

Wild Landscapes

Creating green spaces for wildlife and people

Site Visit Report

1. Site Details

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2. Site Visit Discussions

Development of community sensory garden

Previous Advisory Report produced by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust has been provided to give guidance on improving the river Nadder which runs alongside the boundary of the site.

The existing site is a semi-circular grassed area, with two benches, and an enclosed woodland seating area and a number of existing shrubs and mature trees. Wild Landscapes has produced a concept plan for the area which would create a 'sensory trail'. A natural hoggin pathway would create a circular loop through the area, with a bark chipping substrate in the woodland section. Additional features such as a wooden post and rail fence line would be installed as a boundary to the river to discourage dog walkers/bank erosion. Similarly, a low hazel hurdle fence line along the main bordering pathway would provide a naturally defined garden. Interpretation/welcome boards at the entrance and exit would aim to encourage proper use and respect of the site as well as informing people of the communities input in its creation. A wooden dipping platform would provide a safe, fenced off area where people can still enjoy a close proximity to the river without damaging banks or disturbing wildlife.

Existing trees

As highlighted in the previous river report, existing mature Alder trees line the east embankment, casting a large amount of shade over the river. It is advised that these trees be pruned to reduce the canopy size between the months of August and November. Three other mature trees onsite would also benefit from pruning to reduce canopy size; a Hawthorn in the open grassed area on the eastern half of the site, a large hazel on the edge of the circular woodland area, and a large willow on the same boundary area. Any pruning works should not be carried out until summer/autumn due to nesting birds.

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Planted sensory beds

Two large raised beds could be created using soil with a natural wood retaining border. These beds provide an opportunity to plant a mixture of perennial and annual plants for sensory and wildlife purposes. The [RHS Plants for Pollinators PDF](#) may be useful as would the [Sensory Trusts guidance](#). The border arrangement creates a circular seating area which would offer a good space to install a natural art sculpture.

Additional wildlife features for consideration

Installation of bird nest boxes, bug hotels and deadwood/log piles would be of benefit for wildlife. Planting of suitable native shrubs along the proposed river fence line may offer some privacy for river species.

Moving Forward

This document was produced by Wild Landscapes. We would be happy to quote for any development proposals or ongoing maintenance work listed within this document. Contact us using the details below:

Nick Self and Chelsie Phillips

Wild Landscapes

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Kindest regards.