

Ecology & Biodiversity Statement

For the Proposed Trackways at:
Dick Whittington Park,
Little London,
Longhope,
GL17 0PH.



INTRODUCTION

For many years, the owners of Dick Whittington Park have recognised the importance of sustaining the habitat of the wildlife around the park, and they understand the responsibility they have to try and enhance the biodiversity for future generations when undertaking any new plans that may affect the wildlife, plants, and the general ecosystems around the site.

GUIDELINES

The BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) guidelines are defined as, "Development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before, and an approach whereby developers work with stakeholders to support their priorities for nature conservation."

This concept has been developed by the UK government to try and ensure that every new development will improve natural habitats and protect ecosystems from further losses.

With that in mind, all present and future projects at Dick Whittington Park will be undertaken taking biodiversity guidelines into account.

THE PROPOSED TRACKWAYS

THE MINIMUM IMPACT ON THE LOCAL BIODIVERSITY AND IN TIME HAVE A POSSITIVE INCREASE IN B.N.G.

The proposed trackways will provide easy access to the more inaccessible, but naturally beautiful areas around the valley and hillsides of the Dick Whittington Leisure Park.

The construction method for the tracks has been minimised in order to have a minor impact on the biodiversity around the site.

The construction uses no man made materials. A shallow trench will be created of only 0.45 metres deep, the top soil from which will be used as haunching along the edges of the tracks. The infill build of the tracks will use various types of compacted gravels. (For full information on the trackways construction please see the Trackways Construction Statement).

Any disruption to ground level biodiversity will therefore be at a minimum with only shallow rooted grass and scrub being affected.

Careful attention has been paid to avoid laying the tracks within the ground root vicinities of hedgerows and established trees.

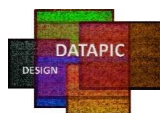
Within an ongoing landscaping strategy there is a long-term plan of additional biodiversity enhancement measures such as planting traditional hedgerows either

side of some of the trackways. This will not only frame the tracks, but will replace the important hedgerow bio-systems that have been destroyed because of modern farming practices, and which has resulted in the threatened survival of so many animals and birds.

There will also be the continued practice of planting native tree saplings of traditional species, often of rare and endangered species.

Plant species have been selected using the Forest of Dean District Council Hedge Planting Specifications

There will be a variety of new bird feeders and nest boxes placed around the woodland pathways aimed to encourage not only, but in particular, the various Warbler species that already occasionally visit the valley site. The obvious idea being that not only will this increase the BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) but also increase the pleasure of the nature walkers experience.



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