forest of IMAGINATION

& Avon Wildlife Trust

THE wildlife TRUSTS

A Joint Proposal For

ENTRY HILL GOLF COURSE, BATH

Sculpture

Nature

Community

Wild Play

grant associates

'RED THREADS' Alison Harper, artist and Dreamer the Rabbit
Forest of the Imagination 2019, Sydney Gardens and the Holburne

WILDFLOWER MEADOW
creating a wildlife heaven on the edge of public spaces, yardworks, Bristol

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01 Introduction

Vision

We imagine Entry Hill Golf Course as a unique
Sculpture - Nature - Community Park

One that demonstrates how the city is positively addressing the Climate and Nature Emergencies and where we can experience thought provoking art and sculpture in a landscape setting.
We also imagine this new park as a focus for the local communities that provides new access for pedestrians and cyclists across this part of the city through naturalised landscape. It is a special park where we can integrate routes and features to encourage active leisure and play, where we can embed interpretation of the special features of the site and where we can host community and city events.
At the heart of the Park would be a new landmark facility that provides an enhanced café, a flexible use hall and a creative studio space shared by the Avon Wildlife Trust and the House of Imagination for creative learning and making.
We believe the park should have a multifunctional role but within a strong Sculpture/Nature identity defined by the integration of international, national and local profile artworks set within a mosaic of enhanced habitats best suited to this site.
The proposal offers the opportunity to establish a permanent showcase for the importance of the landscape and environment to the future wellbeing and enjoyment of the city, its residents and visitors.

MINI FOREST ENCLOSURE
Forest of the Imagination 2015, Queen Square, Bath

WILDLIFE, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
“creating homes for people and wildlife” - Avon Wildlife Trust

02 Existing Site

A ‘green lung’ in the City

Offering over 10 hectares of open green space, the golf course site is a significant area of green space in the city and has the potential to work harder to help tackle the climate and nature emergency.

Through enhanced planting and modification of the habitats, the site could improve its potential for carbon sequestration whilst also contributing to strategic nature conservation projects such as the Nature Recovery Network.

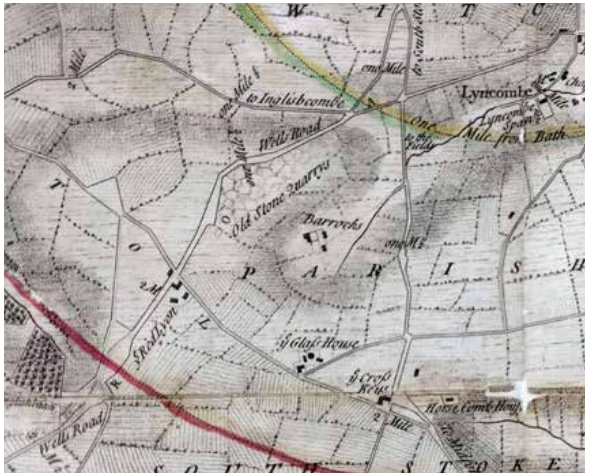
For local people and visitors, the space offers the prospect of access to a unique green space and nature where active and passive recreation can be enjoyed to benefit health and wellbeing.

Site Evolution

A high level review of the site indicates it has always formed an edge to one of the main access routes into the city from the south and has always offered a dramatic view of the city centre as the approach road drops over the lip of the valley. It was developed as a large open stone mine which created the distinctive edge topography. In later years it was a farm and then, we understand, a landfill site.

The landfill was capped and modelled to form the golf course we see today. The photos of the original golf course site demonstrate the dramatic open views the site enjoyed at that time.

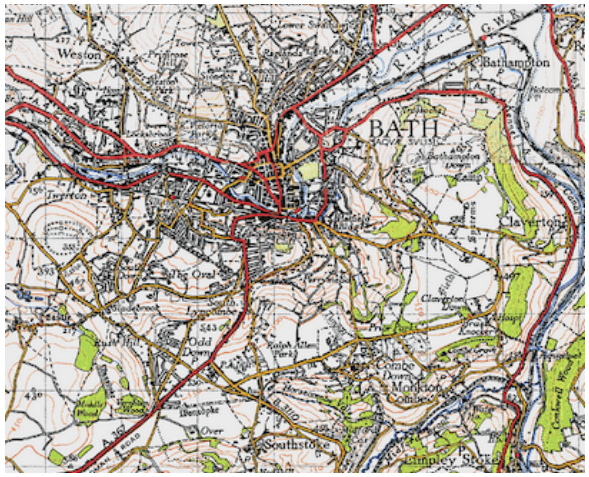
Painting of free stone quarrying around Bath, Somersetshire 1791



Historic Map : 1742

Historic Map : 1899

Historic Map : 1898



Historic Map : 1946

03 Site History

Site Photographs

Entry Hill Golf Course under construction prior to 1984

Entry Hill Golf Course under construction prior to 1984

Present Day

Entry Hill Golf Course under construction prior to 1984

Entry Hill Golf Course under construction prior to 1984

Present Day

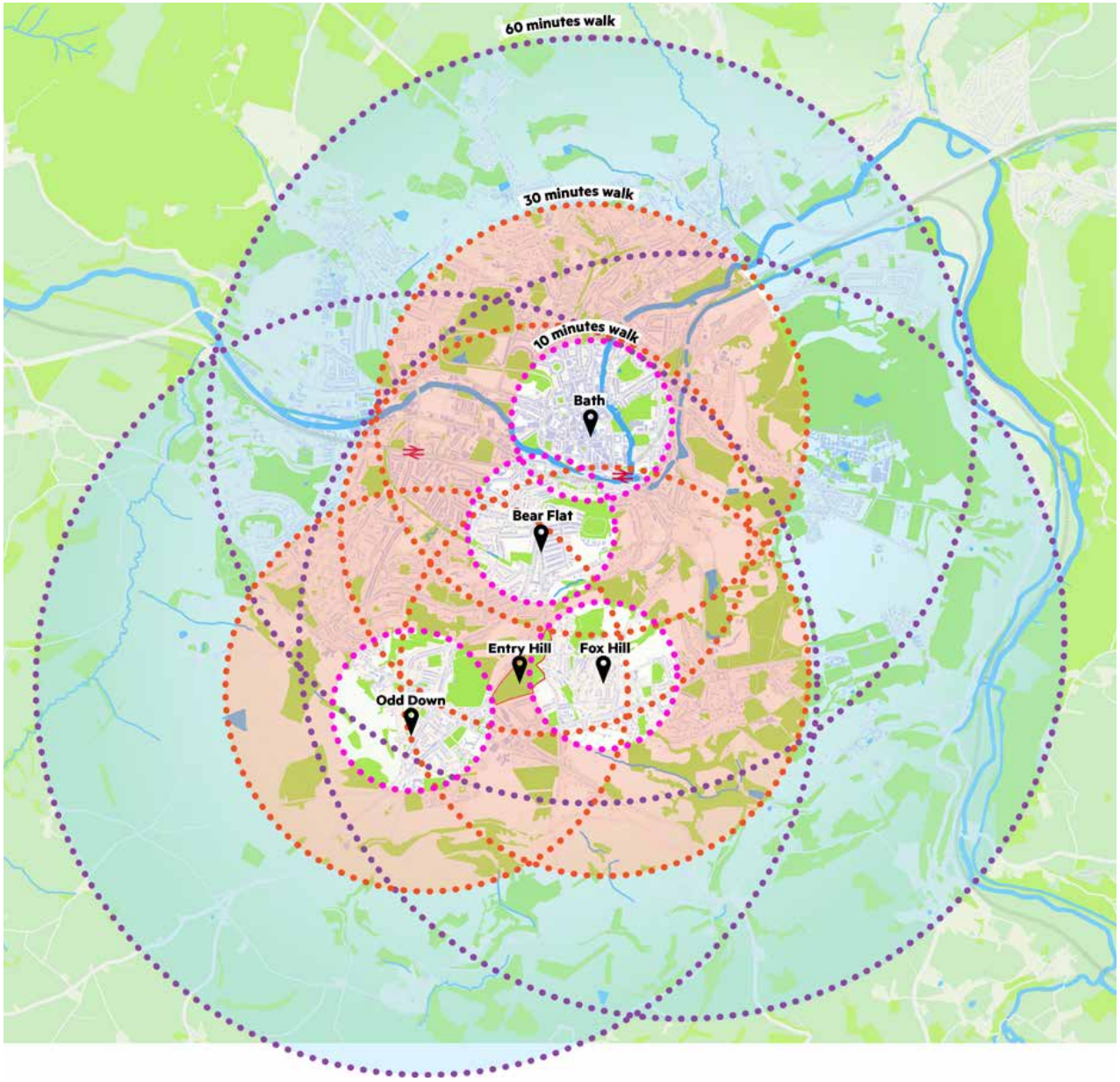
Entry Hill - Bathscape, JULY 2017 - Exploration for Outdoor Learning

FAMILY NATURE DAY

A standalone family nature event at Entry Hill, attracting over 100 visitors from the local community.
Activities included; nature walks, bug hunting, tree climbing, archery, and bat and butterfly crafts, with Avon Wildlife Trust running the bug hunting and part of the nature walks.

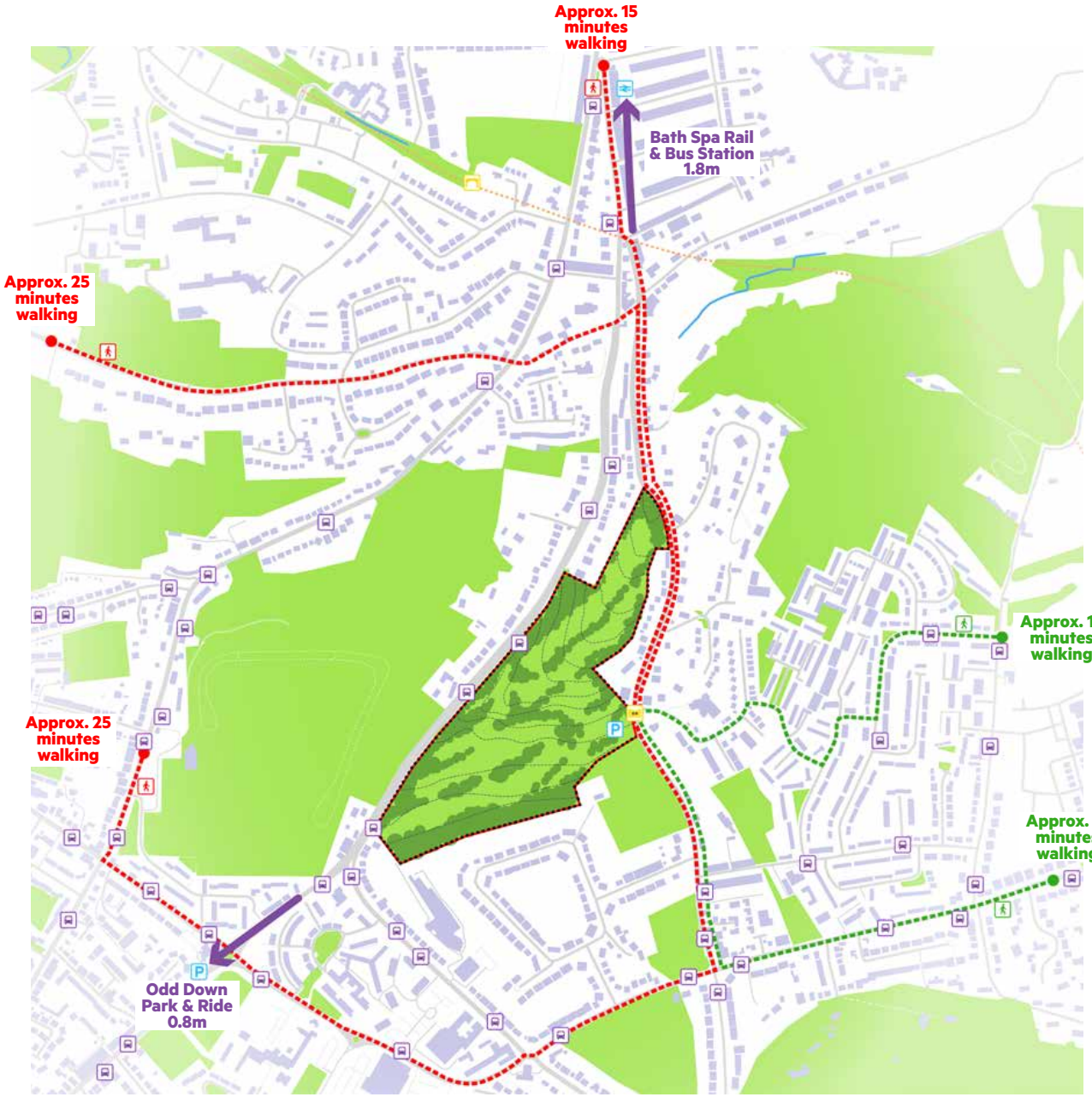
Community Proximity

The Foxhill, Odd Down and Bear Flat communities are very close to the site and would benefit greatly from the potential for increased access and activity within the site. It is also within a reasonable distance from the city centre and would be a great asset to attract tourists and visitors out to this part of the city.



Accessibility

The site sits adjacent a major highway and bus route, it has a small car park on site and is lined by pedestrian footpaths that connect with the local communities and the city centre.
Access to the popular Two Tunnels route is nearby offering the potential to link into a wider catchment of cyclists and pedestrians.



Open Space and Uses

Bath has a lot to offer its residents in terms of parks and open space. Bath has a diverse mix of amenity spaces offering;

1. BATH CITY FARM:	**ANIMALS & COMMUNITY**
2. VICTORIA PARK:	**BOTANIC GARDEN, PLAY & PARK**
3. BATH APPROACH:	**GOLF**
4. HEDGEMEAD PARK:	**PUBLIC PARK**
5. ALLOTMENTS:	**RECREATION, COMMUNITY, FOOD**
6. HENRIETTA PARK:	**PUBLIC PARK**
7. SYDNEY GARDENS:	**HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY**
8.. MEADOW:	**ECOLOGY & RECREATION**
9. ALICE PARK:	**PUBLIC PARK**
10. ALEXANDRA PARK:	**PUBLIC PARK**
11. PRIOR PARK:	**HERITAGE**
12. LITTLE SOLSBURY HILL:	**PUBLIC**
13. ODD DOWN BIKING:	**CYCLING BMX AND SPORT**

But what is Bath missing?

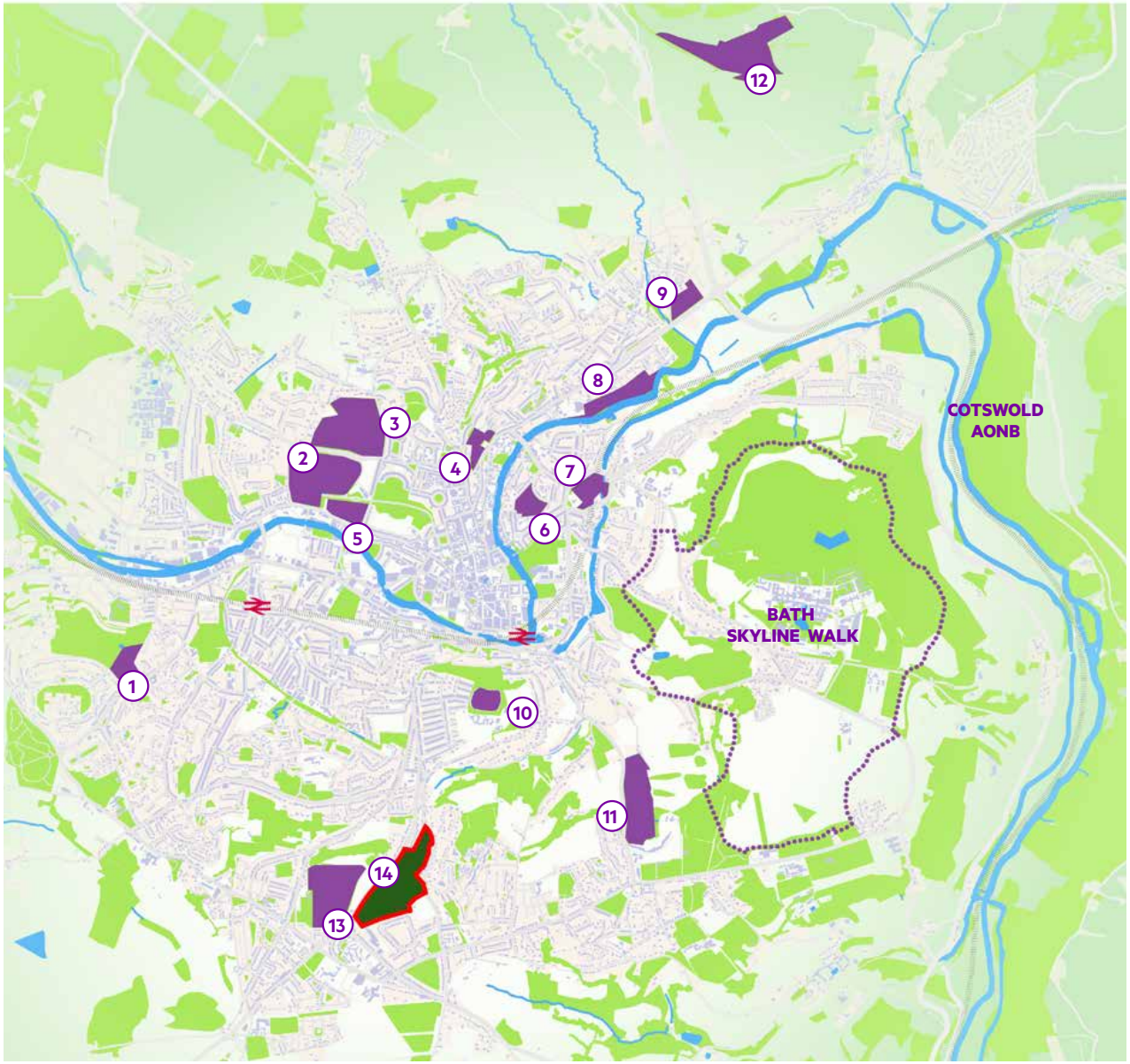
14. Entry Hill - Collaboration for all

how does this site fit?
what could it offer?

ART / SCULPTURE

NATURE INTERPRETATION / PLAY

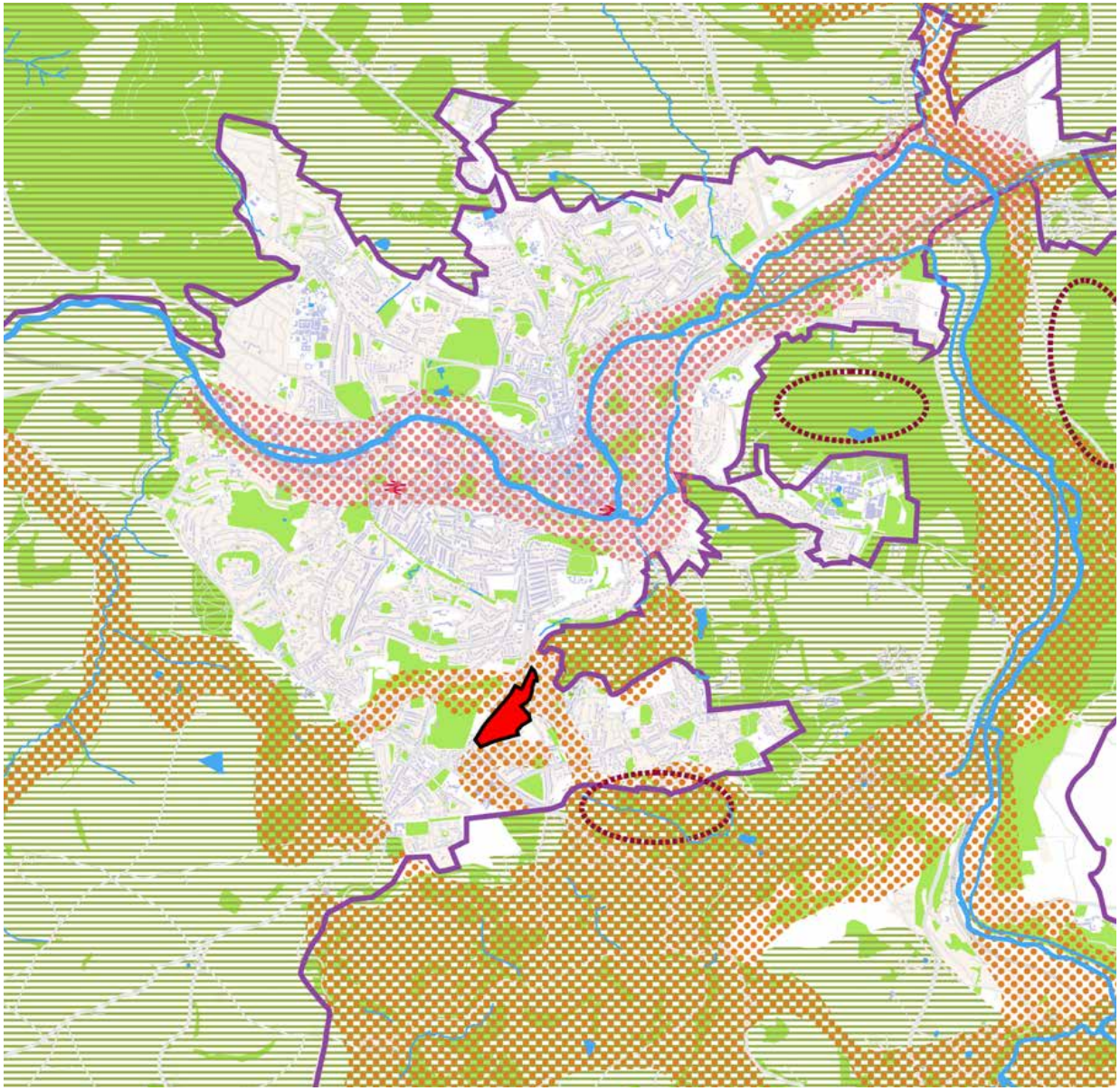
CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY



Ecology / Nature

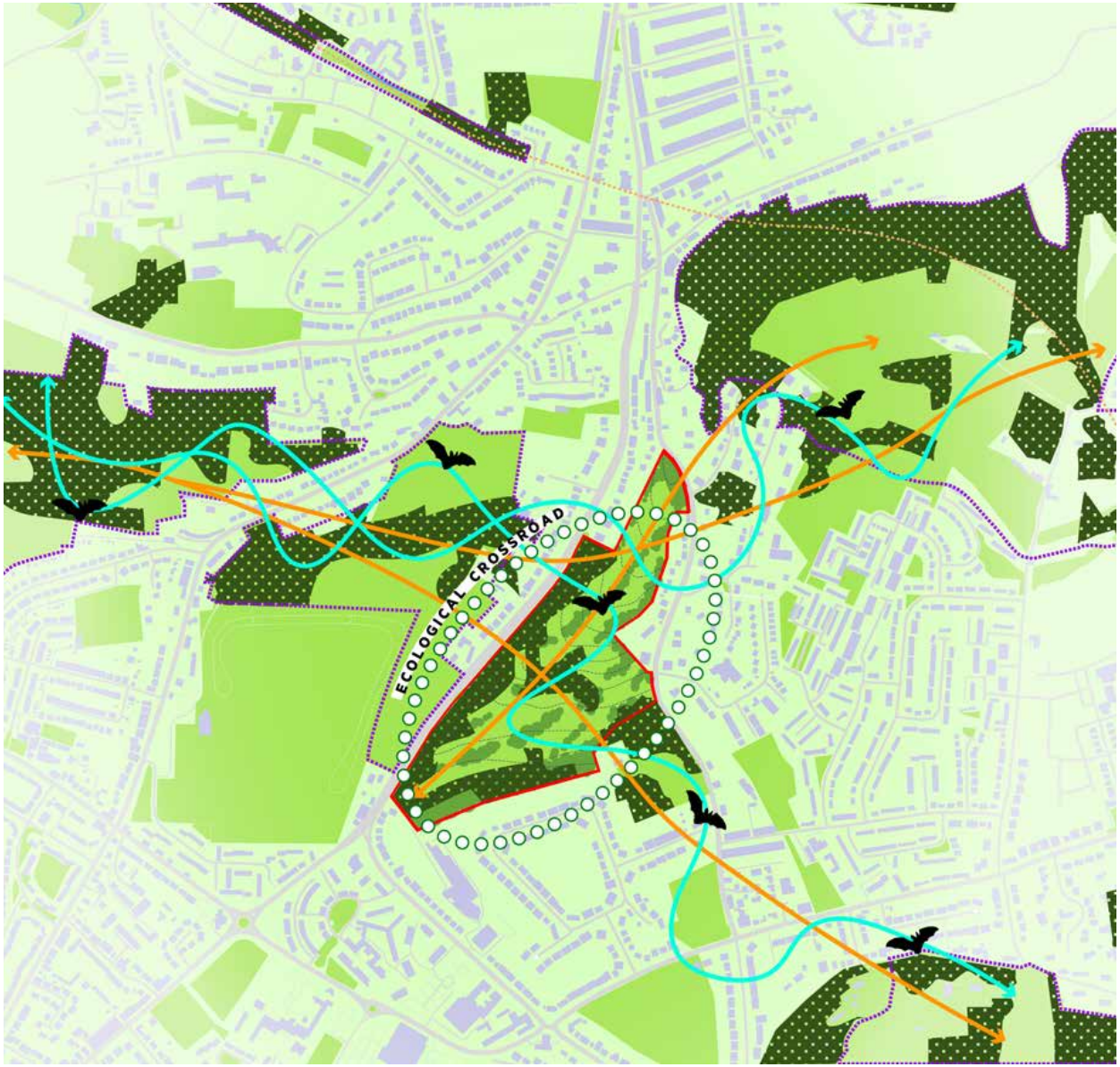
Key Economic benefits of Green Infrastructure include :

- Climate Change adaptation and mitigation
- Flood alleviation and Water management.
- Quality of Place
- Health and Well-being.
- Land and Property values.
- Economic growth and Investment.
- Labour productivity.
- Tourism.
- Recreation and Leisure.
- Land and Biodiversity.
- Products from the land



Ecology / Nature

Whilst the site is green and includes a range of trees and understorey it is not especially valuable for its existing ecology.
One of its main benefits is as a bat foraging area, especially for the Greater horseshoe bat.



Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)
Nature Corridor
Horseshoe Bat Foraging Corridor
Habitat Rich Woodland

Views

The site is almost entirely screened from its surroundings by the belt of trees along Wellsway and by the mix of properties and trees along Entry hill and other boundaries.

There are dramatic framed views to the city centre from within the site alongside a variety of views across the open fairways and greens.

Views out and over the City of Bath

Glimpsed views to City Centre through trees

Obstructed views into site

Image locations

Views

01. Glimpse views of Bath Skyline

02. Screened view from within the site

03 Screened view from within the site

04 Screened views from site boundary

Creating a Unique Space for the City of Bath

A sense of Community
User friendly
Access for All
A place for Nature
A home for Art
Wild Play
View to the City

Sion Hill Campus
Forest of the Imagination 2014, Bath Spa University

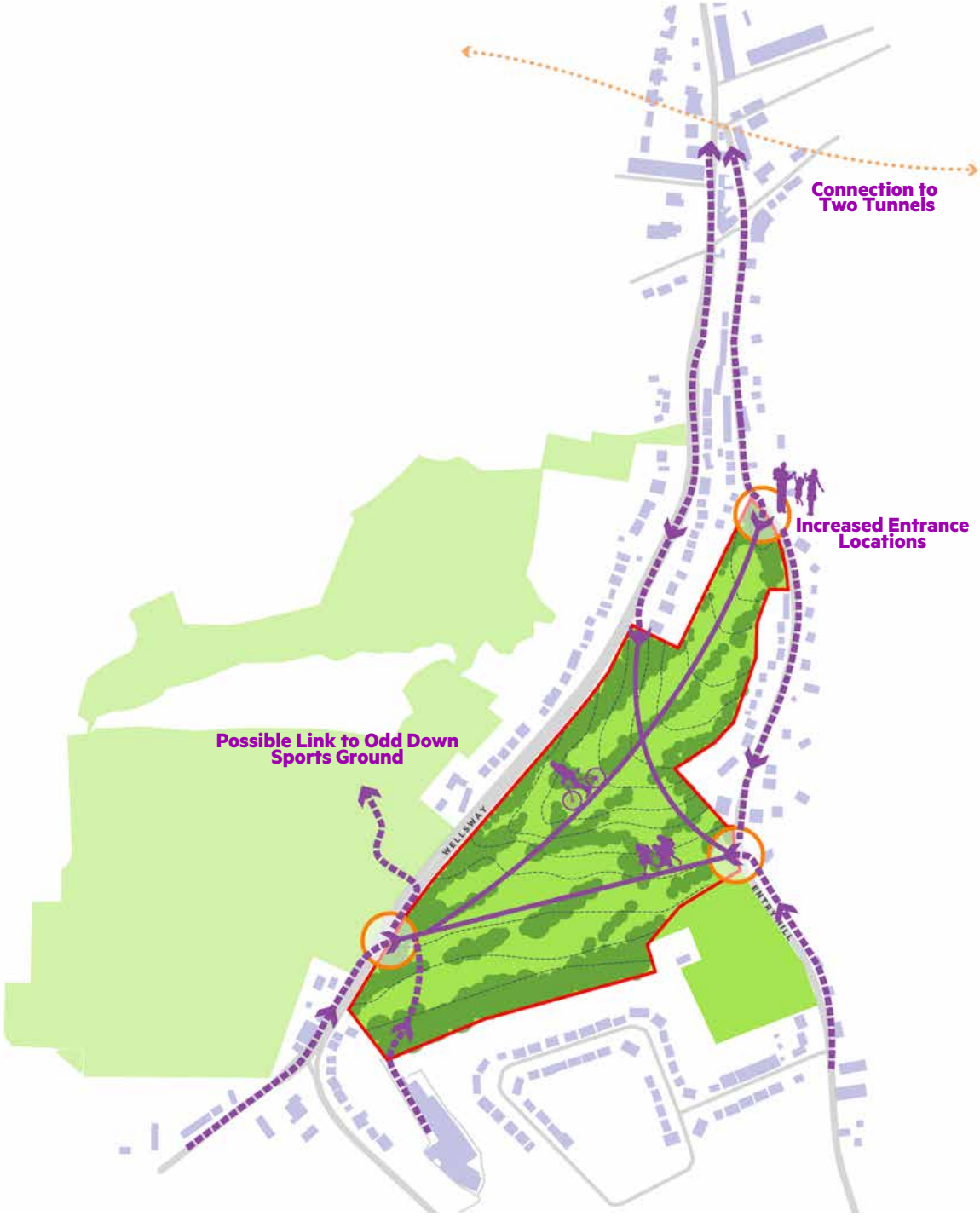
FUTURE NATURE
by Adrian Hallam, Chris Arrowsmith & Nigel Dunnett, Chelsea Flower Show 2009

Access & Connectivity

The intention would be to create new routes across the site allowing access from Wellsway to Entry Hill through this green space. These routes would connect with a series of new entrances at the top and bottom of the site and with the existing access point at the upper end of Entry Hill.

The potential to safely connect across Wellsway to the Odd Down Playing fields and The Tumps can be explored, either by a signalised pedestrian crossing or a pedestrian bridge. This would begin to link up the site with a wider network of pathways through Odd Down, Foxhill and to the Two Tunnels route.

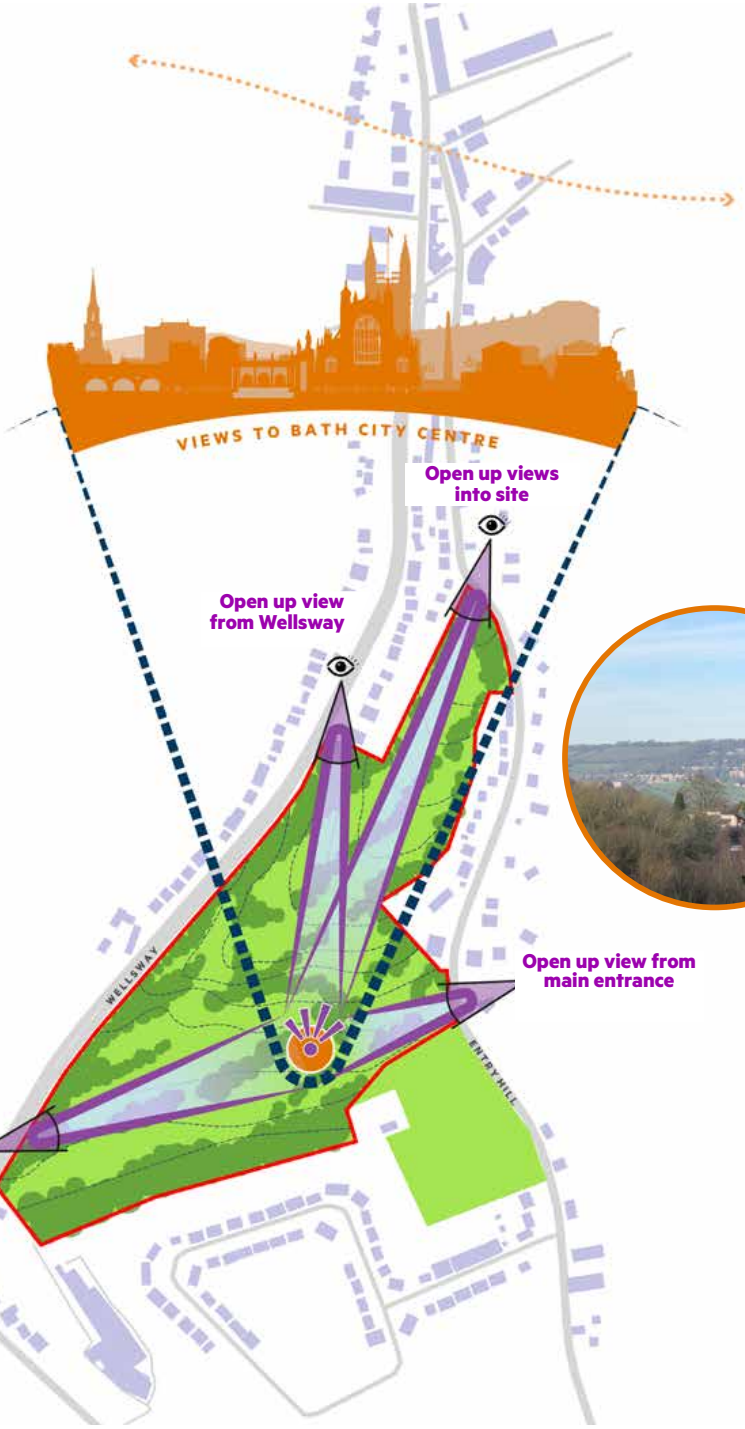
The route connecting the top of Wellsway to the Bottom of Entry Hill should be a shared pedestrian/cycle route with the opportunity for an off route trail for cycles through the tree belt alongside Wellsway.



Open up the Views

The site needs to become more visible and legible in the city. In particular, creating controlled views from Wellsway into and across the site. These views could correspond with new entrances into the site and could focus on a distinctive landmark Sculpture/Building set within the site.

Views from the site to the city centre should also be managed to optimise the drama. Some could be tightly framed glimpses, others should be wider panoramas.

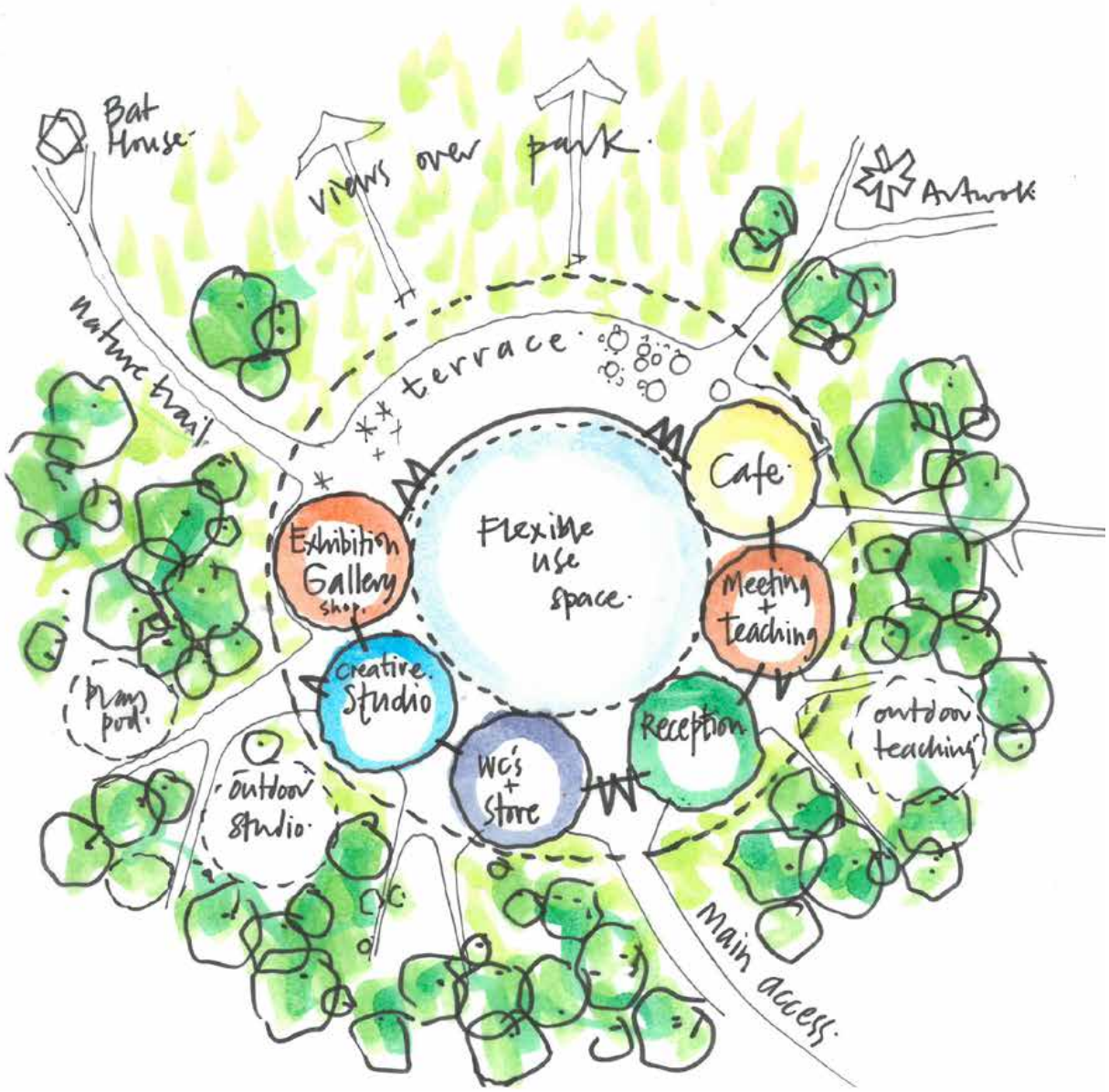


Inclusive Community Spaces & Learning Facilities

House of Imagination and Nature Discovery

The proposal will depend on the development of a new building that offers a flexible venue for the Avon Wildlife Trust, House of Imagination and for community use. The precise scale, form and content of the building will need to be developed but is likely to include a core flexible use space, a café, meeting and studio rooms, gallery, storage, and public toilets.

It has the potential to be a focus for climate and nature initiatives in Bath.



Bat Tower

Bat Tower, Ants of the Prairie, Joyce Hwang

Sculpture

Love Bomb, Marc Quinn, Jupiter Artland

Play Tower

Riverv Park, Colorado, Earthscape play

Lookout

Valbyparken, Copenhagen

Sculpture / Art in the Landscape

The special nature of the site and its topography means it is perfect to showcase large scale sculpture in the landscape alongside smaller interventions around the site.

- Arts / Nature Trail
- Interavtive Art
- Landmark Tower and Viewing Platform
- Gateways
- Art within the landscape
- Wetland Sculpture Park
- Landart

Play in the Landscape

The proposal offers the potential for a unique play offer combining natural play experiences alongside more art based play experiences.
A trail of play around the site could be complemented by smaller localised play spaces at the main entrances at the top and bottom of the site.

Arts / Nature Trail

Downhill Mountain Biking

Active Play Focus Areas

Interactive Play and Art

Tower

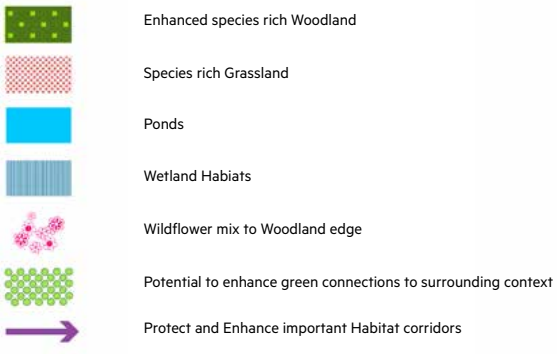
Wellbeing Through Nature

The proposal offers an ideal setting for AWT to deliver their programme of nature based wellbeing and healthy lifestyles.

Wilding the Landscape

The strategy for enhancing the nature conservation value of the site will mainly come through changed management of the existing site to create a richer mosaic of grasslands, tree cover, wetlands and open water.
This 'wilding' of the site will be coordinated to deliver a series of accessible and informative learning experiences.

Lesser Horseshoe Bat
Rhinolophus hipposideros

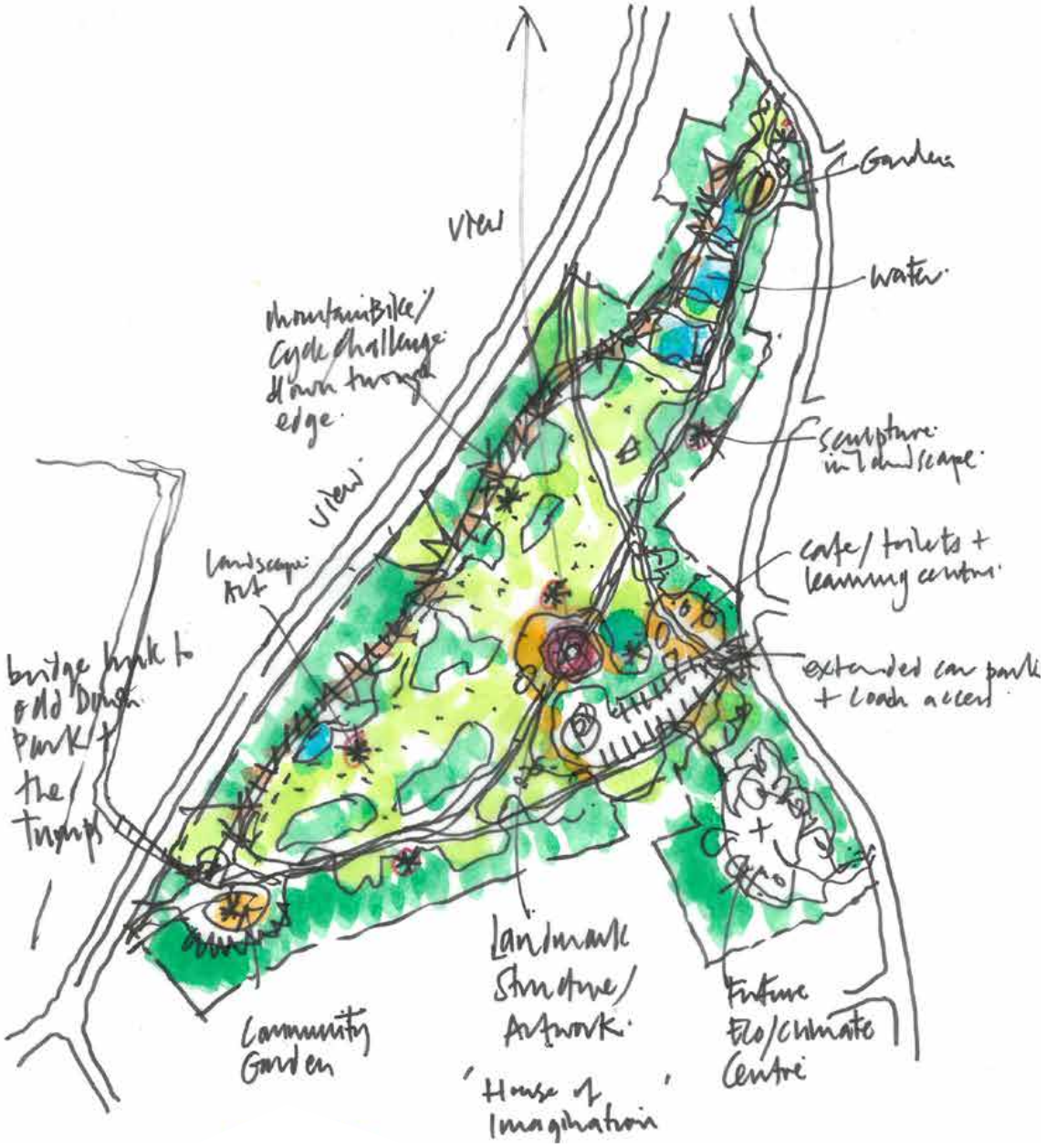


Drainage and Levels

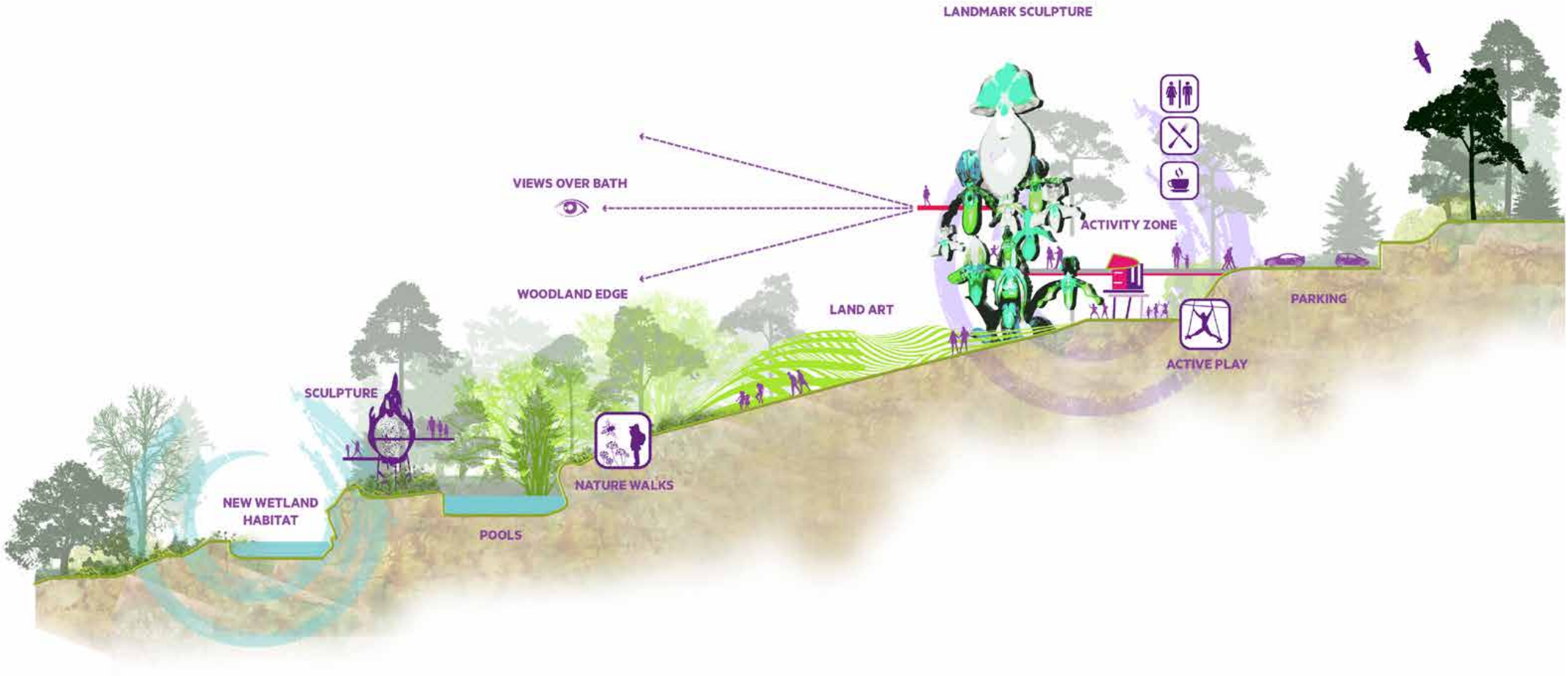
The site offers the potential to include a variety of ponds and wetland habitats subject to the technical constraints on remodelling the land. The site would originally have provided part of the watershed for the Lyncombe Brook and it would be interesting to reflect this connectivity in the designs.

Concept Plan

The illustrative plan and section begins to suggest how the site could be organised and how the level change can be utilised to create a unique character and function for this green space.



Concept Section



+ Open up the Views

+ Inclusive Community Spaces

+ Play in the Landscape

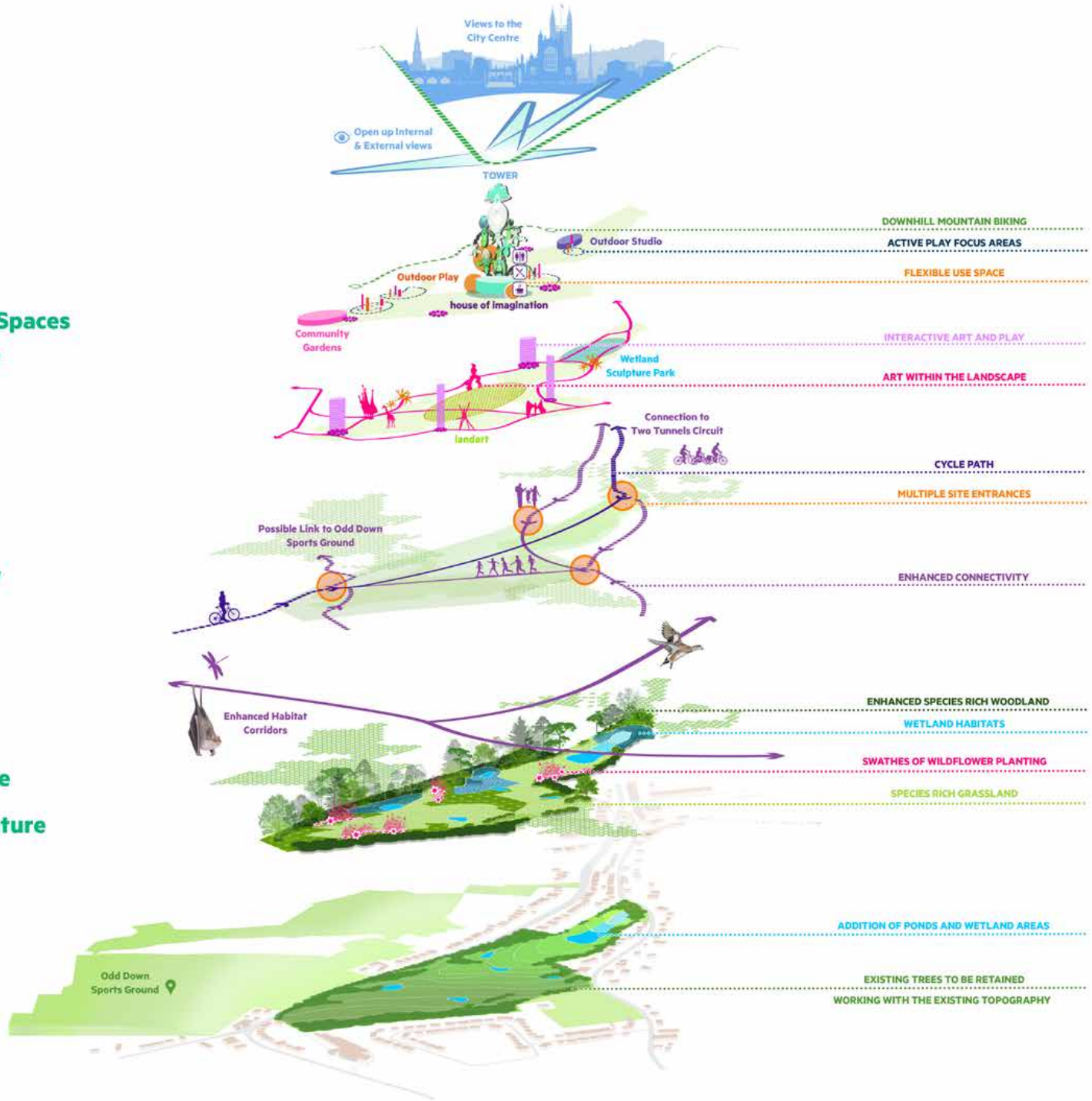
+ Art in the Landscape

+ Access & Connectivity

+ Wilding the Landscape

+ Wellbeing through Nature

+ Drainage and Levels



Firmament, Antony Gormley, 2008 Programme

07 Case Study **Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh**

Trisha Brown and Jupiter Rising, Festival of Art August 2019

Weeping Girls, by Laura Ford

Milk 'pop up' at Jupiter Artland 2015

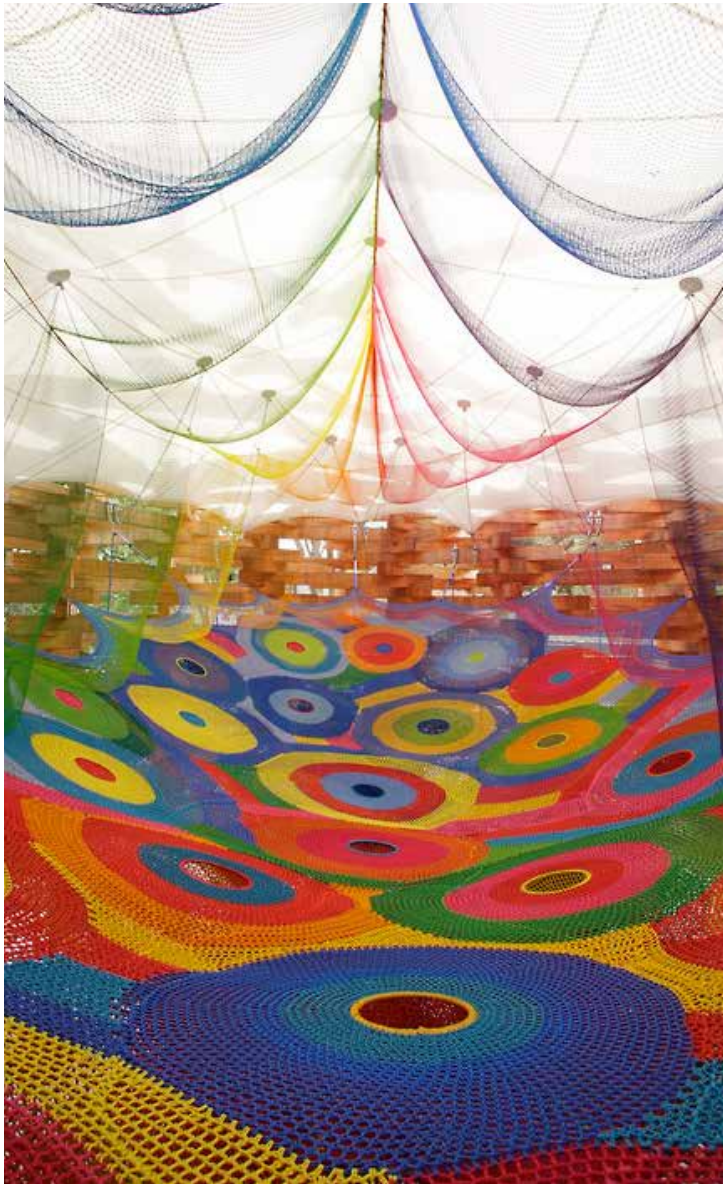
Outdoor Swimming Pool, by Joana Vasconcelos, 2019 Programme

Cells of Life, by Charles Jencks

07 Case Study **Folly Farm, Somerset**

07 Case Study **Valby Park, Copenhagen**

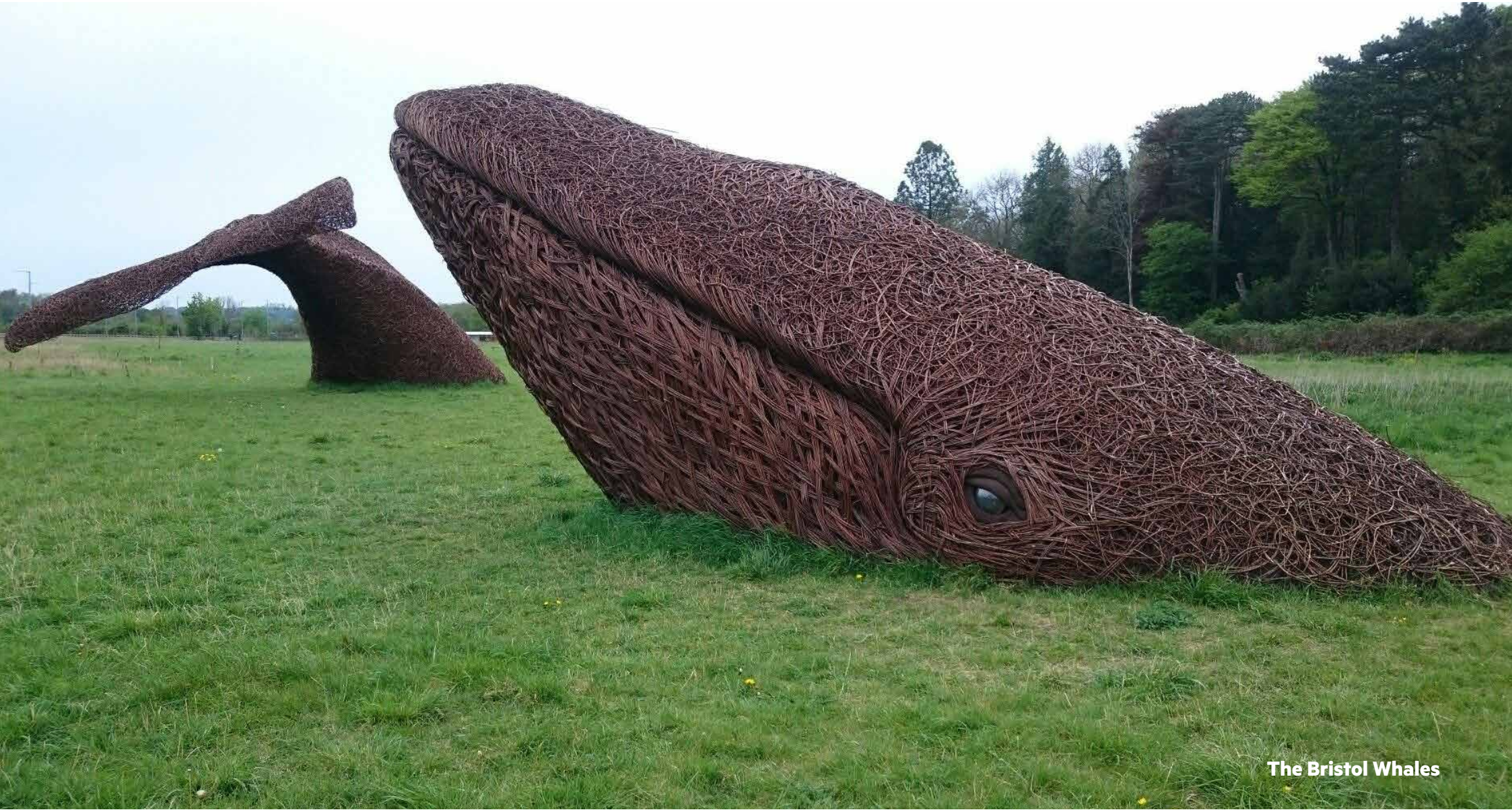
07 Case Study **Hakone Art Museum, Japan**



07 Case Study **Children's Forest Park, Japan**

De Cordova Sculpture Park, Massachusetts

07 Case Study **Treetop Walkway, Kew Gardens, London**



The Bristol Whales