THORNBURY
Town Council

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Chief Executive & Responsible Finance Officer: Andrea Durn

Thursday 12 November 2026

To Councillors – Danny Bonnett (Chair), Chris Bloor, Christine Carter, Chris Davies, Fiona Deas, Gil Gilroy, Chris Rowe, Chris Woodhouse

Please take notice that a meeting of the **Open Spaces Committee** of Thornbury Town Council will be held in the **Council Chamber** of the **Town Hall** on **Tuesday 17 November 2026** at **7.30pm**.

All above named Councillors are hereby **summoned** to attend the above meeting for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the business to be transacted at the meeting as set out hereunder.

Wendy Sydenham, Deputy Town Clerk

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, Human Rights and the need to conserve biodiversity.

Public Participation: Please note that this meeting is open to the public. Please take note of the guidance notes for public participation provided.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure: please familiarise yourself with the emergency evacuation procedure on display in the Council Chamber and acquaint yourself with the nearest emergency exit. The assembly point, in the event of any evacuation, is next to the Town Council Noticeboard on the opposite side of the High Street.
If you would not be physically able to use the stairs in the event of a fire, please inform us of your intention to attend this meeting no later than 9.00am on the Monday before, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

AGENDA

1. **To receive any apologies for absence**

2. **To receive any members' declarations of interest**

3. **To receive any representations from the public relating to items on the agenda**

4. **To approve and sign minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces Committee on 15 September 2026 (paper attached)**

5. **To receive a Project Completion Report on the refurbishment of Streamleaze Play Area and consider feedback received relating to a flat seat swing (paper attached)**

6. **To note the survey report on signage and wayfinding at the Mundy Playing Fields, including next steps (paper attached)**

7. **To consider matters relating to grounds maintenance:**
   - **7.1 To note the findings of the 2026 Ecological Surveys of Town Council open spaces (https://thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk/page/caring-for-nature-in-thornbury - see bottom of "Caring for Nature in Thornbury" website page)**
   - **7.2 To consider recommendations from the Climate & Nature Committee regarding changes to grounds maintenance regimes (paper attached)**

8. **To delegate authority to officers to seek quotes and engage a contractor to carry out Winter 2026 hedge works (paper attached)**

9. **To receive a verbal update on actions taken by officers in relation to the wall at the top (northeast) of the Mundy Playing Fields**

10. **To agree in principle to the installation of additional bike racks in the Mundy Playing Fields to be obtained through grant funding, with further details of positioning to follow**

11. **To note inclusion of water retention products in hanging baskets for Summer 2027 and to agree expenditure for the supply of the baskets in 2027 (paper attached)**

12. **To consider matters relating to Thornbury Cemetery (paper attached):**
    - **12.1 To note the planned installation of a "Pick Your Own Flower Garden"**
    - **12.2 To note the concept designs for the Memorial Woodland/Reflection Garden**

13. **To consider the Open Spaces budget submission for the 2027/2028 budget (paper attached)**

14. **To agree key points from the meeting to be publicised via social media/website**

15. **To note that the deadline for submission of items to the Deputy Clerk for inclusion in the next agenda is Monday 4 January 2027**

16. **To note the date of the next meeting – Tuesday 19 January 2027**

END OF AGENDA

THORNBURY
Town Council

8/26

Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
held on Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 7:30pm
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Councillors present:	Cllr Danny Bonnett (Chair) Cllr Chris Bloor Cllr Chris Davies Cllr Fiona Deas Cllr Chris Rowe Cllr Chris Woodhouse
Officers present:	Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk) Andrea Durn (CEO & RFO)

OS2526.132 TO CONSIDER ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllr Gil Gilroy and Cllr Christine Carter

OS2526.133 TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no members' declarations of interest.

OS2526.134 TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no members of the public present.

OS2526.135 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE ON 21 JULY 2026

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting on 21 July 2026, and they were signed by the Chair.

OS2526.136 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL ON THE STREAMSIDE WALK PROJECT

Plans provided by SGC for two pocket parks along Streamside Walk were noted. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to request further information from South Gloucestershire Council on the following:

- SGC expectations regarding the Town Council's responsibilities for these parks going forward, to include confirmation of – ongoing maintenance of all features (surfacing, planting, benches, signage and walls), safety inspections, liability, insurance, legal ownership of the asset(s), etc.
- How this fits in with the Special Expenses process, specifically whether these two parks would be treated in the same way as other facilities in the town that come under these changes and would the timescales be the same, e.g. will SGC have full responsibility for maintenance, ownership and liability until the Town Council chooses to enter into the Special Expenses process.

DRAFT

OS2526.137 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON REDUCING THE TOWN COUNCIL'S RELIANCE ON MAINS WATER FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND AGREE NEXT STEPS

The Committee noted the officer report and confirmed their support for the action already being taken to plan for/install water butts on Town Council property, as well as in the wider town. The following was unanimously **RESOLVED**:

- To support officers continuing to scope other potential solutions, as set out in the officer report.
- To request that the Climate & Nature Officer contact South Gloucestershire Council to access the work carried out by their hydrologist looking at both the drainage off the A38 and the drainage through to Tesco, and to feed this information back to the Climate & Nature Committee and also to the Facilities Officer in relation to the new water play facility at the Mundy Playing Fields.
- To explore options for improving the water retention in the Town Council's hanging baskets e.g. clay balls, swell gel, etc, and to bring back to the January Committee meeting when the Committee will be due to decide on the order for hanging baskets for 2027.

OS2526.138 TO CONSIDER A NEW MEMORIAL STONE REQUEST

The following was **RESOLVED** by majority vote:

- To uphold the officer decision to refuse a permit for the stone.
- To request that officers review the regulations around memorial stones in the Cemetery and include more detail on what was permitted and what was not.
- To inform the family making the request that there is likely to be some sort of natural stone memorial included in the new memorial gardens on which plaques could be placed, as this may be something they would be interested in.

OS2526.139 TO AGREE PLANS TO ENHANCE WILDFLOWER PLANTING ON TOWN COUNCIL GREEN SPACES

The plans for replacing areas of wildflower planting/longer grasses with alternative areas and/or new wildflower planting, as set out in the officer report, were noted. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree to the changes being made in Autumn 2026.

OS2526.140 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE NEW MEMORIAL WOODLAND/WELLBEING GARDEN ADJACENT TO THORNBURY CEMETERY

The update on the new memorial woodland was noted, as set out in the officer report. It was also noted that the design would be presented to the Climate & Nature Committee for sign-off at its October meeting. The design would, however, be shared with members of the Open Spaces Committee in advance, and they would be welcome to attend the October Climate & Nature Committee meeting to put forward their views before it is signed off. It was **RESOLVED** to liaise with RBL with regard to this project, and any other volunteer opportunities.

OS2526.141 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON WORKS TO THE CULVERT ADJACENT TO OAKLEAZE GREEN AND RATIFY ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE

The update provided in the officer report was noted. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to ratify the following out of meeting decisions made by officers for expenditure to come from 130/4150 Open Spaces/Maintenance:

- Additional expenditure on the initial connection repair, with the total amount for the repair being £3834.98
- Expenditure on further CCTV surveying and dye testing at £240 per hour, with 2-4 hours needed, and potentially more

It was further unanimously **RESOLVED** that, at an appropriate point in the future, the Committee should review all culverts on Town Council land to assess the feasibility of de-culverting.

OS2526.142 TO PROVIDE A COMMITTEE UPDATE FOR INCLUSION IN THE TOWN COUNCIL'S REVIEW OF PROGRESS TO DELIVER THE CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN

The draft schedule of contributions by the Committee to the existing strategic plan was noted. The suggestions below were made regarding input into the next strategic plan, for further discussion at the next Committee meeting:

- Work with all stakeholders to improve access to good quality sports pitches.
- Focus on improving engagement with elderly people and making our facilities more welcoming and accessible to them.
- Focus on making our open spaces fun and engaging, particularly by working with nature, e.g. mazes, natural bund seating, etc.
- Adjust focus under the existing climate change priority to include - climate adaptation, nature-based solutions, water management, etc, both on Town Council land in the wider town – examples: de-culverting, flood management/water storage projects, tree planting to create shade/cool corridors, etc.
- Enhance the existing priority regarding young people to cover better engagement.
- Address issues around mental health and loneliness – all generations.

OS2526.143 TO IDENTIFY ANY ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE BUDGET REQUESTS FOR 2027/2028

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to put forward the following items for consideration for the 2027/2028 budget (with some crossover with Climate & Nature Committee):

- Signage production
- Continued funding for memorial woodland project
- Tiny forest
- Contingency fund for culvert repairs at Oakleaze Green
- Shaded seating areas

OS2526.144 TO NOTE PROGRESS ON ACTIONS FROM MOST RECENT EXTERNAL INSPECTIONS OF PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Committee noted the schedule of progress on actions from the most recent external inspection of play equipment.

OS2526.145 TO AGREE KEY POINTS FROM THE MEETING TO BE PUBLICISED VIA SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to publicise the following key points from the meeting – taking steps to reduce reliance on mains water for grounds maintenance, enhancements to wildflower planting and exploring opportunities for enhanced engagement with the Armed Forces/veterans/Royal British Legion regarding Town Council projects and volunteer opportunities.

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OS2526.146 TO NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ITEMS TO THE DEPUTY CLERK FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA IS WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2026

The deadline for submission of items to the Deputy Clerk for inclusion in the next agenda was noted to be Wednesday 4 November 2026.

OS2526.147 TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2026

The date of the next meeting was noted to be Tuesday 17 November 2026.

The meeting closed at 21.00.

DRAFT

Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Open Spaces Committee

Report Title:	**Refurbishment of Streamleaze Play Area - Project Completion Report**
Prepared By:	**Wendy Sydenham, Deputy Clerk**
Meeting Date:	**17 November 2026**
Status:	**For Action**

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1. Background

The Town Council resolved to undertake a substantial refurbishment of Streamleaze Play Area. The project has now been completed. The refurbishment formed part of the Town Council's rolling programme of play area improvement/refurbishment. Streamleaze was the final play area for which the Council is responsible to be updated as part of this programme.

Community consultation was undertaken to inform the design, comprising a face-to-face consultation event and an online survey. The public were invited to provide general comments and feedback, as well as to vote on options for three items of play equipment. The options receiving the highest number of votes were incorporated into the final design.

2. Works Undertaken

- Seven new items of play equipment installed in the main play area – swing unit (cradle seat and inclusive seat), large older children multi-play unit, two sensory panels, spinning bowl, inclusive seesaw, double springer.
- Three items of existing equipment (relatively new and in very good condition) were retained – bowl swing, younger children's multi-play unit and inclusive roundabout.
- New multi-goal unit installed on the separate tarmacked area – backet ball hoop and football goal posts, along with new sports markings on the tarmac.
- New safety gates, and some refurbishment of fencing where needed.
- Increased area of safety surfacing and pathways installs and new grass matting around other play items.
- New bins and benches (with some existing ones retained).

3. Project Costs

Approved budget	£75,000
Final project cost	£75,000

The project was delivered at the agreed tender price and within the approved budget.

4. Project Outcome

The project was completed successfully, on time and on budget. No unforeseen issues arose during the project. The Town Council has received a considerable amount of positive feedback from the community on the newly refurbished play area.

5. Outstanding Matters

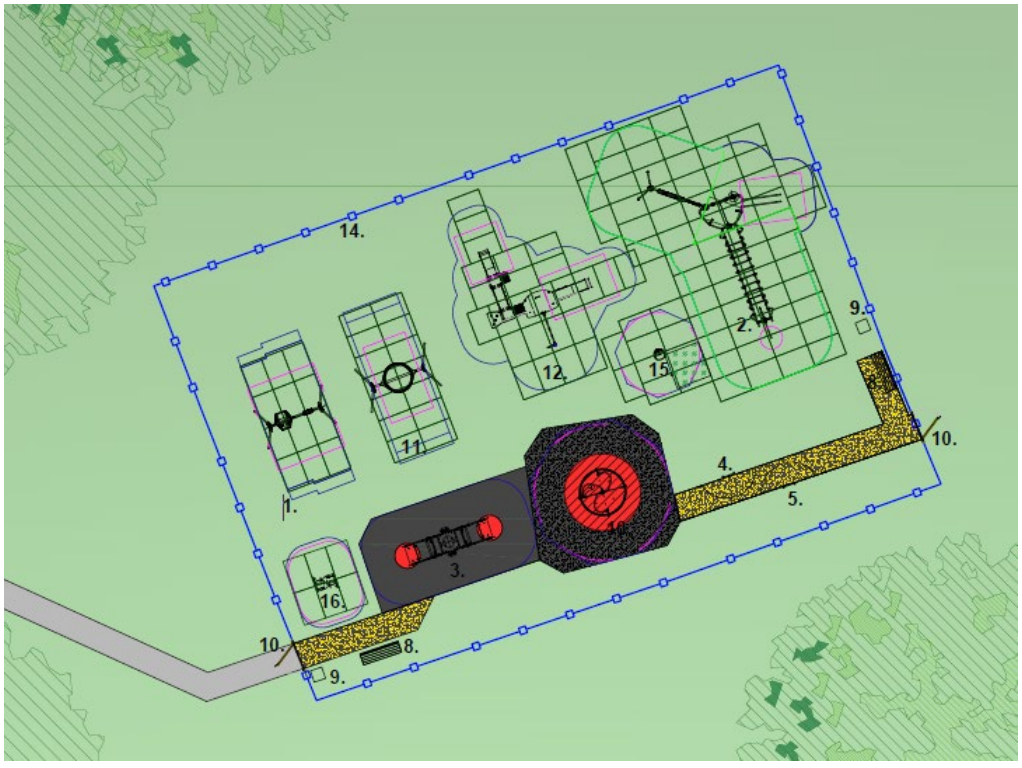
Alongside the positive feedback received, a small number of residents have requested that the Council consider providing a conventional flat seat swing. This feedback has been received through two direct emails and several online comments.

A flat seat swing was included in the original design but was replaced with a cradle swing following the community consultation. By far, the most frequently expressed request during the consultation was for a cradle swing to be provided. Having considered the consultation feedback, the Committee resolved at its meeting in May 2026 to replace the proposed flat seat with a cradle seat.

The play area to provide a choice of swing facilities, including an inclusive swing seat and a bowl swing, alongside the cradle swing. However, to ensure that we explore all possibilities, officers have consulted the company responsible for designing the refurbished play area and supplying and installing the equipment. The company has confirmed that it would be possible to replace the cradle seat with a conventional flat seat on the existing swing unit. However, the installation of an additional swing bay would present difficulties within the available space. The company's comments are as follows:

"The existing footprint as it currently stands would require an extension to realistically allow for another swing bay to be installed. I understand the council's position in wanting to explore this; however, although not the same as a flat seat, the inclusive seat and pod swing do offer that play type for older children, making the space well rounded in terms of a swing offer."

The CAD drawing of the refurbished play area is provided below. This illustrates the available space and the practical difficulties associated with accommodating any additional equipment within the existing layout.



6. Recommendations

Officers recommend that no change is made to swing provision in the play area. The current design is well balanced; an additional unit is not feasible within the existing footprint; and swapping the cradle seat or accessible seat for a flat seat would alter the balance of meeting the needs of children of different ages and abilities. Both the accessible seat and the bowl seat can be used by children too old to use the cradle seat.

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the successful completion of the Streamleaze play area refurbishment project and the final project cost of £75,000, within the approved budget.
- Agree that no further changes be made to the swing provision in the play area, in accordance with officers' recommendation.

greenhat

Client: Thornbury Town Council

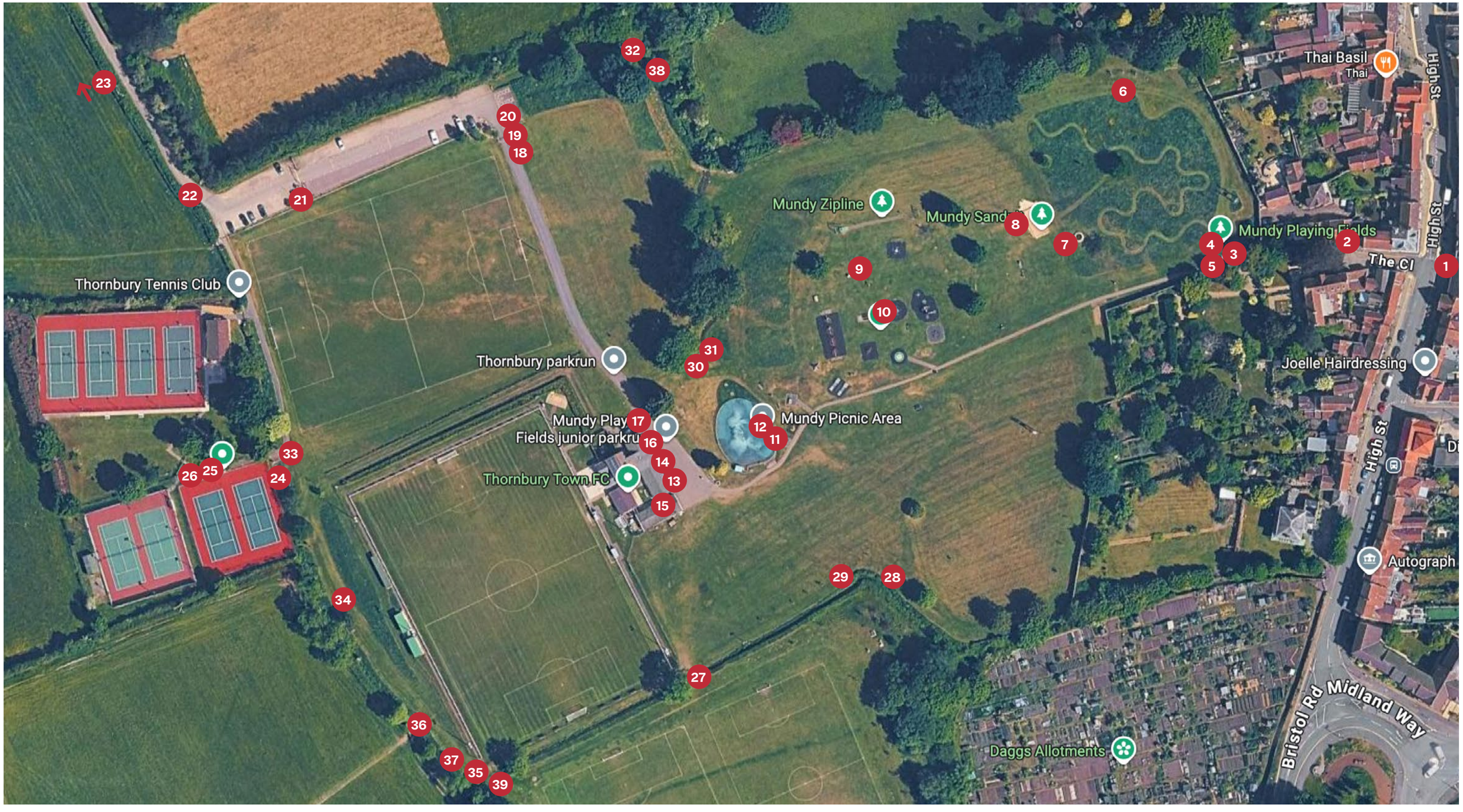
Project: Mundy Fields wayfinding signage

Detail: Specification v1

Date: 6 November 2026

creative thinking

Mundy Fields



Location:	Town Hall	Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Detail:	Ground floor	Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Scale:	1:100	Version:	1
Page:	2	Date:	6 November 2026

greenhat

Position 1

Fingerpost direction sign



Design

Part of South Glos wayfainding found throughout Thornbury.

Installation

Post mounted into hard ground.



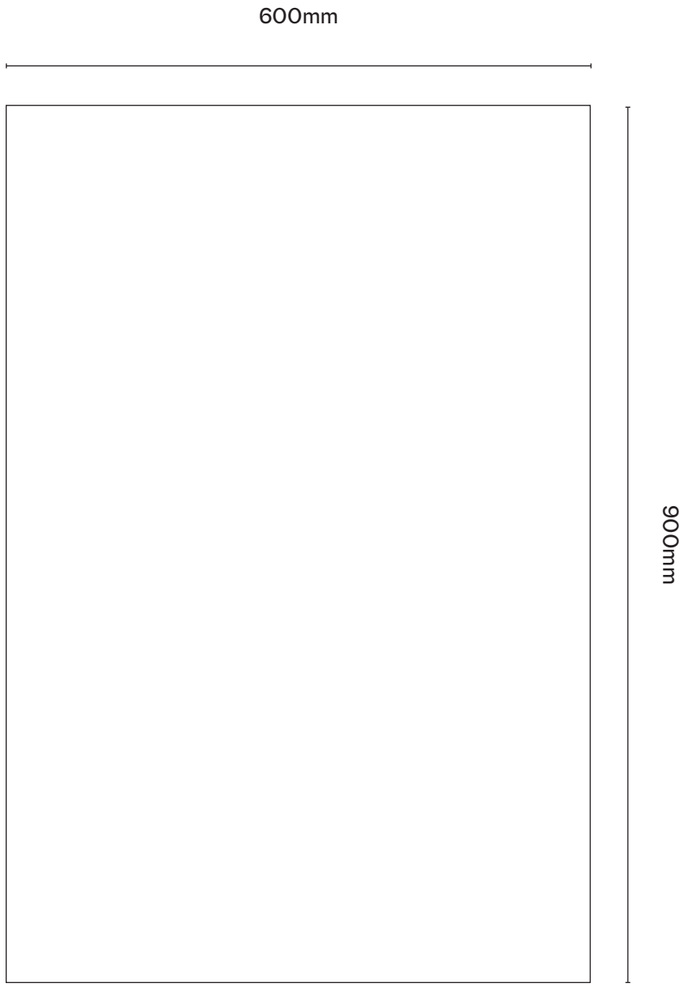
Location: High Street
Detail: Specification
Scale: NA
Page: 3

Client: Thornbury Town Council
Project: Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version: 1
Date: 6 November 2026

greenhat

Position 2

Welcome sign







Design

Single sided printed vinyl applied to white dibond.

Installation

Fixed to existing metal post. Quite low to the ground and easily missed on approach.



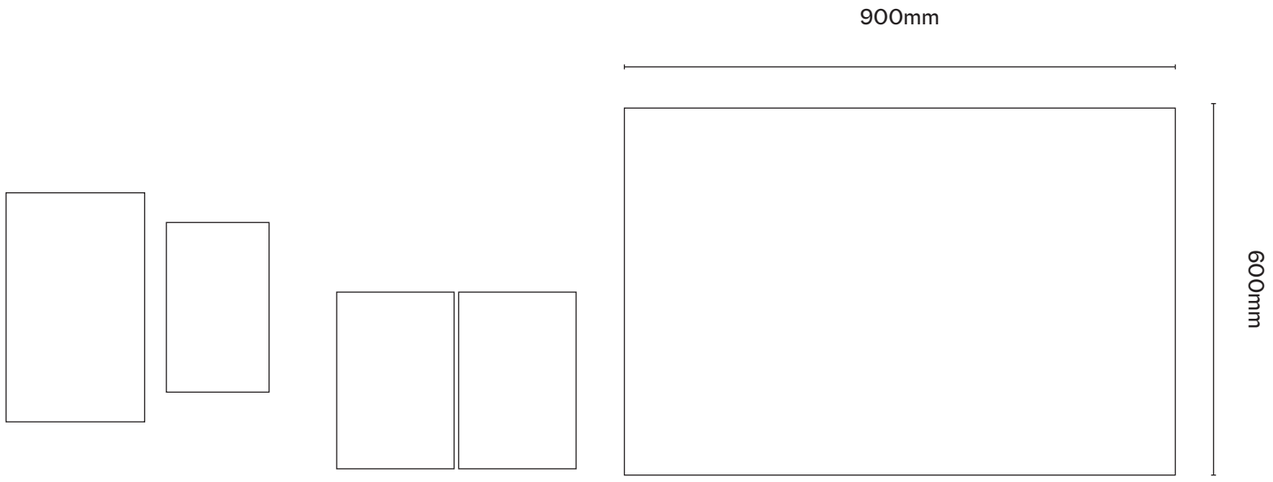
Location:	The Close
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	4

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

greenhat

Position 3

Welcome and information signs





Design

Various printed of the shelf signs together with large digitally printed dibond composite sign.

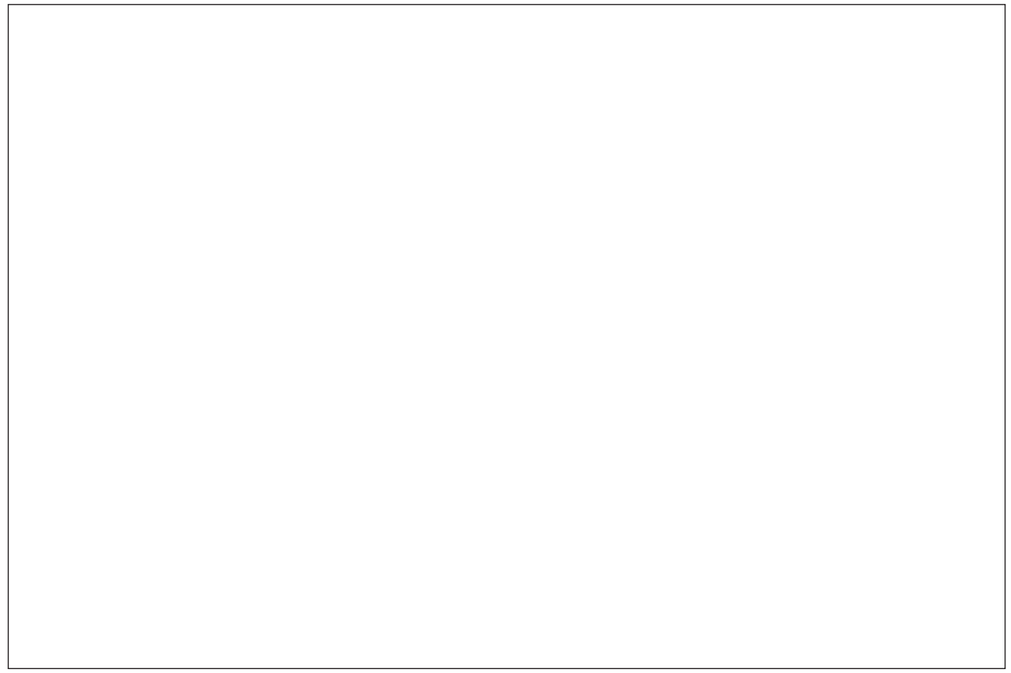
Installation

Fixed to wall with screws.



Position 4

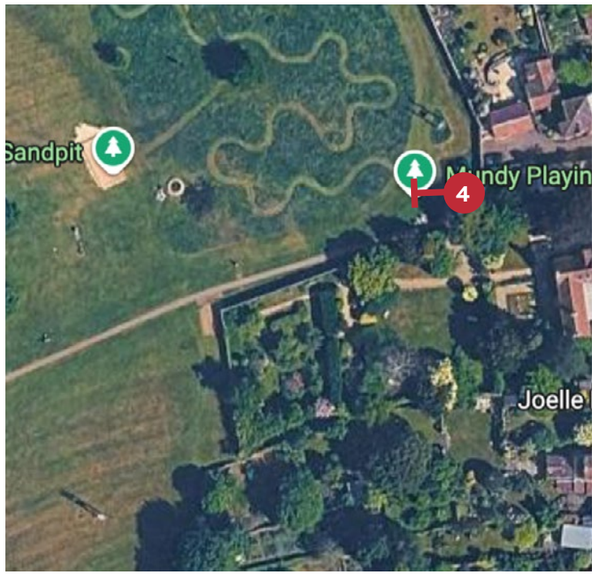
Information sign











Design

Vinyl applied to aluminium panel.

Installation

Fixed to two metal posts in soft ground.

Position 5

Interpretation sign

680mm

480mm



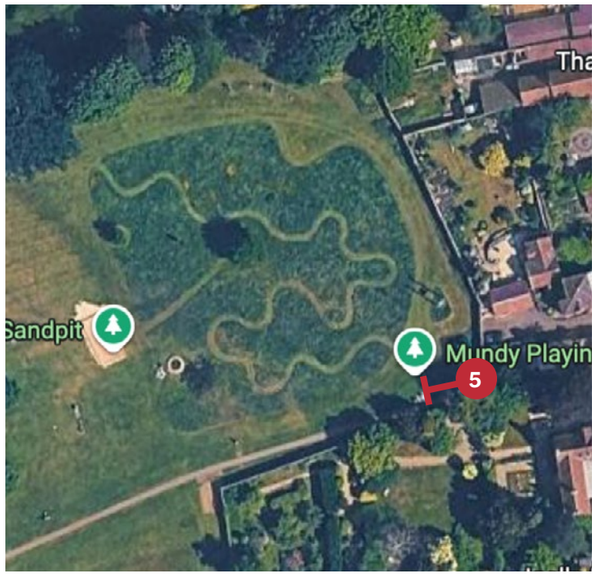


Design

Bespoke aluminium framed sign.

Installation

Mounted on stone plinth.



Location: Near The Close entrance
Detail: Specification
Scale: NA
Page: 7

Client: Thornbury Town Council
Project: Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version: 1
Date: 6 November 2026

greenhat

Position 6

Information sign





Design

Printed vinyl applied to dibond.

Installation

Fixed to single metal post mounted in soft ground.



Location:	Adult gym equipment
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	8

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Position 7

Information panel

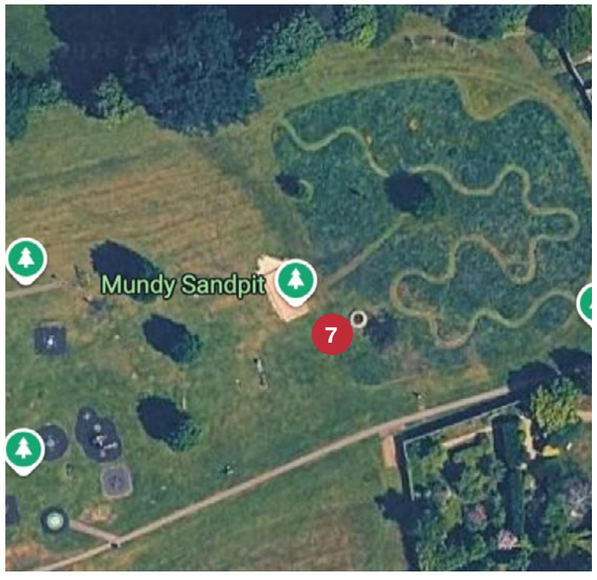


Design

Printed vinyl applied to dibond.

Installation

Fixed to single metal post mounted in soft ground.



Position 8

Information panel

300mm

420mm





Design

Printed vinyl applied to dibond.

Installation

Fixed to single metal post
mounted in soft ground.



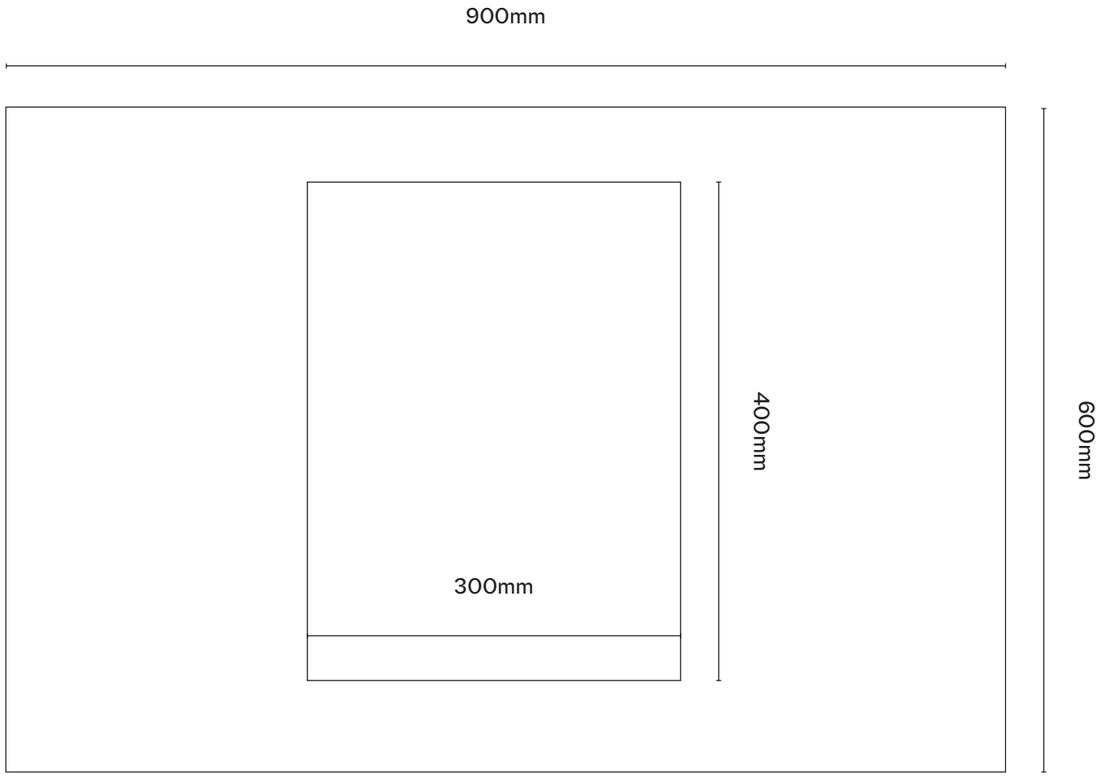
Location: Sandpit
Detail: Specification
Scale: NA
Page: 10

Client: Thornbury Town Council
Project: Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version: 1
Date: 6 November 2026

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Position 9

Information signs











Design

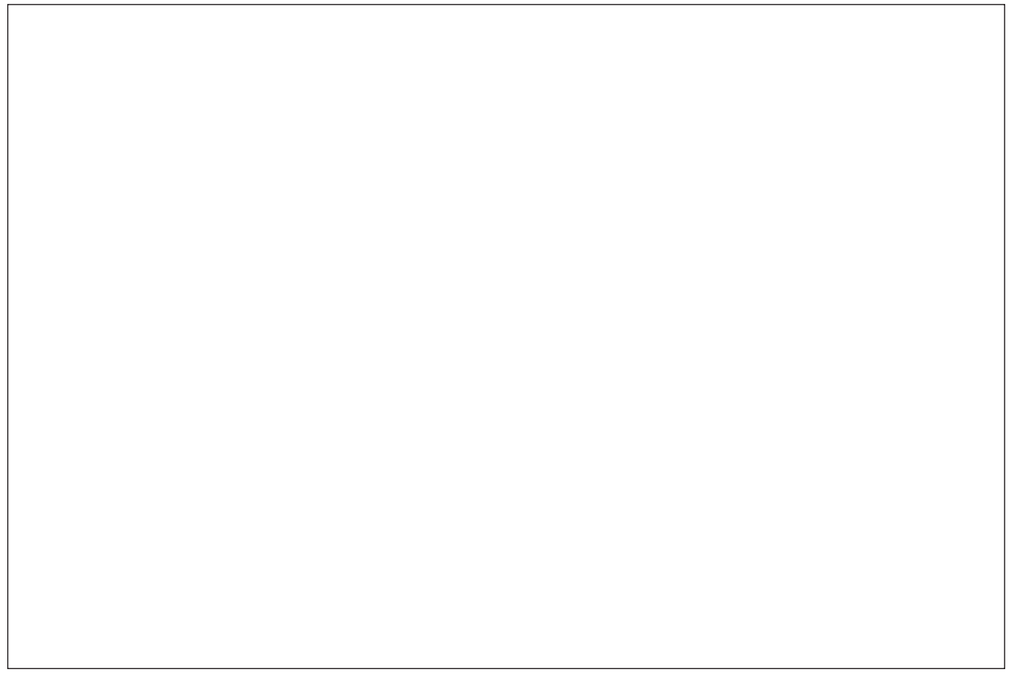
Printed vinyl applied to dibond.

Installation

Fixed to single metal post mounted in soft ground.

Position 10

Information sign





Design

Printed vinyl applied to dibond.

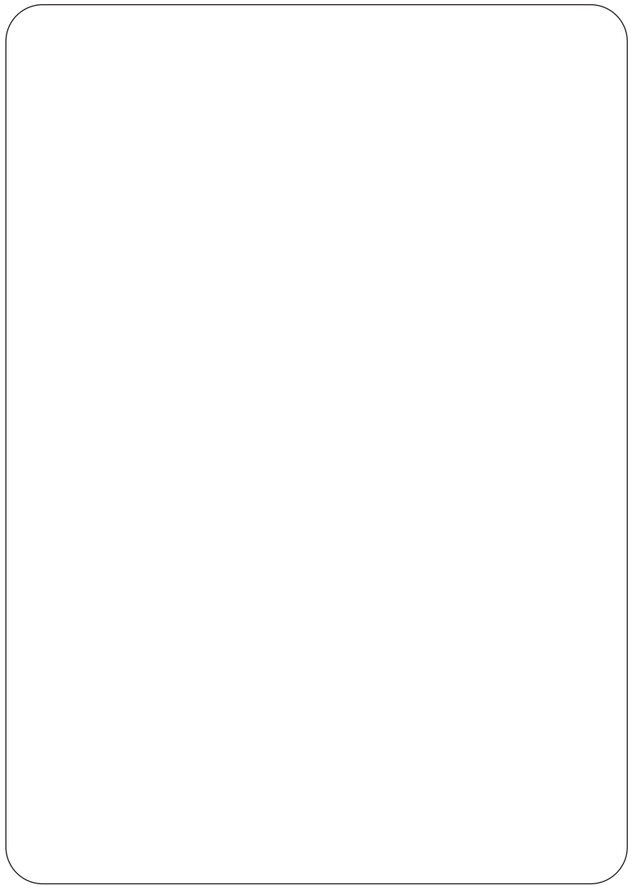
Installation

Fixed to two metal posts mounted in soft ground.



Position 11

Single sided information sign



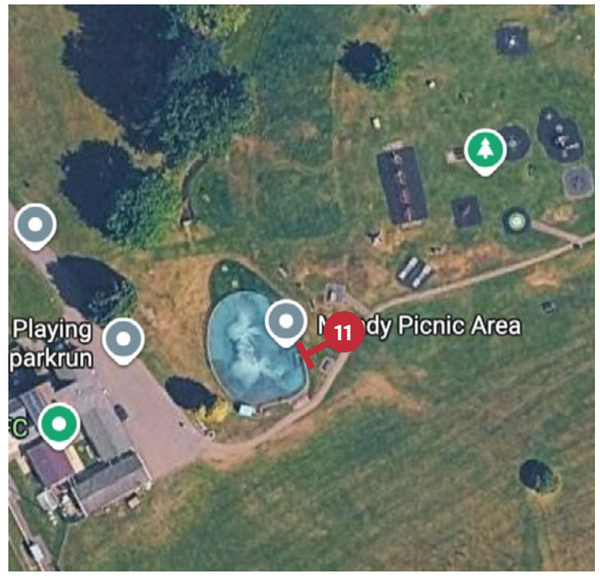


Design

3mm dibond sign.

Installation

Fixed to exiting fencing.



Position 12

Interpretation sign



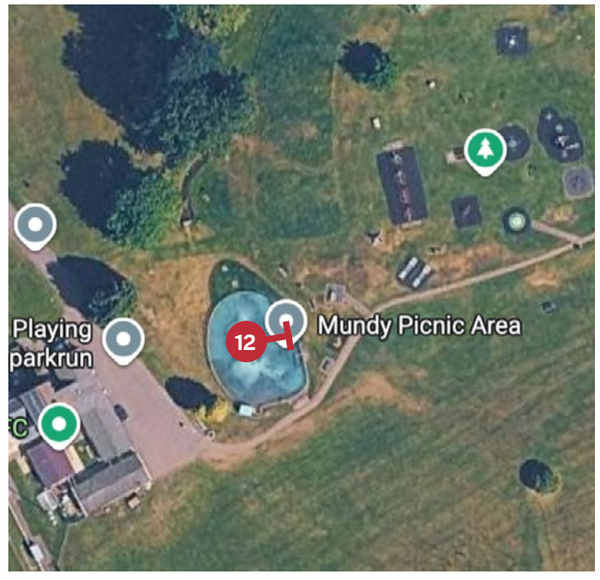


Design

Bespoke external grade acrylics.

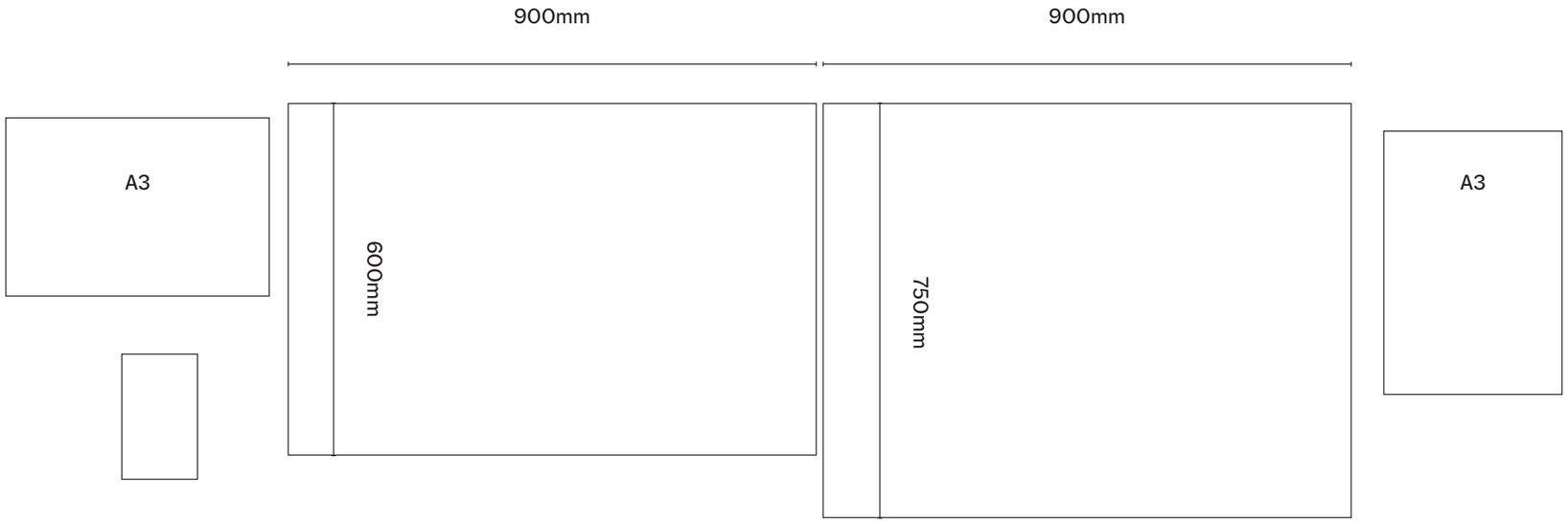
Installation

Fixed to two recycled posts.



Position 13

Information signs





Design

Various.

Installation

Fixed to wall with screws.



Position 14

Wayfinding sign

420mm

297mm



Design

3mm aluminium sign.

Installation

Fixed to wall with six screws.



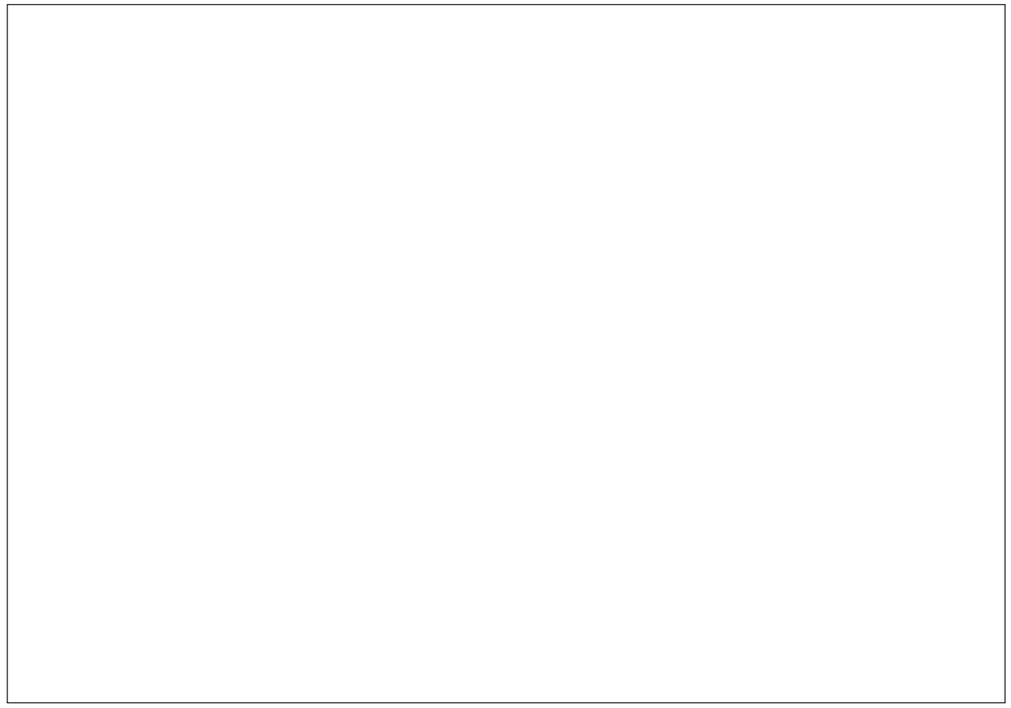
Location:	Changing rooms
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	16

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

greenhat

Position 15

Information signs



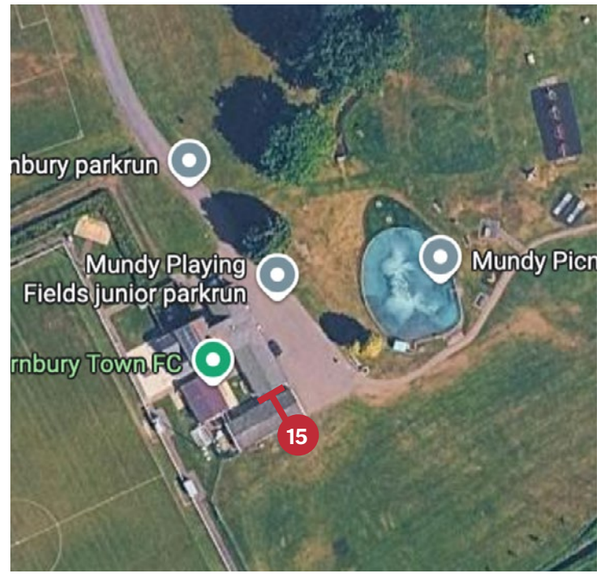


Design

Printed signs.

Installation

Temporary fixings.



Location:	Toilet block
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	17

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

greenhat

Position 16

Information sign





Design

3mm aluminium sign.

Installation

Fixed to wall with screws.



Location:	Cycle parking
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	18

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

greenhat

Position 17

Direction sign





Design

3mm aluminium sign.

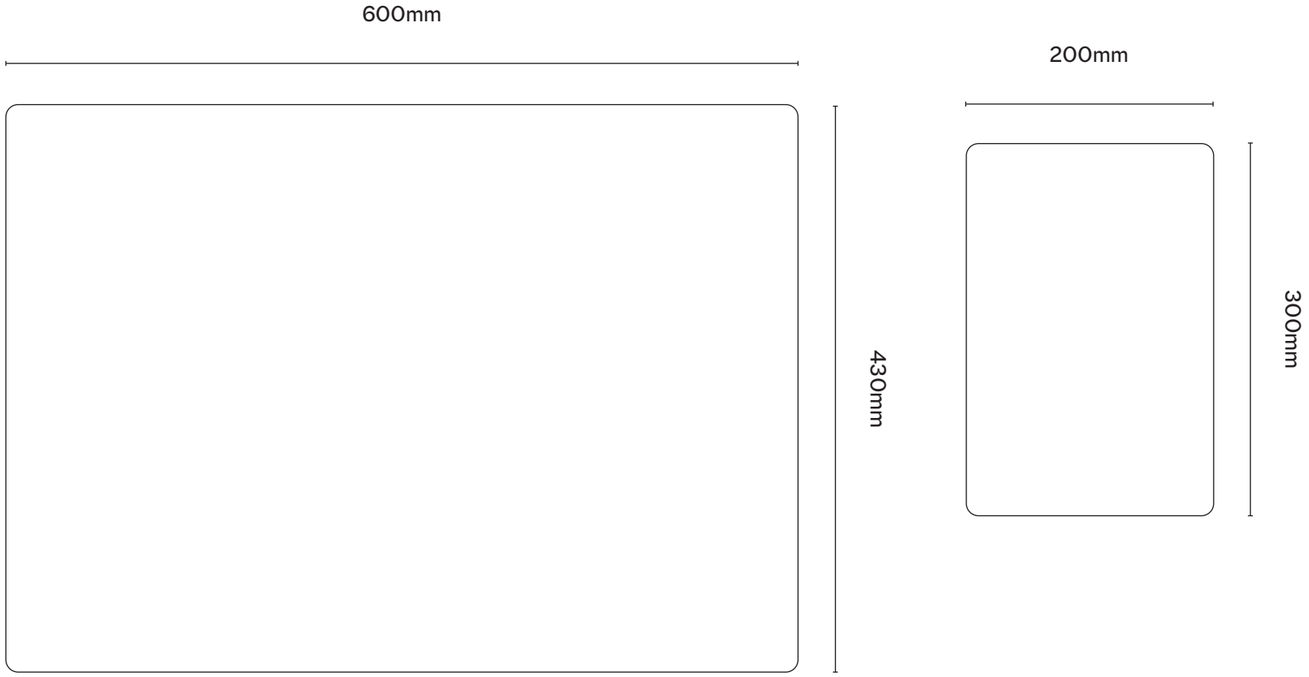
Installation

Fixed to wall with screws.



Position 18

Information signs



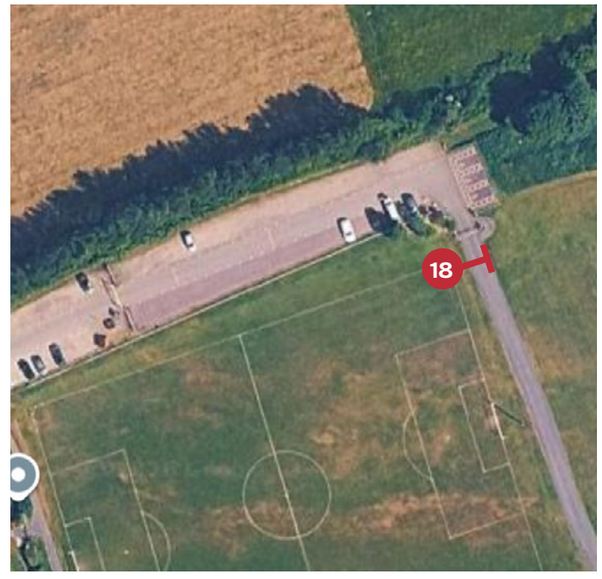


Design

Digitally printed dibond signs.

Installation

Fixed to barrier with bolts.



Position 19

Information signs





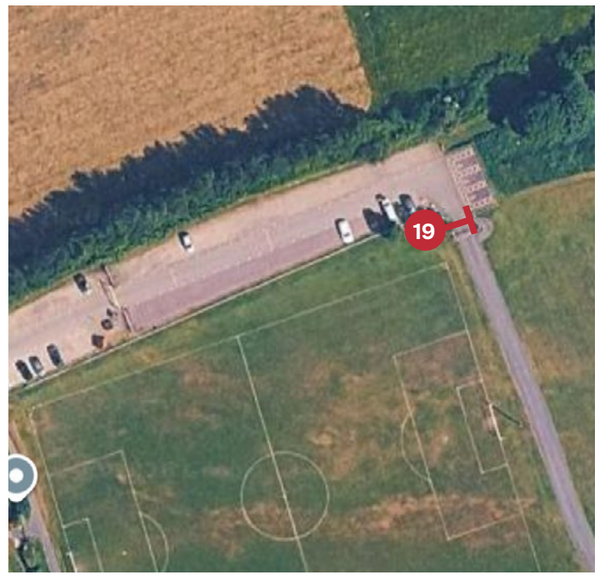


Design

Various aluminium and dibond signs.

Installation

Fixed to two metal posts in soft ground.



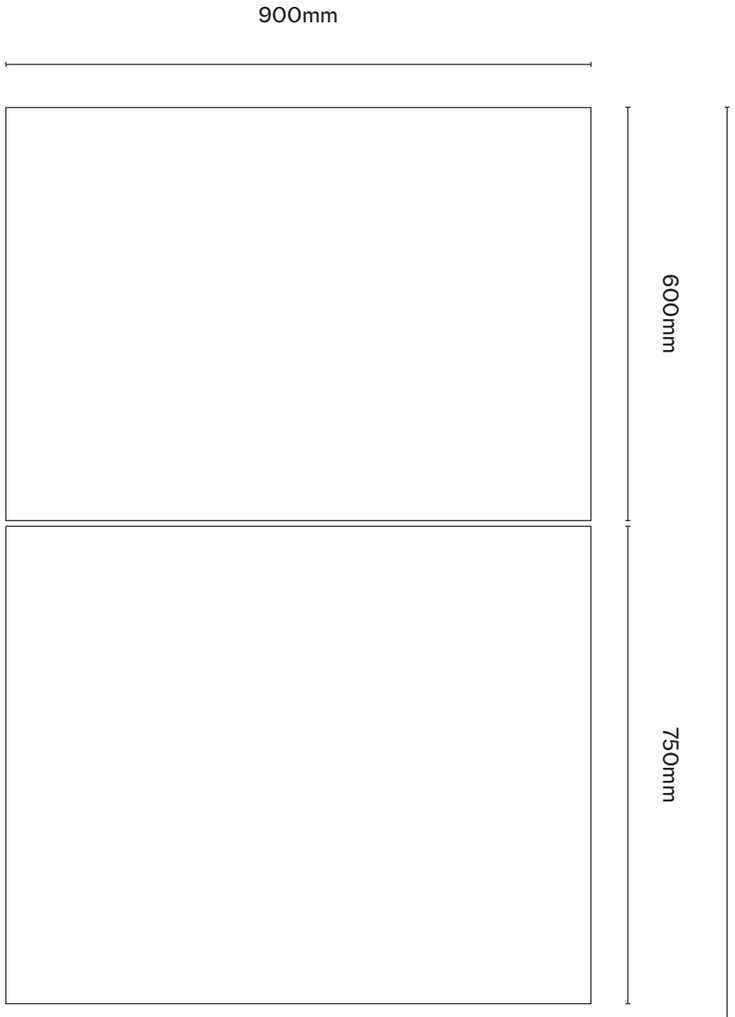
Location:	Car park
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	21

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Position 20

Information signs







Design

3mm aluminium signs.

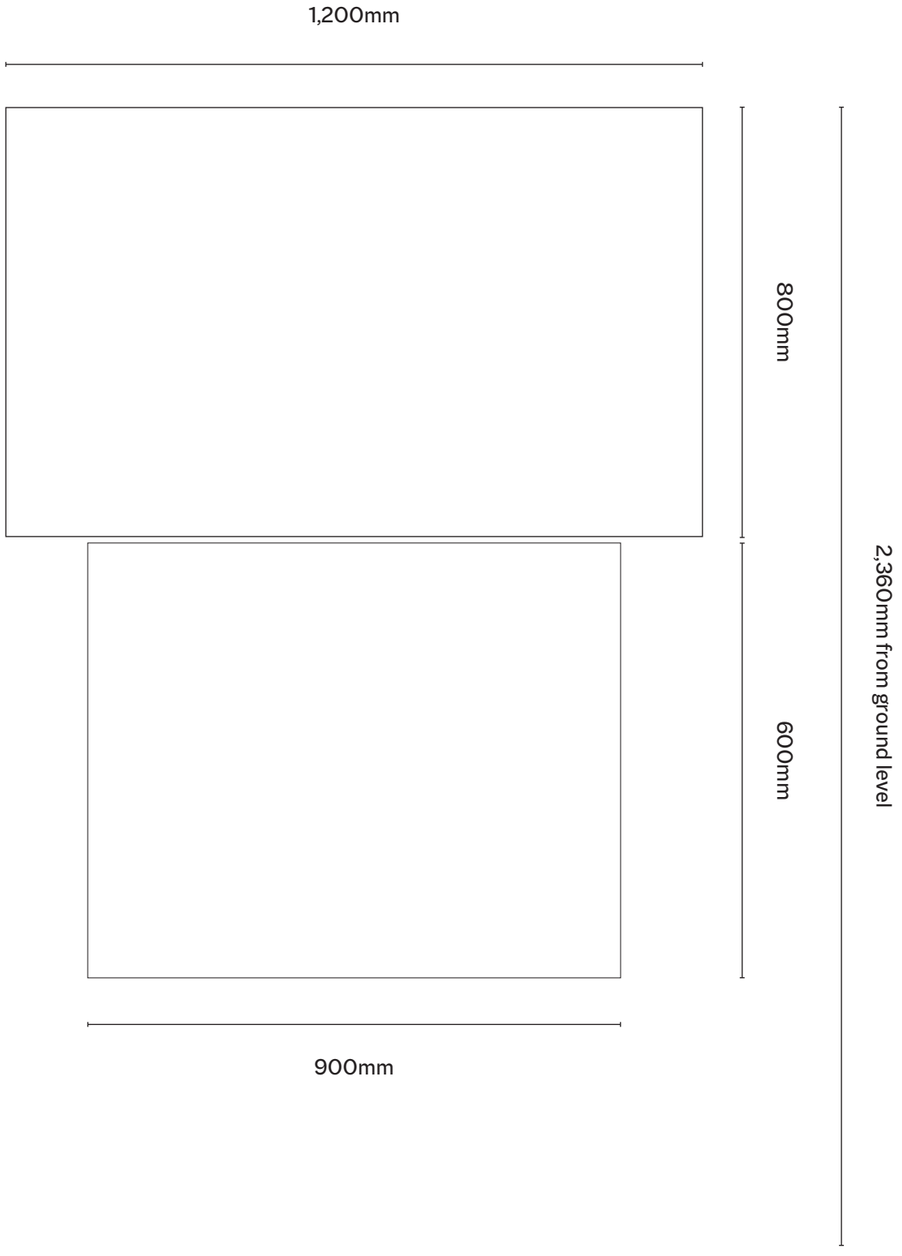
Installation

Fixed to two metal posts in soft ground.



Position 21

Information signs





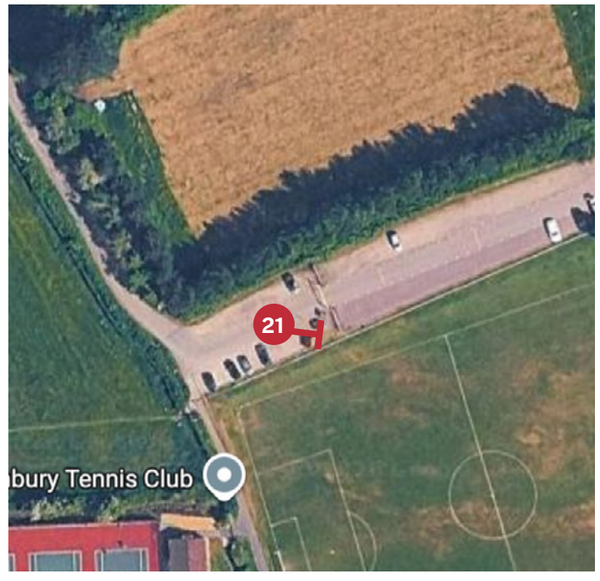


Design

3mm aluminium signs.

Installation

Fixed to wooden frame in soft ground. 4m from driver when paused to enter car park.



Position 22

Information signs

A3

A4



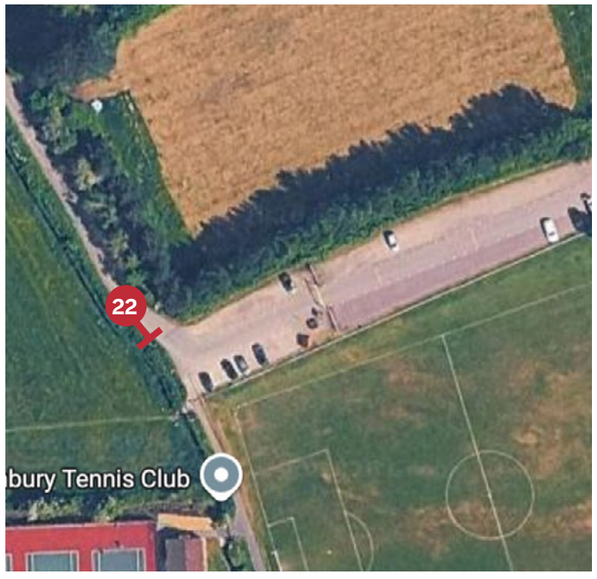


Design

3mm aluminium signs.

Installation

Fixed to single metal post in soft ground.



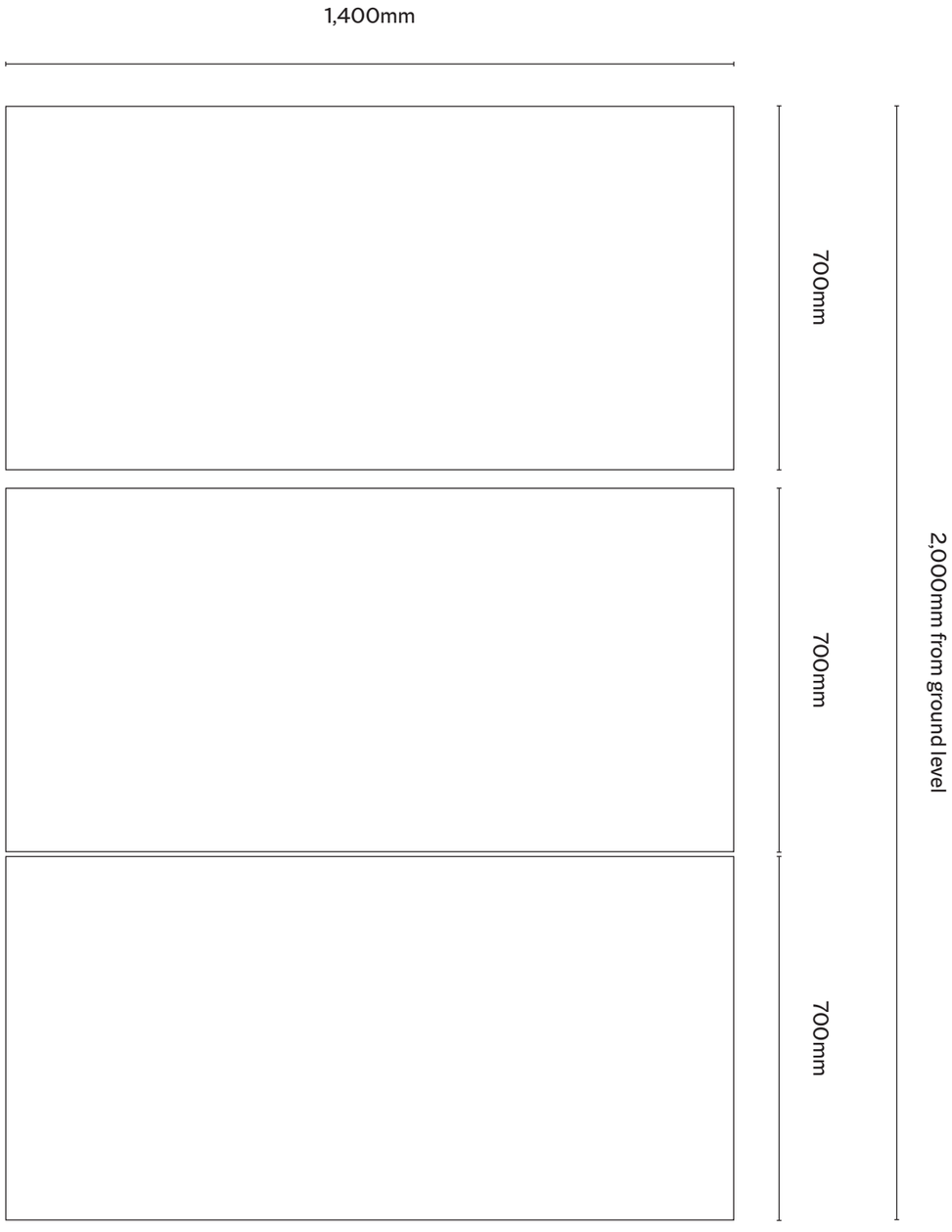
Location: Entrance to car park
Detail: Specification
Scale: NA
Page: 24

Client: Thornbury Town Council
Project: Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version: 1
Date: 6 November 2026

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Position 23

Direction signs







Design

3mm aluminium signs.

Installation

Fixed to wooden frame in soft ground.



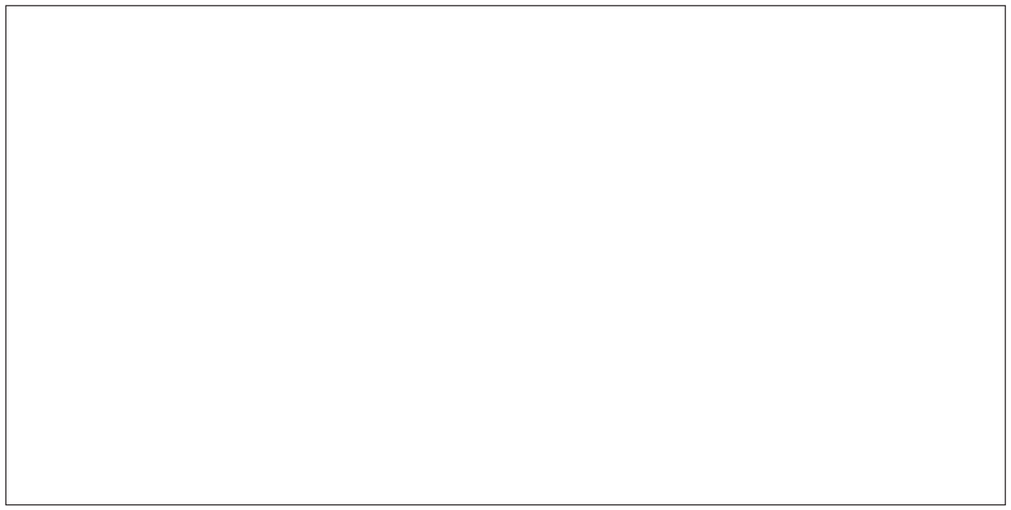
Location:	Kington Lane
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	25

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Position 24

Information signs





Design

3mm dibond sign.

Installation

Fixed to two metal posts in soft ground.



Position 25

Information signs



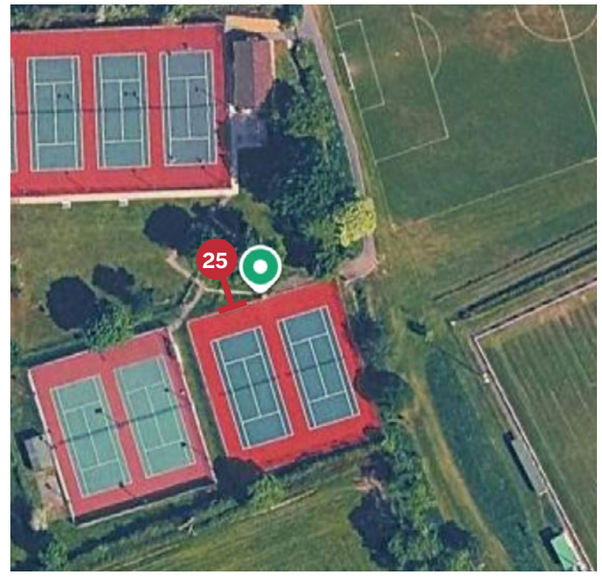


Design

3mm dibond sign.

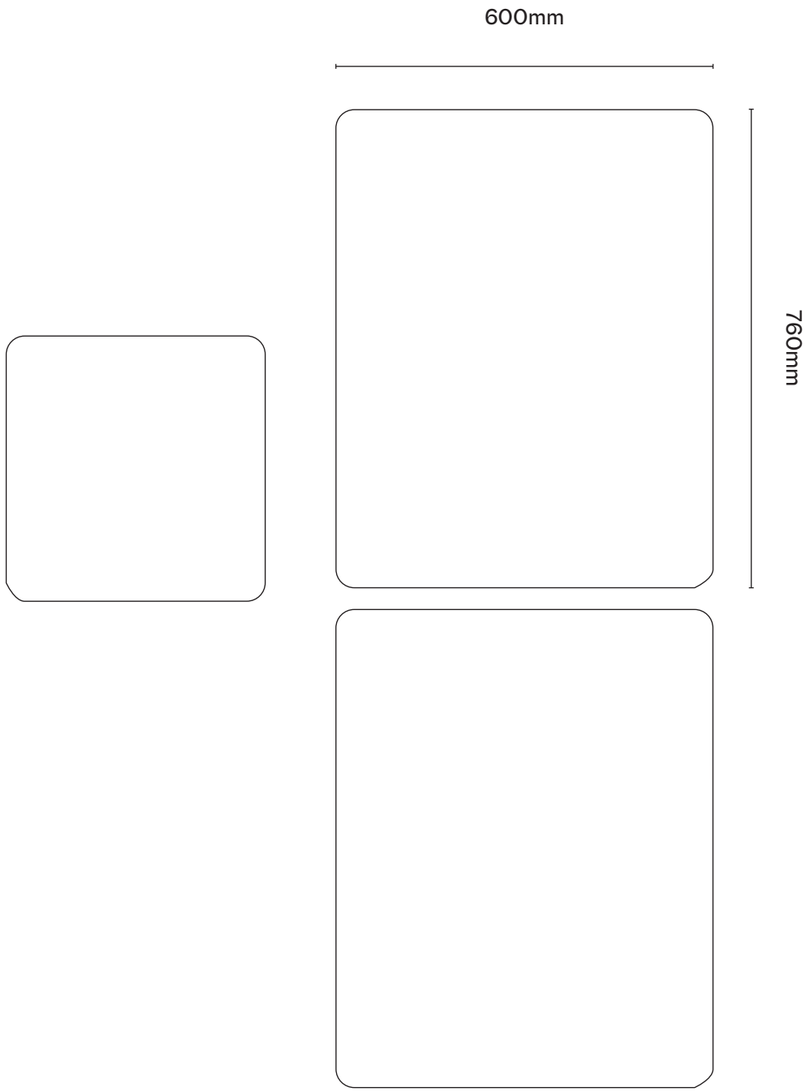
Installation

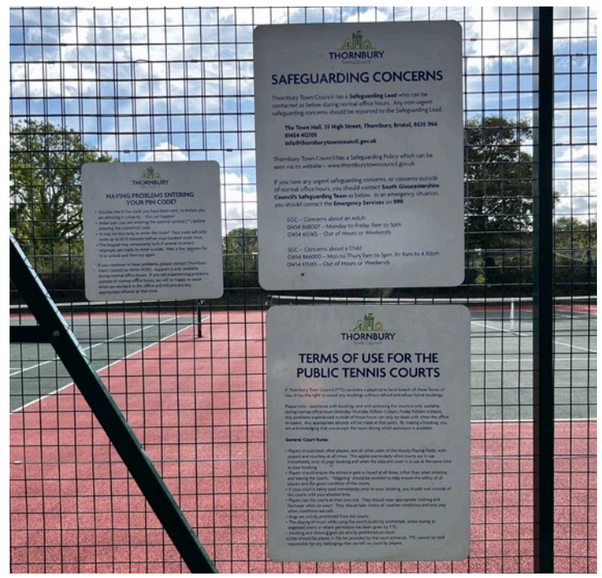
Fixed to two metal posts in soft ground.



Position 26

Information signs





Design

3mm dibond signs.

Installation

Fixed to mesh.



Position 27

Information sign



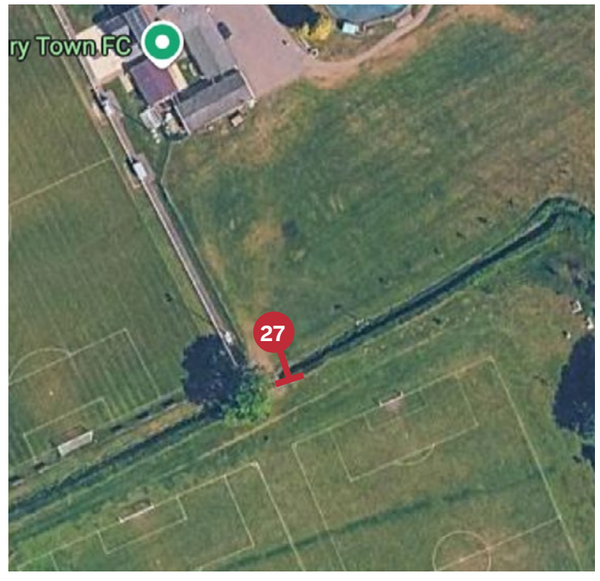


Design

3mm aluminium sign.

Installation

Fixed to two metal posts.



Location:	Poulterbrook Field
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	29

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Position 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35

Information signs

420mm

297mm





Design

3mm aluminium signs.

Installation

Fixed to single metal posts
in various locations.

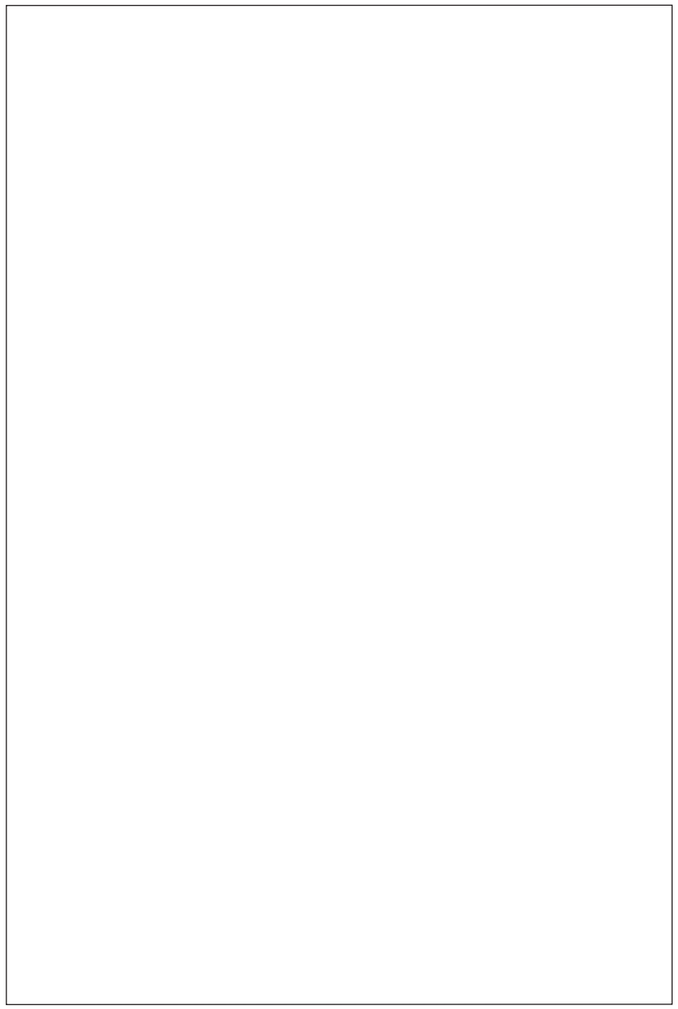
Location:	Poulterbrook Field
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	30

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Position 36, 37

Information signs







Design

3mm aluminium sign.

Installation

Fixed to metal posts in soft ground.



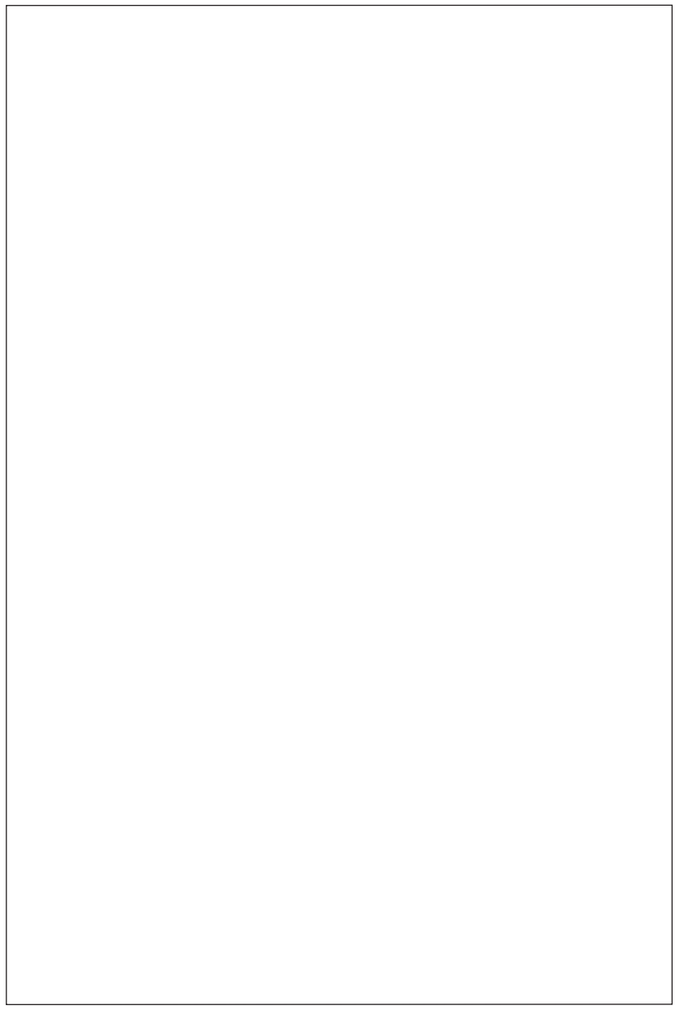
Location:	Various
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	31

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Position 38

Information signs







Design

3mm aluminium sign.

Installation

Fixed to metal posts in soft ground.



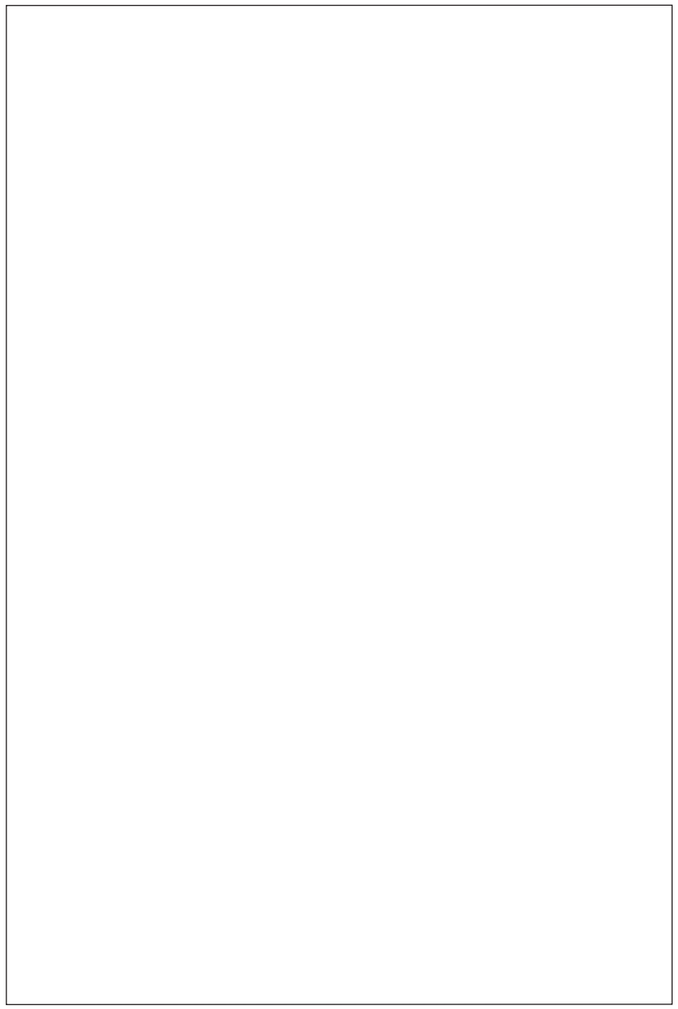
Location: Various
Detail: Specification
Scale: NA
Page: 32

Client: Thornbury Town Council
Project: Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version: 1
Date: 6 November 2026

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Position 39

Information signs





Design

3mm aluminium sign.

Installation

Fixed to grate.



Location: Lower field entrance
Detail: Specification
Scale: NA
Page: 33

Client: Thornbury Town Council
Project: Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version: 1
Date: 6 November 2026

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Conclusions

Wayfinding signage



Welcome to site

What could be improved

- The sign's location makes it difficult to see when approaching the entrance at the end of The Close.



Information signs

What could be improved

- Point sizes are a little small and vary per sign. The type should be legibility at a minimum of 1 metre distance from the sign.
- There is a tendancy to include more information than is necessary on the signage.
- Generally the signs on site are showing their age. Many have been damaged and have been patched up in-situ.



Direction signs

What could be improved

- There is a lack of helpful directional signage on site. Visitors have noted that direction signs to the Field's facilities would be helpful.
- Language and naming convensions needs to be considered and agreed.



Temporary signs

What works

- The sign is positioned so that is can be easily seen.

What could be improved

- There is probably too much information on the sign.
- The signs and posts are not particularly attractive or inviting and the posts are functional.

NOTE signs fixed to single round posts using jubilee clips can be easily rotated by vandals.



Newly branded signs

What works

- The new signs are fresh and use the new brand well. Imagery is also used to support information.

What could be improved

- In general the signs within the field have evolved over time without a consistent approach to colour, typography and without the inclusion of branding. This should be addressed in a redesigned, fully cohesive set of signs, that takes it's starting point from these first branded signs.

Questionnaire

Wayfinding signage

1. Do you live in Thornbury?

Yes: 9

No: 11

Old Down
Bristol
Winterbourne
Tockington
Alveston
Tytherington
Oldbury on-Severn
Old Down
Bristol
Falfield
Kingswood

2. Method of travel?

Walked: 7
Drove: 10
Bus: 2
Scooter: 1

3. Purpose of visit?

Nice walk – route to shops

Nice place to come and sit

Meet friends and let the kids play in the park

Heading to shops from car park

Use the Field gym – fitness

Waiting for someone.
Nice place to wait

Reading a book – waiting for shift to start.

Take children to play park

Dog walking

Walked into town from car park

Walking dog

Take children to play park

Take children to play park

Passing through

Walk and then a coffee in town

Hang about with mates

Use the play area

Walk to the cemetery

4. Been here before?

Yes: 18

No: 2

5. How often?

Daily: 1
Weekly: 5
Monthly: 11
First time: 3

6. Which facilities did you use?

Pathways: 7
Sandpit: 1
Play area: 5
Bench: 4
Bin: 1
Gym: 1
Car park: 10
Toilet: 2

7. Which other facilities do you sometimes use on other visits?

Car park: 4
Play area: 4
Pathways: 1
Toilet: 1

8. Do you find the signage useful?

Yes:
“looked at the heritage (map) sign.”

“I noticed the top (Heritage) one.”

“Some, yes, noticed the sign about the poison weeds.”

“Parking info is useful, Dog bins sign is also helpful.”

“Fine.”

“Dog signs are useful for the dog owners.”

“Dog signs are visible.”

No:
“I never look at them.”

“Haven’t had a chance to look at it.”

“Don’t notice them.”

“Didn’t really notice them.”

“I didn’t need any signs.”

“Never look.”

“Not sure I’ve seen any.”

“Don’t really notice – I come here a lot and know where to go.”

“Not very visible.”

9. Do you have any suggestions on improving the signs?

“Not clear how to find the park.”

“Don’t need any signs.”

“All good.”

“They do what they need to do.”

“A bit dull.”

“Could be a bit more visible.”

“The gym signs need to be clear that you have to be over 14 to use the equipment.”

“Need to be more visible at the entrance.”

“Grey and dull – could be more interesting to look at – make them fun!”

“Need more helpful directional signs when coming into Thornbury.”

“Directional signage from the car park would be useful.”

“Some signs to say where things are.”

“Direct signs for the toilet.’

Typical journeys

Pedestrian routes

1. Accessible route

Facilities that can be easily accessed along this route are:

- Car park
- Pavilion
- Toilet (wheelchair access)
- Picnic bench (not full area)
- Sandpit
- Play area (during dry conditions)
- Tennis courts.

Not fully accessible:

- No advance route or information about accessibility on website
- Interpretation panel
- Pitches
- Gym equipment
- Toilet (not for those with impaired vision).







Key

Routes

Decision points

Location:	NA
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	36

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Typical journeys

Pedestrian routes

2. Children's play area

- Too many redundant signs in the playground area.
- Some signs are mounted onto single round posts that can be twisted away from the intended orientation.
- Some signs have sharp corners and are positioned at a child's head height.
- The signage is not very family friendly, but rather shouty.
- No directional/wayfinding signage from either entrance.







Key

Routes

Decision points

Location:	NA
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	37

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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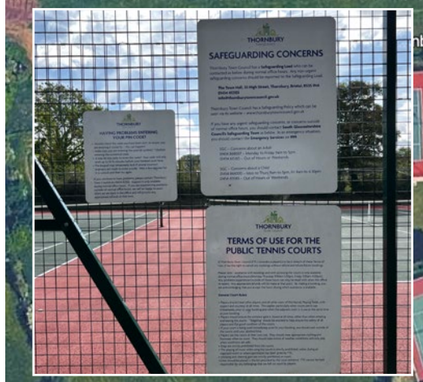
Typical journeys

Pedestrian routes

3. Tennis courts

- The signs are new and on brand.
- Three signs are positioned together. This information could be more concise on a single sign.
- Minimal directional/wayfinding signage from either entrance.







Key

Routes

Decision points

Location:	NA
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	38

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Typical journeys

Pedestrian routes

4. Toilet

- Just one direction sign on the wall of the changing rooms. The toilets themselves are not very well signed. Old signs seem to be missing or have been vandalised.

- Information about opening times is positioned in an out of the way location. This information should be positioned at the main entrance points.









Key

Routes

Decision points

Location:	NA
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	39

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Typical journeys

Pedestrian routes

5. Football pitch 1

- Lacking directional signage from either of the main entrances.



Key

Routes

Decision points

Location:	NA
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	40

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Typical journeys

Pedestrian routes

6. Football pitch 2

- Lacking directional signage from either of the main entrances.



Key

Routes

Decision points

Location:	NA
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	41

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Typical journeys

Pedestrian routes

7. Thornbury Town FC

- There is a direction sign to the club from Kington Lane into the Fields car park, but not via the Town and the pedestrian access.

- The TTC website mentions a Pavilion but there is only one sign on site that references the Pavilion and no building is signed specifically as Pavilion.









Key

Routes

Decision points

Location:	NA
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	42

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

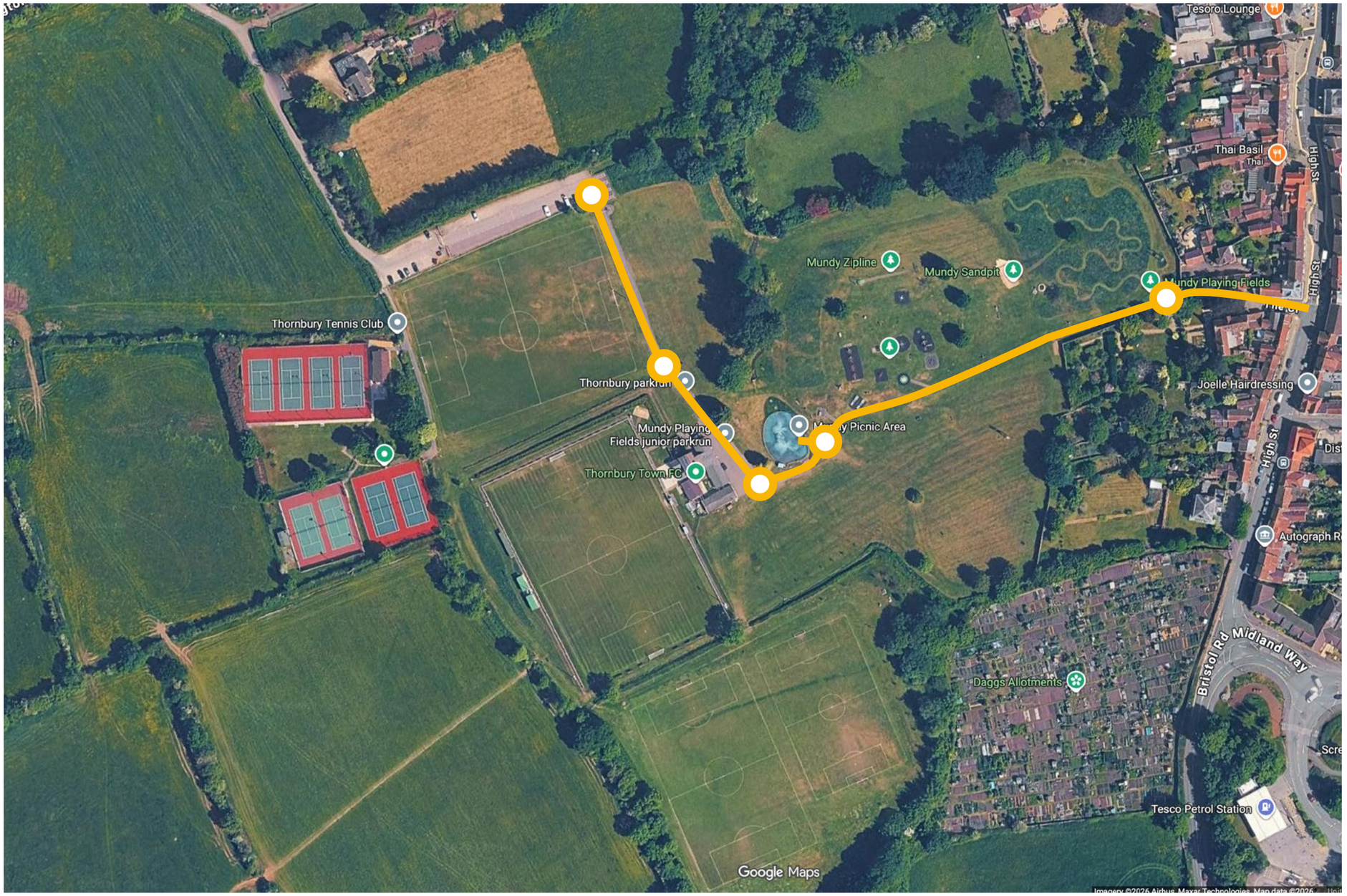
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Typical journeys

Pedestrian routes

8. Picnic area

- Lacking directional signage from either of the main entrances.



Key

Routes

Decision points

Location:	NA
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	43

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Typical journeys

Pedestrian routes

9. Town Centre from Car Park

- Many users of the car park are from regular visitors from villages/ towns that are nearby, they then walk through the Fields into town to avoid using the chargeable car parks in the Town centre.

- There is no directional signage from the car park, only information about parking.



Key

Routes

Decision points

Location:	NA
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	44

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Typical journeys

Pedestrian routes

10. Dog walkers

- Quite a number of the dog walkers that we saw during our site visits did not have their dogs on leads. Two of the entry points into the Fields did not have ‘Dogs on leads’ signs.
- The signs are mostly anonymous off the peg. Only a few are branded with TTC.
- Mixed messaging. The signs need to be more consistent.







Key

Routes

Decision points

Location:	NA
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	45

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Typical journeys

All routes

Accessible route

Toilet

Play area

Town centre from car park

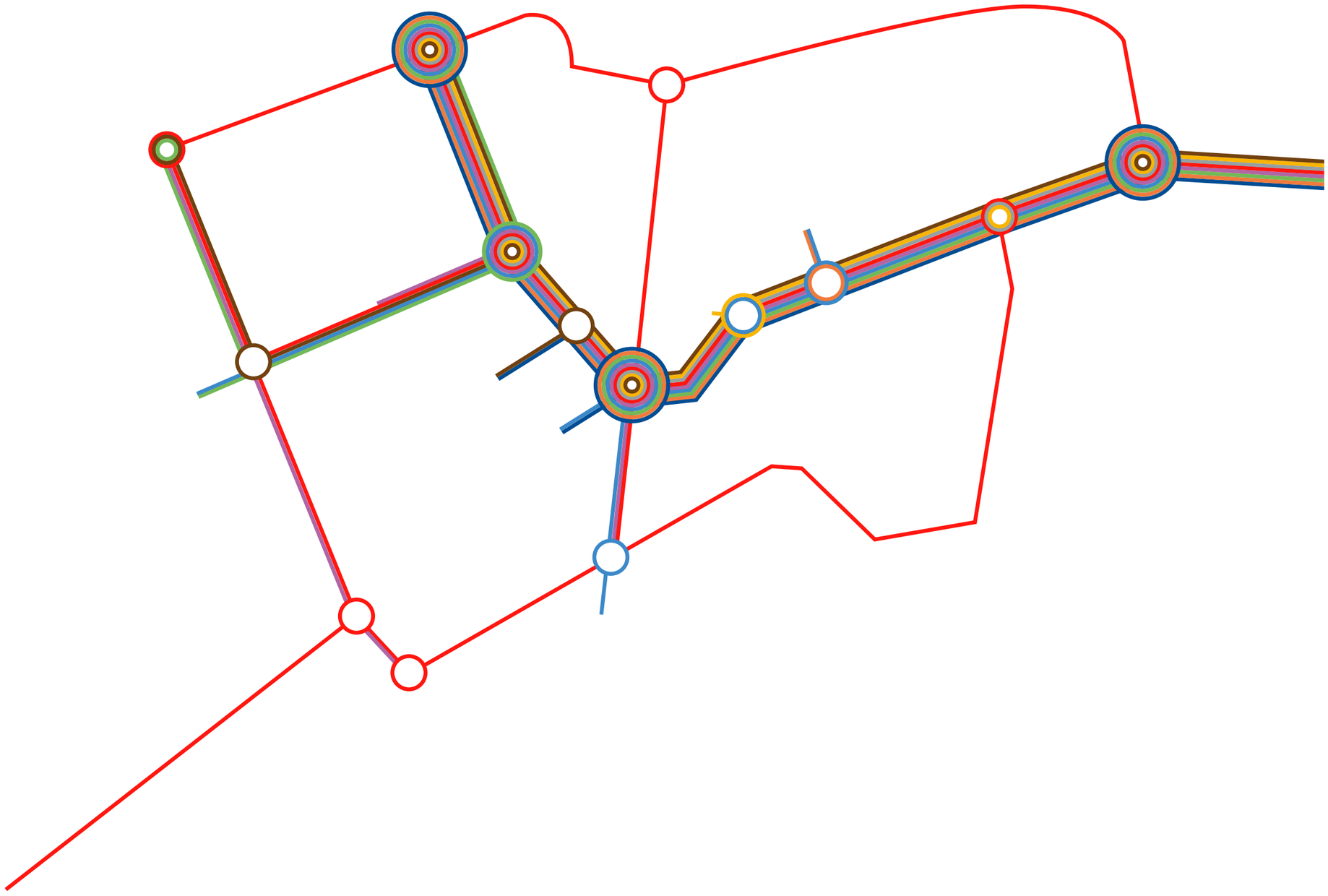
Tennis courts

Thornbury Town FC

Football pitches

Picnic area

Dog walkers



Key

Routes

Decision points

Location:	NA
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	46

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Next steps

Wayfinding signage

A welcoming gateway

- Both of the main entrances need to be more welcoming and instantly recognisable as belonging to Thornbury and its residents.

  It is important that the first thing visitors see when entering the site is positive not negative messaging.

  Promoting a positive emotional response will hopefully engender responsibility and pride for the Field and a sense of ownership and thus reduce instances of vandalism and antisocial behaviour.

Branded wayfinding

- It goes without saying that the Town Council brand should be a more visible aspect of the signage. Brand colours and typography will create a cohesive wayfinding experience that will also be a visual connection to the work underway at the Town Hall.

- There is currently a lack of directional signage on site. The inclusion of just a small number of prominent directional waymarkers would improve the navigation for visitors to the Field, especially first time visitors.

Heritage signage

- There are various sign systems currently in use. Many of these are out of date, damaged or need moving to a more prominent position.

  The existing signage content will need to be assessed by TTC and in some situations amended to fit within the new system. Language and naming conventions will also need to be agreed.

Inclusivity and accessibility

- It is important that inclusivity and sustainability are integral aspects of any new wayfinding system.

- Signage should adhere where possible to the latest legislation and standards for legibility and accessibility.

- Any new signage should be produced from materials that can be easily recycled at the end of their usefulness.

Aligned messaging

- It is important to align the content found online, specifically on the Town Council's official website and social feeds, with that of the content found on site printed on the physical signage.

  Any significant changes to the Field that are due to take place in the next few years should be factored in now and included in the new signage system.

Following installation

- Avoid the temptation to stick temporary information to the new signs with tape, this can permanently deface the sign and impact on legibility. Can this information be delivered in a different way; website, social feeds, or as temporary post mounted signs?

  When the new signage has been completed and installed then it will be important for TTC to introduce a regular maintenance schedule. Signs should be monitored and cleaned quarterly, and repaired or replaced where necessary annually.

  This work is important and will be money well spent as it will help extend the life and viability of the system. Once a system shows signs of neglect or the content is no longer accurate, defacement and vandalism typically follow.

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Thank you

Andy Degg

andy@greenhat.studio

0117 942 7676

greenhat.studio

creative
thinking

Typical journeys

All routes

Accessible route

Toilet

Playground

Town centre from car park

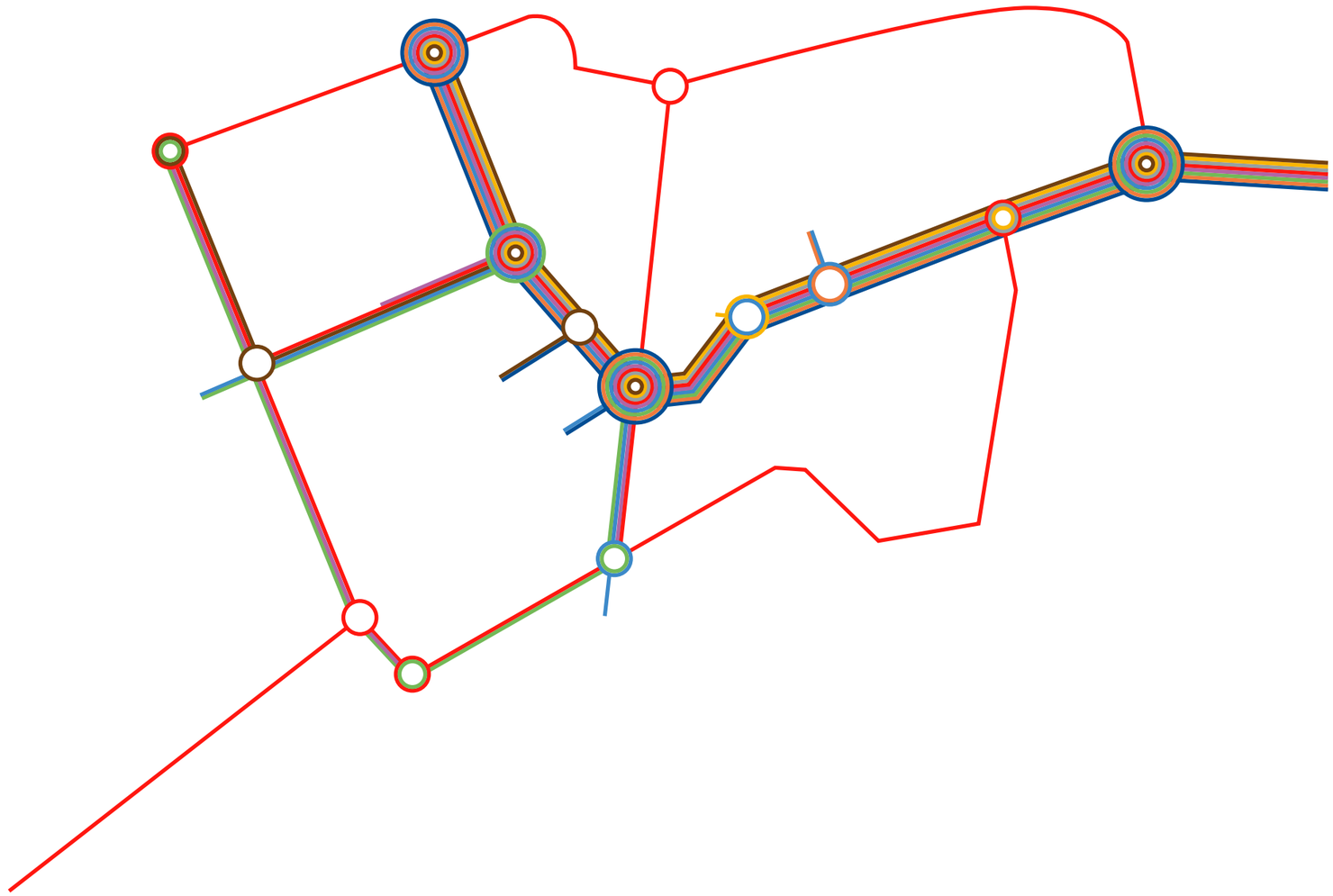
Tennis courts

Thornbury Town FC

Football pitches

Picnic area

Dog walkers



Key

Routes

Decision points

Location:	Lower field entrance
Detail:	Specification
Scale:	NA
Page:	49

Client:	Thornbury Town Council
Project:	Mundy Fields wayfinding signage
Version:	1
Date:	6 November 2026

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Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Open Spaces Committee

Report Title:	**Findings of the 2026 Ecological Surveys of Open Spaces and Recommendations for Changes to Grounds Maintenance Regimes**
Prepared By:	**Wendy Sydenham, Deputy Clerk**
Meeting Date:	**17 November 2026**
Status:	**For Action**

---

1. Background

In 2022, the Town Council commissioned ecological surveys of its open green spaces and subsequently implemented many of the recommendations made by the ecologist regarding their ongoing maintenance. The sites were resurveyed by the same ecologist in 2026, and his reports confirm that the changes to the maintenance regimes have had a significant positive impact on the biodiversity value of these spaces. The reports also identify further opportunities to further enhance their biodiversity value through additional adjustments to the maintenance regimes.

(The full 2026 ecology survey reports have been provided to the Open Spaces Committee via a link on the meeting agenda through to the relevant website page.)

The Climate & Nature Officer has provided a summary of the findings of the 2026 ecological surveys in her report to the Climate & Nature Committee (see ***Appendix 1***), together with details of the further improvements recommended (see ***Appendix 2*** – the specific recommendations are highlighted in the appendix, for ease of reference). At its meeting on 20 October 2026, the Climate & Nature Committee resolved to recommend that the Open Spaces Committee adopt the additional biodiversity measures set out in her report.

The measures recommended by the Climate & Nature Committee are relatively small-scale and are best viewed as enhancements to, or refinements of, the existing maintenance regimes rather than significant changes that would materially affect how the open spaces are used by the public. Nevertheless, these additional measures have the potential to build further on the positive results already being achieved and to continue enhancing the biodiversity value of the Town Council's green spaces.

2. Implications

The Climate & Nature Officer's report clearly sets out the implications of adopting the recommended measures. In addition, the following points are highlighted from the perspective of the Open Spaces Committee:

Ecological
Adoption of the recommended measures should support further improvements in biodiversity, particularly at sites where the benefits of the changes introduced in 2022 have been more moderate.

Operational
The grounds maintenance team fully supports the proposed changes and does not anticipate any operational difficulties arising from their implementation.

Public Use of Space
Not all of the ecologist's recommendations have been put forward for adoption. For example, increasing the height of the hedges between Mundys and Poulterbrook is not recommended due to safeguarding and antisocial behaviour concerns. Careful consideration has been given to ensuring that the proposed measures are balanced against the need to maintain the open spaces for their multiple uses and users.

Financial
The Climate & Nature Officer confirms that most of the recommended measures are relatively small-scale and low-cost. The Climate & Nature Committee has earmarked some funding towards their implementation, and it is anticipated that this can be supplemented by a modest amount of funding from the Open Spaces/Maintenance budget.

3. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the findings of the 2026 ecological surveys.
- Approve the implementation of the proposed adjustments to the grounds maintenance regimes, as recommended by the Climate & Nature Committee (as highlighted in ***Appendix 2***).

Appendix 1

Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee

Report Title: 2026 Biodiversity Audit/Ecological Survey Results

Prepared By: Sharon Gardham

Meeting Date: 20 October 2026

Status: For Noting

---

1. Detail

In 2022, Thornbury Town Council commissioned Wessex Ecological Consultancy to carry out surveys of its key sites and to suggest ecological enhancement plans. Since then, many of the suggested enhancements have been made, including changes to management regimes and schemes of tree and wildflower planting.

To measure the success (or otherwise) of the changes made to management at TTC sites, in 2026, the Climate and Nature Committee decided to commission a re-examination of the sites surveyed in 2022. Alongside measuring the impact of the changes made, the commissioned ecologist was also asked to suggest areas for further improvement and/or changes in approach to management.

This paper summarises the results of the 2026 audit. The suggested changes/enhancements included in the biodiversity audit reports will be presented in a sister paper (2026 Biodiversity Enhancement Measures Proposal).

Overall, the 2026 surveys show that the enhancements and changes made at TTC sites since 2022 have had a positive impact on biodiversity in Thornbury. Key findings include:

- An increase in the number of plant, insect and bird species recorded.
- An improvement in the prevalence of habitats and species prioritised under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (which places a duty to conserve biodiversity on public authorities in England).
- Increasing or new recordings of species that are 'red-listed' (i.e., are of the greatest conservation concern).
- Recording of species that are locally rare.
- Presence of habitats that are of high nature conservation value in a local or South Gloucestershire context.

In summary, the 2026 biodiversity audits show clear enhancement of the biodiversity value of TTC's sites, which is a testament to the efforts of TTC's grounds maintenance team, council officers, volunteer members of the public, and the support of councillors.

Thornbury Cemetery

Key points:

- The Cemetery includes an area of **moderately diverse unimproved grassland**, which is identified as a **priority habitat** under the NERC Act. There was a **75% increase** in the presence of key indicator species for this habitat type between 2022 and 2026.
- The oldest part of the cemetery is **of nature conservation value in a South Gloucestershire context**, and this **value has risen significantly** since 2022.
- There were **3 red-listed plant species** recorded on site in 2026.
- The trees and shrubs across the cemetery are of **nature conservation value in a South Gloucestershire context**.
- There are **locally rare insects and lichens** at the cemetery, including an acorn weevil that has not previously been recorded in South Gloucestershire.
- The cemetery is of **high interest for biodiversity.** The changes of management made recently have increased the level of interest.

Mundy Playing Fields

Key Points:

- Several areas that have been managed differently since 2022 show a **significant increase in plant diversity**.
- The banks between the stream and playground support lowland dry acidic grassland which is a **priority habitat** under the NERC Act. This area represents **one of the most significant areas of acidic grassland in South Gloucestershire**. Two species of clover are present in '**exceptional quantities'**.
- There has been a **'striking' increase in the diversity of insect species** recorded, including one species not previously recorded in South Gloucestershire.
- There has been a **42% increase in the number of bird species** recorded, including red-listed species such as swift and starling.
- Overall, the site has seen a **significant increase in biodiversity** value since 2022.

Oakleaze Green

Key Points:

- In 2026, several **plant species associated with unimproved grassland** were recorded, which indicates a reduction in soil fertility. If soil fertility continues to decline, gains in floral diversity should accelerate.
- The grasslands on site support a **moderate diversity of invertebrates**, including a hoverfly recorded at only 2 other sites in South Gloucestershire.
- The grassland across the site is of **nature conservation value in a local context**.
- The diversity of insects and plants has increased, with a **significant increase in biodiversity** overall.
- **Three bird species of conservation concern** were recorded; starling, house sparrow and dunnock.
- Note: There are already plans in place to plant perennial wildflowers and yellow rattle at Oakleaze Green, which will take advantage of the decline in soil fertility. Shade-loving native wildflower species have already been planted in a small area adjacent to neighbouring gardens.

Thicket Walk

Key Points:

- There has been **some increase in diversity** since 2022, including tree planting, which benefit a range of associated species.
- Given the size and use of the site, significant further changes are not suggested.

- Note: There are already plans in place to plant 500 native wildflower bulbs at Thicket Walk (wood anemone, snowdrop, English bluebell and winter aconite).

Chantry Playing Field

Key Points:

- Areas of the playing field are of **nature conservation value in a local context**.
- **Two hoverfly species that are scarce in South Gloucestershire** were recorded on ivy on the southern edge of the site.
- There has been **some increase in the diversity of insects** on the site, showing the 'impact that even small measures can have on biodiversity'.
- There is an **increase in bird species diversity** on the site, including **red-listed dunnock, starlings and swifts**.
- Note: There are already plans to plant perennial wildflowers and yellow rattle in a small area of the playing field.

St Mary's Churchyard

Key Points:

- The churchyard is **moderately species rich**. It has improved slightly since 2022 from an already good position, reflecting the **success of its management regime** over the last 4 years.
- Several **indicator species of unimproved grassland**, which is a **priority habitat** under the NERC Act are present.
- Two **locally uncommon plant species** were recorded, including the yellow-juiced poppy, which has only been recorded at one other site in South Gloucestershire in the last 20 years.
- The **range of insect species** recorded is described as **'impressive'**.
- One invertebrate species recorded has **only been recorded at one other site in South Gloucestershire in the last century**.
- The churchyard is of **conservation value in a South Gloucestershire context**.

Chantry Road Play Area

Key Points:

- No birds were recorded on the site in 2022. In 2026, **3 species of bird** were recorded, including the red-listed starling.
- There have been few changes to the site since 2022, but there was a **slight increase in bird and insect species** recorded.

2. Implications

Environmental

The changes made to management regimes on TTC sites since 2022, as well as the ecological enhancements put in place, have had a positive impact on species diversity and habitat value.

While the impact of these changes varies from site to site, where nature has been lent a helping hand, some significant improvements have been made. This includes supporting priority habitats and species under the NERC Act, thus fulfilling TTC's statutory obligations. It also includes species which are nationally threatened, such as starlings, swifts and a range of plants and insects. Some of the species and habitats recorded are of value in a county-wide context.

The improvements achieved have been possible while maintaining the recreational value of the sites, showing the possibility of balancing the needs of human site users with the needs of other species.

Repeating surveys like every 4-5 years will enable the Council to build on the work already completed, identifying approaches that are succeeding and suggesting further enhancements.

3. Recommendations

The Climate and Nature Committee is asked to **NOTE** the observations made in this summary and in the full biodiversity audit reports.

Appendix 2

Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee

Report Title: 2026 Biodiversity Enhancement Measures Proposal

Prepared By: Sharon Gardham

Meeting Date: 20 October 2026

Status: For Action

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1. Detail

In 2022, Thornbury Town Council commissioned Wessex Ecological Consultancy to carry out surveys of its key sites and to devise ecological enhancement plans. Since then, many of the suggested enhancements have been made, including changes to management regimes and schemes of tree and wildflower planting.

As detailed in the sister paper to this one (2026 Biodiversity Audit/Ecological Survey Results) the 2026 surveys show that the enhancements and changes made at TTC sites since 2022 have had a positive impact on biodiversity in Thornbury.

The impact does, however, vary across sites. Furthermore, the reports suggest more actions that could be considered for implementation. These are summarised below and are in addition to the regimes/plans already in place, which should be continued. Full details can be found in the biodiversity audit reports that are appended to the survey results paper.

Thornbury Cemetery

- Allow some hedges to grow taller.
- Plant trees alongside hedges.
- Fit bird and bat boxes (already in progress – bat and tawny owl boxes are being made by the Thornbury Men's Shed).
- Retain dead wood piles.

Mundy Playing Fields

- Leave some areas of the hay meadow/taller grass areas unmown over the winter months to provide habitat for insects.
- Allow tall grassland to develop in strips along hedge lines.
- Plant further trees.
- Remove vegetation and silt from some ditches.
- Install bird and bat boxes.
- Leave some areas of the stream bank unmanaged.

Oakleaze Green

- Plant hedges along site boundaries.
- Install and maintain bug hotels.

- NOTE: There are already plans in place to plant perennial wildflowers and yellow rattle at Oakleaze Green.

Thicket Walk

- Amend the mowing regime in limited areas to once per month during the growing season.
- Trim the hedge to promote dense growth at the base (NOTE: there are plans to lay this hedge using traditional methods during the 2026/27 season).
- NOTE: There are already plans in place to plant 500 native wildflower bulbs at Thicket Walk (wood anemone, snowdrop, English bluebell and winter aconite).

Chantry Road Playing Field

- Relax mowing regime in some areas of the site that are not used as a pitch.
- Plant additional trees on the site boundaries.
- Cut some strips of tall grassland only once every three years.
- NOTE: There are already plans to plant perennial wildflowers and yellow rattle in a small area of the playing field.

St Mary's Churchyard

- Adopt the mowing regime suggested in the report.
- Clear some bramble and scrub.
- Trim back trees where they are encroaching on tombs and grassland.
- Retain dead wood as a habitat feature.
- Largely, the advice at St Mary's is to keep up the good work!
- NOTE: Measures for the Churchyard will need to be discussed and agreed with the Holy Mowers

Chantry Road Play Area

- Plant hedges along the boundary of the site OR relax mowing regime along the boundaries.
- Install bug hotels.

The measures detailed above are, relatively speaking, small in scale. This is reflective of the success of the measures already introduced subsequent to the 2022 surveys.

The overarching message from the biodiversity audits of 2026 is to keep doing what we are already doing!

Not all measures suggested in the biodiversity audits are recommended. For example, the suggestion to leave the hedgerow between MPF and Poulterbrook to increase in height has previously been discussed with the Grounds Maintenance team and dismissed due to concerns about anti-social behaviour. The measures outlined in this paper are, therefore, those that are considered practical and possible, given the need to maintain the sites for multiple users/purposes.

2. Implications

Environmental
TTC's sites have already seen good increases in biodiversity by and large since 2022. Implementation of the measures suggested in this paper (which are fully detailed in the biodiversity audit reports) will allow further enhancements to be experienced. The enhancements could have a particular impact on the sites where more moderate improvements

have been made since 2022, namely Chantry Road Play Area, Chantry Playing Field and Thicket Walk.

Financial
The measures suggested (except perhaps for ditch and silt clearance at MPF) are relatively small-scale and, as a result, low-cost. The 2026-27 Climate and Nature Committee budget for ecological surveying was underspent by a little over £2000. At the September meeting of the Committee, it was decided that this money should be reallocated to implementing the measures suggested by the biodiversity audits (subject to the agreement of the Open Spaces Committee – CN2627.23). Significant additional spend is not therefore anticipated in this financial year.

If there are biodiversity actions outstanding at the end of this financial year, the budget proposed for 2027-28 includes funds for biodiversity works.

3. Recommendations

The Climate and Nature Committee are asked to:

- Recommend the implementation of the measures outlined in this paper to the Open Spaces Committee.

Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Open Spaces Committee

Report Title: **Winter 2026 Hedge Works**

Prepared By: **Wendy Sydenham, Deputy Clerk**

Meeting Date: **17 November 2026**

Status: **For Action**

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1. Background

The Committee will recall that the Town Council's hedge maintenance regime was reviewed and amended in 2024, with a view to improving the ecological quality of the hedges and enhancing biodiversity, whilst balancing these objectives with operational and safety considerations. The previous approach had largely prioritised a quick, inexpensive and relatively intensive method of hedge maintenance.

Since introducing the revised regime, officers have continued to review and refine the approach. For example, following a survey of some of the Town Council's green spaces by Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) last winter, undertaken with the Committee's agreement, further adjustments were made to the maintenance regime. AWT also undertook some additional work on the Cemetery hedges, free of charge.

Officers are due to invite quotations for the Winter 2026 hedge maintenance works. However, this has been held back pending receipt of the reports and recommendations from the ecologist following the recent resurvey of the Town Council's green spaces.

These reports have now been received and include the following recommendations for adjustments to the hedge maintenance regime:

- Oakleaze Green – Trim hedges to a height of 1.5 metres and a maximum width of 2 metres.
- Cemetery – Allow the hedges along the north-western and northern boundaries of the Cemetery to grow taller.
- Mundy Playing Fields – Allow the hedges between the Mundys and Poulterbrook to grow taller. *Officers do not intend to implement this recommendation due to safeguarding concerns, as the Poulterbrook pitches are used for junior football matches.*

Officers had originally intended to present quotations to this meeting of the Committee for consideration. However, as it was necessary to await the ecologist's recommendations before finalising the specification for the works, this has not been possible.

In order to avoid delays and ensure that a contractor can be appointed in sufficient time to undertake the works during the winter maintenance period, officers are seeking delegated authority to obtain quotations and appoint a contractor, in accordance with the Town Council's Financial Regulations and within the budget allocated for hedge maintenance.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to delegate authority to officers to appoint a contractor to undertake the Winter 2026 hedge maintenance works, at a cost of up to £10,000.

There are sufficient funds available within the Open Spaces/Maintenance budget line (130/4150) to accommodate expenditure of up to this amount, based on officers' current budget line forecast.

It is anticipated that the actual cost of the works will be considerably lower than £10,000. The lowest quotation received for the Winter 2025 works was just under £5,000, and it is not anticipated that this year's works will be significantly more extensive. However, allowing for general increases in costs over the past year, together with the possibility of some additional work being required, officers are seeking authority to spend up to the full £10,000 if necessary.

Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Open Spaces Committee

Report Title: **Hanging Baskets for Summer 2027**

Prepared By: **Wendy Sydenham, Deputy Clerk**

Meeting Date: **17 November 2026**

Status: **For Action**

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1. Background

At its September 2026 meeting, the Committee received a report from Officers on actions that will be taken to reduce our reliance on mains water for grounds maintenance. In line with this, we are planning to source hanging baskets for Summer 2027 that include a water-retention product within the growing medium. Officers are planning to publicise our use of this product in the hanging baskets to share our experience of using the product and encourage others to consider similar water-saving measures.

We have obtained a quote for x35 baskets @ £40 per basket, totalling £1400 excluding VAT, that will include this product.

As in previous years, officers have been unable to obtain three quotations for the specific service required. This is because the Council wishes to reuse its existing hanging baskets, which requires the supplier to collect the baskets, fill them in accordance with the Council's specification and return them once completed.

Under the Council's Financial Regulations, expenditure below £1,500 requires officers simply to demonstrate that value for money has been achieved, rather than obtain three competitive quotations.

Given the specialist nature of the service, which involves the collection, preparation and delivery of the Council's own baskets rather than the straightforward purchase of new ones, officers have undertaken online price comparisons to assess the reasonableness of the quotation received. This research indicates that the quoted price represents good value for money. Officers are therefore satisfied that the requirements of the Council's Financial Regulations have been met.

2. Recommendations

That the Committee agree to officers ordering x35 hanging baskets for Summer 2027, at the cost of £40 per basket, totalling £1400 excluding VAT.

Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Open Spaces Committee

Report Title:	**Matters Relating to Thornbury Cemetery - (1) Installation of a Pick Your Own Flower Garden (2) Concept Designs for Memorial Woodland/Reflection Garden**
Prepared By:	**Wendy Sydenham, Deputy Clerk**
Meeting Date:	**17 November 2026**
Status:	**For Action**

The Climate & Nature Officer/Committee is progressing two projects at Thornbury Cemetery. The Open Spaces Committee is asked to note progress made on these projects, in line with its remit to oversee the operations of the Cemetery and be responsible for open spaces owned or managed by the Town Council.

1. Installation of a "Pick Your Own Flower Garden"

The Climate & Nature Officer has funds allocated by the Climate & Nature Committee to spend on biodiversity measures. She had been developing a proposal to plant bulbs at the Cemetery to create a "Pick Your Own Flower Garden".

As the plan progressed, it became necessary for her to place an order quickly, if we were to benefit from the flowers next year. Funds are available from the Climate & Nature budget and therefore, following obtaining the necessary approvals, the order has been placed.

The following detail has been provided by the Climate & Nature Officer, including links to further information:

I have been working on a plan to carry out some autumn bulb planting in the cemetery using some of the C&N biodiversity budget.

The planting will be carried out by a firm called Lubbe & Sons who come with a nifty machine (https://www.lubbelisse.nl/uk/planting/machine-planting) and densely plant bulbs that will provide a great source of pollen, as well as a massive burst of colour. We are looking at planting a 'pick your own flower garden' mix that will allow cemetery visitors to create their own bouquets to place on graves and memorials. Ther mixes are designed to be successional, giving us the maximum amount of colour for the longest possible period. Details about the mix are here: https://www.lubbelisse.nl/uk/green-spaces/flower-bulbs-mixtures/mixtures/pick-your-own-mixture The bulb planting firm will provide us with 26 square metres of planted bulbs.

I think this will be a really lovely enhancement to the cemetery for visitors and wildlife. It aligns with our overarching ambitions to reduce waste (fewer plastic wrapped flowers needed), improve sustainability (no 'flower' miles) and enhance the area for biodiversity (the mix is good for pollinators too). It would also be a great 'good news story' that we could share with the town next spring.

2. Concept Designs for the Memorial Woodland/Reflection Garden

The Open Spaces Committee has already resolved to approve the development by the Climate & Nature Committee of a Memorial Woodland/Reflection Garden in the meadow adjacent to the Cemetery.

In order to avoid unnecessary delay, the concept designs were considered by the Climate & Nature Committee at their October meeting and members of the Open Spaces Committee were invited to attend if they wished to make any comments on the designs. Following discussion at that meeting, the design company are now working on more detailed designs which will be presented at future meetings.

In line with its remit to oversee operations at the Cemetery and to take responsibility for open spaces owned and/or managed by the Town Council, the Open Spaces Committee is asked to formally note the concept designs for the Memorial Woodland/Reflection Garden. The Committee will continue to be updated as the project progresses.

The concept designs are appended to this report.

The Open Spaces Committee is asked to note progress on the above two projects.

SEED LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Thornbury well-being garden

THO 205

Concept Design

LI. WORK STAGE S1-2



THORNBURY CEMETRY, KINGTON LN, THORNBURY, BRISTOL BS35 1NA
SPETEMBER 2026

0 Introduction

0.1 Site description & Client brief

1 Landscape Context & Analysis

1.1 Site Photos
1.2 Responses to site

2 Concept Design

2.1 Concept development - Chapel walk
2.2 Concept development - Community walk
2.3 Concept development - Willow walk & views
2.4 Emerging concept design
2.5 Landscape character - Chapel walk
2.6 Landscape character - Community walk
2.7 Movement strategy
2.8 Planting strategy - Trees
2.10 Planting strategy - Meadow & grassland

Appendix

0.0 Statutory Designations & Habitats
0.0 Groundwater Assessment
0.0 Historic Maps

In producing this report, SEED Landscape Design Ltd has relied upon information provided by others. The completeness or accuracy of this information is not guaranteed by SEED Landscape Design Ltd.

DOCUMENT AUTHORS
Katie Luckett, BA (Hons), Landscape Architect

CHECKED BY
James Hamilton, BSc (Hons) DipLA NDH Landscape Architect, Director

All drawings, visualisations and models are SEED Landscape Design Ltd unless noted otherwise.

0 Introduction

0.1 Site description & Client Brief

Introduction

SEED Landscape Design Limited have been appointed to deliver the landscape design for land adjacent to Thornbury Cemetry . Thornbury Town Council aspires to create a well-being garden for visitors of the cemetry and the local community.

Site Description

The site is partially within the orginal boundaries of Thornbury cemetry, which is located in the countryside on the north-western outskirts of the town of Thornbury. The majority of the site is a small,previously argicultural, field which shares a semi-open boundary to the orlginal cemetry. Wrought iron railings and single leaf pedestrian gates signify the historic boundary.

The site is accessed via Kington Lane, which creates the southern boundary to the cemetry site. Cemetry parking is accessed through a gated entrance from a vehicular access from Kington Lane at the eastern end of the site. There are three further pedestrian entrances along the Lane, the PRoW enters the site to the eastern corner, and an additional gate lies halfway on the boundary to Kington Lane. The site is well connnected to an extensive PRoW network asscoiated with the western town edge.

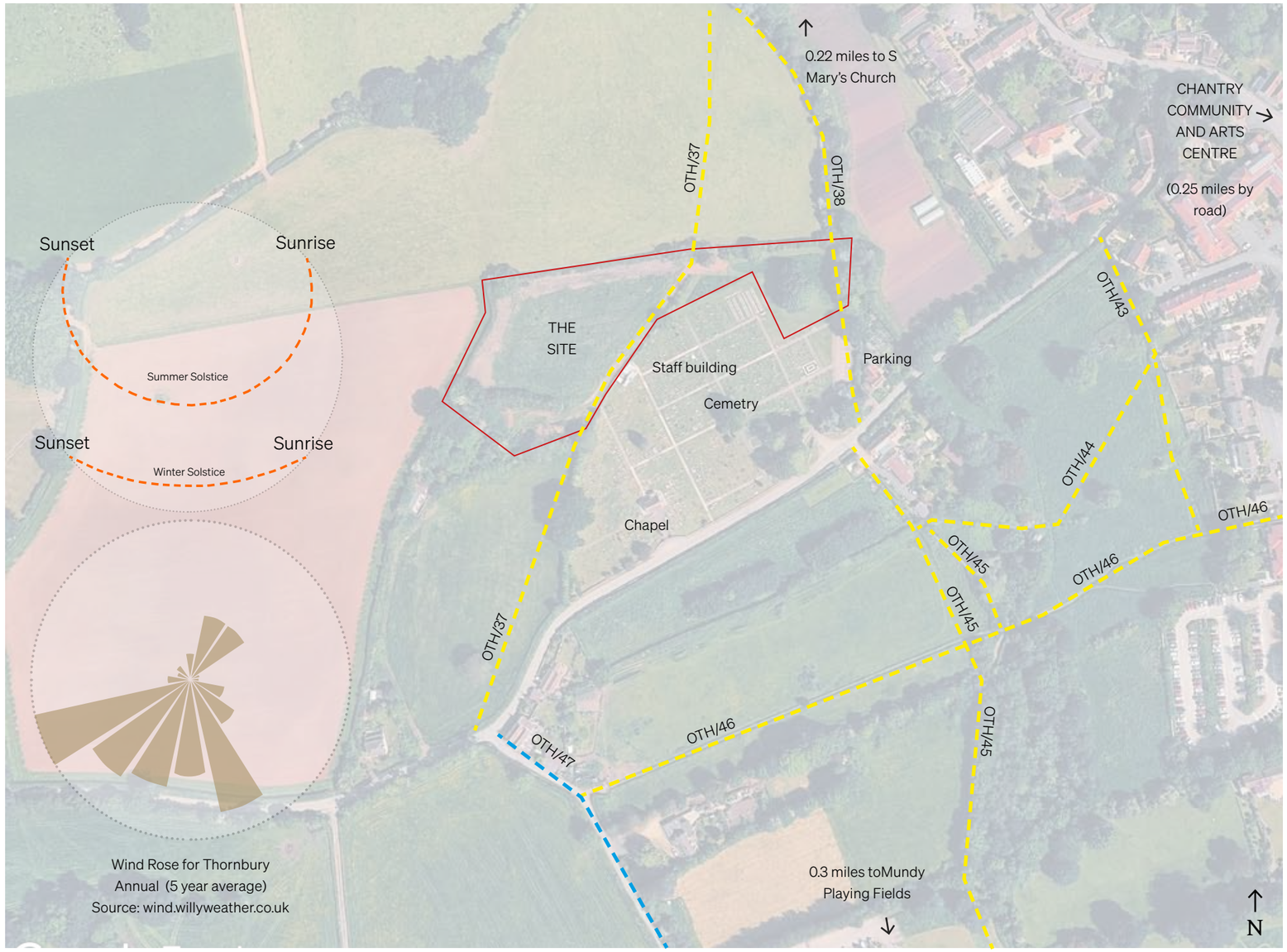
The site's soil type is Hodnet 572 a 'Reddish fine and coarse loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some similar well drained reddish fine loamy soils. Slight risk of water erosion'.
Source CDS Groundwater Risk Assessment

The site's bedrock geology is 'Moor Cliffs Formation-Siltstone and mudstone, interbedded'.

Client brief

(CLIENT BRIEF DR SHARON GARDHAM 17.03.26)
Thornbury Town Council we are looking to transform a 1-acre site adjacent to the current cemetery into a memorial woodland/wellbeing garden. The site was originally purchased to expand the burial area, but due to the high water table, burials are not possible.

We would therefore like to turn it into an area where cemetery visitors can meander, take time for reflection, find a connection to nature and feel a sense of peace. We may also wish to offer ashes scattering and interment, so these would be important features to consider. It is also very important to us that the area is improved for wildlife and incorporates trees, planting and water, working with the topography and natural features of the site to achieve this.



SOURCE: GOOGLE EARTH (2026)

Site extents within Thornbury Cemetry
Public footpaths
Restricted Byway

1 Landscape Context & Analysis

BASELINE RESEARCH TO INFORM THE DESIGN PROCESS

1 Landscape Context & Analysis

1.1 Site Photos

1. NORTHWARD FOOTPATH FOLLOWING A DRAINAGE DITCH
2. LONG SWARD TO HEDEROW BOUNDARIES
3. VIEW PAST OAK WALKING FROM PARKING AREA
4. CLEAR VIEWS OF HISTORIC LANDMARK
5. INTERNAL VIEW ACROSS SITE TOWARDS CEMETRY
6. NATURE COLONISING PATHS









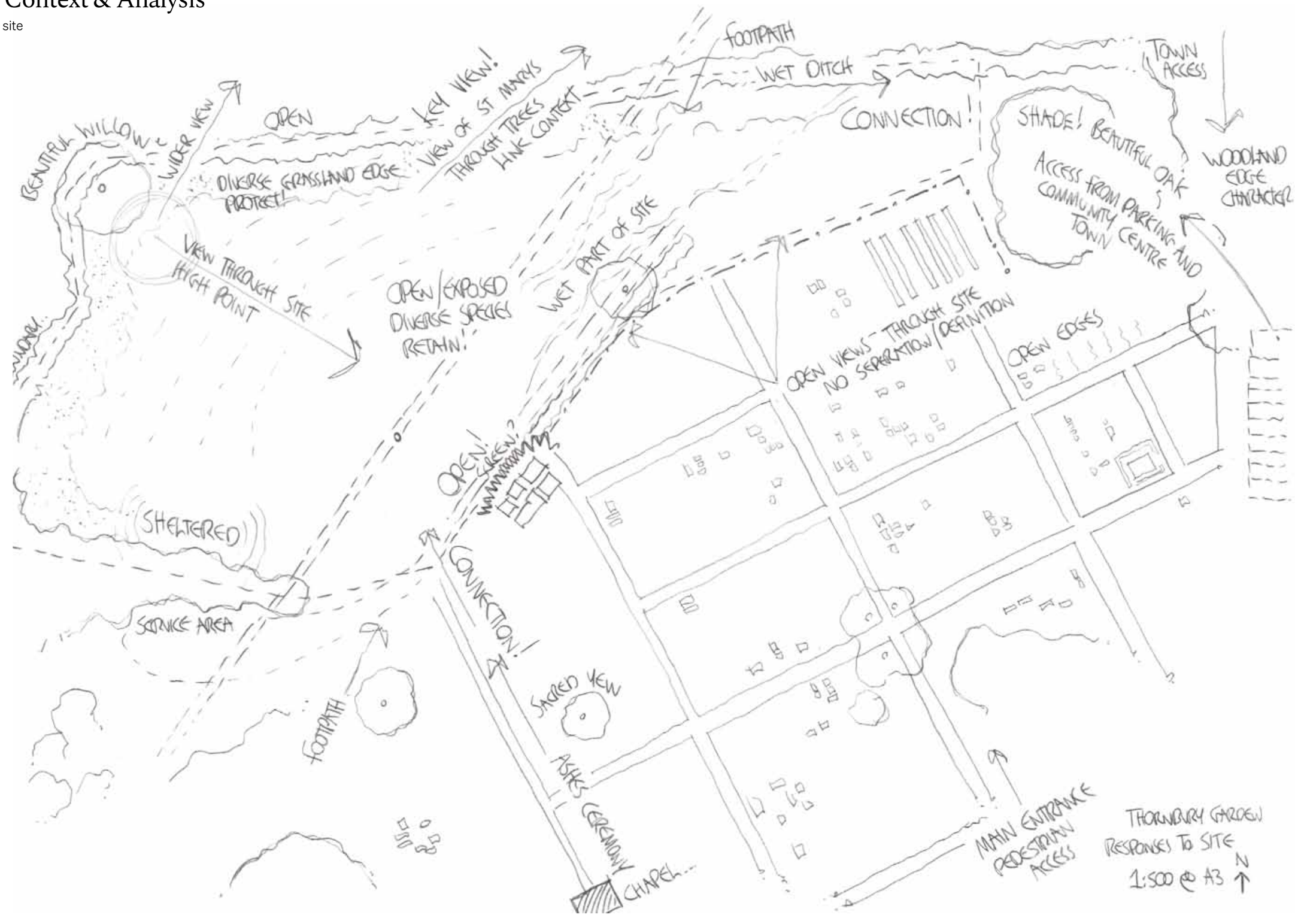




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1 Landscape Context & Analysis

1.2 Responses to site



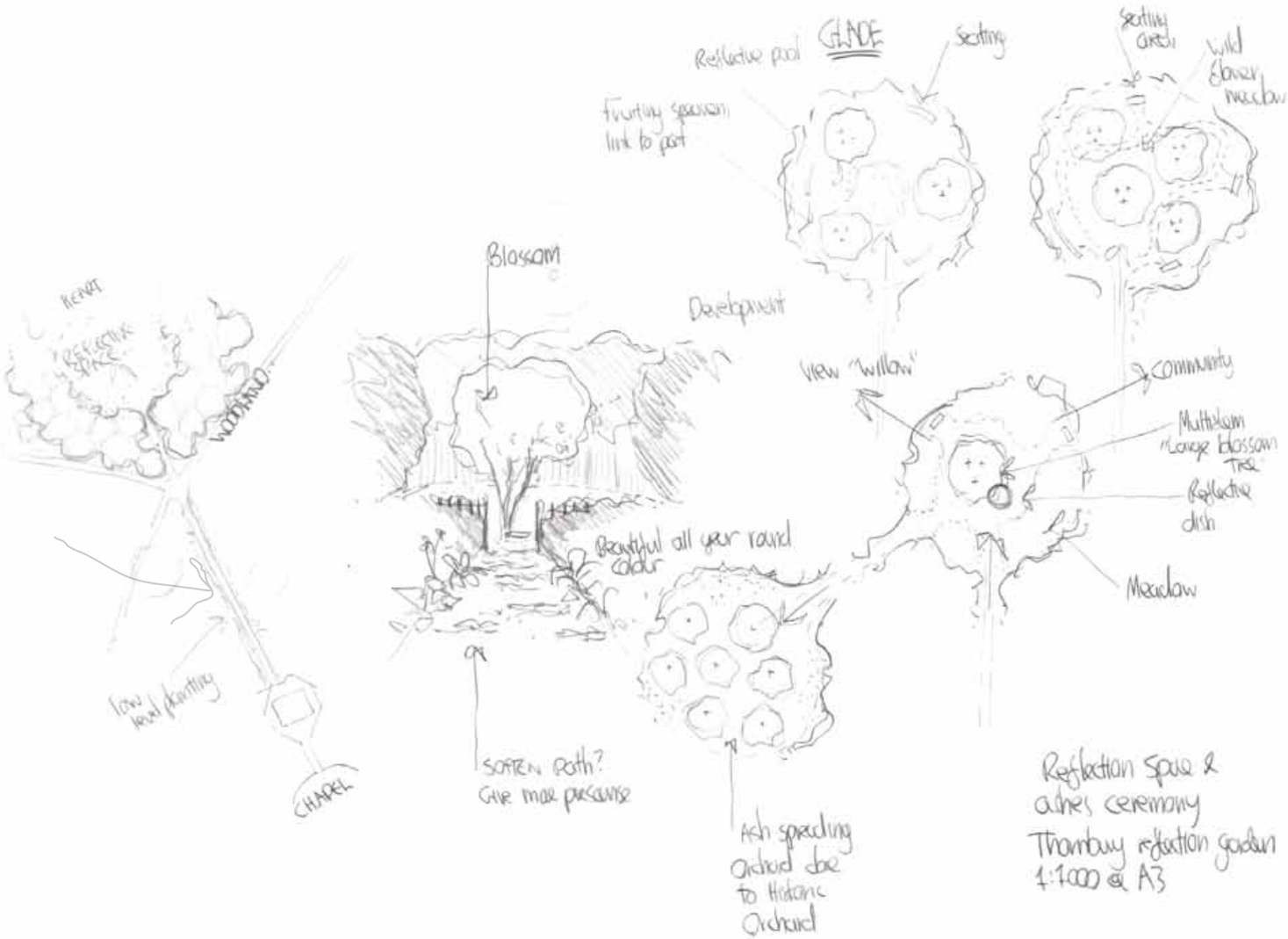
2 Concept Design

INITIAL CONCEPTUAL DESIGN IDEAS WHICH ARE INSPIRED BY
THE SENSE OF PLACE

2 Concept design

2.1 Concept development - Chapel walk





Summary

Connecting the newly refurbished Chapel to the reflection & well being garden. The Chapel walk could be a ceremonial path with a focal point drawing people to the centre of the landscape. A beautiful blossom tree or reflective pool will create a space of sanctuary.

From this space, visitors who are spreading ashes can walk towards the proposed Orchard and spread ashes underneath one of the many fruting specimens.

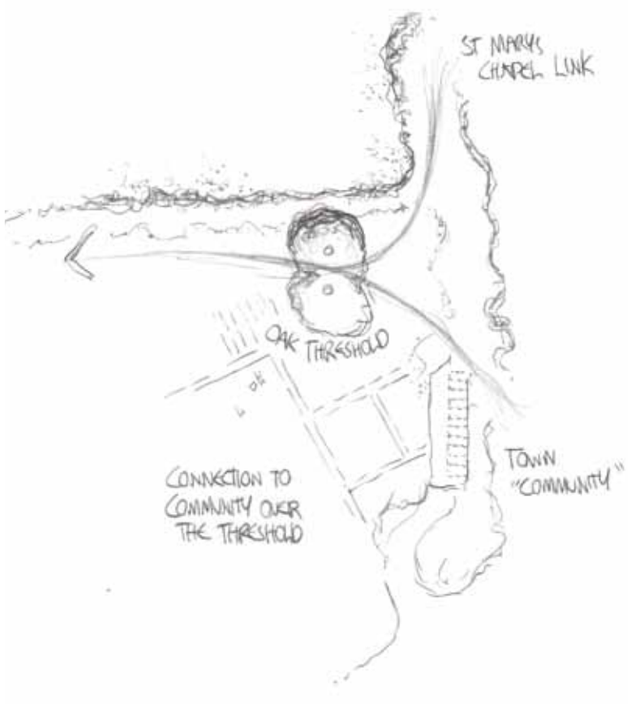
The Orchard being a link to the historic Orchard that used to be in the lower south west corner.

2 Concept design

2.2 Concept development - Community walk









Summary

The site is within walking distance of Thornbury town centre, St Marys chapel & The Hive community centre. From the North eastern corner, access would be channeled between the mature Oak & Field maple trees, acting as thresholds to the well being space.

A proposed activity & discovery walk will guide visitors towards the existing Willow tree in the top North West corner which will provide wider views of Thornbury castle and St Marys Chapel as well as internal views of the reflection landscape.

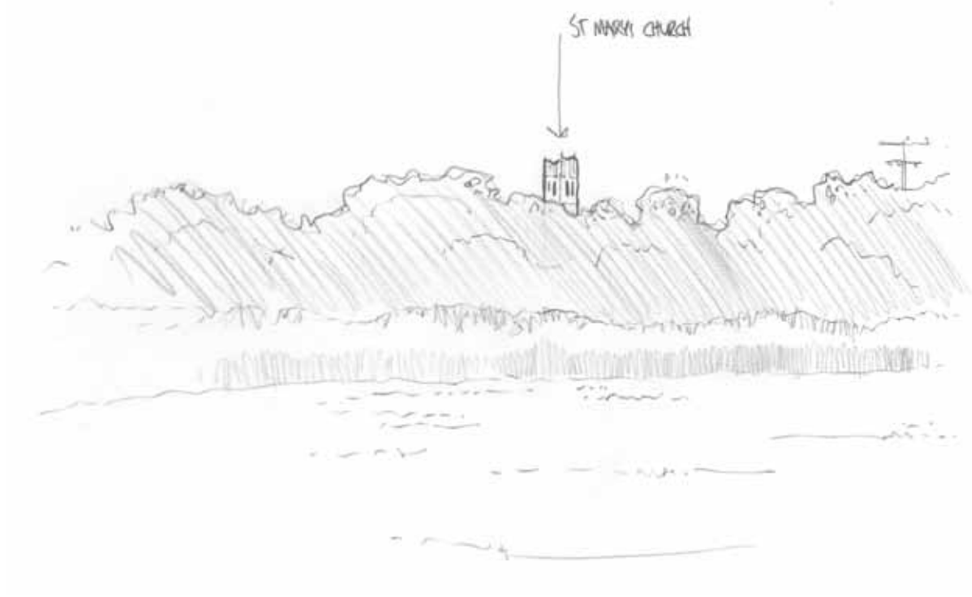
Along the way would be a ‘sweet’ track over the seasonally wet ditch which hugs the western boundary.

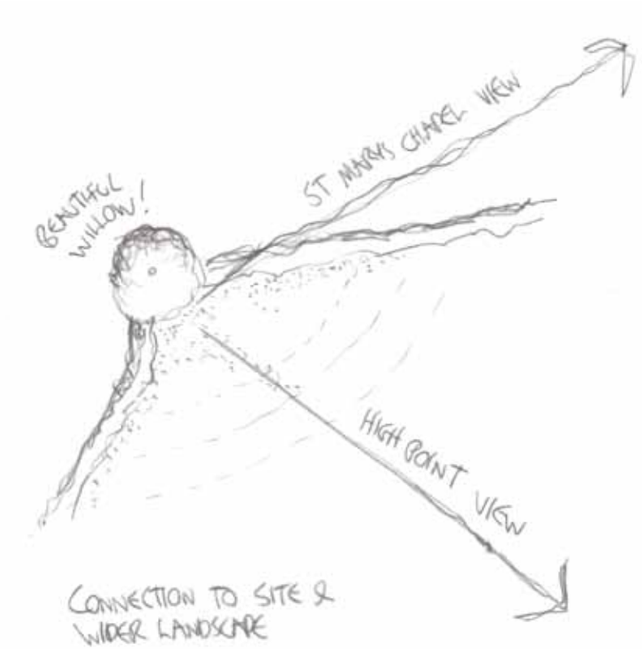
Sculptures & ecology interventions such as beehive hives, hiburnaculas & insect hotels could be placed along the walk with information to discover and read.

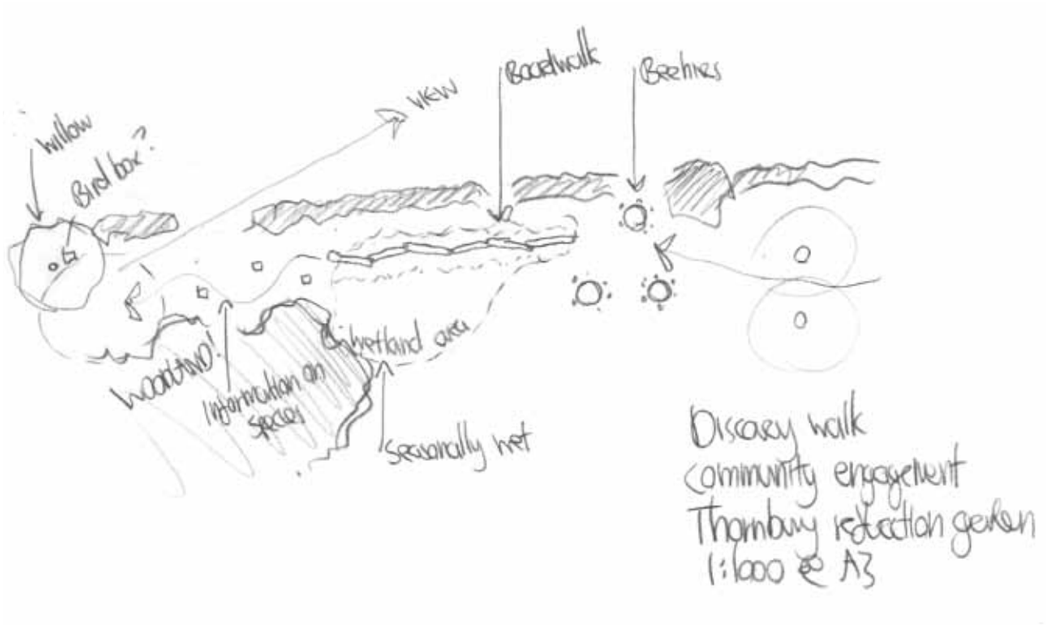
2 Concept design

2.3 Concept development - Willow walk & views







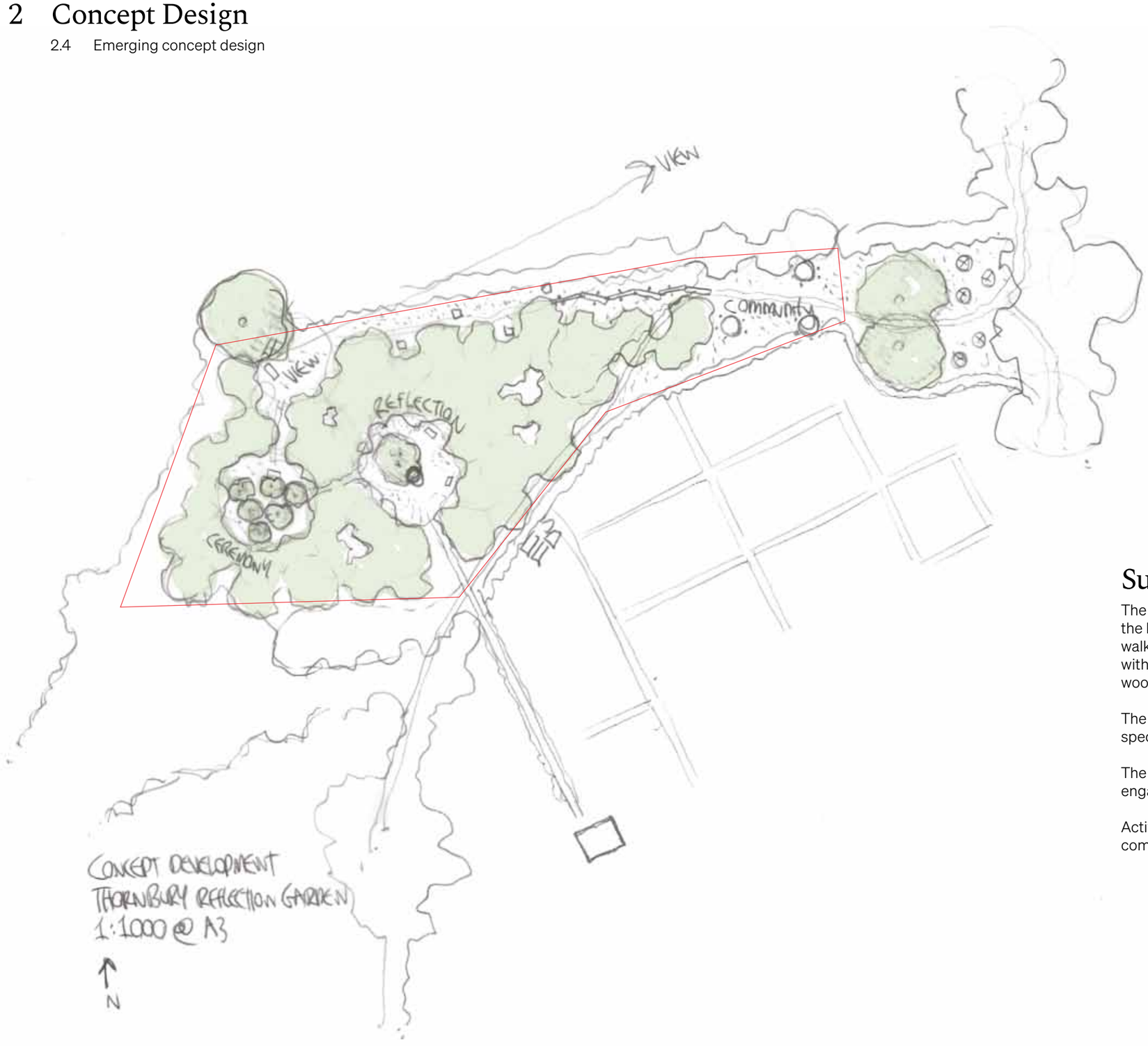


Summary

Both the central reflection garden, community walk & Orchard spaces will link towards the existing Willow in the top North West corner of the site. The Willow is symbolic of grief & mourning and would be a communal space for people to enjoy wider views of the site and the wider landscape.

2 Concept Design

2.4 Emerging concept design





Summary

The initial concept design centres on the reflection space which becomes the heaert of the landscape. From here paths will connect the discovery walk, Orchard and Willow tree view. The reflection space will act as a glade within the woodland and create opportunities of increased biodiversity with woodland edge habitats or 'Ecotones'.

The Orchard could have a slection of heritage species or links to previous species which were historically grown in the area.

The discovery walk could potentially be designed with community engagement with what local residents are interested in seeing implemented.

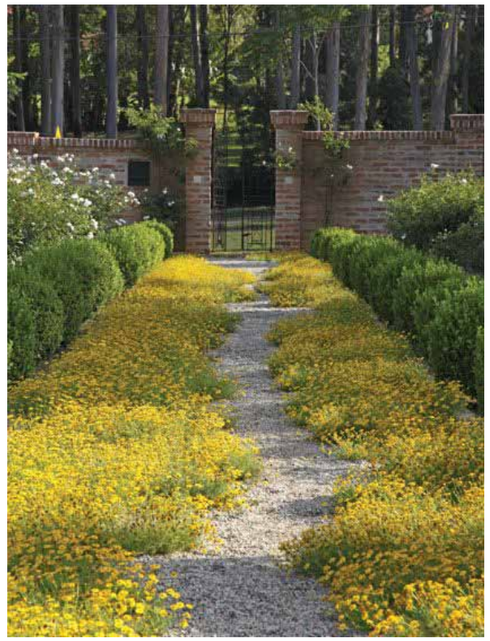
Active engagement from all age groups would be essential to create a community around the space for its longevity as a public space.

Site Boundary

2 Concept Design

2.5 Landscape character - Chapel walk & Orchard















2 Concept Design

2.6 Landscape character - Community walk











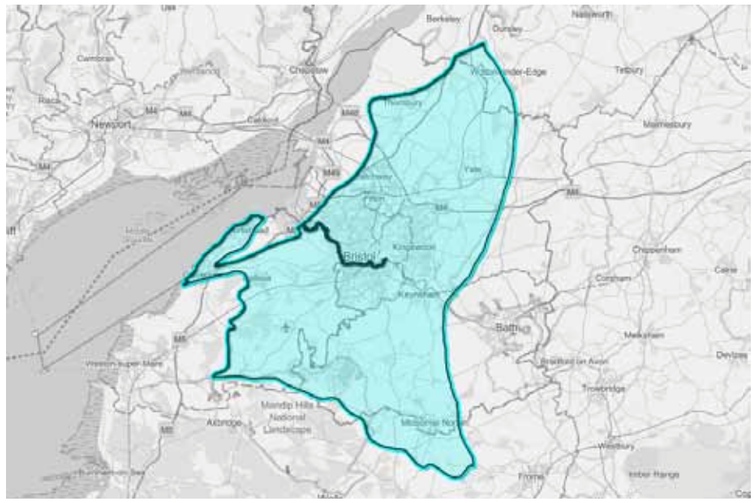




Appendix

Landscape Context & Analysis

1.2 Landscape Context



Introduction

The site is situated in the National Landscape Character Area 118 Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges.

Statements of Environmental Opportunities

SEO 1 Conserve and manage the distinction between small rural settlements and the densely urban City of Bristol, the urban fringe transitional zone and the commuter settlements; and ensure that new development is sensitively designed to contribute to settlement character, reduce the impact of the urban fringe and provide well-designed green infrastructure to enhance recreation, biodiversity and water flow regulation.

SEO 2 Protect and manage the strong sense of history and many historical assets ranging from prehistoric barrows to the mining legacy, as well as the Avon Gorge and the many varied geological exposures within this geologically significant landscape, to enable recreation and access, education, tourism and continued enjoyment of the heritage of the area.

SEO 3 Conserve and sustainably manage the gentle clay vales and limestone ridges and downs of the rural agricultural landscape and enhance the network of semi-natural habitats, linking them together to create a coherent and resilient ecological network, enabling ecosystems to adapt both to climate change and for the benefits to landscape, biodiversity, water flow, water quality, soil quality, soil erosion, rural heritage and culture.

SEO 4 Protect and manage the landscape, heritage and biodiversity associated with the Avon River corridor, other river valleys and lakes, planning for a landscape-scale enhancement of wetlands, wet woodland and semi-natural grasslands along river flood plains for the benefits to biodiversity, climate regulation, water quality and flooding mitigation.

Key Characteristics

- Contrasting landscape of low lying shallow vales, limestone scarps and downland ridges strongly influenced by the complex and diverse geology that is reflected in the many geological SSSI and the diversity of vernacular building stones in use.
- Long historic timeline visible in the landscape, historical significance of access to the Severn Estuary through the Avon and its ports. Thornbury Castle sits behind St Marys Church.
- Distinct limestone ridges characterised by important extensive ancient woodland.
- Contrast between the more densely settled and varied landscape of low lying, shallow vales and the open unsettled limestone scarps and high open downland ridges.
- Strong contrast between large urban conurbation and rural and historical parkland landscapes.
- Semi-natural habitats including neutral and calcareous grassland, wet grassland, open water, species-rich hedgerows, traditional orchards, veteran parkland trees and drystone walls of biodiversity significance.
- Good provision of rights of way and access land.

• THE SITE IS DEFINED Y THE HISTORIC TOWN OF THRONBURY, WITH VIEWS OF THE CHURCH.
• THE FLOOD PRONE NATURE OF THE SITE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INCREASING THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE SITE
• THE RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL VALUE OF THE SITE SHOULD ENHANCE THE DIVERSITY OF GREEN SPACES IN THORNBURY

Landscape Context & Analysis

1.3 Statutory Designations & Habitats



STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS MAP
SOURCE: MAGIC MAPS

KEY

Scheduled Monument (Thornbury Castle)

Thornbury Conservation Area

Grade I, II, 11* Listed Buildings



HABITATS & NON-STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS MAP
SOURCE: MAGIC MAPS

KEY

Deciduous Woodland
(Priority Habitat Inventory)

Woodland and Parkland BAP
(Priority Habitat)

Traditional Orchard
(Priority Habitat Inventory)

The entire extract: Community Forests
(England)

Priority species for CS targeting
Lapwing

1 Landscape Context & Analysis

1.4 Groundwater Assessment

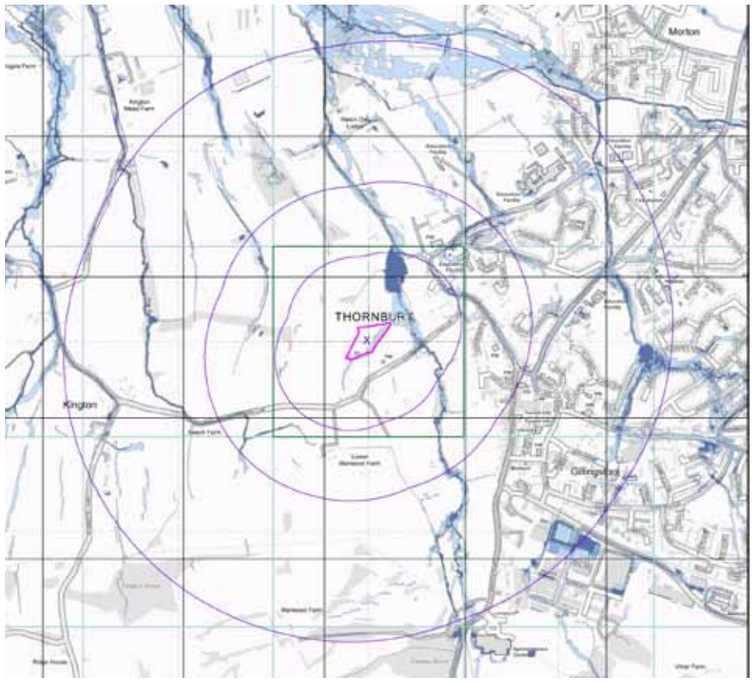
Summary

The groundwater assessment aides our understanding of the seasonal change on site, especially waterlogging in wet winter months.

The site site was found to generally consist of slowly pearmeable clayey topsoil over silty clay subsoils, overlaid on the mudtsone bedrock, to an approximate depth of 2.3-2.9m below ground.

The assessment describes dry ditches found to the north, west and south west, and the ditch which runs towards the north east the ditch becomes wet, leading to the free-flowing watercourse.

The water table was found to be at a depth of 2.4-2.9m below ground. The assessment concluded perched water may be encountered in the wetter winter months, around 1.2-1.5m below ground level, which also contributes to surface waterlogging of the found slowly permeable clayey soils.





KEY

- High 30 Year Return
- Medium 100 Year Return
- Low 1000 Year Return

Landscape Context & Analysis

1.5 Historic Maps

Summary

The landscape context to the cemetry has largely remained unchanged in the last 200 years. Many tracks in the fields to the town edge exist as rights of way today and the stream corridor still serves as treeline edge to the town and transition to the rural landscape.

The cemetry has expanded slowly overtime, for the burial grounds to occupy the majority of the original field. The previous agricultural field which forms the site, has become more enclosed sourth western corner with the transition to scrub and the additional hedgerow which partially divides the addition to the cemetry.

1. HISTORIC MAP 1844-1888

SOURCE: NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

The built form of Thornbury resembles the contemporary town. Farmstead typology of buildings exist off Kington Lane. The field pattern is older to the northwest and more enclosed south of Kington Lane. The footpath network is familiar to the contempoary rights of way.

2. HISTORIC MAP 1898-1939

SOURCE: NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

The cemetry was established in 1897, orginally smaller than today, expanding the burial capacity of Thornbury.

3. HISTORIC MAP 1945

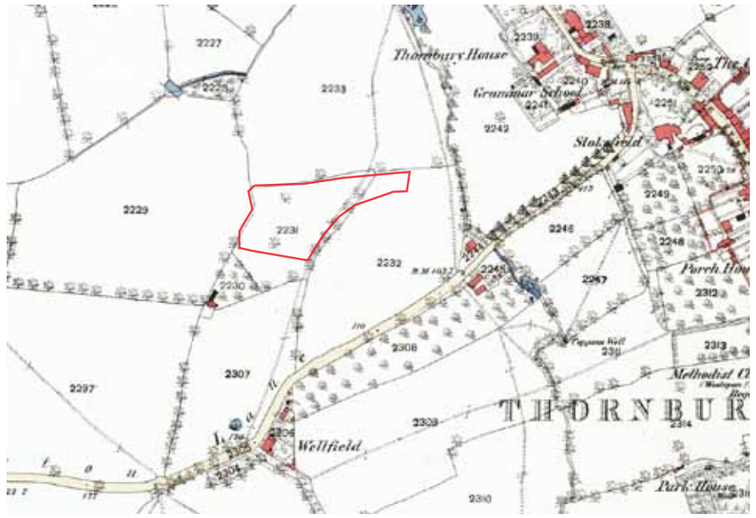
SOURCE: GOOGLE EARTH, THE GEOINFORMATION GROUP

The cemetry expands to the east, a continuation of the grid of paths. Built form increases off Kington Lane, with Little Coppice and further buidlings adjacent to The Hollow. The woodland pasture in the opposing field off Kington Lane has been cleared.

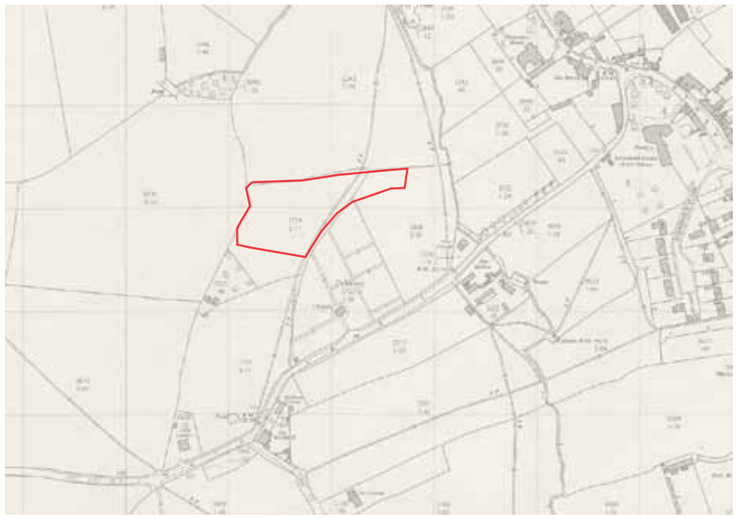
4. HISTORIC MAP 2005

SOURCE: GOOGLE EARTH, THE GEOINFORMATION GROUP

There is little change, the burial grounds have increased overtime and the car park was created before the millenium. In the wider landscape, a field boundary has been removed to created a large scale field to northwest of the site. The carpark which serves Mundy Playing Fields is indicative of the development of Thornbury. Local to the site, the hedgerow which today subdivides the compost area has not established.



1844-1888



1947-65



1898-1939



2005

1 Landscape Context & Analysis

1.xx Ecology Constraints & Opportunities

Ecological Enhancement Plan

A PEAR was conducted in 2026 by Avon Ecology on behalf of the Client.

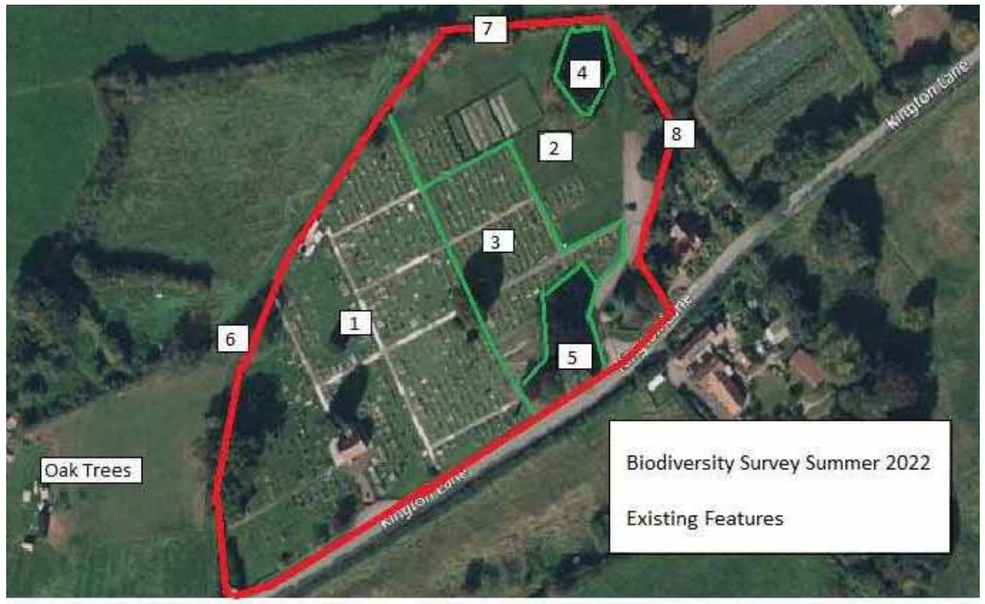
Much of the site is 'Priority Woodland habitat' trees, which includes the non-native trees, and 'modified grassland'. The woodland doesn't have an understory, however the 'understory/ground flora and soil underneath the tree canopies have the potential to convert to an ecosystem that is more aligned with a deciduous woodland'.

A constraint and opportunity map was produced to help inform the design optioneering of the proposed development; key mitigation and enhancement measures. Key points:

- Opportunity to enhance woodland through establishment and management of native woodland understory.
- Aim to integrate ponds for wildlife, install bird/bat boxes, create dead hedges and hibernaculum.
- Aim to retain earth bank and stone walls, and mitigate impact on existing woodland

to be superceded with BNG baseline,.....

VEGETATION AREAS MAP
SOURCE: WESSEX ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT PLANS 2022



1	Species-rich grassland
2	Species-poor grassland
3	Moderately species-rich grassland
4	Tree clump
5	Tree clump
6	Hedge with mature trees
7	Hedge
8	Tree line with hedge



Evidence of solitary bees?



Hedgerow and tall grass



Something about hydrology and ecology

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SEED LANDSCAPE DESIGN

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Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Open Spaces Committee

Report Title:	**Open Spaces 2027/2028 Budget Submission**
Prepared By:	**Wendy Sydenham, Deputy Clerk**
Meeting Date:	**17 November 2026**
Status:	**For Action**

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1. Background

The CEO/RFO is current working on the draft budget for 2027/2028, which will go through the Finance & General Purpose Committee and then Full Council for finalising/approval.

The Open Spaces Committee needs to consider the predicted spend for the main 130 Open Spaces budget code for 2026/2027 and agree a submission to the CEO/RFO for the 2027/2028 budget.

The Deputy Clerk, on behalf of the Committee, has prepared the figures and commentary in the **Appendix** for consideration by the Committee. Please note that it is not possible to finalise the suggested budget at this stage as some figures are not yet available and also note that there are a number of assumptions made as outlined in the brief commentary/notes column.

The Deputy Clerk will also be requesting to the CEO/RFO that a number of one-off items be considered, on behalf of the Committee, including:

- Battery powered grounds maintenance equipment (year 3 of a 4-year replacement programme)
- Surveys and repairs to walls, on MPF and other sites
- Additional works to underground culvert at Oakleaze Green

2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to scrutinise the figures prepared by the Deputy Clerk and agree that they form the basis of the submission to be made to the CEO/RFO for consideration in the 2027/2028 budget.

Although it will not be possible to agree all figures at this stage, there will be opportunity for Committee members to feed into the process for finalising the budget as it passes through the approval process.

APPENDIX

130 Open Spaces Budget - 2026/2027 Predicted & 2027/2028 Suggested

On behalf of the Open Space Committee, the Deputy Clerk has prepared a 2026/2027 budget spend prediction and a 2027/2028 suggested budget for the Open Spaces (130) cost centre. The Committee is asked to consider this and agree the submission that will be made to the RFO for consideration for inclusion in the draft 2027/2028 for further consideration by Full Council.

Code	*Description*	*2026/2027 Budget*	*Actual + Committed (up to 02.10.26)*	*Predicted Spend*	*Suggested 2027/2028 Budget*
4150	Maintenance	25000	15156.62	27000	30000
4400	Septic Tank	-	2485	-	-
4401	Security	5768	2498	5600	7000
4410	Play Equipment Maintenance	10000 (85000)	76419	8000 (83000)	10000
4420	Fuel	-	1647	-	
4425	Splash Pad Operation	-	-	-	-
4430	Tennis Courts	3612 (6750)	1722	2400	6873
4432	Sports Pitches	7931	7875	8050	9000
4435	Portable Toilet	1829	1194	2956	3100
4440	Skatepark Maintenance	500	0	0	-
4445	Tree Inspection & Works	5000	2635	4100	3000
4490	St Mary's Churchyard	97425 (1500)	87901	93112	2500
4495	Bedding Plants	824	445	824	849
4500	Memorial Plaque Service	1403	1043	1403	1445
4501	War memorial repairs	-	-	-	-
4550	Tree Planting	3000	29	1000	???
4555	Hanging Baskets	1452	1959	1959	2100
4560	Town Hall Planting	1500	973	1500	1545
4580	Grass Cutting SGC	2937		2937	
4581	Dog Waste Bin Collection SGC	7950		7950	
4585	Floral Displays SGC	-			??
4595	Street Furniture (inc bins) (relocate from assets & maintenance from 2025/26)	14500	853	6000	??