



Kilkenny Biodiversity and Recreation Countryside Park



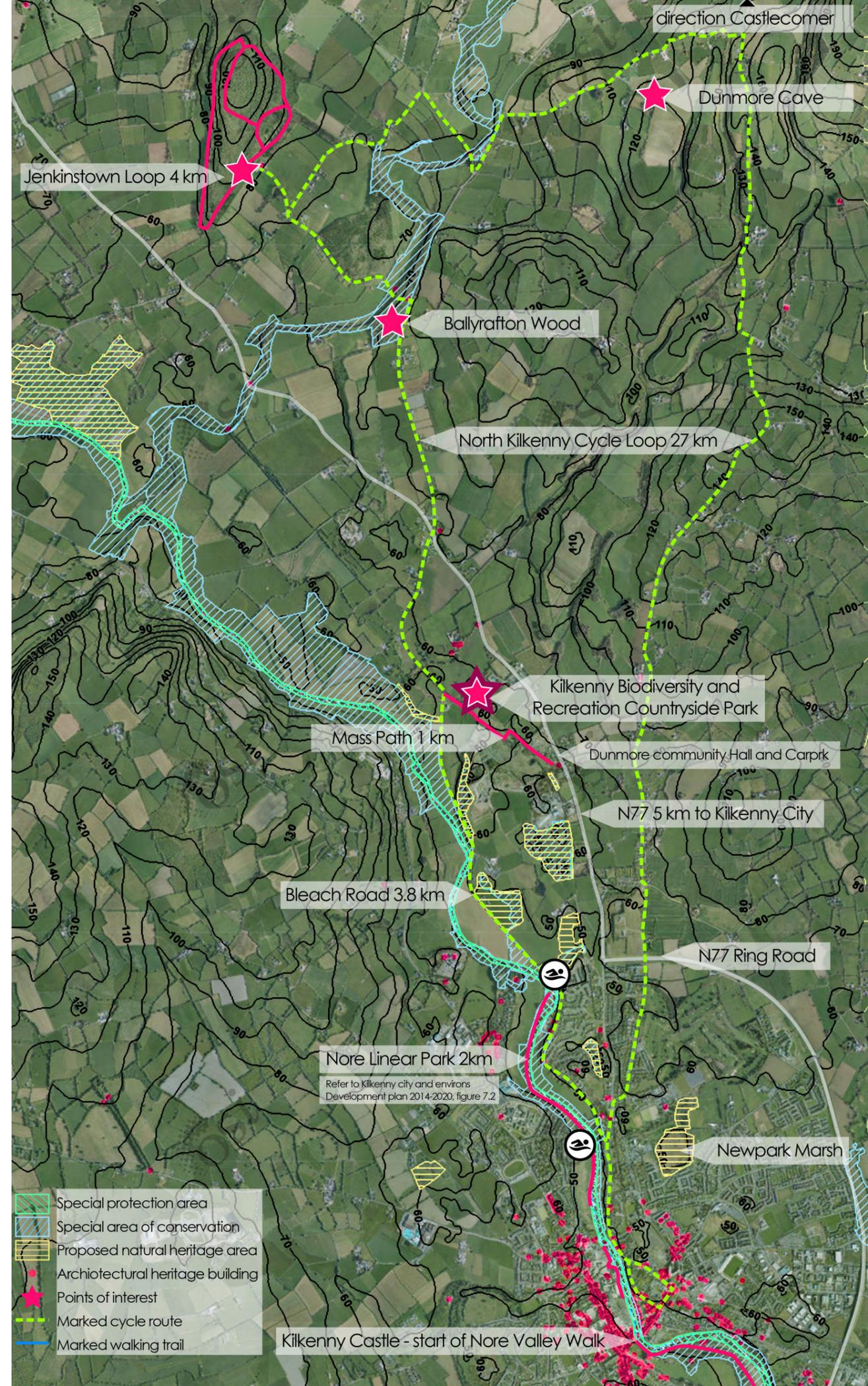
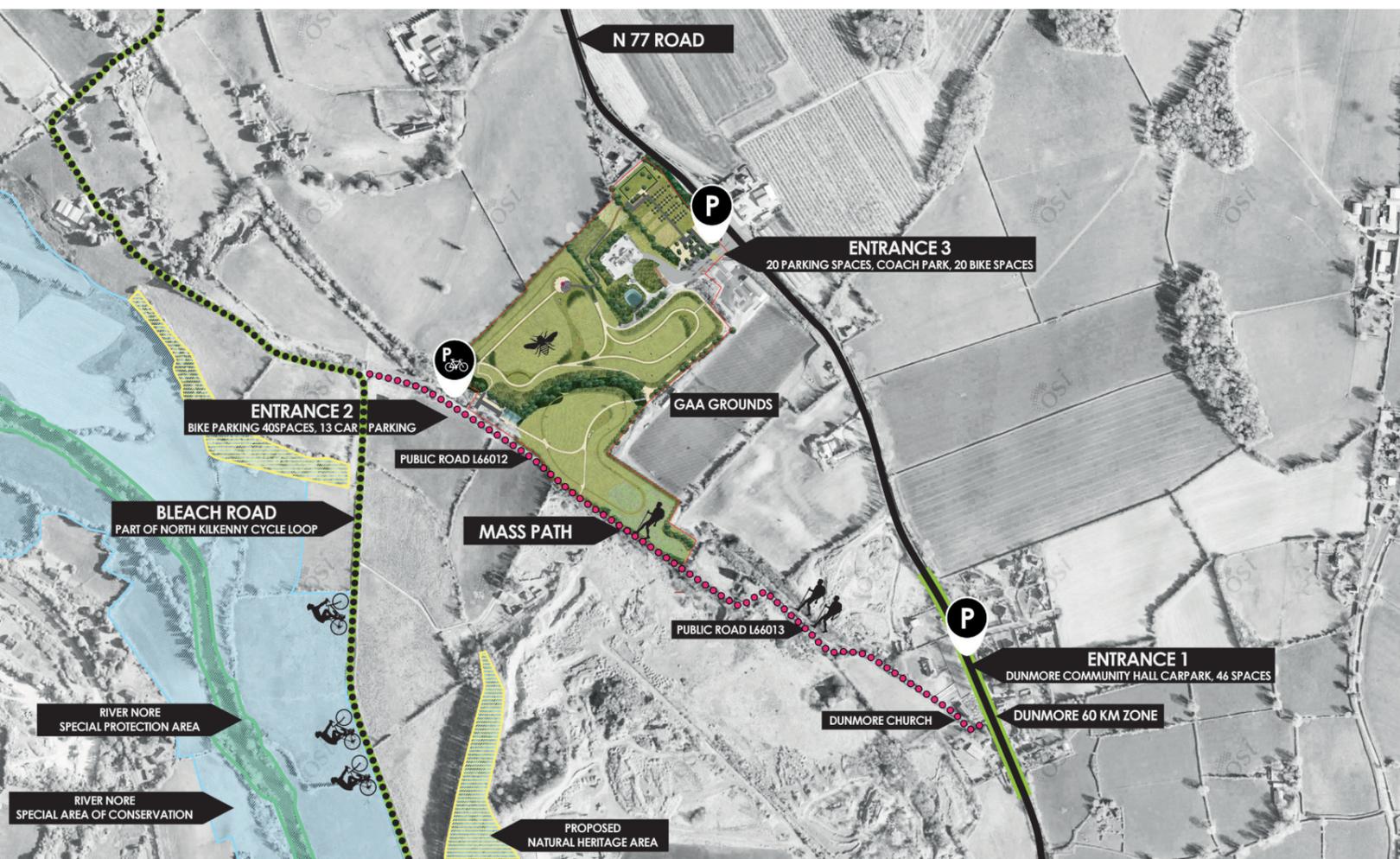
Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

Background information

Kilkenny County Council wish to develop a recreational and biodiversity park on the site of the now closed municipal landfill at Dunmore, County Kilkenny. The closed landfill site occupies an area of circa. 17 acres and is located 5km north of Kilkenny city centre. It can be accessed via the N77 (Castlecomer Road), to the west, from the south west Dunmore Community Centre carpark along an existing "mass path" pedestrian link and from a local road (Bleach Road) to the east.

The Dunmore Recycling & Waste Disposal Area (SPA) is also located approximately 750m to the southwest. The overall site is also bounded by agricultural lands, residential properties and a training facility for Kilkenny GAA. Kilkenny County Council entered a longterm lease in 2012 for a section of the former landfill site to Kilkenny GAA for training pitches and accommodations. The River Nore and associated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Management Plan (CRAMP).

Dunmore Landfill commenced operation in 1989 under EPA Licence and operated until March 2010. Kilkenny County Council continues to discharge its functions with regard to the aftercare of the former landfill site in accordance with the EPA approved Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP).

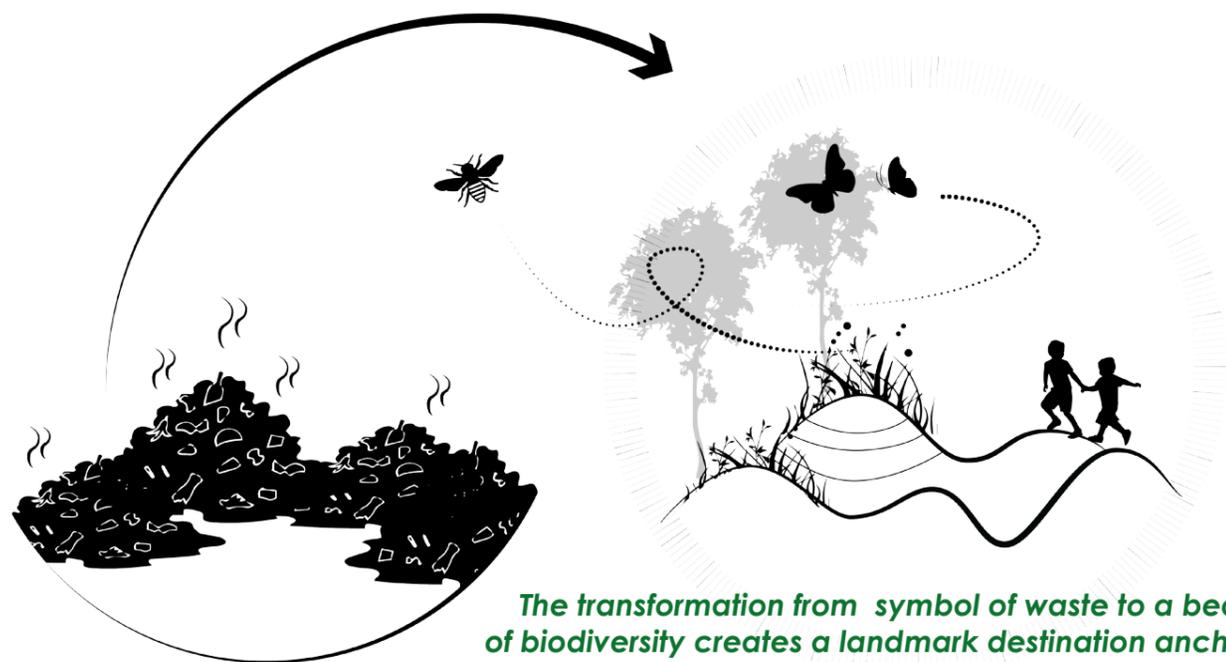


Project description

Kilkenny County Council proposes to unlock the potential of this untapped resource which is located just on the outskirts of Kilkenny city through the development of a high-quality parkland that will attract visitors from the city, county and beyond, creating an outdoor recreational space that complements the rich natural biodiversity that already exists. There is an imbalance in open space and visitor attractions to the north of the city and this project will reduce this gap in amenity. There is a requirement for open natural spaces and recreation, including free play, for health and well-being. The proposed park is a spacious, natural environment accessible to an urban population centre as well as wider visitor population.

The aim is to develop the provision of connectivity from the park back into the city along the established River Nore Linear Park which runs through the City centre. This will also allow for connectivity to the south of the county, along the Nore Valley walking trail.

-  Site boundary
-  Existing contour line
-  Carpark permeable surface
-  3.0m wide tarmacadam path
-  3m wide Self compacting gravel path
-  Mown lawn path, 2m wide
-  Viewing points - arrival plaza
-  Steps/ramp
-  Proposed orchard tree
-  Proposed shrub/tree planting
-  Proposed wildflower seeding
-  Proposed garden perennial planting
-  Proposed clipped hedge
-  Amenity grassland area
-  Dry meadow grassland
-  Dry calcareous and neutral grassland
-  Exposed sand gravel with blue fleabane
-  Wet grassland
-  Meadow scrub
-  Broad leaved woodland
-  Oak Ash Hazel woodland
-  Treeline/hedgerow
-  Seating
-  Hammocks
-  Play elements
-  Sheltered viewing space



The transformation from symbol of waste to a beacon of biodiversity creates a landmark destination anchored by the green infrastructure connections out to the immediate locality and wider Kilkenny environs.

Amenity

- 1** Entrance - Mass Path
- 2** Entrance - Main bicycle parking
- 3** Entrance- Bus parking
- 4** Apple orchard collection
- 5** Pollinator garden
- 6** Dog park
- 7** Outdoor classroom
- 8** Viewing/arrival plaza
- 9** Natural play
- 10** Sensory experience
- 11** Sheltered viewing space
- 12** Hammocks
- 13** Fitness - Balance
- 14** Fitness - Power
- 15** Fitness - Endurance
- 16** Gas flare

Marked theme trails



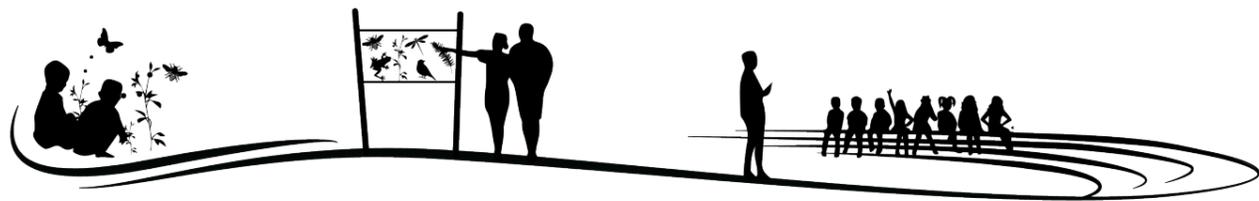
Biodiversity trail
Fitness trail - 2.2 km loop
Landfill infrastructure trail

Passive and Active Recreation

The park will develop trails for uses such as walking, running, cycling, orientating, as well as play and fitness equipment. Family groups with young children will be provided for with outdoor leisure/fun activities as will opportunities for all ages of people with different levels of mobility to interact with their surroundings as they rest in or meander through the park. A section of the park has been identified as a dog friendly space, where dog owners can let their pets off the leash.

Education and Exploration

The park will incorporate interpretive educational information with the aim to promote a greater awareness and understanding of the importance of biodiversity. Because of its proximity to Kilkenny City it has great potential as an area for teaching field biology, environmental studies and Reduce Reuse Recycle curriculum. Besides educational trails, at entrance 2, an outdoor classroom is proposed as well as educational pollinator friendly garden planting and an apple orchard with a collection of varieties connected to County Kilkenny, and fruit tree planting of unusual or forgotten fruits.



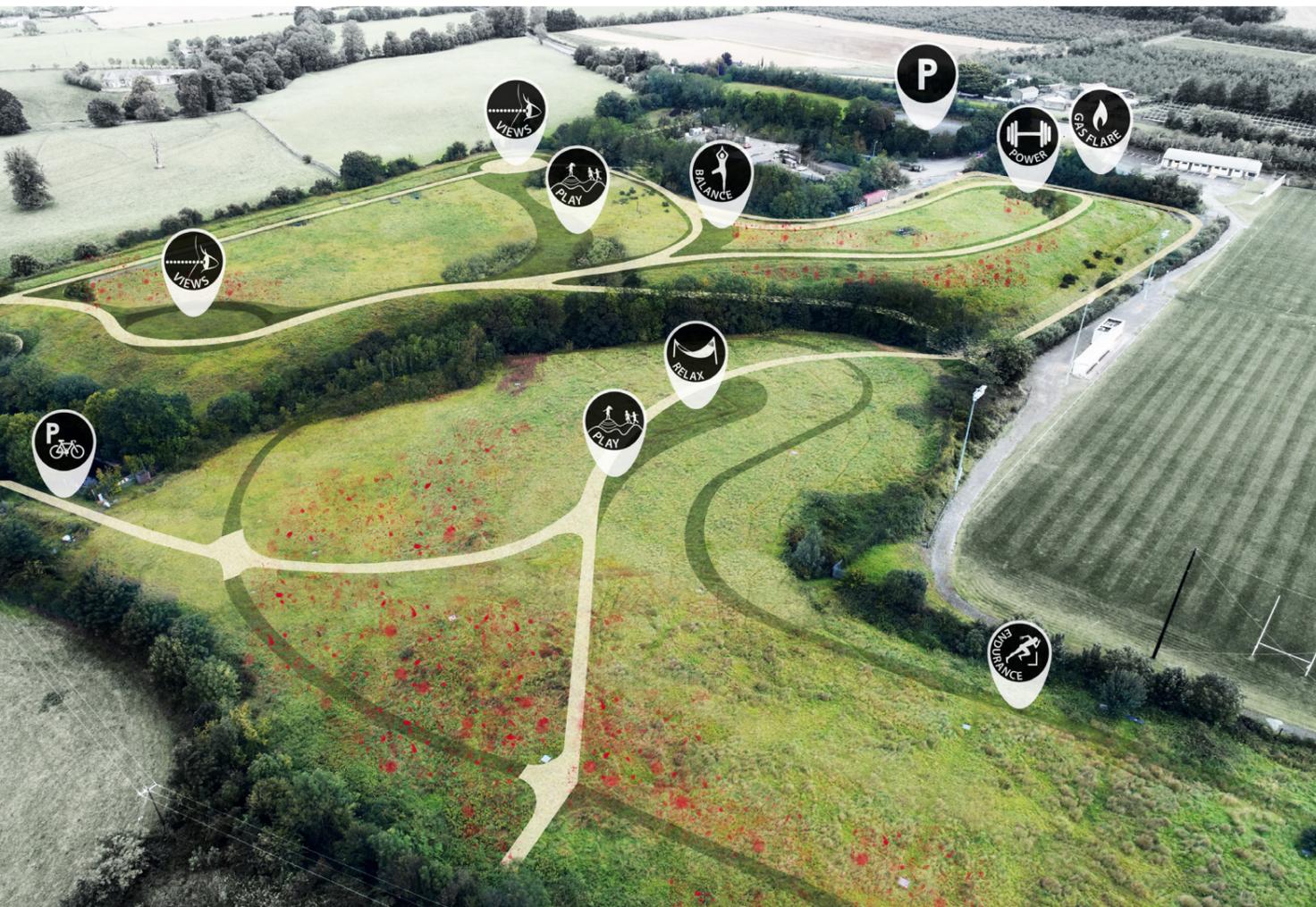
Nature and Biodiversity

The overarching aim for the establishment of vegetation communities at the site is to produce through management practices and new planting a mosaic of native habitats in one location, building upon the base of the existing mosaic of habitats developed and developing on the site. This is seen to be a way of maximising the biodiversity potential of the site, providing new opportunities for expansion of (and cross-interaction between) habitats whilst also providing an attractive area of green open space with high amenity value. Where retention of views is seen to be positive this has been sought to be achieved by strategic positioning of woodland blocks etc. and where screening is considered to be beneficial, then areas of linear screen planting/hedgerow have been proposed.

Planting and management of the park shall be undertaken in accordance with pollinator friendly management objectives as outlined in the "All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 (Councils: Actions to Help Pollinators)".



The creation of the park is also part of a wider cultural story, an opportunity to explore our impact on the environment and our changing relationship with nature.



PRECEDENT REFERENCE IMAGES:



Information limestone panels



Natural play



Viewing point, embankment



Outdoor classroom



Sensory experience



Hammocks



Orchard



Playful hideouts



Fitness equipment

MITCHELL + ASSOCIATES
Landscape Architecture Urban Design



Deborah D'Arcy
Ecologist ACIEEM



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

Kilkenny County Council has applied for funding under the Outdoor recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) for the development of the proposed biodiversity and recreation countryside park.