



CASTLE PARK, BISHOP'S STORTFORD: STAGE 3 DESIGNS

AUGUST 2018

Produced by the Countryside Management Service on behalf of East Herts Council and Bishop's Stortford Town Council, for the National Lottery funded Castle Park project.



Bishop's Stortford Town Council

CURRENT LANDSCAPE:



Castle Park currently functions as two separate spaces, with Castle Gardens to the west of the river and Swarder's Field to the east. These spaces face away from each other and do not operate as a single space.

The landscape of the park developed in piecemeal manner throughout the 20th century, giving it a disjointed and unplanned feel. The tennis courts underpin this, as a large recreation space that provides a physical and visual barrier amongst an otherwise relaxed and heritage focussed space.



View north from beside the war memorials. The tennis courts and tree cover completely conceal Waytemore Castle

ACCESSIBILITY:

Accessible paths are currently poorly connected and incomplete, broken by a series of access barriers across the park.

New paths around Sworder's Field, a surfaced teenage space, a new bridge and resurfacing work will overcome these issues. Whilst access to the castle mound cannot feasibly be created, interpretation through displays, static boards and leaflets will allow everyone to understand and appreciate this feature.

No level access, poor turning space

Stepped access to castle mound

Steep incline

Lack of surfacing within teenage recreation space, with facilities separated from paths

Narrow bridge with steep ramps

No pathway along eastern side of Sworder's Field

No pathway along riverside

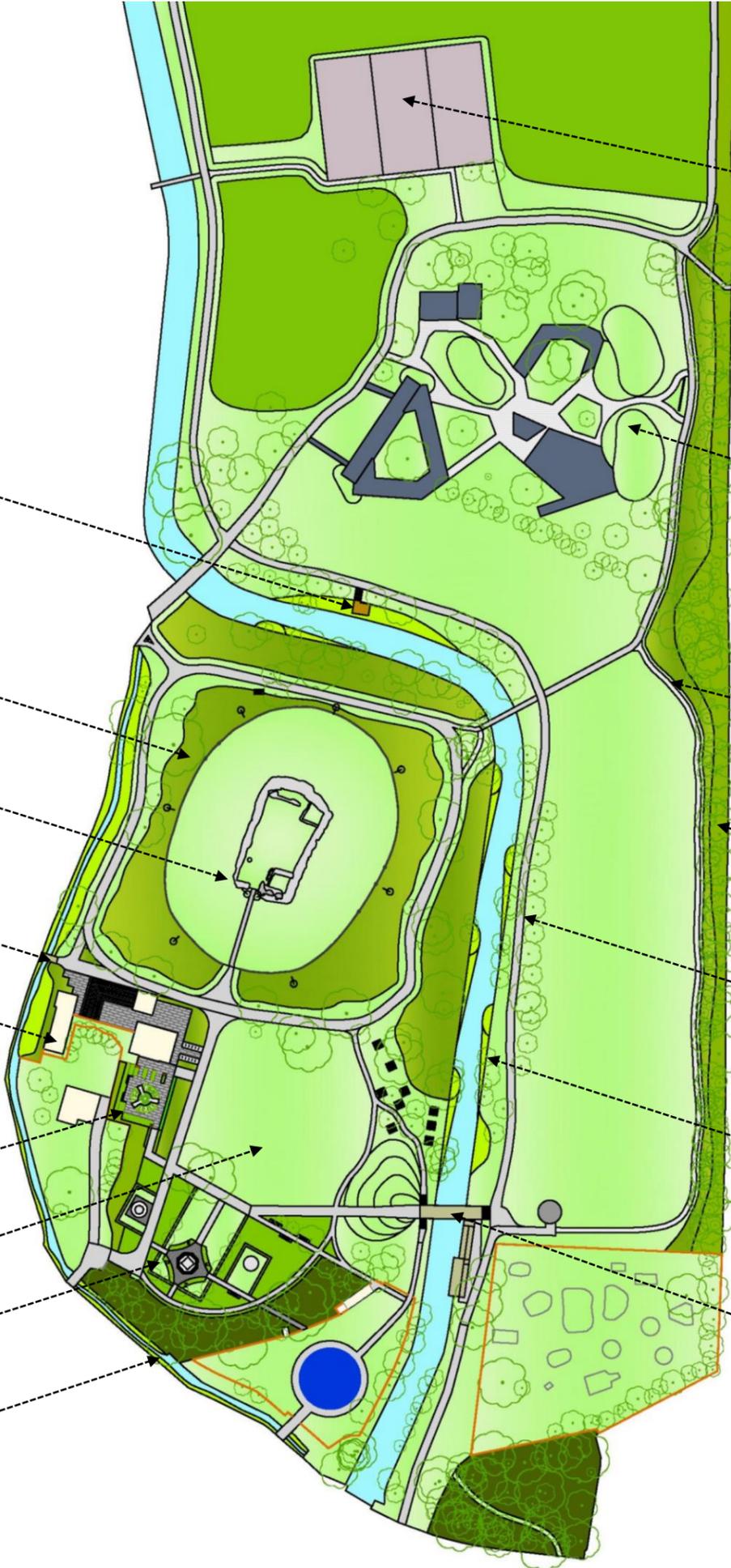
Narrow bridge with steep ramps



Wheelchair accessible routes

Barrier to access

MASTERPLAN:



Re-grading of the river bank to establish a marginal habitat and viewing platform

Establishment of wildflower planting around castle mound

Protection and promotion of Waytemore Castle

Main entrance improvements

Refurbishment of buildings to provide café, toilets and community rooms

Community garden

New events area

War memorial garden

Habitat enhancements to Causeway Loop Channel

3 new permeable macadam courts with crushed stone access paths

Upgraded teenage recreation space including new sports facilities and social gathering. Surfacing will improve accessibility.

Crushed stone path along eastern boundary makes all of Sworder's Field accessible

Vegetation screening to railway line, providing an additional habitat

Riverside path establishes an accessible route for enjoyment of the Stort

A series of brash berms will enhance the river habitat

A new bridge will provide good access between the two sides of the park, with a pontoon allowing direct interaction with the river

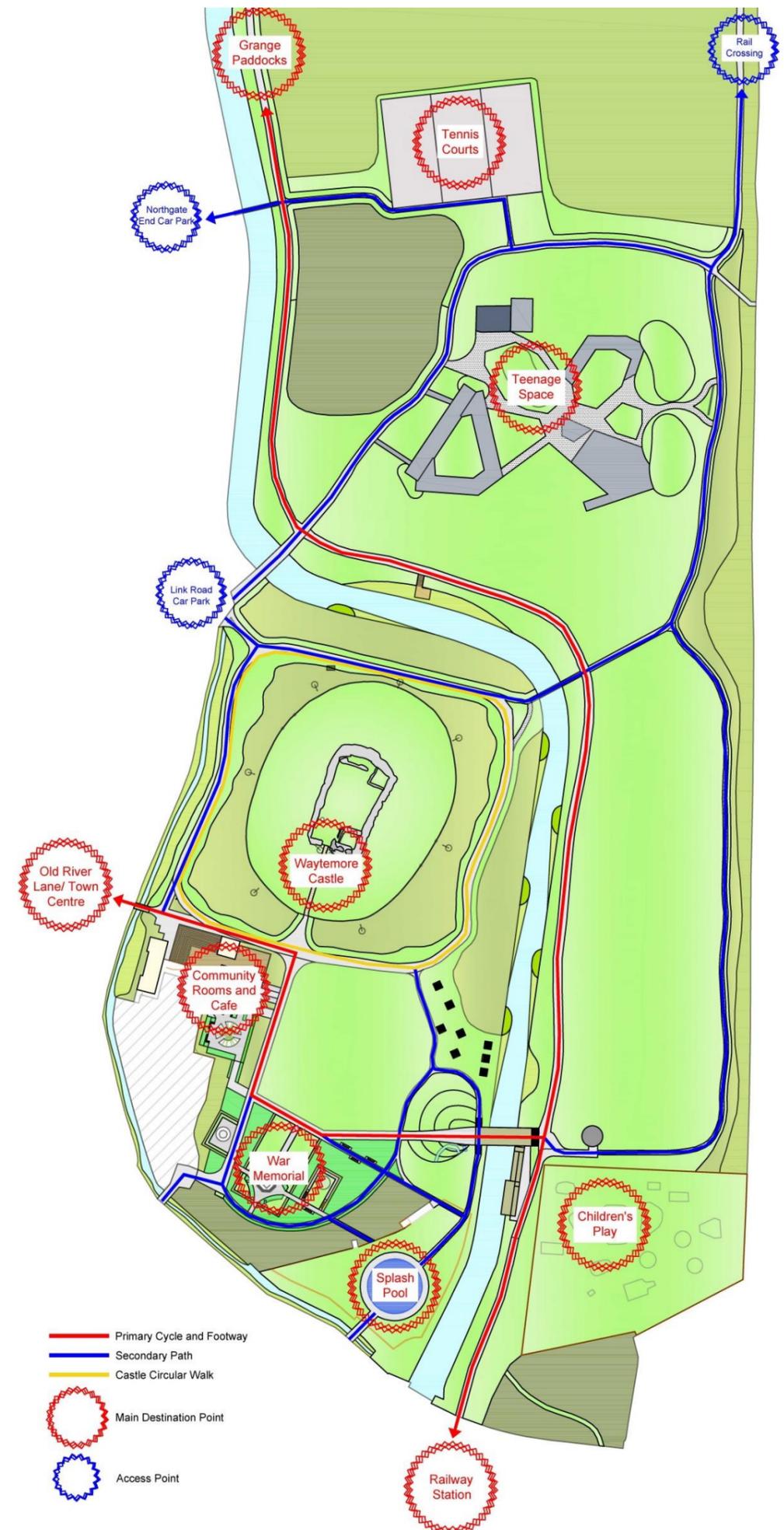
MOVEMENT:

A new path network has been devised that seeks to overcome the disjointed feel of the park and the segregation of Castle Gardens and Sworder's Field.

This identifies the main destination points within the park and develops links between these with new and accessible paths.

This includes:

- A riverside path that improves visibility of the Stort and connects the town centre out towards the north of the town
- A path along the eastern edge for those coming from Hockerill residential areas
- Reoriented paths around the war memorials to allow better access and for these to face out onto the new events area
- A clear and legible access route out to the town centre to the west
- Stronger connection between the War Memorial Garden and the Splash Pool



WAYTEMORE CASTLE:

- Establishment of safe public access
- Cladding and levelling of the access steps
- Specialist conservation work will protect the castle masonry
- Opening of the well to create a historic feature
- An interpretation to allow people to visualise the past
- Lighting of the mound
- Tree and hedge removal as part of the promotion of the castle in the landscape
- Wildflower planting to create an ornate and wildlife rich setting

Hedgerow around base of mound to be removed and replaced with 1.2m estate railing

Lighting units installed around base of mound

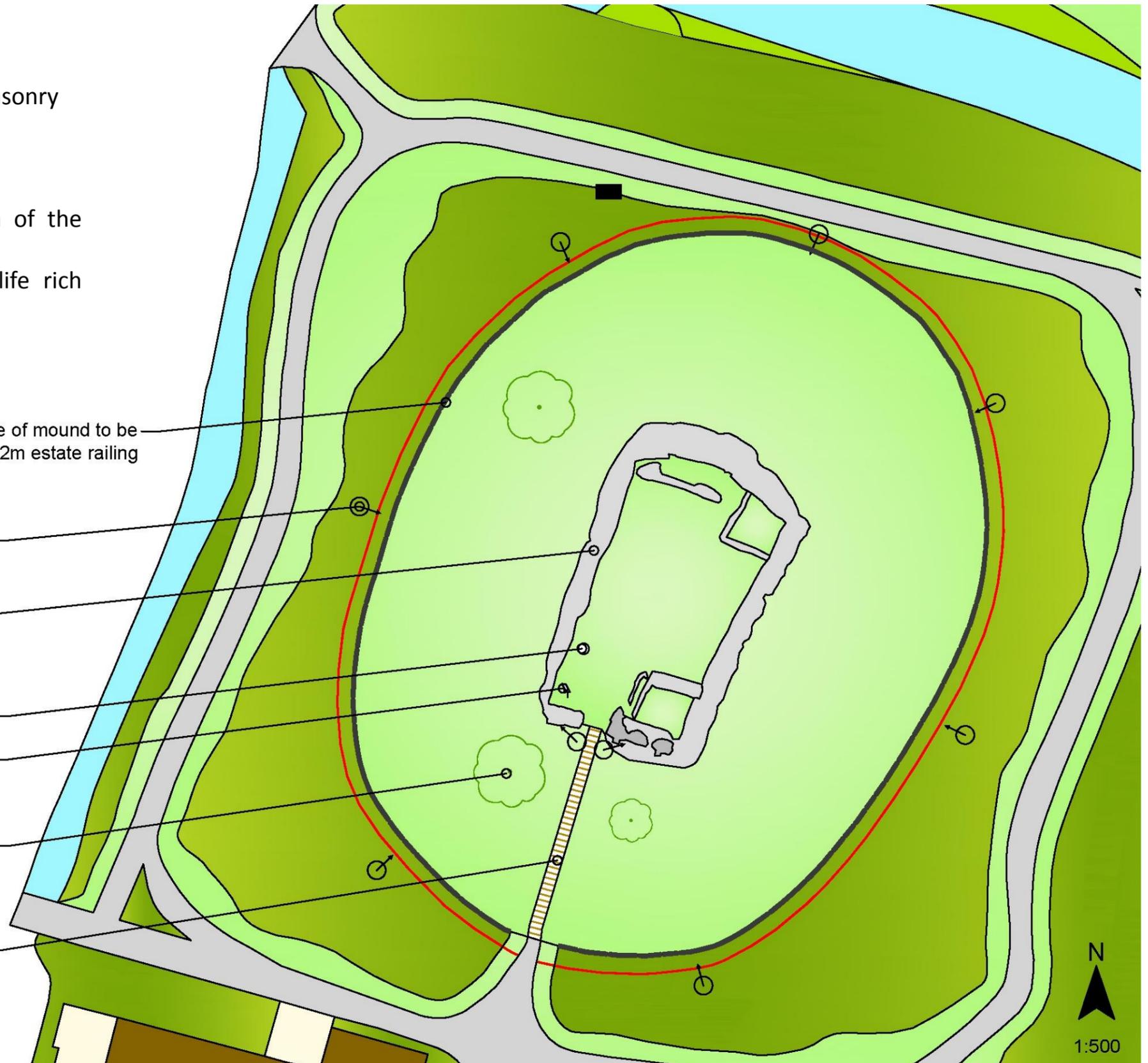
Conservation work to protect castle masonry

Well to be opened

Interpretation board

Trees growing on mound to be removed

Steps clad and levelled



1:500

WAYTEMORE CASTLE:

Wildflower planting around the base of Waytemore Castle will create an impressive setting from which the castle mound will rise. The complexity and colour of the planting will contrast with the simplicity of the close cut castle mound, giving it a greater stature within the landscape.

Covering approximately 5,000m² the planting itself will be visually stunning and offer a valuable wildlife habitat. It will also guide people informally towards the access steps, without the physical and obtrusive barrier the hedge currently provides.

A simpler design along the river will transition the formal area of the park into the natural river corridor.



Graphic impression of wildflowers surrounding the mound (left) and example images of wildflowers to be used (right)

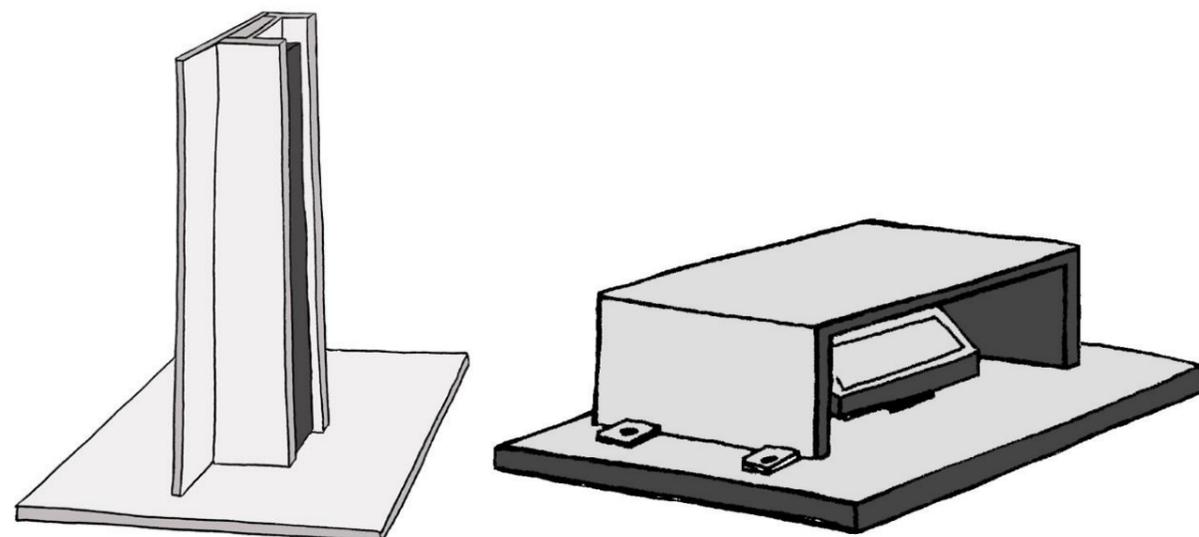
WAYTEMORE CASTLE:

A series of luminaires will be installed around the base of the castle mound and built into the upgraded castle steps.

On normal days the castle mound will have a gentle green wash of colour, giving it a mysterious feel. There will be the option for changing this lighting to different colours to give it a more vibrant and exciting feel, such as on event days.

White lighting will be applied to the intact sections of wall at the southern end of the castle keep, which face out onto the park. This will pick out the intricate texture of the stone.

The lighting will be controlled from a unit within the refurbished Markwell Pavilion.



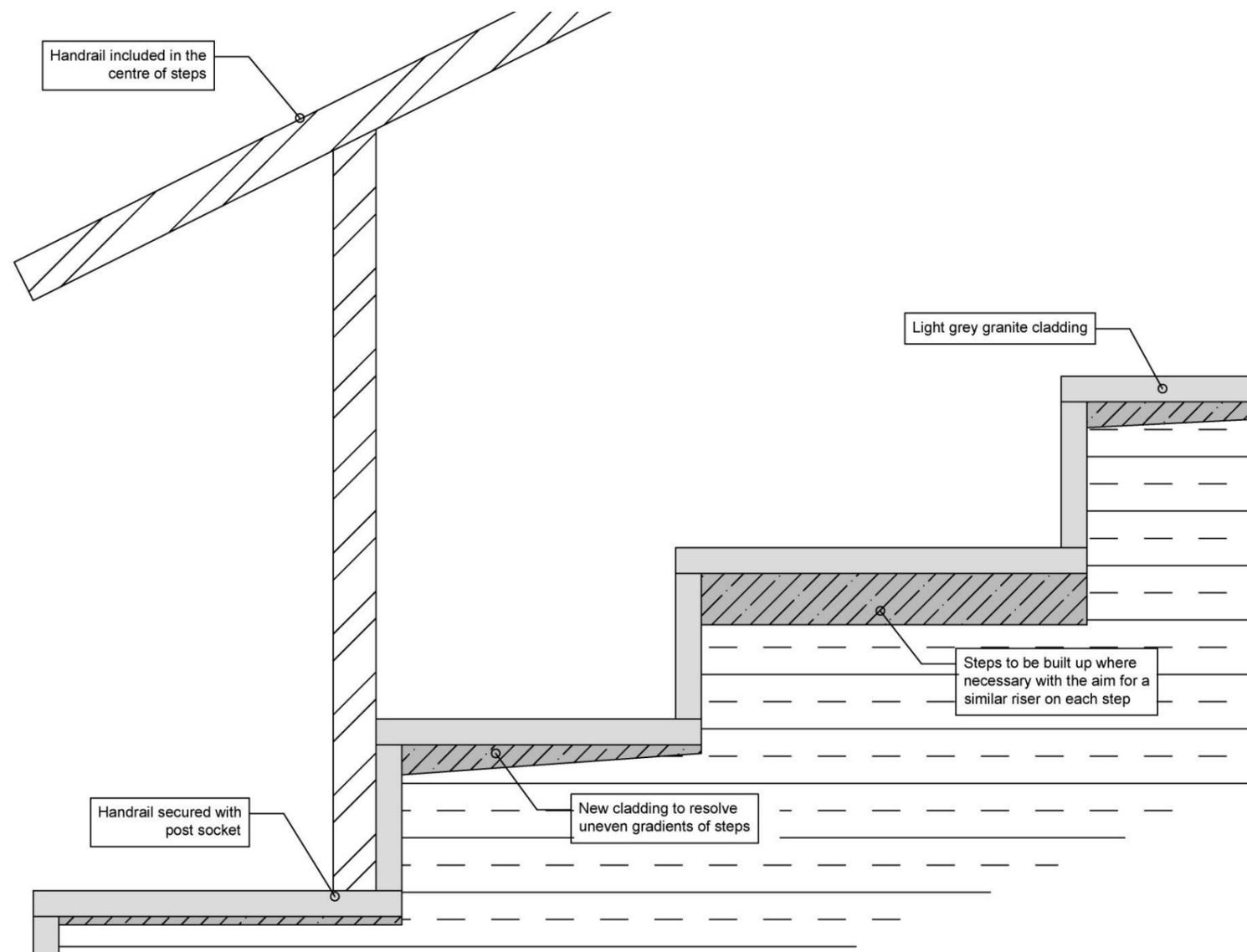
Units to house the luminaires on the steps (left) and around the base of the mound (right)

Images from tests carried out on the effectiveness of the lighting proposals

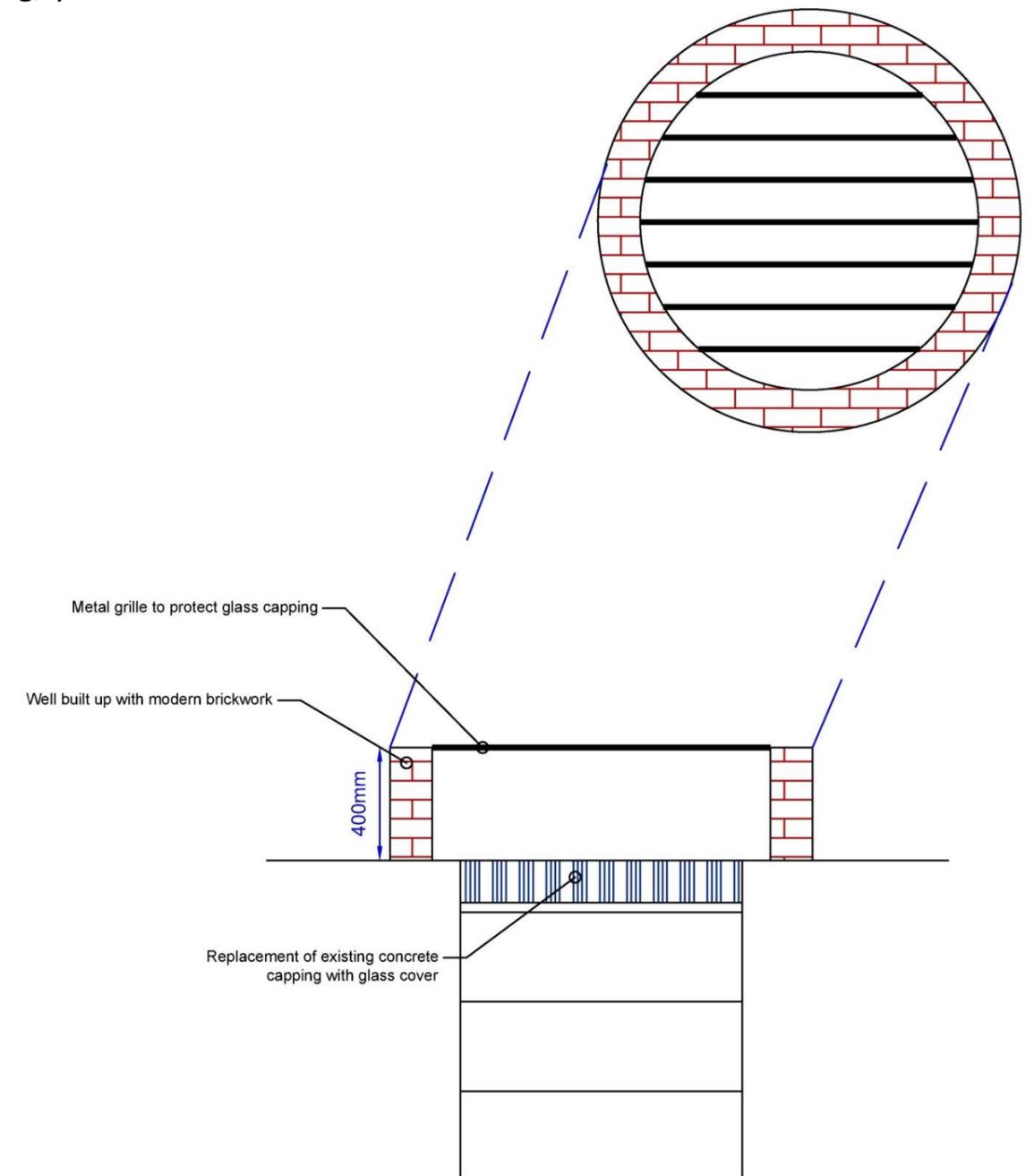
WAYTEMORE CASTLE:

Access steps up to the castle mound are likely to date back to archaeological surveys carried out in the late 19th century. They are unattractive, uneven and with non-uniform risers. Cladding and levelling of these will establish safe access and make them more appropriate to the setting.

When at the top of the mound, park visitors will be able to explore and interact with the heritage. This will include the well. Currently covered with a concrete capping, it will be opened up with a glass capping, yorkstone brick sides and grille. This will allow people to safely see down into the well.



Detail of enhancements to the stepped access to the mound



Detail for opening the well

MARKWELL PAVILION:

- Major refurbishment to provide more attractive buildings that are better integrated with the park
- Timber cladding gives the building a softer and more natural appearance that is more in keeping with the park setting
- Larger windows increase connectivity between the rooms and the surrounding landscape. Artistically designed shutters will protect these from damage whilst promoting the heritage.
- A new café to provide a regular income stream
- Two community rooms for private hire, school groups and events and as a base for the Friends of Castle Park
- Creation of public toilets, including a new Changing Places facility. This will be the only Changing Places unit in the centre of Bishop's Stortford and is crucial for allowing disabled people to visit the town centre for prolonged periods.
- External terrace overlooking the castle and wildflowers
- Stepped in-situ concrete landscape terrace providing an informal gathering space
- Colonnade structure provided shade and a link between the buildings
- New bridge over the Causeway Loop as part of a more legible site entrance
- Demolition of the unsightly garages
- Demolition of the Elsie Barratt room improves views of the castle mound from the south of the park



Graphic impression of the refurbished buildings:

Above: the new community room converted from a closed toilet block

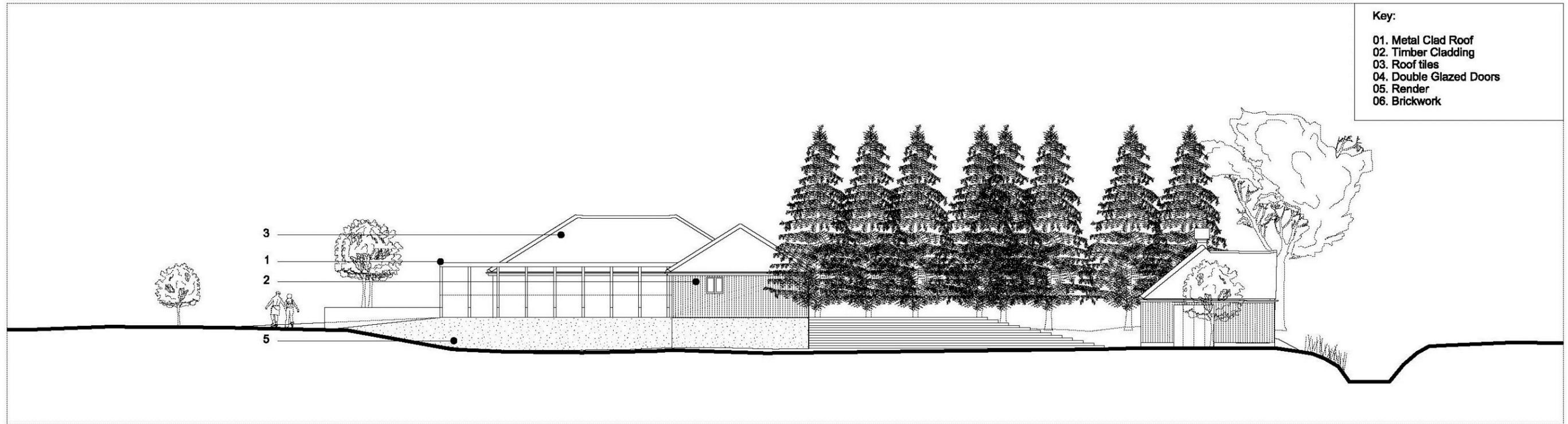
Below: the Markwell Pavilion café and community room, with new terrace overlooking the castle

MARKWELL PAVILION:

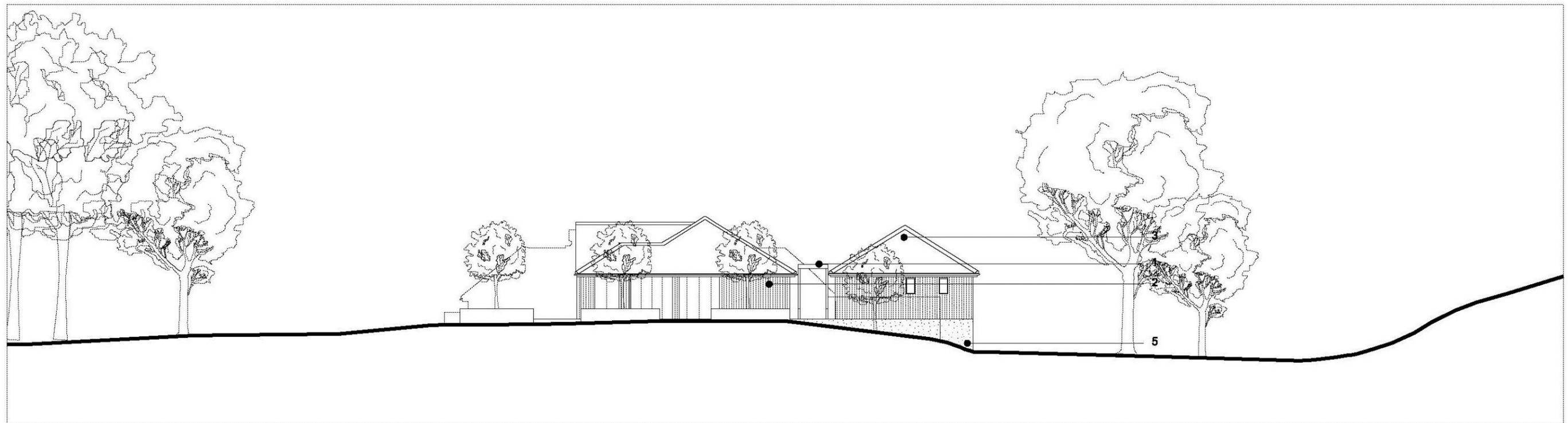


Floor plan of the proposed buildings. Produced by Milligan Knight Architects

MARKWELL PAVILION:



01 NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE 1:200@A3

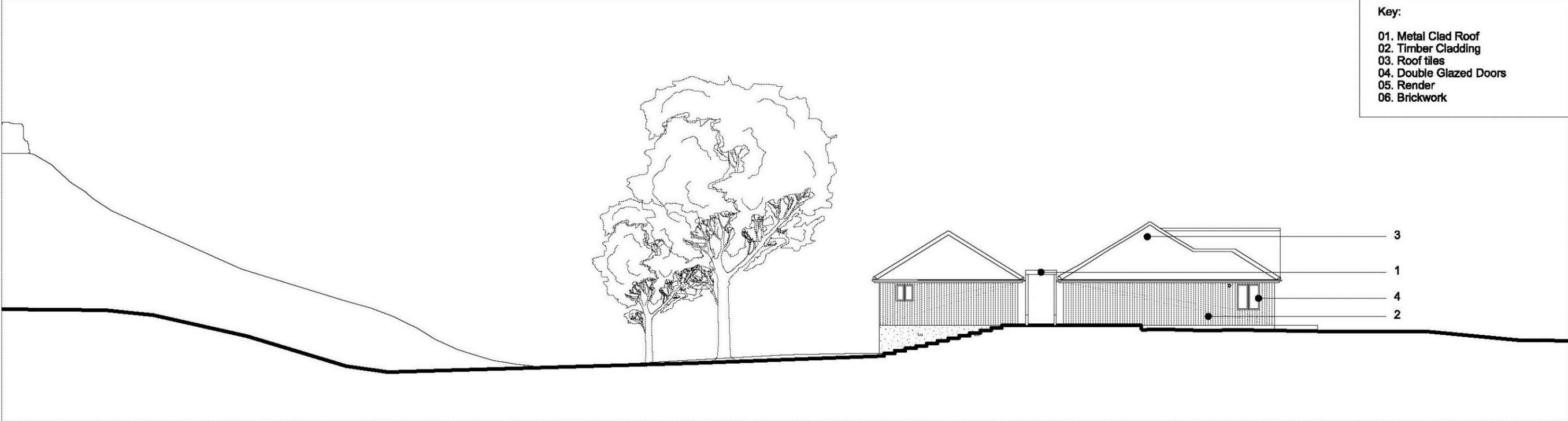


02 EAST ELEVATION
SCALE 1:200@A3

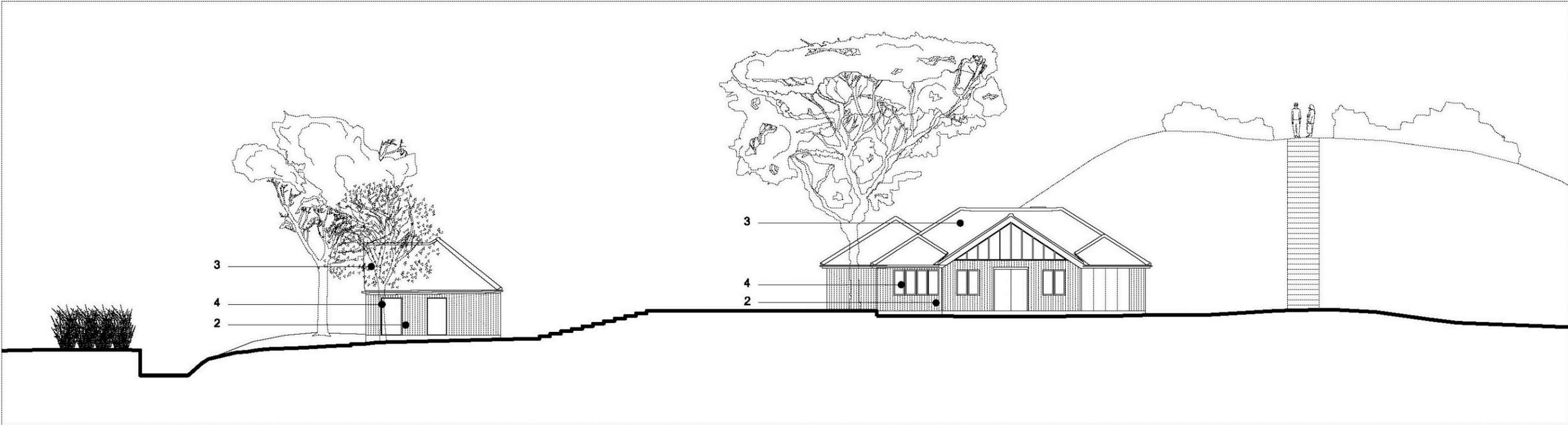
Proposed building elevations (north and east). Produced by Milligan Knight Architects

MARKWELL PAVILION:

- Key:**
- 01. Metal Clad Roof
 - 02. Timber Cladding
 - 03. Roof tiles
 - 04. Double Glazed Doors
 - 05. Render
 - 06. Brickwork

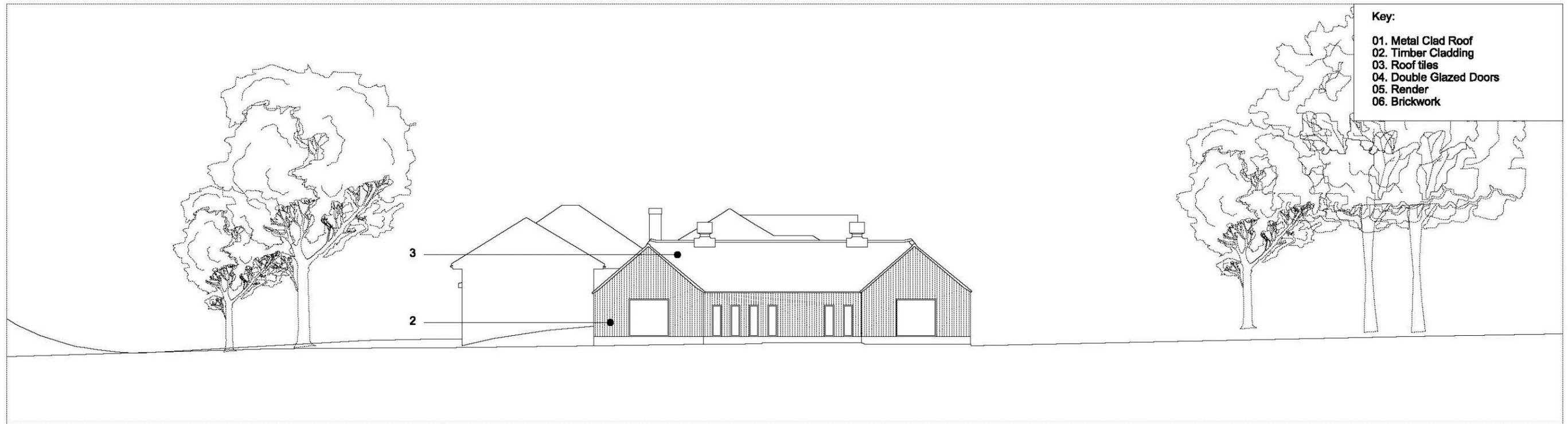


01 WEST ELEVATION
SCALE 1:200@A3

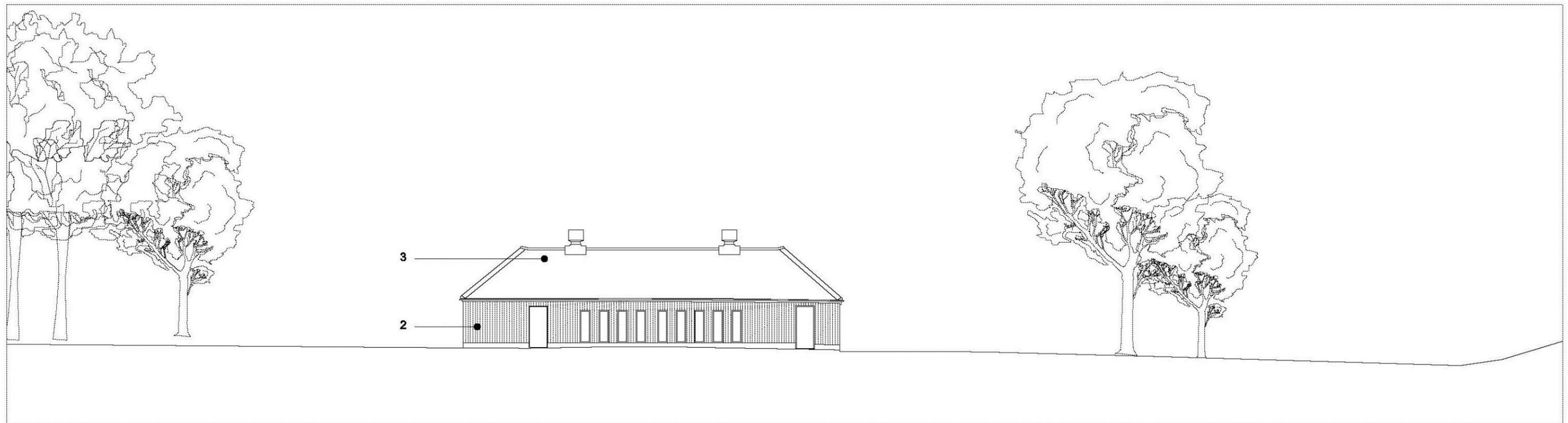


02 EAST ELEVATION
SCALE 1:200@A3

MARKWELL PAVILION:



01 WEST ELEVATION
SCALE 1:200@A3



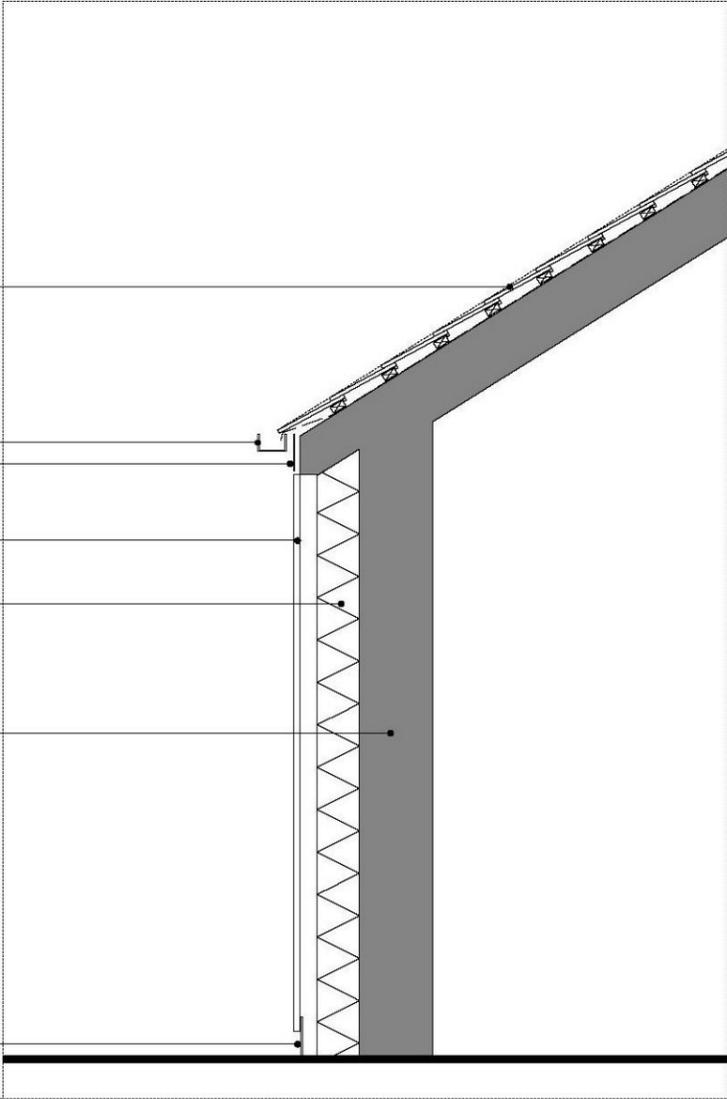
02 EAST ELEVATION
SCALE 1:200@A3

Proposed elevations of the new community room (east and west). Produced by Milligan Knight Architects

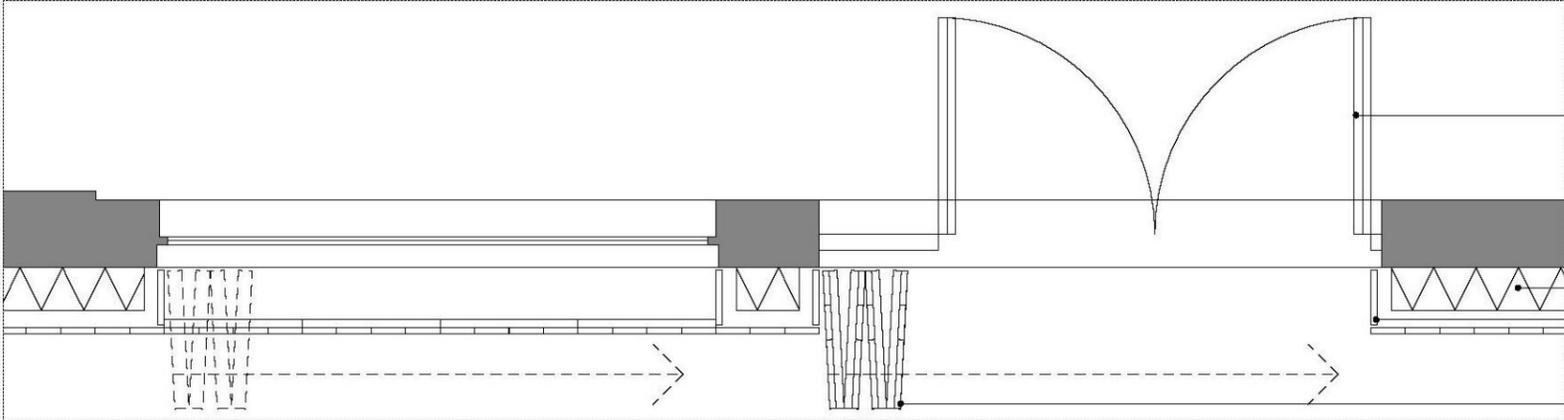
MARKWELL PAVILION:



01 TYPICAL ELEVATION DETAIL
SCALE 1:25



03 TYPICAL SECTION DETAIL
SCALE 1:25



02 TYPICAL PLAN DETAIL
SCALE 1:25

- Key:**
- 01. Existing tiled roof (cleaned and repaired)
 - 02. Timber Cladding
 - 03. Galvanized gutter
 - 04. Galvanized fascia board
 - 05. Routed historical motif (design TBC)
 - 06. Aluminium framed glazing
 - 07. Insulation
 - 08. Timber shutters
 - 09. Existing building

WAR MEMORIAL GARDEN:



A simple, reflective space will be created around both of the memorials with open rectangular areas of finely managed amenity grass, surrounded by short (approx 40-50cm height) box or yew hedgerows. 11 small trees (e.g. blossoming cherry) will be planted at even spaces within the yew hedge of the main memorial. This represents the 11th November Remembrance Day, which had previously been symbolised by an avenue of 11 trees on approach to the castle, which were removed several years ago due to tree health.

Re-aligned paths will mean that the grass area around the main war memorial leads directly onto the new events space. This will mean events such as Remembrance Day will have a much greater public capacity.

Ornamental planting will surround the memorial spaces. A complexity of colours and textures (e.g. cornus, euphorbia, mahonia) will create an impressive but contrasting background to the simple and geometric landscaping around the memorials. Ornate ground cover (e.g. vinca, pachysandra) will be used to complete less prominent parts of the garden in a way that can be sustainably managed.

Yorkstone paving will replace the crumbling tarmac around the base of the main war memorial.

The Victorian drinking fountain will be relocated into this space. This gives it a more noteworthy location whilst presenting the main war memorial as the central feature of the garden. The fountain has been aligned with the bridge so that it can be seen clearly from Sworder's Field, signposting the heritage within the landscape.

RIVER STORT:

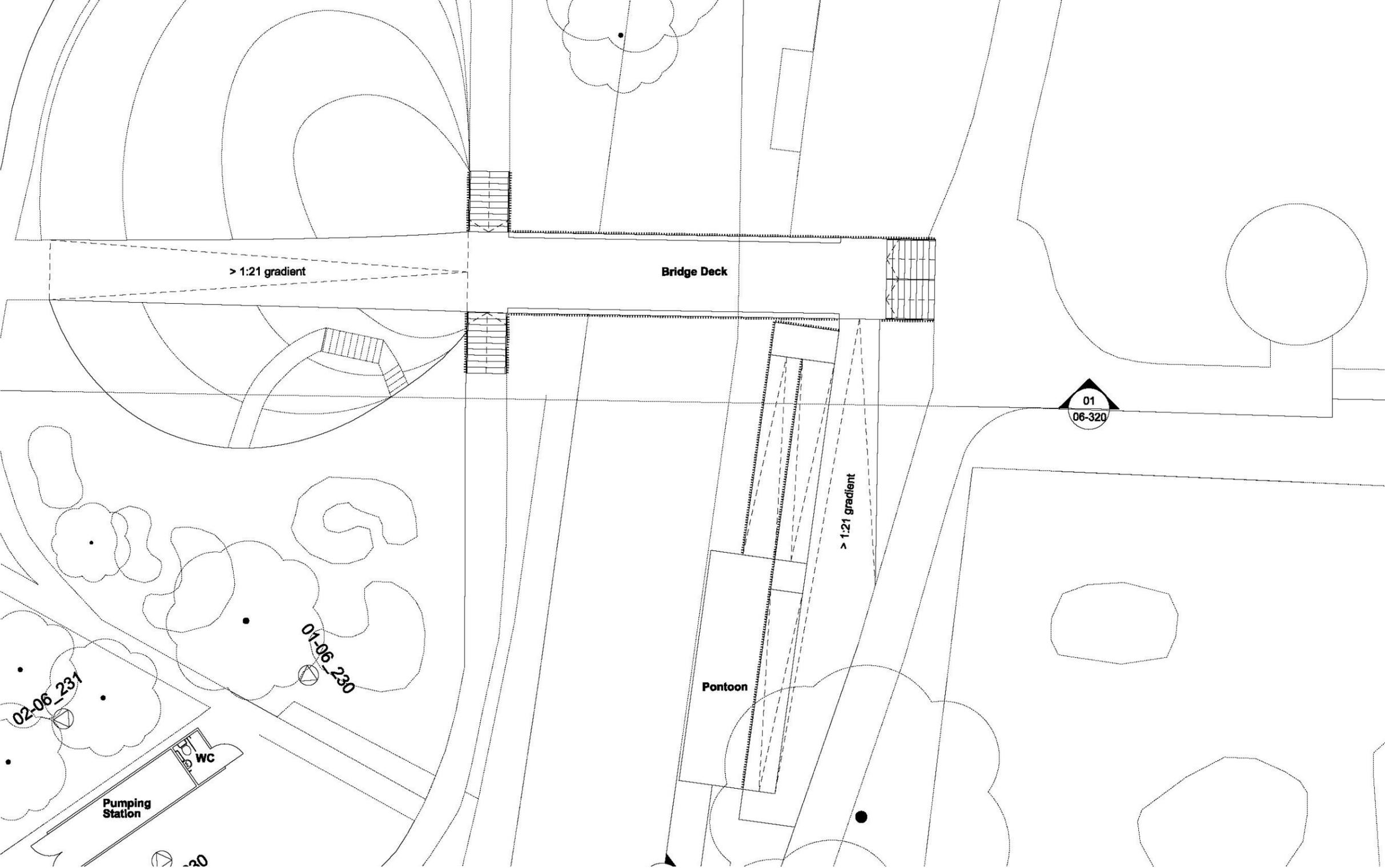
The River Stort will be made in a feature of the park for people to enjoy, with habitat enhancements strengthening the natural heritage:

- A new and accessible bridge will be located on a main connecting route across the park, linking the children's spaces and the events spaces
- A pontoon will allow people to directly interact with the river and provide access for canoes and kayaks
- Demolition of one of the bridges that is poorly located and with poor accessibility
- Tree reduction through a selective process of pollarding, removals and retention will allow more light to the river, giving a new lease of life to the habitat
- Brush berms will be installed by volunteers, introducing a varying flow and helping to establish marginal habitat
- Re-profiling of the steep banks in two locations will create wide marginal shelves and provide a further access point for people to enjoy the river



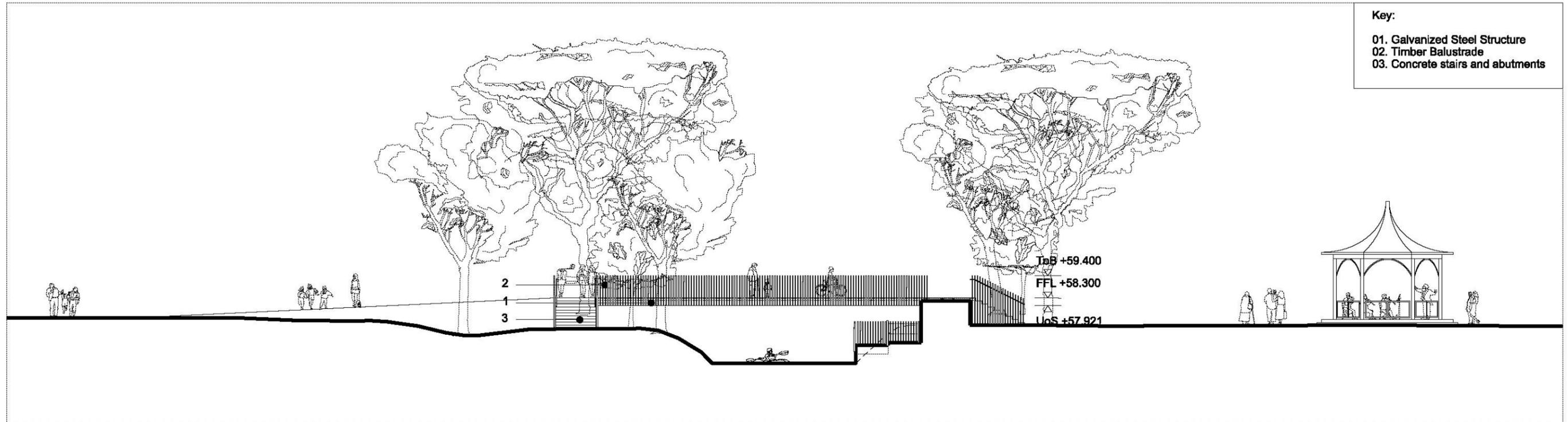
Graphic impression of the new bridge crossing and the pontoon. Produced by Milligan Knight Architects.

RIVER STORT:

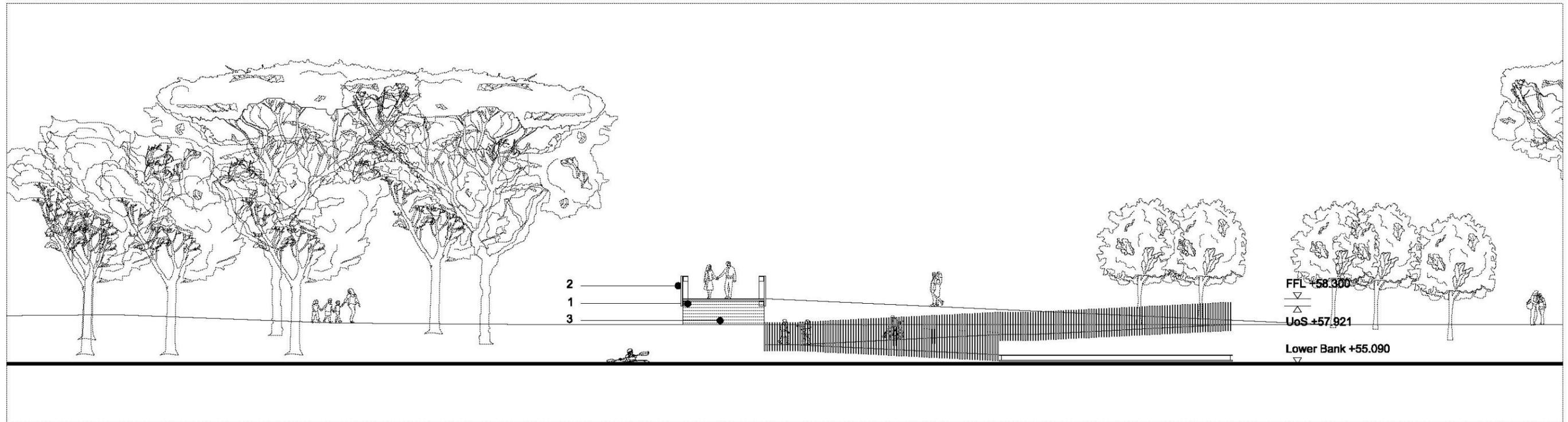


Plan of the bridge and pontoon. Produced by Milligan Knight Architects

RIVER STORT:



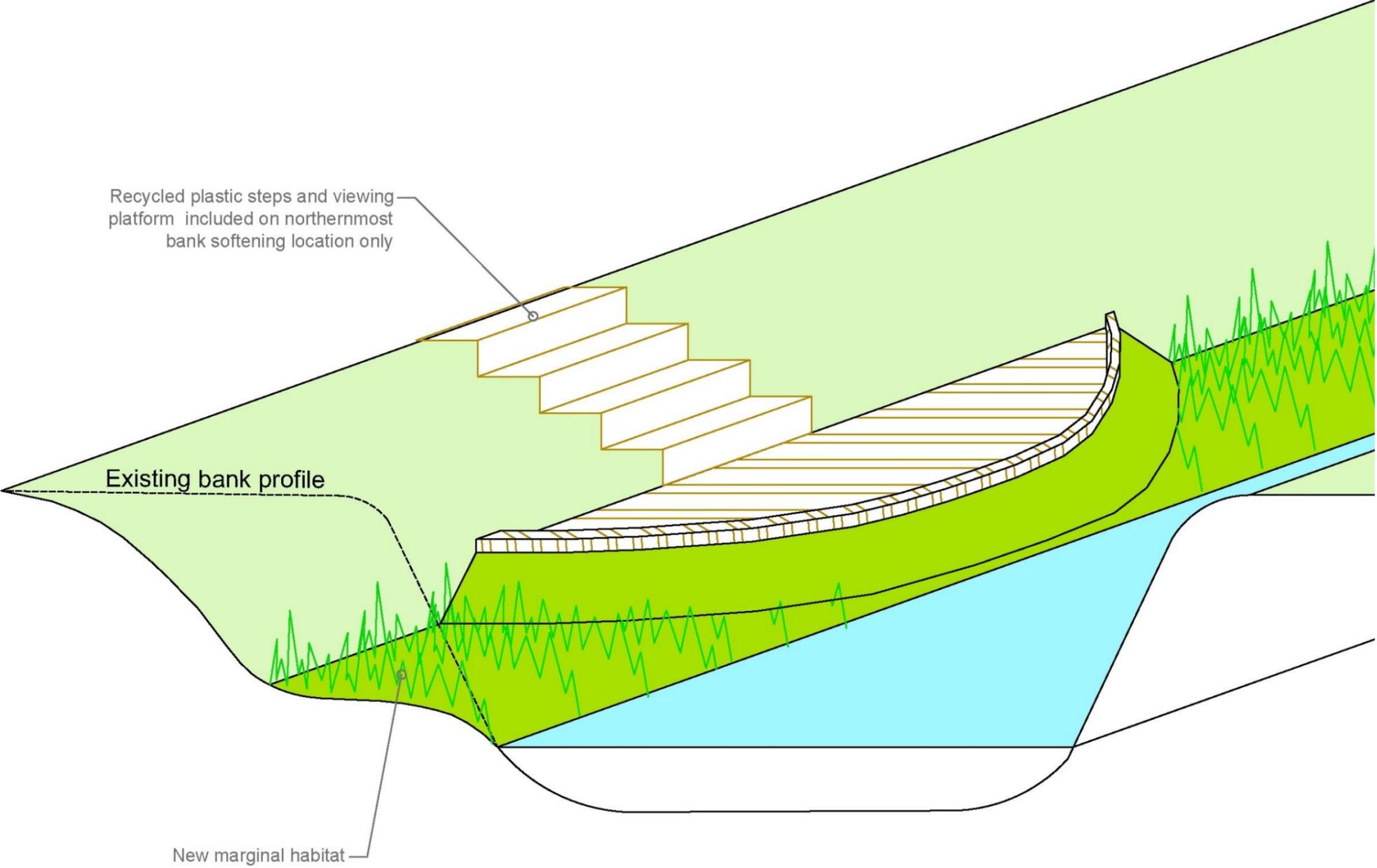
01 SECTION AA
SCALE 1:200@A3



02 SECTION BB
SCALE 1:200@A3

Elevations of the bridge and pontoon. Produced by Milligan Knight Architects

RIVER STORT:



Re-profiling of the river banks will scrape back the existing bank. A raised viewing area will be retained above the typical flood level

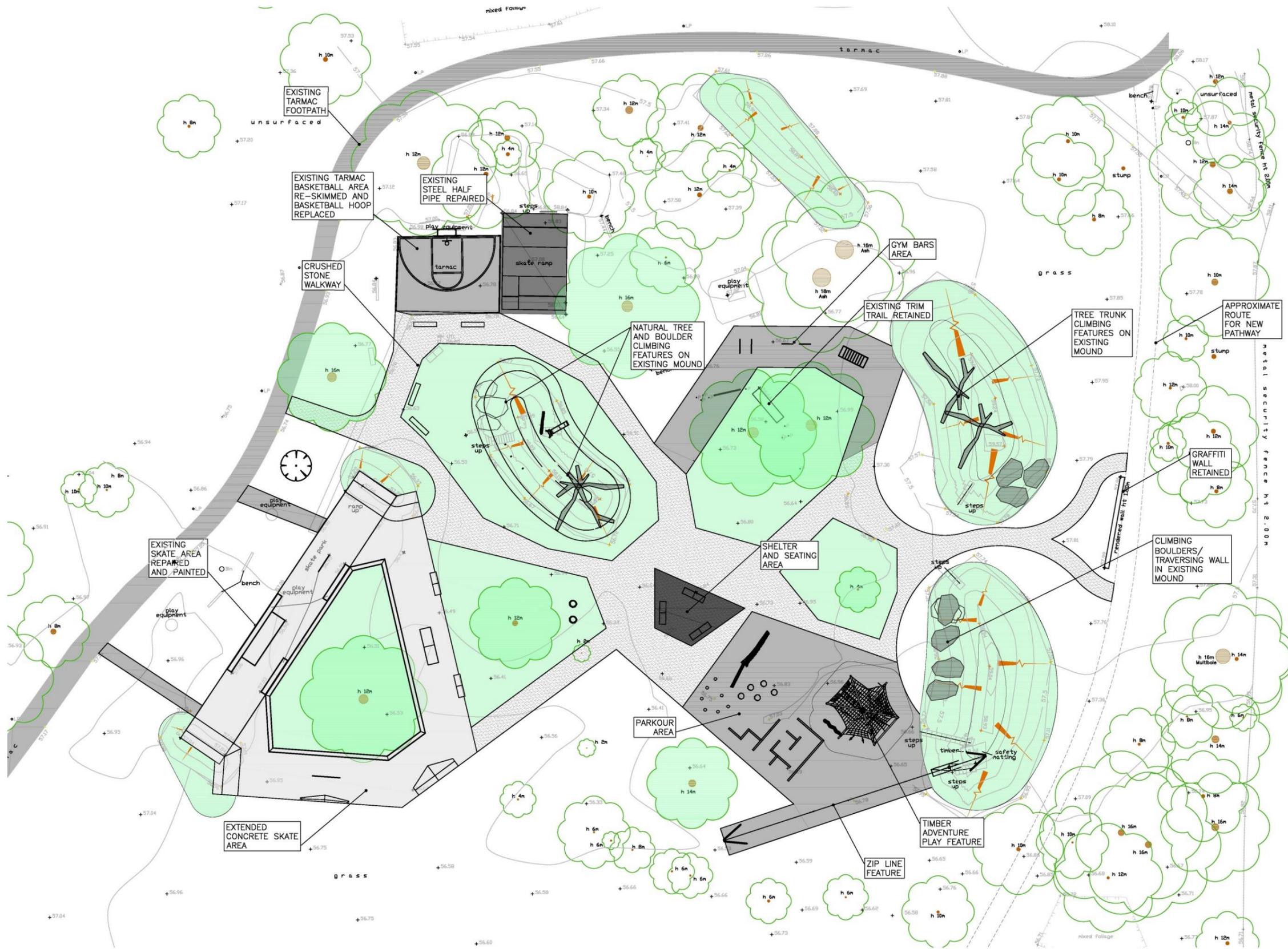
TEENAGE RECREATION SPACE:

An inclusive and accessible space has been designed for teenagers to have ownership of. This gives a place to socialise and engage in a range of sports and activities, including skate, parkour and adventure play.



Graphic impression of the teenage recreation area. Produced by Freestyle.

TEENAGE RECREATION SPACE:



Design of the teenage space. Produced by Freestyle.