

Spen Bottoms Masterplan Consultation

Spen Bottoms is accessible from the heart of Cleckheaton and has been identified for decades as a place valued for its nature, heritage, and recreation. It is in multiple ownerships with a core area in public ownership and public rights of way cross through most of the area.

This masterplan aims to create ideas for projects that could be feasible, could get funding and have good local support.

The study area includes areas with little public access but that give extra value for local wildlife.

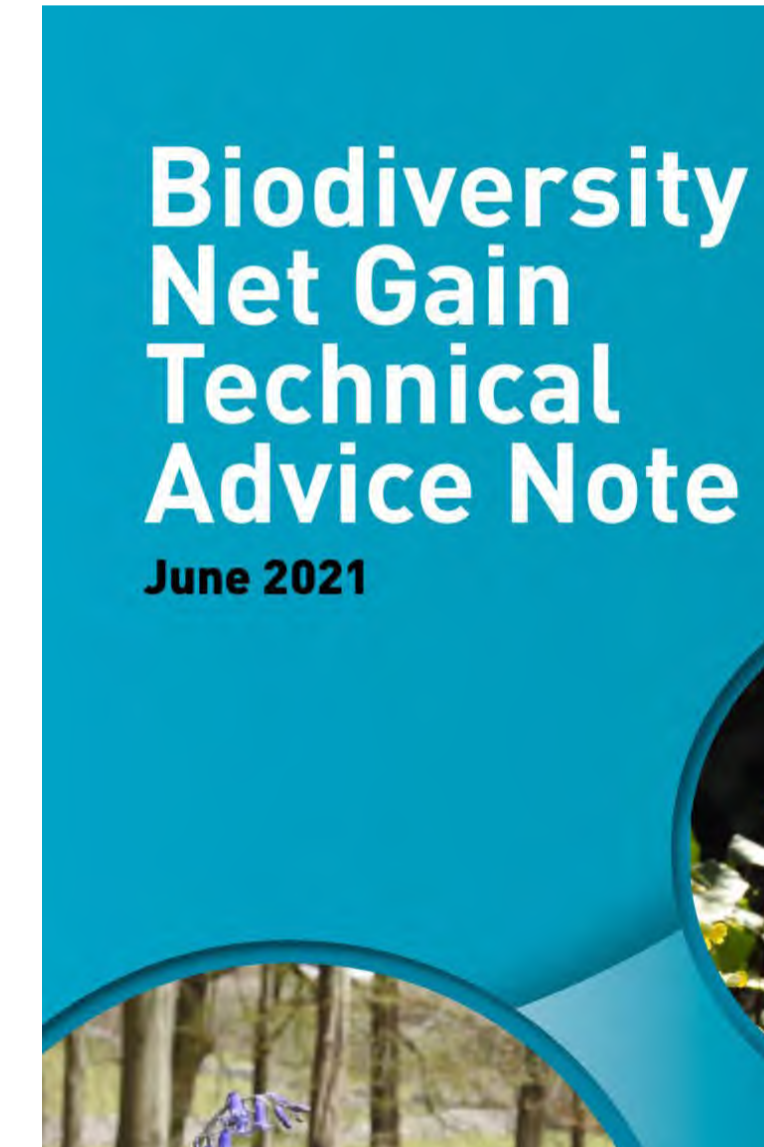
Please give us feedback to help us to judge what project themes and proposals will work the best.



This map shows the Spen Bottoms Masterplan Area and shows example of the types of themes covering Habitats, Heritage, Recreation and access as described in the key.



Artists impression illustrating the themes for Spen Bottoms masterplan: The Concept proposals are to protect, improve, manage and maintain the habitats, heritage, recreation and access of the site.



Habitats



Heritage



Recreation



Access

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Habitats

Identify, manage, maintain and enhance plants and habitats in the area. Work with local stakeholders including landowners and community groups.

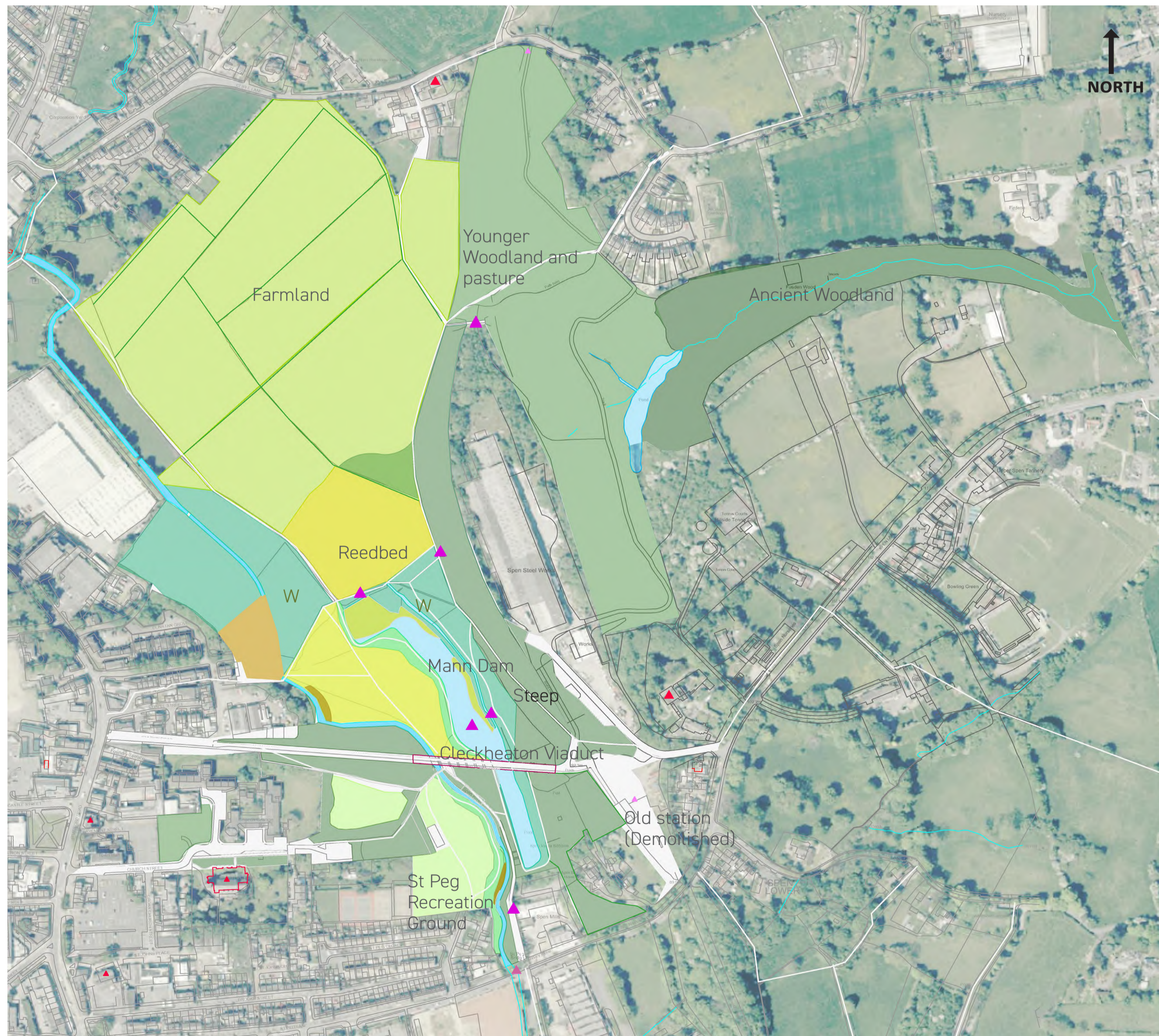
Heritage

Identify, protect, maintain, improve and explain existing heritage features working with local stakeholders.

Plan Showing the main aims:

Existing habitats to be identified, maintained, managed and enhanced to allow more species to thrive. Better woodland management and new planting or rewilding allowed in key locations. Management of wetlands to keep a range of habitats from open water to wet grasslands and reedbeds.

Habitat and Heritage Proposals



This map shows the Spen Bottoms Habitat and Heritage Proposal Types, the key describes the types of habitats and heritage areas within the Spen Bottoms Masterplan Study Area.

KEY for HABITATS

- Woodland - young plantations and natural regeneration
- Ancient Woodland (previously replanted)
- Mature Woodland on steep manmade banks - reduce erosion improve variety.
- Wet Woodland with ferns and mosses - control wear and invasive plants.
- Marsh - protect locally valuable habitat - control reeds to leave quality open water.
- Large Ponds - incl. Mann Dam - working with fishing requirements considering habitat impacts.
- Stream includes Spen Beck (the River Spen) - reduce walling of stream banks in places.
- Rough Grassland - floods - improve diversity of plants and habitat with cutting regimes.
- Farmland with hedgerows - consider hedge, tree or meadow regimes with landowners/farmers.
- Cut Grassland with parkland trees - increase native trees and shrubby planting, control invasive plants.
- Riverbanks - areas for considering less steep riverbank, bank side planting.
- Grassy banks - opportunities for wildflower planting.
- Allotments - hedges, nectar.
- Study Boundary

KEY for HERITAGE

- Cleckheaton Viaduct - retain and improve top surface. Long term restoration project indicated.
- Railway and Mill heritage features explained in site information.
- Off site heritage - including listed buildings.
- Heritage plaque - commemorating past events - consider expanding with community interest groups.



Woodland could have more trees of different ages, with more shrubs and wildflowers and well defined, safe, paths. More benches could be placed where there are views.



Spen Beck's banks could be more gentle in places creating multiple habitats from the water surface up to the adjacent damp meadow.



Renew surface of Viaduct in line with heritage and structural advice.



Reed bed management, retain and explain heritage features.



Encourage diverse meadow, wetland and woodland wildflowers.



Support fishing club with water management for fishing and wildlife.

Potential Habitat Projects

1. Work to existing woodland to help wildflowers and woodland thrive.
2. New woodland and trees (planted or from regeneration) in selected areas to create a better woodland network for wildlife.
3. Renew and create hedgerows to create a better woodland network for wildlife.
4. Improve wildflowers in the meadows and grassy banks using planting, seeding and maintenance regimes.
5. Control erosion especially on steep banks using techniques that use local natural materials.
6. Create better paths and controlled access to avoid wear.
7. Create more natural river bank habitat in some limited locations (with specialist expertise).
8. Enlarge the wetland habitats including creation of new open water within reed areas and support existing reed management.
9. Control invasive plants.
10. Install boards and information explaining the wildlife and management of the site.
11. Support more volunteers to get involved in the management for wildlife.

Potential Heritage Projects

1. Railway heritage – explain how the landform was changed by the railway using railway relics on the site (tunnel ends, embankments, viaduct and relic buildings).
2. Cleckheaton Viaduct – improve top for safe access and limit further damage.
3. Cleckheaton Viaduct – long term detailed expert survey, repair, renewal and maintenance works.
4. Mill relics – protect the limited remains of the Mill to help explain the site's development.
5. Gates, fencing and other landscape features – retain the oldest and ensure they are secure and maintained.
6. Explain the history using information boards and/or small interpretative elements on the site furniture, sign posts or play equipment at a few key entrance locations and near the play area.
7. Mini heritage trail around the site.
8. Link to or add to existing interpretation and heritage projects in the town by adding extra features.

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Recreation

Enhance the existing offer for health and wellbeing, play, and fitness. Work with the existing groups and individuals who use the site for their recreation and where possible enhance their facilities.

Plan Showing the main aims:











The new proposed round walks around the dam and St Peg Recreation Ground, a better slightly larger play area, a potential forest school location at St Peg Rec., the retention of the fishing, more seating at a few key viewing points and bin locations at site entrances and the play area.

Recreation Proposals



This map shows the Spen Bottoms Recreational Proposal Types, the key describes the types of recreational proposals within the Spen Bottoms Masterplan Study Area.

KEY for Recreation

-  Play area
-  Forest Schools
-  Fishing
-  Seating
-  Allotments
-  Kick about - retain flat area of grass for informal games
-  Locations for small community or volunteer based events
-  Bins (indicative loctions)
-  Round Walk/jog/dog walk
-  Bird/ wildlife watching indicative key stops



Enhance recreational use including provision for walking, watching wildlife and fishing in the old mill pond - Mann Dam. Improve paths, provide for litter collection, manage dredging locations.



Improve St Peg Recreation Ground with a better play area, a forest school zone, storage for volunteers, better paths and signage. Keep some open areas for small events and kick abouts.



Support Allotments and create community garden.



Ensure variety of suitable walking opportunities.



Create opportunities for forest schools.



Support fisherman as custodians of Mann Dam.

Potential Recreation Projects

1. Improve the play area to look more in line with the natural setting whilst remaining robust.
2. Enhance area near play area for use by forest schools.
3. Support the fishing club as key custodians of Mann Dam - include arrangements that help retain this use of the site.
4. Provide storage and other support that aid volunteer groups to help maintain the site.
5. Provide for informal kick about space - retain the mini pitch as level.
6. Ensure there is a variety of suitable walking opportunities on the site and make clear which routes are most accessible.
7. Retain spaces suitable for mini events or gatherings on St Peg Recreation Land.
8. Create more round walks to improve year round use for fitness and dog walking etc.
9. Ensure bins located in all places that can be serviced regularly.

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Access

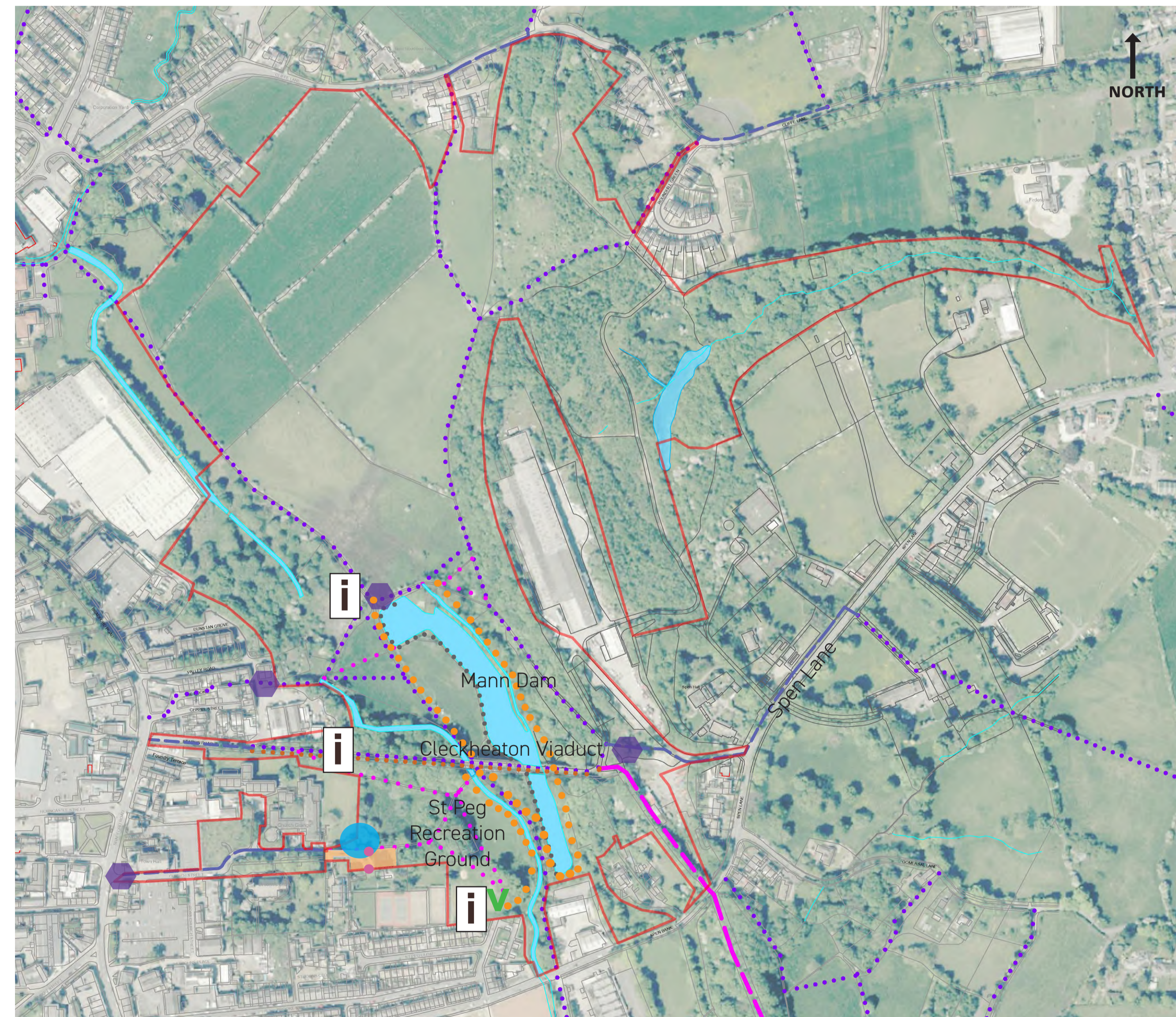
Improve the access to the area to encourage more people to enjoy the site appropriately.

Plan Showing the main aims:

Plan showing the network of existing and proposed paths with:

- Improved surfacing along key routes that suffer with waterlogging.
- Better signs to explain routes at key location and especially site entrances.
- Some interpretation of the wildlife and history of the site at two or three key locations.
- Car park rationalisation to reduce vulnerability to fly tipping and ASB.
- A volunteer notice board at St Peg Recreation Ground.

Access Proposals



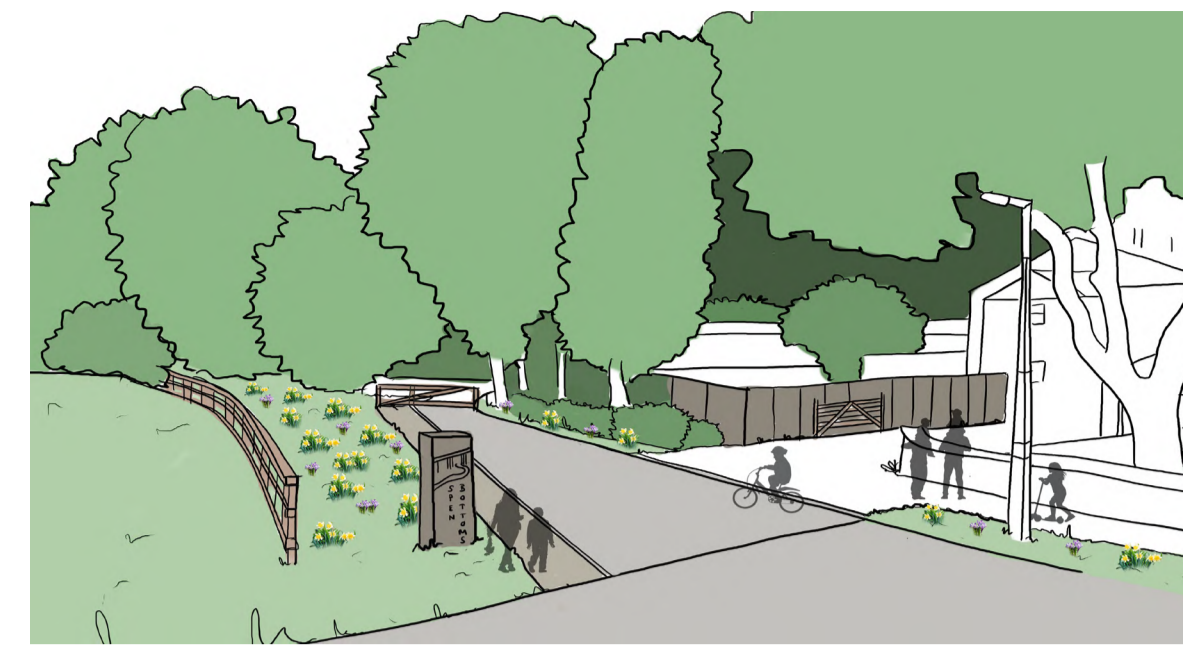
This map shows the Spen Bottoms Access Proposal Types, the key describes the types of access proposal within the Spen Bottoms Masterplan Study Area.

- ### KEY for Access
- Existing pedestrian paths improved for safety and durability.
 - New routes to allow more circular routes or surface lost right of way
 - Public Right of Ways – sign, retain and maintain.
 - Viaduct top - improve surface for safe use while respecting Heritage
 - Fishermen's paths and platforms – retain accessibility and create alternative routes.
 - — — — — Footpath - highway footpaths that link other paths.
 - — — — — Proposed link to Ringway in cycle policy
 - Access control - impede unauthorised damaging vehicles where possible.
 - — — — — Improve Car park
 - — — — — Study Boundary

KEY Signs, Boards and Artwork

Provide new and improved items but avoid cluttering the site:-

- Way marking signposts and/or Spen Bottoms sign
- Information panel on habitats, safety, history and advice.
- Volunteer information board
- Modest artwork feature/sign – as part of the above and in keeping with the natural site.



Improve the entrance to the Car park with clear signage and better views in to the area to improve safety. Define the car park edge and include measures to reduce the risk of flytipping by moving the gate and boundary line to past the last entrance point to private property.



Improve the St Peg Recreation Ground entrance with interpretation and wayfinding showing the viaduct behind. This location to have the main interpretation information.



Improve the bridges and path surfaces.



Improve the acces points with signage, better gates and fencing and in key locations information panels.



Prioritise measures that improve accessibility to legitimate users, restrict access for unauthorised vehicles.



Ensure routes are safe and appropriate for the level of wear while remaining of a countryside character.

Potential Access Projects

1. Improve existing paths to ensure they are fit for purpose whilst being suitable for the surrounds in material. Consider durability to flooding.
2. Create new paths where increased usage may lead to wear or a route could increase responsible use e.g. across grassland, circular route around pond, circular route around St Peg Recreation.
3. Improve all entrances to the area with consistent standard of fencing, access controls, and signage.
4. Improve parking arrangements and reduce potential for fly tipping at entrance by reducing permanently open area of car park.
5. Improve the approach to the viaduct by rationalising parking and street scene along the approach roads.
6. Create more and better durable seating in limited locations across the site especially where key views. Consider accessibility for use by multiple abilities.
7. Improve facilities to help manage litter.
8. Consider solutions for processing dredged materials and other arisings from the site's management.