



THE POOL

STAGE 2 CONCEPT DESIGN REPORT

15th Aug 2023

Document reference: 1000007606

DOCUMENT CONTROL

REPORT REFERENCE	ISSUE	DATE	ORIGINATOR	CHECKED	AUTHORISED
1000007606 - The Pool Stage 2 Concept Design Report	01	15.08.2023	Emi Kaneko Luke Summerlin	Anna Miroslaw	Luke McGuinness

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INTRODUCTION

Following the recent Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Detailed Design by PCL's Flood & Water Management Team (FAWM), Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) have asked Project Centre Limited's (PCL) Landscape & Urban Designer Team (LaUD) to develop proposals to integrate the engineering requirements into a combined civils, drainage, and landscape design to a RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design Level.

The design will incorporate key aspirations that SMBC aim to achieve:

- Implement a landscape-led response to the flood mitigation within the urban floodplain of The Pool watercourse.
- Consider opportunities to limit cut being taken off-site, and reuse excavated, material to create landforms as part of the overall landscape approach.
- Enhance the amenity provision of each site for local people, with safe and accessible landscape areas.
- Introduce vegetation and habitats that provide an overall Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Introduce access to and around the water bodies, with opportunities for passive recreation such as new footpath connections, viewing and seating platforms close to wetland areas, new seating and interpretation.
- Community Involvement (where possible) such as community planting days with local residents.

The proposed sites are located with three public open spaces that sit within the historic flow path of The Pool watercourse.

These have been presented in this concept document as;

The Southern Sites, including Preston New Road Recreation Ground and The Stray, and;

The Northern Site which consist of the northern part of Crossen Recreation Ground.



LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Proposed wetland area
- ▲ Main Access Points

Site Location Plan contains Google maps data 2023 - <https://www.google.com/maps>



LANDSCAPE VISION



CREATING NATURAL LANDSCAPE

Creating multi-faceted, naturally looking landscape settings that provides flood mitigation capacity and enhances amenity value for the local community.



SPACES CLOSE TO NATURE

Providing opportunities for closer contact with natural environments, active, quiet enjoyment and social interaction.



INFORMAL PLAY OPPORTUNITIES

Creating playable landscape to inspire children and adults to connect with natural environments.



WOODLAND THEMED PLANTING

Providing new tree and shrub planting to add amenity value, provide a landscape setting, seasonal interest and respond to the climate emergency.



BIODIVERSITY/HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

Creating additional habitats that support local wildlife and bio-diversity enhancements.



INFORMATION AND PLACE MAKING

Providing various trails and interpretation signs to familiarise residents and visitors with local nature values.

SITE ANALYSIS - CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES - NORTH















Constraints

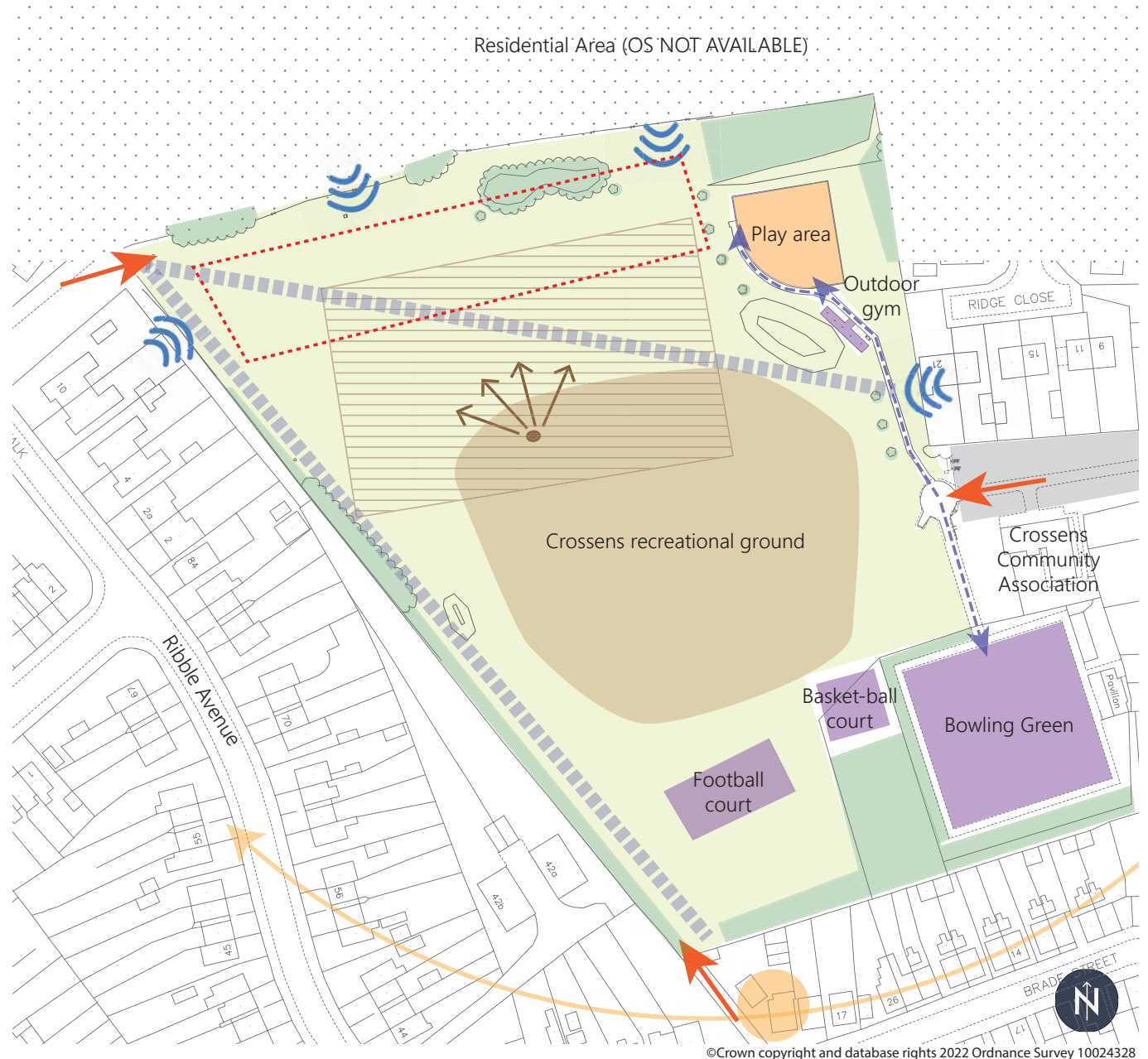
- In wet periods the informal footpaths through the site flood and limit access.
- Noise should be minimised for the surrounding residential area.
- Sports facility areas to be retained where possible.
- Clear line of sight to be maintained to avoid creating opportunities for antisocial behaviour.

Opportunities

- Habitat creation improvements.
- Community character.
- Wildlife benefits.
- Informal seating.
- Informal play.
- Informal nature trail.
- Flood mitigation.
- Improved pedestrian routes following desire lines.

LEGEND

- - - Proposed Retention Area
-  Sun Path
-  Existing Vegetation
-  Open Grass Area
-  Recreational Area - Cricket Pitch
-  Recreational Area - Historic Football Pitch
-  Existing Gym and Sports Area
-  Existing Children Play Area
-  Existing Parking
-  Existing Residential Area
-  Site Access
-  Existing Footpath
-  Access Desire Line
-  View of the Site
-  Residents Sensitive to Noise



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LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL - NORTH

Storage Capacity Target Volume: 2000m³

Storage Capacity Volume: 2567 m³

Cut used to form mounds of volume: 1135m³

Landscape proposal includes two drainage basins with sinuously curved banks and bottom that mimics a wetland area. This creates a space that resembles natural environments and creates a wildlife habitat designed for the public to explore.

All existing landscape features such as play area, existing trees and boundary vegetation are to be preserved and incorporated into the new layout.

Excess soil from basin excavation is to be used to create mounds of varying heights. They will be planted with a range of shrubs and wildflower planting and will incorporate natural elements such as boulders and logs. Mounds will provide opportunities for informal play, provide a soft boundary to playing pitch to the south and provide

visual interest with key sight lines preserved.

Additional trails and various seating spaces will provide opportunities for both active and quiet enjoyment of nature.



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SITE ANALYSIS - CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES - SOUTH

Constraints

- Noise should be minimised for the surrounding residential area
- Public Right of Way (PRoW) route to be retained.
- Sports facility areas to be retained.
- Maintain public footpath route.
- Wildlife site considerations.

Opportunities

- Habitat creation improvements.
- Community character.
- Wildlife benefits.
- Informal seating.
- Informal play.
- Informal nature trail.
- Flood mitigation.
- Improved pedestrian routes follow desire lines.
- Noise mitigation from Preston New Road.

LEGEND

- Proposed Retention Area
- Sun Path
- Existing Vegetation
- Open Grass Area
- Existing Sports Area
- Site Access
- Existing Footpath
- Existing Public Footpath
- Access Desire Line
- View of the Site
- Residents Sensitive to Noise



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LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL - SOUTH

Storage Capacity Target Volume: 5570m³

Proposed Combined Total: 5629m³

Proposed Western Basin Total: 3576.6 m³

Proposed Eastern Basin Total: 2052.4 m³

Cut used to form mounds of volume: 151m³

The area consists of three linked basins that have a naturalistic look that is complimented by tree and native shrub planting around borders with wetland planting at their lowest level.

Landscape proposal retains and enhances key routes through the area and provides additional spaces for active and passive recreation. An existing Public Right of Way that connects The Stray Local Wildlife Site with Preston New Road has been retained by providing a bridge structure through the centre of the wetland.

A mix of street furniture has been located within the landscape to allow for moments of rest for those exploring the area. Several timber viewing platforms allow for closer view of wetland and appreciate the natural environment and local wildlife.

Several timber logs provide informal seating in a shade where one can enjoy spectating on football matches.

A planting palette will be selected to include native species and plants considerate of the nearby wildlife site, provide additional buffer to adjoining properties and enhance biodiversity on site.



MATERIAL STRATEGY

To create interest and engagement with the wetlands, a material strategy has been designed which provides walking routes, seating spaces, informal play and informal / educational benefits.

Materials have been selected in-line with creating a naturalist context intended to promote engagement for those passing or visiting the wetlands.

Materials included within the design are as follows:

- Natural surface footpaths - Self binding gravel to inter-connect with existing walking routes
- Timber seating - Chunky timber provided for seating to enhance the naturalistic wetland appearance.
- Durable picnic tables - Powder-coated steel picnic tables selectively placed in idyllic spots nearby to the wetland to create opportunities for leisure (opportunity to provide a recycled plastic alternative).
- Wooden bridge - To retain the Public Right of Way within the south eastern wildlife wetland design. A wooden structure with railings to provide access over the wetland (design of bridge would require sub-contractor input).
- Boulders - Glacial boulders positioned on mounds and wetland edge for informal play and to enhance naturalistic appearance.
- Wooden platforms - Wooden leisure viewing platforms to be selectively placed within the south west wetland.
- Interpretation boards - Feature interpretation boards with an artistic impression to be confirmed, to provide insight into the wetland projects.
- Educational totems - Artistic wooden totems placed around the wetlands to provide educational information relating to the wetland and it's wildlife, with opportunity to create wildlife trails.
- Habitat creation - Wooden wildlife habitat creation elements such as insect hotels, bird boxes and wildlife logs and refugia can be incorporated to support local wildlife.



SELF BINDING GRAVEL PATHS



TIMBER BENCHES



DURABLE FURNITURE



WOODEN BRIDGE



POTENTIAL WATER EDGE PLATFORMS



INTERPRETATION BOARDS



NATURAL PLAY - LOGS



BOULDERS



INSECT HOTELS/LOGS

PLANTING STRATEGY

The proposed planting will enhance the amenity value of the SuDS feature. Biodiversity improvements will be made by to existing and new habitats for local wildlife, and provide opportunity for the community to experience various forms of recreation and engage with nature.



Native shrub planting with native trees



Attenuation basin with wildflower meadow



Wetland area providing habitat diversity



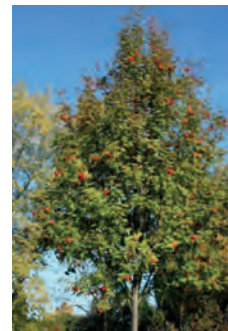
Tree planting

Proposed tree planting will consist of native species that are resistant to waterlogged conditions. All trees will be planted in key locations to preserve long views, and where planted within attenuation basin, they will contribute to stabilising banks and reducing impacts of erosion.

Trees will help to create structural focal points, provide seasonal interest and shade in exposed areas. They will improve local micro climate and help enhancing local biodiversity.



Alnus glutinosa



Sorbus aucuparia



Betula pendula



Salix caprea



Prunus spinosa



Shrub planting

Shrub planting will consist of mix of species with various ecological benefits. Planting areas will provide a buffer to residential properties and add amenity value by creating shelters areas with year-round interest.



Cornus sericea 'Flaviramea'



Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire'



Rosa Canina



Ilex aquifolium



Sambucus nigra

Wildflower meadow

Two types of wildflower meadow planting will be used within the basin.

A typical wildflower meadow planting mix will be used on the upper banks and surrounding areas to create a natural look which will tie the overall planting scheme together.

Aquatic wildflower planting mixes will be used within the lower extents of the basins to create a wetland area layered with grasses and flowering plants which can tolerate exposure to water and will provide additional interest within the basin.

Wildflower meadow - Dry conditions



Malva moschata



Daucus carota



Knautia arvensis



Festuca rubra



Agrostis vinealis

Aquatic wildflower planting



Betonica officinalis



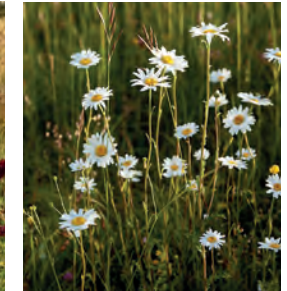
Rumex acetosa



Filipendula ulmaria



Sanguisorba officinalis



Leucanthemum vulgare

Bog and Marginal planting

A selection of marginal plant species will be positioned at the banks of the wetlands. A mixture of textures, heights and formations will be used within the planting to create character, with the addition of flowering plant species for ecological benefit.

Wetland planting example imagery



Sparganium erectum



Typha gracilis



Caltha palustris



Myosotis scorpioides



Lythrum Salicaria

CURRENT VIEW - NORTH



Existing view looking east, from the north-west corner of Crossen Recreation Ground.

ILLUSTRATIVE VIEW - NORTH



Illustrative view looking east, from the north-west corner of Crossen Recreation Ground.

CURRENT VIEW - SOUTH



Existing view looking south-west from Preston New Road, towards existing football pitches.

ILLUSTRATIVE VIEW - SOUTH



Illustrative view looking south-west from Preston New Road, towards existing football pitches.