

Description of the Proposal



The original planning application for Seaton Jurassic (10/1587/FUL) in 2013, included an area of development from the existing boundary of the centre to the edge of Sheep's Marsh. Due to budgetary restrictions, this element of the approved application was never developed. Devon Wildlife Trust are now in a position to develop this area and working with East Devon District Council's Countryside Team at Seaton Wetlands and Seaton Tramway, to create a community and visitor offer that highlights Seaton's natural heritage, the urgent issue of climate change and address our disconnect of living with nature. This would also help fulfil the objective for the regeneration of Seaton

that was stated in 2013 of ‘...celebrating the natural heritage of the Seaton area and through engagement with the local community and visitors to the town, develop a longstanding support for its conservation.’

The first element of the proposal extends the existing outside space of Seaton Jurassic directly across the southern end of the car park. This would remove 18 car park spaces. The area highlighted in the application is approximately 50% of the original application but allows for the extension of the existing interpretation about ‘Living Seas’ and in particular highlight the special qualities of Lyme Bay and the Axe Estuary.



As people leave the existing garden, they would join a wide sinuous path, that is built up to the existing garden, by approximately 45 centimetres, to provide a fully DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant footpath and access.

To the north of the footpath, an additional blue matted area (as per the pliosaur model on the cafe terrace) would allow for interpretation and play to highlight the Axe Estuary Marine Conservation Zone and would end, before entering what is currently the fenced wasteland, with a beaver dam game and highlight the work of beavers on the River Otter.



The fence adjacent to the car park would carry on in the same style and height as the existing fence (image 3). The inside of the fence would carry interpretation of the Undercliffs and the wealth of wildlife found locally.

The side facing Seaton Tramway would have trees planted inside the existing fence. Between the trees and the walkway there would be wildflower banks as well as a variety of interpretation including an otter holt, for example.



As people leave the 'Living Seas' area, the second element, 'Living Landscapes', would see them enter the grassy knoll. They would have the option of following the hard-standing path left or right as it circles round a raised, sloped

central area of approximately three metres in height.

The external fence at this point would change to the same style (light blue, panelled) as the fence that runs along adjacent to the Underfleet.

At its middle point, on the current grassed picnic area, it would have a gate that would resemble a wooden sea groyne/sea defence. This would allow access to, or from, the garden for education groups and also be open on certain high days and holidays for people to explore Seaton Wetlands and Seaton Jurassic.



The fence line facing Seaton Tramway would have trees planted inside the existing chain-link fence. Inside the bottom left corner of this area would be a small wooden boardwalk/jetty and associated pond for pond-dipping and wildlife watching.



The raised, sloped central area would feature one or two tunnels to explore and resemble setts or burrows.



The south east side of the slope would feature wooden seating, mirroring the style already used in the existing garden, that would be used for educational groups, events or just as an area for people to rest and have a picnic.

The third element, 'Living with Nature', would run parallel to the tracks of Seaton Tramway from the new gate and fence up to the ditch separating the current picnic area from Sheep's Marsh. This area would be 15 metres in width and would be freely accessible, with interpretation and a variety of objects to engage everyone with the importance of Seaton's natural environment, how we live with nature, the challenges of climate change and our disconnect with nature. People who have walked down from the Wetlands and/or from the new Tramway halt, will be encouraged to engage further by visiting Seaton Jurassic and those who have visited Seaton Jurassic will have the opportunity to walk through the Wetlands and return via the Tram.



The area will be separated from the car park and remaining grassed area by a fence of posts and rope and from the Tramway by new trees planted inside the existing chain-link fence.

The route to Sheep's Marsh will have a DDA compliant footpath with spurs of boardwalks (to mirror the Wetlands), a large bench





and a four-metre rope walkway running up to the ditch that runs alongside Sheep's Marsh.

Alongside the path will be interpretative objects such as logs for



balancing, bark rubbing points, logs and stones to encourage 'minibeasts', outdoor natural percussion play and models of the wildlife you would expect to see in the Wetlands and around the Undercliffs. These 'engagement' points would be complemented by wooden interpretation boards.

This area would provide significant resource for Seaton Wetlands and Seaton Jurassic to host educational groups either together or separately as well as for events to be hosted by those organisations or others in Seaton. The local schools (Seaton, Beer, Colyton etc) would also be encouraged to use this area as an extended safe, outdoor learning area.

The development of this land would see Seaton be able to offer visitors a day long excursion to the area with a contiguous visit to Seaton Wetlands, Seaton Tramway and Seaton Jurassic and offer the local community a greater area of natural play and engagement as well as additional outdoor space for events and activities.