Stori Brymbo

Design and Access Statement

Proposed Community Space

Miller Field, Brymbo

15th January 2025

Introduction

This design and access statement accompanies a planning application to Wrexham County Borough Council to develop a community space on the land adjacent to Miller Road, Brymbo, LL11 5FH.

Assessment of existing site

The land is located on open space made up of the former Brymbo Steelworks site that closed in 1990 and was reclaimed in the following years.

The site consists of open grassland bordered with trees and a woodland to the south.

Involvement

Consultation

Over the past few years there have been public consultation events held to gain feedback from residents on the development of this space. These have consisted of public events at Brymbo Sports and Social Club, Brymbo Enterprise Centre and on the space itself. Groups of local school children have been invited to the space to consult with and fill in questionnaire documents. Feedback from these sessions has been utilised to create the proposed plans. Further, all properties on Miller Road were visited by the staff team to discuss the proposals and all residents provided with a leaflet outlining the proposed plans for the space.

Environment and Ecology

An ecological survey has been carried out on the space by Enfys Ltd. As part of our management plan for the space we intend to implement the avoidance, mitigation and restoration recommendations within this report. We work closely with our ecology volunteer group who include qualified ecologists and regularly employ qualified ecologists on our projects. When working with contractors on our sites we have toolbox talks in place to make them aware of issues and legislation regarding wildlife on these spaces. Within these toolbox talks there are elements of biosecurity measures to put in place.

We have an agreement in place with Natural Resources Wales to treat any invasive species within our project spaces. Managing this issue proactively where ever they appear. There are currently no invasive species identified on Miller Field.

The open space has within it a wildflower meadow and orchid preserve that has been developed through the ongoing land management plan. These are part of works to enhance the ecology and develop the biodiversity of this environment. Both of these are outside of where works will take place.

Tree planting has taken place on Miller Field with the siting of containers in mind. This is part of an ongoing programme of planting with further planned for this year and in the future. These trees near to the location of the containers are strategically placed to screen them from view and to reduce the noise from the activities taking place on Miller Field. The tree planting has been considered so that the shipping containers will not be visible from the houses overlooking the space. There are also plans to create a dead hedge around the containers to further screen them and blend into the natural landscape. We have undertaken coppicing on the parkland space and wish to further incorporate on Miller Field. A tall dead hedge would enhance the biodiversity of the site and create habitats for birds and wildlife. The use of coppicing is part of the larger management of the site to create mosaics of woodland and landscape thus encouraging a wide range of species to inhabit the site

Site Access

Currently the Miller Road space can be accessed directly from Miller Road by two footpaths down the embankment. These paths can be accessed by bikes and push chairs/prams.

In the future the site will have an additional access point along a road leading from Heritage Way. This is currently in use by Taylor Wimpey and solely for the building site. It will be handed over to Stori Brymbo once the site is complete and enable pedestrian, bike and wheelchair access to Miller Field.

The site of the new primary school replacing St Mary's will be able to directly access the Miller Field space from the rear of the school property. Therefore enabling to make use of the natural space and facilities laid out within the planning application.

Current use of the site

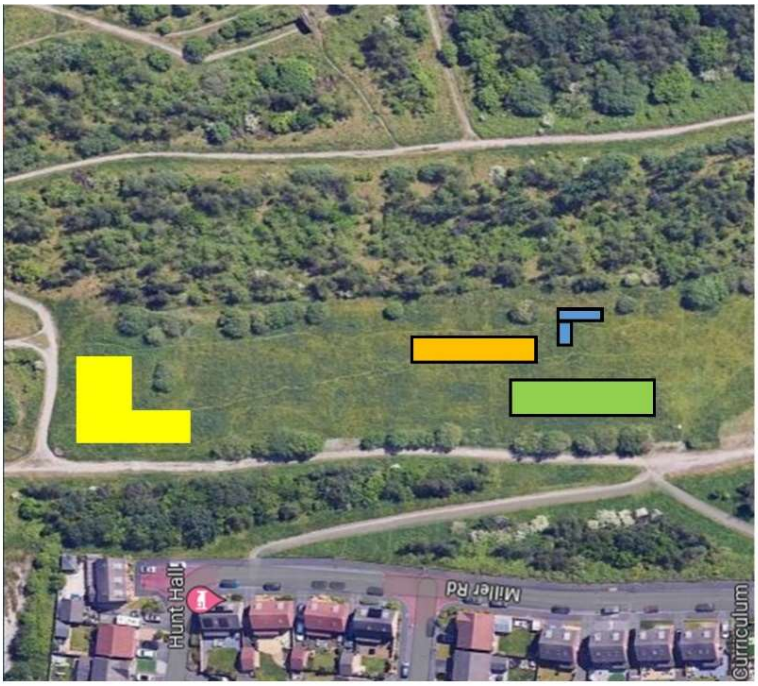
Over the past few years a range of sessions have taken place on Miller Field. This includes community play sessions aimed at 0 to 16 years olds encouraging free play and use of the wild spaces.

Activities including scything to use traditional management techniques of the grassland and bioblitzs to identify flora and fauna have also been organised by Stori Brymbo. As well as forest school sessions with the local primary school.









= containers

1 x 6m by 2.5m

1 x 3m by 2.5m

= bike track area

= adventure play structures

= grassed kick about/play space

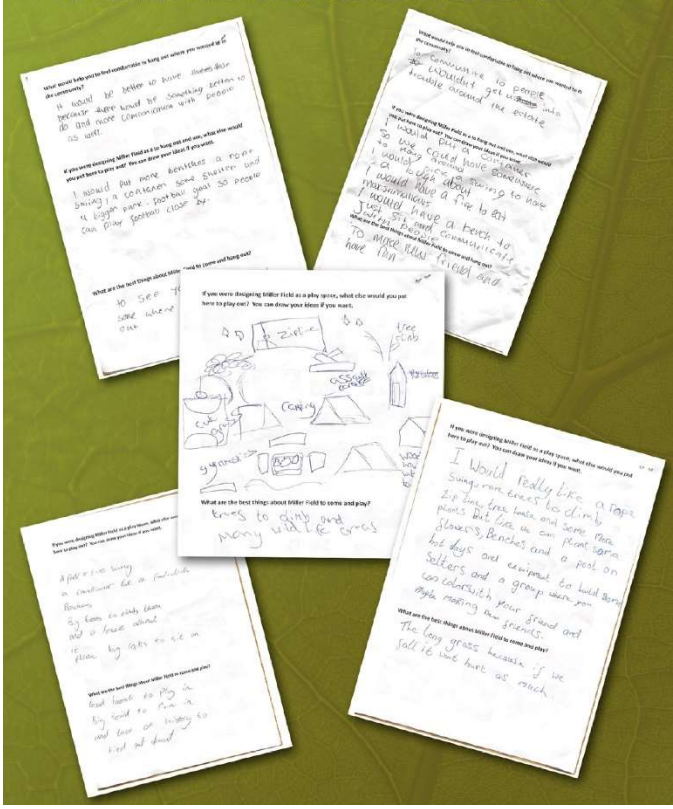
We've crafted a plan to enhance Miller Field, ensuring it becomes a vibrant hub for recreation and education.



FS – Forest school area AA – Activity area OP – Orchid preserve WM – Wildflower Meadow SA – Staging area ST – Screening treeline C – Container DS – Decked social area BK – Outdoor bushcraft kitchen AP – Adventure playground PF – Playing field BT – Bike track

Using the information we have gathered from consultations, school sessions and interactions with the community through volunteering events we have put together a plan for a more persistent presence on Miller Field with the goal of providing access to regular play & education sessions for kids as well as natural history-oriented events for all members of the community to participate in. Alongside drainage & pathing improvements, tree and habitat management, the installation of notice and information boards as well as seating, viewpoints and rest areas our proposed plans for Miller Field will provide positive and sustainable improvements to the area that result in a valuable and unique community asset.

SOME OF THE FANTATSIC FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL CHILDREN



THANK YOU!

Your support and feedback has been invaluable throughout this journey, and we're excited to continue collaborating with you to further enrich our shared green space.

If you have any questions, would like to show support or let us know of any concerns, please contact us here:

Social Media: brymboheritage

Email: rts@brymboheritage.co.uk

Website: www.brymboheritage.com

Phone: 0800 772 0981

Roots to Shoots
O'r Gwraidd i'r Brigau
AILDREFNU EIN MANNAU DIWYDIANNOL
RECASTING OUR INDUSTRIAL SPACES

Examples of proposed natural play structures (as installed at Erddig's Wolfs Den):





Example of bike tracks (images from Ellesmere Lake park)

The bike track will measure approximately 20m by 30m. The height of the ramps will be low at around 30cm to 50cm.







Example of compost toilet

This is the type of compost toilet being proposed for the site. It is contained within a shed like structure with waste collected and stored inside the equipment within the structure without any need for groundworks or waste being disposed of in the ground. The compost toilet would be maintained and monitored by the park ranger.











Pre-planning advice

24th July 2024

Emma Broad – WCBC Ecology Officer

Matthew Ellis – Natural Resources Wales

Both visited the Miller Field site as part of a visit with Nicola Sawford. They had an opportunity to look around the space and we discussed the management plans for Miller Field in the future. No issues were raised about the proposals.