

PENLEY MILL LAKE

Design and Access Statement

Prepared by

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Design and Access Statement

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This statement has been prepared by Chris Burnett Associates, Landscape Architects in support of an application to create a lake and associated aquatic planting, wet meadow and woodland habitats. It is supported also by plans, ecological reports. These are referred to where appropriate and relevant throughout the statement.

Plans

Dwg No.

Location plan	PMLW20.06-01
Tree Survey	PMLW20.04-01
Proposed lake and 1.0m contours	PMLW20.05-03
Landscape proposals	PMLW20.07-01
New Lake cross sections	PMLW20.08-01

Reports

Penley Mill Tree survey	Chris Burnett Associates
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report	Penny Anderson Associates

Location

- 1.2 Penley Mill is located approximately 0.5km south of the A539, east of Overton on Dee, on Lion Lane. See Location plan for details. The land subject to this application is wholly within the ownership of the applicant.

2.0 Existing Landscape Character and use

- 2.1 The existing land is low lying farmland bordered, on the west side by a small stream. The land is wet grassland and populated extensively by wetland plants such as rush. A continuous line of alder runs along the stream which forms the western boundary and various mature oak trees populate the eastern boundary. The nature and condition of the grassland is assessed in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report and the trees are assessed in the Tree Survey.

3.0 Design proposals

- 3.1 A new lake will be created by excavating to a maximum depth of 3.0m down from the existing ground level. The sides will shelve gradually to facilitate the planting of a range of native marginal aquatic plants. The spoil arising from the excavation will be deposited as a low mound at the southern end of the site. The application site area is 19,571 m² or 1.95 Ha and the lake itself has an area of 14,589m² and a volume of 17,152m³ to the designed water level. The lake will be contained by a shallow 0.5 to 1.0m high bund where it borders the stream and 3 large, 500mm diameter overflow pipes will be situated at regular intervals through this bund at the designed water level on the western margin and link to the stream to deal with any overflow events arising from bouts of heavy rainfall.

- 3.2 New native woodland planting will be established on both sides of the lake acting as wooded corridors linking the ancient woodland to the south with wooded areas to the north on a field at the northernmost most extremity of the property. This will consist of native trees and shrubs appropriate to the area. (see the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report)

4.0 Construction

- 4.1 The lake will be constructed outside the bird breeding season in the summer and rely on the clay that underlies the whole site to create a waterproof lining. A small island will also be created. The excavated spoil will form a low mound to the south of the lake which ultimately form the site of a new species rich wetland wildflower meadow.
- 4.2 A 30m diameter ecological exclusion zone focussed on an item of ecological interest (see the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report for details) will be marked out and maintained throughout the construction period.

5.0 Access

- 5.1 The footpath that currently runs around the edge of the site will be maintained and open at all times (although temporary fencing may be required during the construction period for safety reasons.) This will allow the public to view the lake and enjoy the improvements to biodiversity that will arise from this project.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The proposed scheme will allow for a significant enrichment in landscape, visual and ecological diversity. It will provide habitats that are not present in significant amounts in the vicinity and contribute significantly to woodland cover in the area. The proposals are large in scale but are consistent with the scale and nature of the landscape and will complement and improved the setting of Penley Mill. Public access will be maintained ensuring that the benefits can be enjoyed by all. Furthermore, as the site is currently in agricultural use, the existing, if limited ecological interest could be potentially damaged by future ploughing and re seeding operations. This scheme not only safeguards that ecological interest but radically improves it by creating a series of additional and diverse habitats from open water, aquatic marginal planting, woodland and wet meadow.