

Selective thinning of existing vegetation to open up woodland glades to improve species diversification. New planting to create woodland habitat using a mix of native & ornamental species. Incorporate new defined footpath system with seating. **Aim: Improvement of ecology, horticultural enjoyment and seasonal interest- a partial recreation with greater variety of the Dell garden at its prime.**

Heavy shade cast by surrounding trees make re-establishing original formal lawned area difficult. Existing mounds and levels create an arena which lends itself to a natural amphitheatre, play and exploration. If this can be accepted the Central mound would lend itself to a 'crows nest type lookout' with contour slide and scrambling net. Emphasis should be on the use of natural materials and the installation of a small number of large simple bold items in harmony with the location (rather than lots of standard, multicoloured, complex units). **Aim : sympathetic play provision**

Define circular route through and out of the Dell by selected vegetation clearance and path surfacing. **Aim: creation of a circular route centered on Dell and Castle. Improved sense of visitor security.**

Open up former subway route out of Dell onto adjacent hillside. Possibility of recreating 'Grotto tunnel'. Footpath links in with series of existing informal footpaths which connect with proposed surfaced path.

Rough grassland/scrub and light open woodland provide valuable wildlife habitat. Continue to manage for wildlife keeping footpaths through the area informal, except where areas of erosion require protection or reinstatement.

Attractive non-improved grassed land. Important wildflower and insect habitat. Lots of moths and butterflies observed. Retain character and ecological value with minimum intervention. Footpath left as informal link. Utilize carefully selected, trimmed tree trunks as seating/ observation areas.

Sheltered south facing area to be surrounded with new planting to add flowers, colour and variety back into the park. (Existing planting is minimal and relies heavily on shade tolerant evergreen shrubs which results in a static display.) An open sunny position allows for greater plant selection to create a sensory garden, incorporating themed colours, texture, scent, seasonality, sound and movement (through use of grasses and bamboo) and attraction of butterflies and bees. Planting here would also screen the cemetery and help reinforce the west side of the park as a main focal point for visitors. **Aim : Improvement of ecology, horticultural enjoyment and sensory stimulation**

Provision of ramped access and surfaced path within the Dell to create an inclusive, defined, safe route for visitors. **Aim: Improvement of access and security leading to increased visitor numbers.**

Woodland bulb planting to add seasonal colour. **Aim : improved horticultural and sensory enjoyment**

Utilize movement through levels within the Dell garden as part of the play experience. Potential for zip wire, bridges, climbing wall, nets, steps, firemans poles and tunnels. Intention to provide exciting equipment which is visually in keeping with surroundings but does not overwhelm the garden. **Aim : to encourage increased use by children and families.**

Multipurpose amphitheatre set within site contours for outdoor performance, teaching and improvised play. In addition to banked seating include log round seats, to create story telling area for younger children, which double up as stepping stones and balance play. Provision of a timber log wall to rear of 'stage area' helps separate and define amphitheatre from adjacent play zone providing a degree of enclosure and privacy. Forming openings and level changes within wall would add to both performance and play possibilities. Incorporation of outdoor musical instruments and contour slide would contribute to a safe area for younger children's play, overlooked from the cafe terrace. **Aim: expand and compliment the possibilities offered by the castle refurbishment for increased public use, education and enjoyment. Also provides direct access into the Dell from the Castle**

Important interface between Castle terrace and lower levels of Dell garden. Provision of open lawn acts to extend cafe terrace space and would allow for erection of marquee for corporate events, performances, wedding receptions etc. (Look to licensing castle for weddings). Additional facilities / interest provided by outdoor chess/ draughts (operated from cafe terrace) or turf maze. Potential starting point for sculpture trail extending beyond park into woods. **Aim: create an attractive frontage to cafe terrace, whilst utilizing and maximizing potential of proposed castle facilities. Opportunity to generate revenue.**

Area of under utilized playing fields. Maintain a minimum area to enable dog walking, kite flying and a full football game to occur. Remaining area could be rented out as allotments with public demonstration area of edible plants and composting. Would reduce grassed area to be maintained by RMBC whilst generating some income to cover increase maintenance demanded by sketch proposals. Also increases use and footfall within this area of the park leading to improved security. **Aim: revenue generation, education, sustainability and promotion of health issues.**

Potential for linear pitch and putt along route to Bowling Green.(Run from Bowling green). Also organised rock climbing/ abseiling on sandstone cliff face. **Aim: increase facilities, particularly for families and revenue generation.**

South facing grassland with extensive views retained as sunbathing/ picnic area. Provision of bird feeding station

Formalize major desire line back to castle, linking in with the existing and proposed footpath network. Would complete footpath link to Canklow Road. Investigate possibility of a 'land train' as an attraction and to improve access for disabled and elderly. Ground stabilisation/ protection of other main short cut up slope.

Key

Notional extent of Dell Garden. In producing these sketch proposals other park wide issues of facilities, access, footpath links and character have from necessity been considered. However the entire site and adjacent woods have further potential (such as a mountain bike route/course) which is beyond the remit of this brief but which ideally should be explored. .

Dense evergreen 'Victorian' type planting which defines western and northern extent of original Dell garden to be retained. Judicious thinning and some replanting required.

Open scrub and light woodland retained and managed for wildlife. Minimal works proposed. Informal footpaths, bird feeding points.

Attractive and important habitat for wildlife combined with south facing views, provides great potential for outdoor studies of ecology and local physical and human geography. Informal path and seating proposed.

Proposed major areas of new planting to satisfy educational and sensory objectives. 1000m2

Proposed formal lawn.

Proposed seasonal bulb area. 150m2

Proposed adventure play incorporating existing and proposed planting 1000m2

Proposed multipurpose space acting as a performance area, outdoor classroom and toddler play. 255m2

Existing or proposed informal footpath links

Suggested surfaced footpath using existing funds. 223m

Proposed surfaced footpath as part of future works 160m

These sketch proposals are intended as a catalyst in rejuvenating the Dell garden. They are indicative of what could be achieved and areas are given for guidance only. The exact extent of the site requires verification by a topographical survey and is essential before any detailed design work of the main areas commences.
Not for construction purposes.

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Job **Dell Garden, Boston Castle, Rotherham**

Client **Friends of Boston Park**

Drawing **Sketch Landscape Proposals**

Scale **1:500 @A1**

Drawn / date	Job no.	Drawing no.	Revision
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