

Area 1: Nevill Hall Gardens

Redefine the setting of Nevill Hall as the unifying centrepiece of the Nature Spaces, rather than the barrier that it has become — reinvigorating its grounds to provide an elegant, adaptable and useful resource for the hospital. Key interventions:

- Implementation of formal planting beds adjacent to the Hall, including historically appropriate species, including apothecary species, to be researched, implemented and maintained by volunteers
- Reinstatement and maintenance of formal lawns, retaining walls and ornamental planting to the south of the hall to recreate a garden setting appropriate to the building and suitable for activities and events, staging, power points and a marquee
- Creation of new, accessible connecting paths, linking all parts of the Nature Spaces and creating more welcoming pedestrian approaches
- Establishment of gateways to reinforce the sense of entering the Nature Spaces e.g. alongside the occupational health department
- Following removal of the condemned single-story buildings, create a volunteer space including storage, modest shelter, polytunnel/greenhouse, water electricity and raised planting beds - to become the focus for the volunteer group. Pop-up facilities or eventually, a high-quality, multi-purpose events building could also be located here whilst respecting the setting of Nevill Hall
- Selective thinning of vegetation, prioritising the phased reduction of pointy and invasive non-native garden species such as Rhododendron biodiversity potential
- Redesign and rationalisation of the car park to allow safe and accessible pedestrian routes, tree planting for solar shading and improvements to the character of the hall's setting

Area 6: The Sensory Garden

Restoration in keeping with the original vision for 'The Scented Garden' focusing on sensory effects - including pond clearance and the visual revealing of the water. Key interventions:

- Repair existing paths and restructuring with natural stone, and structural repairs to the decked bridge
- Removal, without compromising safety, of the fencing, brick structures and overgrown vegetation surrounding the pond to allow clear views towards the water
- Review of the original planting design and development of new planting proposals to refresh the scheme focusing on sensory effects and native and pollinating species
- Selective removal/thinning of dense non-native invasive vegetation to allow improved visual connection to Nevill Hall and the surroundings
- Additional seating and picnic tables
- Creation of a welcoming and distinctive gateway and boundary to the northern edge to clearly demarcate and celebrate a key entrance into the 'Nature Spaces' - potentially incorporating stone walling and art
- Create linking routes into the adjoining Nevill Hall Gardens and Red Barn Meadows areas - signposting the nature 'sequoia' trees
- Assessment of the water quality together with Great Crested Newt and invertebrate surveys, to ascertain actions for aquatic improvements. It is anticipated that substantial removal of marginal vegetation will be required

Area 2: The Pond

Gentle enhancements to the water-body and surrounding vegetation to enhance biodiversity and open up opportunities for seating and views of the pond, without compromising its character. Key interventions:

- Selective removal of dense and invasive non-native vegetation, especially to the eastern boundary - retaining vegetative protection of the waters edge but creating opportunities for additional seating, pond platforms and interpretation
- Repairs and maintenance to existing paths and creation of a new pondside circuitous path, linking into the Nevill Hall garden area
- Assessment of the water quality together with Great Crested Newt and invertebrate surveys, to ascertain actions for aquatic improvements

Area 3: The Orchard

Formative pruning and ongoing management of the fruit trees, and productive use of its harvest - with opportunities for wildflower meadow under-planting, a connecting path and seating. Key interventions:

- Pruning of the existing fruit trees to ensure ongoing health, attractive form and ease of fruit picking
- Identify gaps for the potentially infilling with additional rare varieties if appropriate
- Under-plant with Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) to reduce grass vigour and soil fertility to encourage wildflower establishment
- Create a high level connecting path to link the 'Woodland' area with the Occupational Health building level
- Install a limited number of benches
- Collect information regarding the history of the orchard and its species/varieties, and the local and cultural significance of orchards for future educational opportunities and connections with existing local seasonal events
- Organise volunteers to collect and distribute the fruit to ensure its use and nutritional/health benefits

Area 4: The Woodland

General management of the woodland to ensure health and safety, and improved form and biodiversity - including thinning of the Millennium trees and southern boundary noting the protection of memorialised trees, to allow light in and views out, footpath maintenance and extension and seating. Key interventions:

- All management actions as per the recommendations in Coed Byw woodland management report
- Continue existing high-level footpath to connect with lower path with informal, ramped steps
- Explore potential for an informal footpath into the central part of the Millennium Wood, without compromising habitat value
- Installation of new seating at spacing to safeguard privacy and tranquility
- Installation of a rustic woodland shelter - possibly referencing iron-age construction methods - to create a small, roofed structure with seating and semi open sides which could be used for contemplation and as an occasional outdoor classroom
- Substitution/removal of the tipped green waste to the south east corner - noting that a strategy for the ongoing management of green waste will need to be established

Area 5: Red Barn Meadow

A light touch planting and management regime to encourage a meadow habitat with managed mown walking routes in conjunction with a review of the car park perimeter. Key interventions:

- Creation of connecting access arrangements to allow access through the southern boundary into Red Barn Field including targeted clearance of existing bramble vegetation
- Establishment of an informal path route through the field with boardwalk to bridge the ditch
- Maintenance strategy to increase the biodiversity of the meadow sward with consideration of livestock grazing timing
- Planting of focused groups of small native trees along the western stream boundary to provide more water shading and 1 or 2 No. new parkland trees in the meadow
- Review of potential aesthetic, biodiversity and functional improvements to the car park boundary - including rationalisation of the fencing, distribution of tree planting and bedding

2.3 Green Infrastructure Masterplan