

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT – REV A (460m² removed p.3)

Proposed for Spen Valley Skate Park at Royds Park, Bradford Road, Liversedge, Cleckheaton, BD19 5LL.

August 2022

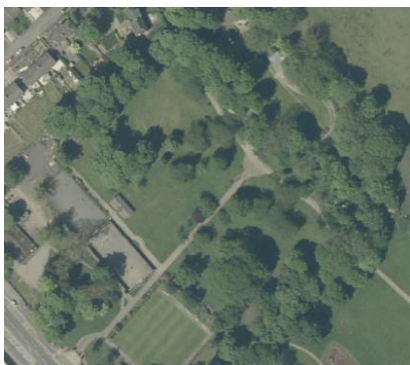
Context



Original skatepark located at Spen Valley Swimming Pool. The old facility was demolished in 2019.

The original skatepark (above) was located at Spenborough Swimming Pool, opposite Royds Park. Both the pool and skatepark were demolished during 2019 to make way for the new Spen Valley Leisure Centre.

The desire for a new skatepark/scooter park to replace and upgrade the previous facility is heavily supported and has been mostly driven by the ward councillors for Heckmondwike, Liversedge, Gomersal and Cleckheaton. Kirklees Parks & Open Spaces and Kirklees Landscape Architects along with Communities & Access Services (EIP Communities Teams – Youth) and Governance & Commissioning (Active Citizens & Places) are facilitating the application for the skatepark.



Aerial view of Royds Park
(Kompass, 2021).

Bordering the proposed site from north northwest to the east are a number of established native species trees. The skatepark will be designed within the space to avoid damage to the trees, which will be protected throughout the works.



NNW view of proposed location for skatepark including dilapidated building.

An existing and accessible bitmac path runs along the south of the proposed site and this will also provide access to the new skatepark.

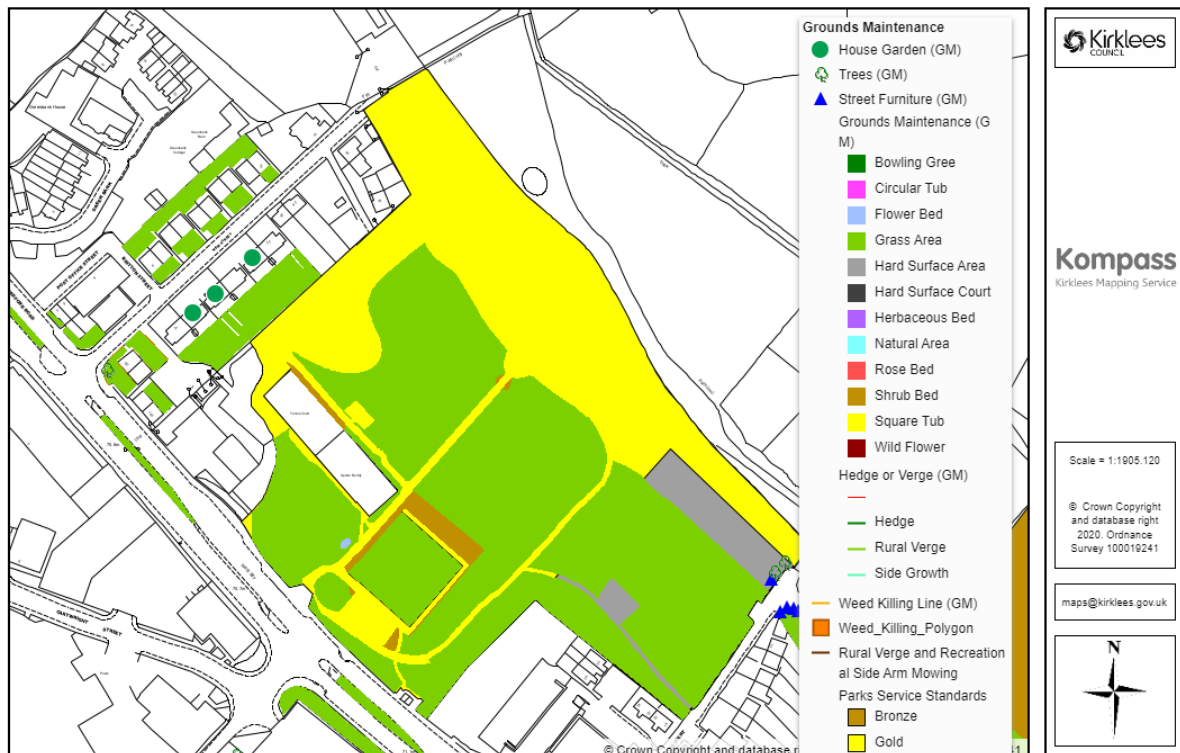


SSE view of proposed location for skatepark showing adjacent MUGA to the right.



NE view towards intersection of proposed location for skatepark to the left.

Kirklees Council



Grounds maintenance plan of Royds Park (Kompass)

The council currently owns, manages and maintains Royds Park and is applying for planning permission in this capacity. The council has agreed to be legally responsible for the new facility, subject to planning approval.

Layout

The proposal is for the ultimate area of the skatepark is a maximum of 500 square metres located within the identified area of 600 square metres - it will be designed to ensure no disturbance to the existing trees, which will also be protected throughout. If funds are insufficient to complete the 500 square metres skatepark from the outset, it may be phased as funds become available.

Whilst several sites were considered including: Royds Park, King V Playing Fields, Exchange Street and Spenborough Pool Development, Royds Park was chosen for a number of reasons:

- The park is a Kirklees-owned site.
- Fields in Trust recommend that a wheeled sport space should be at least 30m from the boundary of local residential property - the nearest dwellings to the proposed location boundary are at least 52 metres away and all the properties are screened from the site by trees.
- It is at least 20m from playing fields or play areas: the proposed location is around 100m from the Play Area.

- The location is out in the open and benefits from good natural surveillance and informal security provided by park users.
- The site is fairly level.
- Minimal impact on the amount of open recreational space on the site.
- Being within the existing public park, it is close to existing facilities including a MUGA & tennis court, which will allow users to experience a selection of facilities and it will provide a hub for activities. Also on site to the north are a miniature railway, café and WCs. There is on street parking, disabled parking (car access via gates at the top of New Street) and bus service with a bus stop on the A638 Bradford Road in front of the park.

The intention is for the facility to be unfenced.

The site has streetlamps and there are no plans for the skatepark to be floodlit – use is not expected to extend into the night-time period.

Appearance

If the planning application is approved, the design brief will be to create a skatepark/scooter-park as an interactive community asset that appeals to all ages and abilities. The design will incorporate consultation findings with users and other stake holders and consider the site and its context. The skate park will be designed and built by a contractor who specialises in this area of work, with references being taken from other places where they have worked previously. It will be constructed from 'in-situ' concrete – ramps, bowls and base – with any rails and balustrades being constructed from metal.

The intention is to use the stone from the derelict building to build informal seating around the skatepark.



Example: Medium-sized skatepark (Isaac Nash Memorial Skatepark, Highburton, Huddersfield)

Example: Medium-sized skatepark

Ref: Skateboard GB, Sport England 2021) *Skateboarding, Design and Development Guidance for Skateboarding*, p.19.



Consultation

Wide-ranging engagement has taken place around the local areas of Liversedge, Heckmondwike, Cleckheaton and Gomersal areas and further afield in Batley and Mirfield. Feedback has been gathered from local residents, existing users of the park and skaters and potential future users of the proposed skatepark to help to ensure that the provision is fit for purpose and results in a positive impact on the park and its surrounding communities. The engagement contributes to achieving Kirklees' shared outcomes of Best Start; Well; Independent; Aspire and Achieve; Sustainable Economy; Safe and Cohesive; Clean and Green.

Engagement in schools and colleges was supported by School and Community Hub Co-ordinators and included 119 responses from age ranges 3-30+ years. Additional consultation is currently taking place with neighbours and existing users of the park along with the police, security and emergency services.

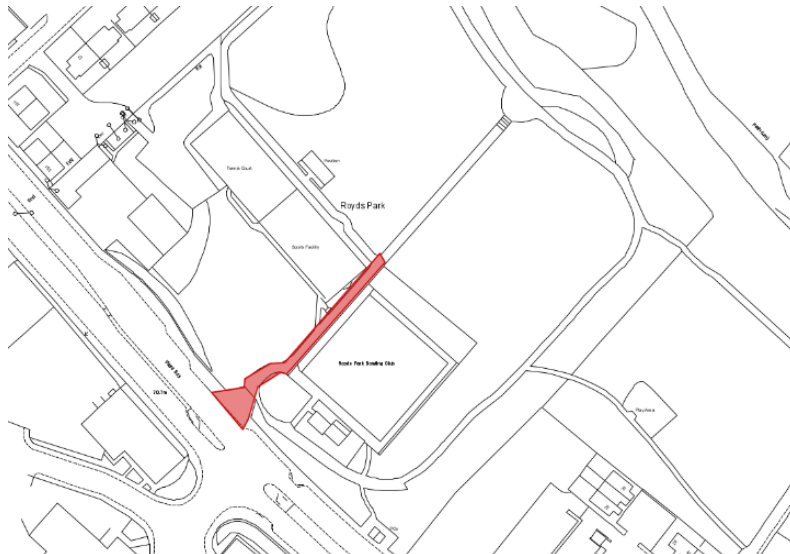
The views of young people and future users of all ages have been gathered about the requirements of a 'good' skate park including materials, features and ideas for a positive space. Their ideas will be included in the brief for the specialist contractor along with a requirement for the contractor to engage with potential users in the design and development of the skatepark – to strengthen their investment in the new provision and to ensure the development is as accessible as possible.

Access

There is an existing bitmac footpath running alongside the proposed location - this will provide access to the skatepark. The surface of the path is level and of a tarmac construction, which is suitable for wheelchair users.

The facility is intended for people of all ages. It is located next to an existing bus route; car parking is not expected to cause a problem.

Construction access – will be from Bradford Road via the existing Kirklees access for Grounds Maintenance – as shown below.



Plan of Royds Park showing access from Bradford Road.