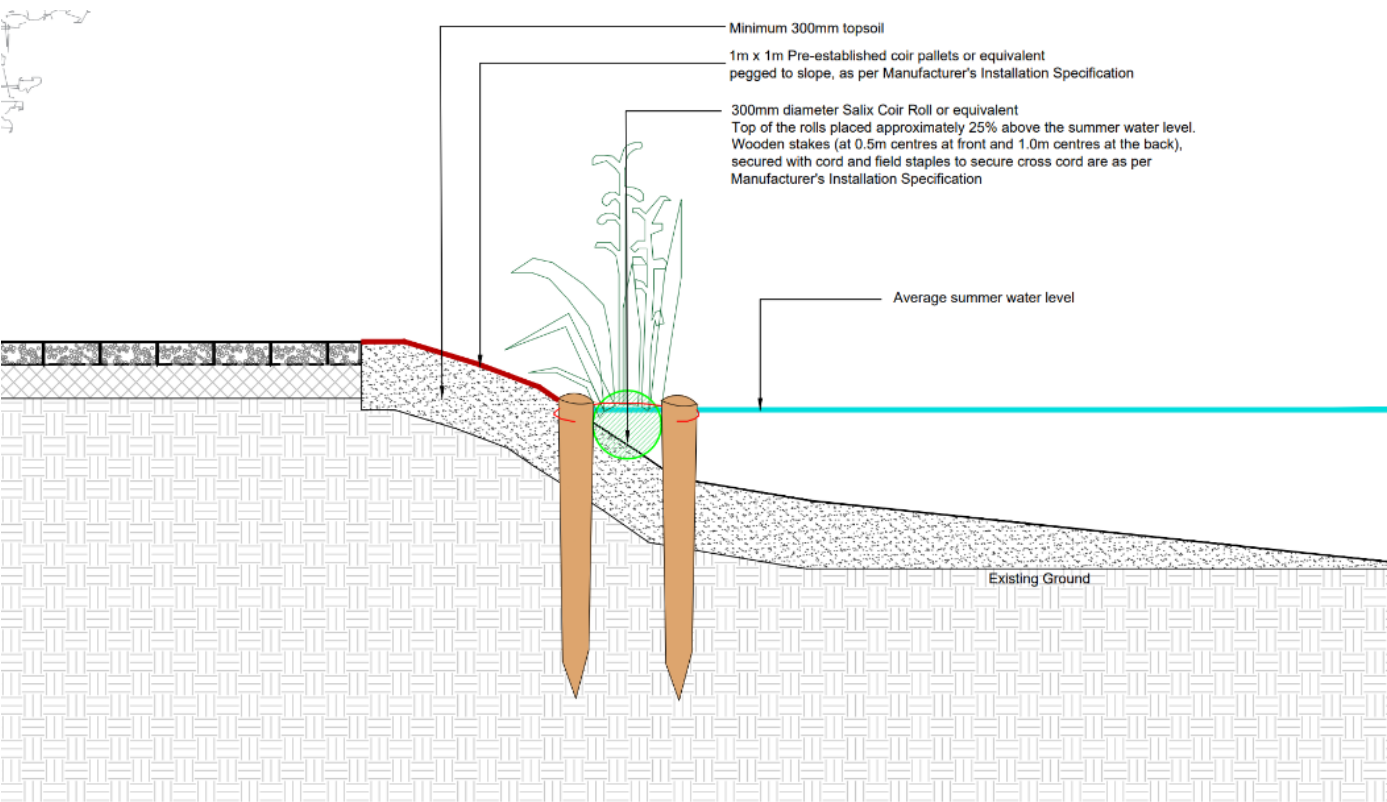
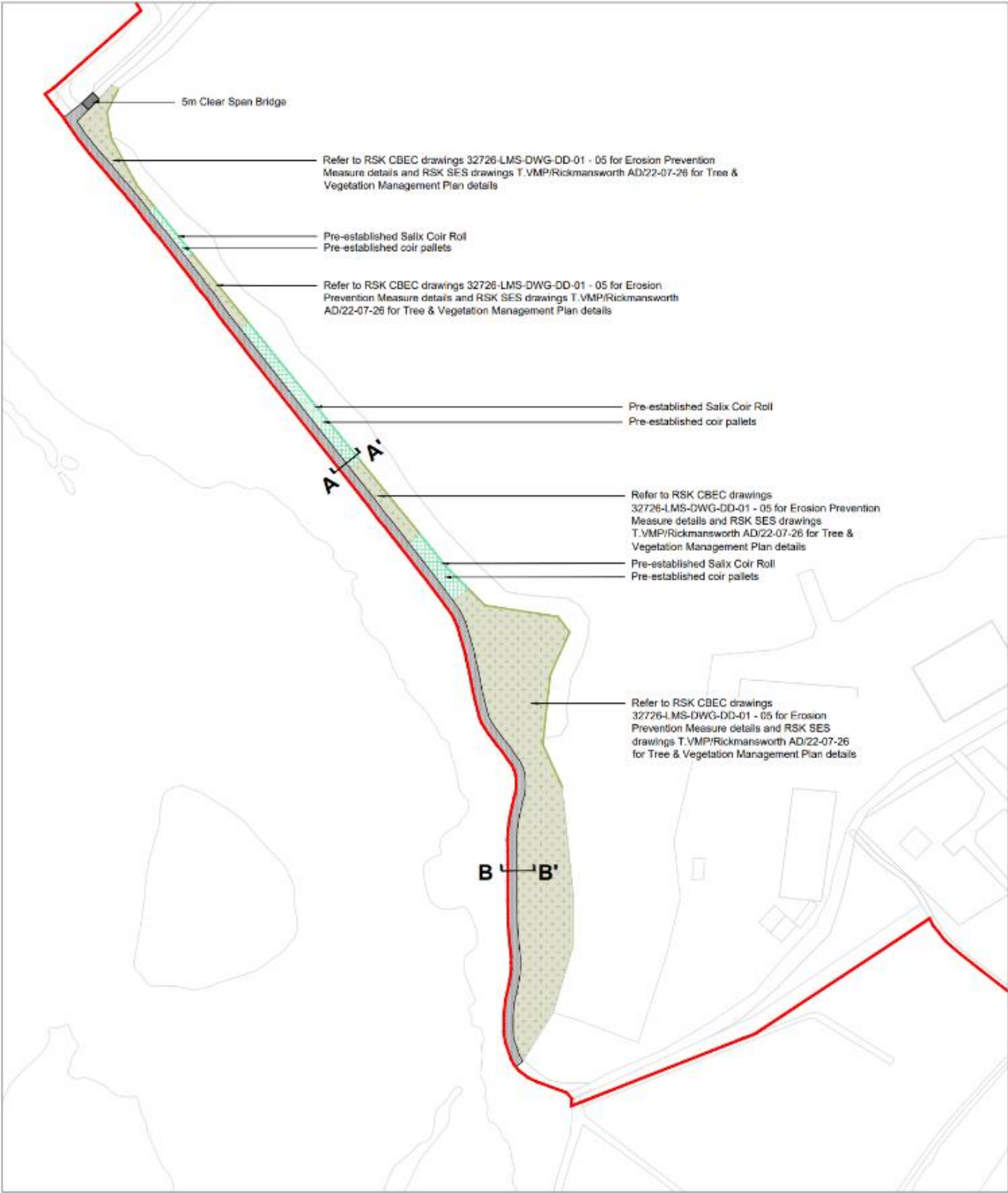
The lakeshore design has been developed using a process-based, nature-led approach. The interventions aim to work with natural hydrological, ecological and geomorphic processes to deliver a resilient landscape that supports biodiversity, recreation, heritage value and long-term sustainability.



Some of these proposals will be subject to the outcome of a Flood Risk Activity Permit from the Environment Agency.

RIBA 4: Footpath 65, The Causeway

The path between Bury Lake and Stockers Lake experiences significant erosion and overland flow of water in times of flood this has deteriorated the footpath. Many options have been considered to alleviate these issues including raising the footpath, facilitating the water under the footpath and more.



River Restoration

The River Colne within the Aquadrome has been subject to extensive historical modification, including channel straightening, impoundment, and disconnection from the floodplain. These changes, combined with urbanisation and amenity pressures, have reduced habitat diversity and compromised natural fluvial processes.

Chalk streams such as the Colne are globally rare and ecologically significant, supporting diverse aquatic species and providing high-quality water resources. Restoration of these systems is a priority under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the wider Colne Catchment Action Plan. At Rickmansworth, interventions will be designed to complement the known hydrology and flood modelled situations, ensuring that proposals for river restoration, lakeside habitat management, and floodplain connectivity are integrated with landscape improvements across the site.



These proposals will be subject to the outcome of a Flood Risk Activity Permit from the Environment Agency.

River Restoration

4. Along the woodland walk, is where opportunities begin to connect the river to the wet woodland by lowering the riverbank in specific locations. These connection points will give water a route to travel as it leaves the river and feeds directly into the wet woodland supporting this habitat also.

3. The river winds around the Aquadrome to Ebury Play area and under the Aquadrome bridge. The thick canopies of trees over the river make the channel dark and prevent vegetation from growing. A combination of targeted removal of trees or tree limbs will allow light into the river promoting vegetation establishment, trapping fine sediment which encourages natural channel narrowing. This will be balanced to ensure enough shading is retained to maintain cooler water temperatures.

2. The river then reaches Batchworth Weir which supports the Canal; however, it prevents fish and other wildlife from swimming up and down the river. Therefore, a bypass channel will form a small river channel around the weir which joins the existing Taylors Cut, wildlife can pass up and down. – the construction of this is very carefully controlled to ensure the right amount of water goes the right way. As this bypass channel rejoins the river Colne, berms will be placed to protect the bank from the additional flow of water coming down Taylors Cut.

5. Bury Weir historically would have been used to control water levels for the Mill and the watercress beds. By removing this weir, it will restore natural river processes and improve ecological connectivity. The removal will be paired with regrading of the riverbed, installation of bank protection and fencing to protect it. Together this will restore the section of the river and support the flow and ecology of the millstream.

6. Through the final section of the river within the Aquadrome there are further opportunities for river connection points supporting the wet woodland habitat and the creation of further berms. The function of these berms will be to narrow the channel encouraging a variety in the flow of water, establishing marginal vegetation and other chalk stream characteristics.

1. The river Colne enters the Aquadrome from the canal; the riverbank is eroded due to the speed of water and the impact of waterbirds leaving the river to feed. The installation of berms here will protect the bank from future erosion, marginal vegetation will be encouraged, and fencing will protect this area while establishing.

Together the suite of river restoration improvements will support the river Colne's ecology and hydrology. It will be able to support more biodiversity, it will be resilient to the climate (including flood & drought), and it will continue to be beautiful place to visit.

These proposals will be subject to the outcome of a Flood Risk Activity Permit from the Environment Agency.



Rickmansworth
Aquadrome

3. Activity Plan



**THREE RIVERS
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Activity Plan

Collectivity we have:

- Researched
- Sought out and Asked
- Listened
- Weighed those findings against the core aims of the project – to enhance, nurture & protect

Our activity focus is therefore targeted on 6 specific groups

Targeted Children and Young People:

Including those supported by a children's service, local educational organisations including schools, special educational needs schools and nurseries or children from the deprived areas of the district

Special interest: Through specialist groups to have a meaningful involvement with the site; for example, Three Rivers Museum (and local historians), Colne Valley Regional Park, Anti-social behaviour.

Age 65+ Visitors: The plan aims to target those within local care homes and assisted living facilities to deliver sessions onsite and offsite. In addition, for older adults who may be isolated for example due to limited accessibility, no support/social network resulting in loneliness.

People with a disability: Taking a pan disability perspective to include improvements for those with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) Visually impaired people, long-term physical health and long-term mental health issues.

Educational research: Data has been collected and shared, creating a data hub on the hydrology and environmental data of the site. The Activity Plan will continue to add to the data hub for use by schools and students.

NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training): an opportunity to offer skill development to people who fall under the NEETS category through various channels including a green skills programme and provision of a focused Grounds Maintenance employee.





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4. Interpretation and Communication



**THREE RIVERS
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

RIBA 3: Signage and Interpretation

The graphic style has been developed to complement the Rickmansworth Aquadrome branding while ensuring the designs remain distinctive, easily identifiable within the landscape and sympathetic to the surrounding natural environment.

Dark teal is used as the primary graphic colour, supported by accent tones drawn from the wider colour palette to create moments of contrast and interest.

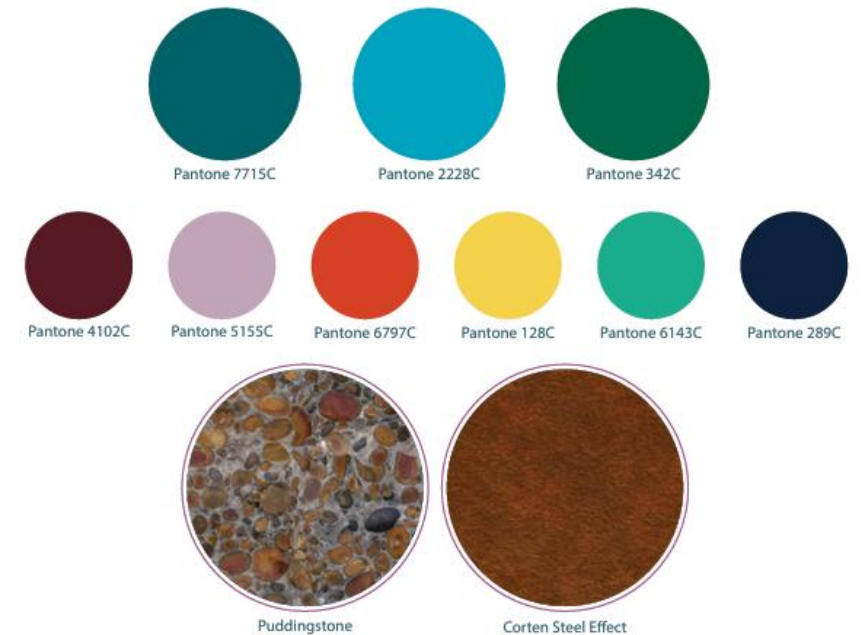
The shapes of the panels are influenced by the fluid movement of water throughout the Aquadrome, alongside the organic and often irregular forms of the site's distinctive trees, creating a softer and more natural relationship with the landscape.

The map style is designed to be clear, intuitive, and easy to navigate for a wide range of visitors, with raised surfaces being more tactile for a wider range of audiences. The illustrative style uses simple line drawings to highlight the unique characteristics and details of the wildlife, habitats, and natural features found throughout.

There are 5 different types of signage and interpretation included in the suite of signage. These can be seen below, left to right: main gateway, minor gateway, fingerpost, interpretation and incidental:



This proposal will be subject to the outcome of a planning application for advertising consent.



In addition, a tactile map will be located within the Visitor Hub area, providing an engaging and accessible introduction to Rickmansworth Aquadrome. Surrounded by interpretation exploring habitats, trees, waterways, canals, and lakes, the map will highlight key points of interest across the site. At this point, an acknowledgement to The National Lottery Heritage Fund will be included.

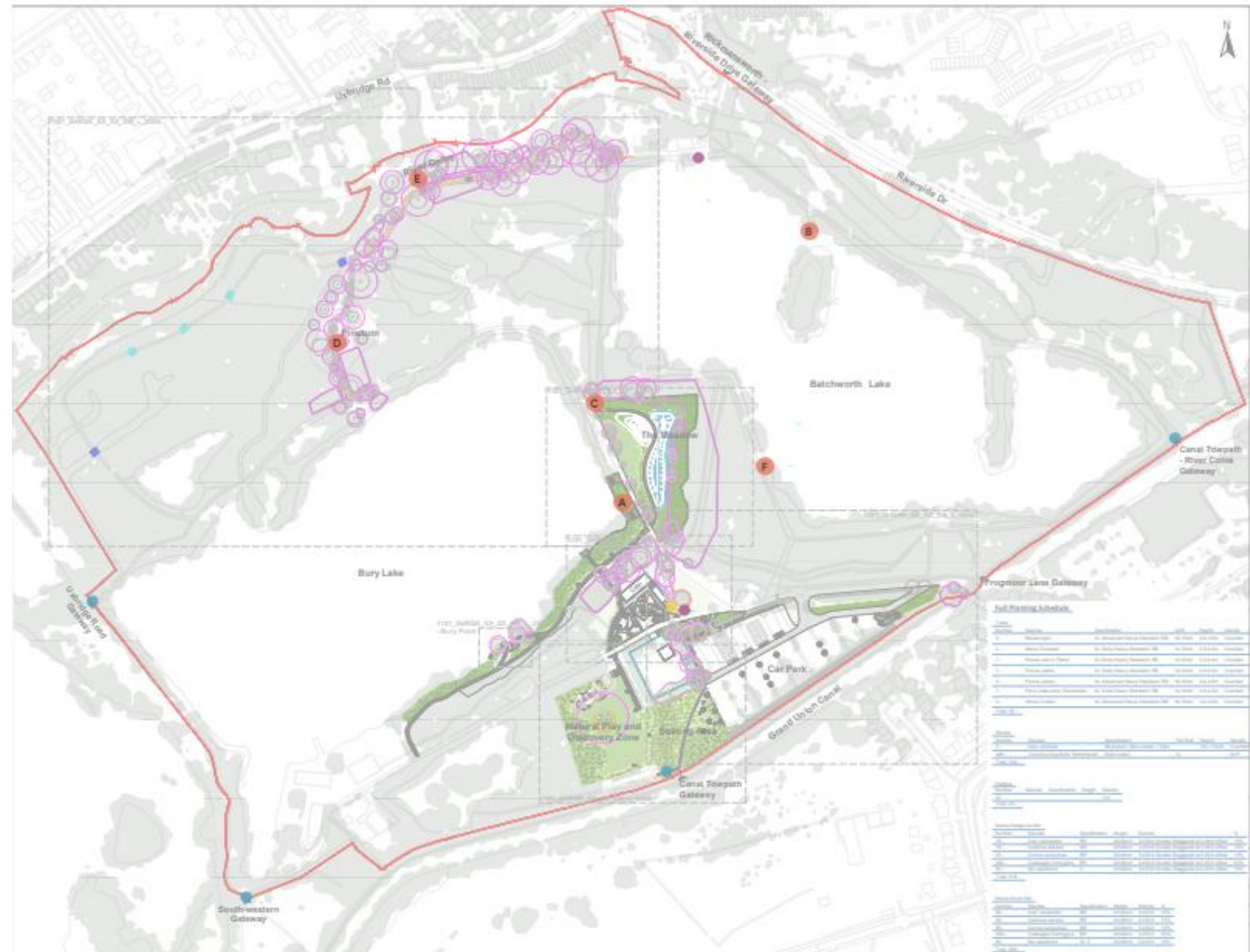


RIBA 3: Signage and Interpretation

Signage will be strategically positioned across the site to not “clutter” or detract from the natural beauty. Interpretation will celebrate the local social and natural heritage from across the Aquadrome site, including industrial origins, unique habitats & species and social use of the site through time.

The map below highlights the locations of signage and interpretation:

- **Major gateway 2no**
 with orientation map and regulation signage
 25 words max
- **Minor Gateway 4no**
 with etching and fun fact story on reverse –
 stories to be identified
 25 words max
- **Main site interpretation 1no**
 1no Tactile map with integrated story graphics:
 - Home for Wildlife – species overview – 75 words
 - Water and Woods – habitat/ diversity, water flow – 75 words
 - Rickmansworth Origins – including timeline – 75 words
 Donor/ NLHF panel and screening of the toilet blocks
- **Interpretive story panel 6no**
 - A. Home for Wildlife – Birds Bury Lake (photos)
 - B. Home for Wildlife – Birds Batchworth Lake (photos)
 - C. Rickmansworth Origins – Gravel pits (photos)
 - D. Water and Woods – Pinetum (tree detail tactile)
 - E. Water and Woods – Colne River (river path tactile)
 - F. Water and Woods – Habitats (simplified tactile habitat map)
 each 75 words max
- **Wildlife Trail incidentals 10-15no – tbc**
 Home for Wildlife – species story to be identified
 25 words max



This proposal will be subject to the outcome of a planning application for advertising consent.



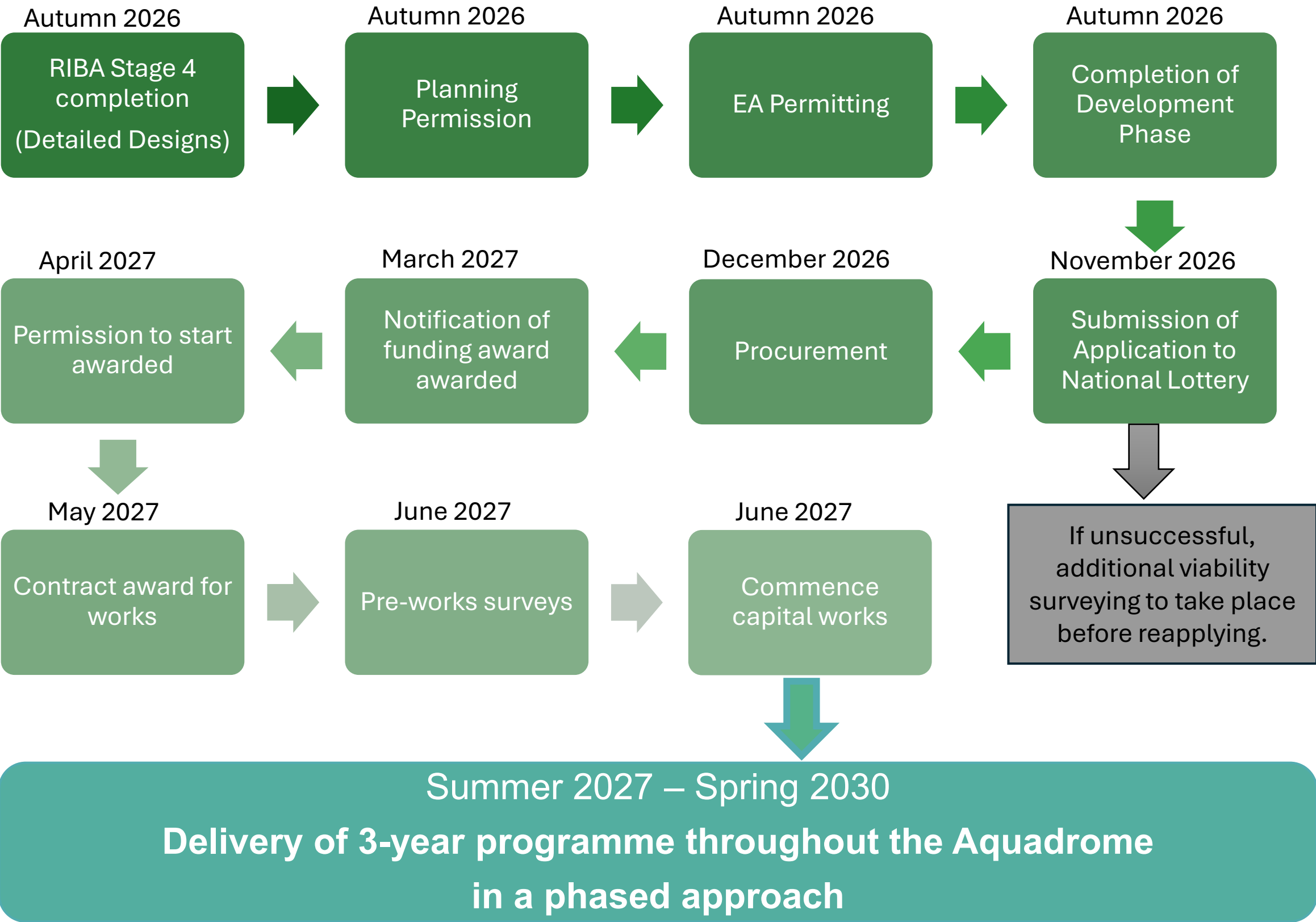
Rickmansworth
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6. Next Steps



**THREE RIVERS
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Next steps





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**Many Thanks for Your Kind
Attention**

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So as you can see, the council has undertaken significant preparation for the physical works in the coming years to restore, improve and safeguard the Aquadrome.