

THE HIVE

The Hive is a nature park for Nailsworth and its resident bees. The park consists of different zones, or cells of a bee hive, providing areas for play, discovery, habitat and community.



- ① The entrance is an imaginative space, where bespoke bee-inspired designed gates and sculptures and a bee hotel welcome visitors into the site.
- ② UV lighting at the entrance provide sculptural interest in the day and lighting at night, guiding visitors across the site, and mimicing the 'nectar guides' or 'landing strips' which bees see on flowers with their UV vision.
- ③ Linking the different cells is a mown path through the wildflower meadow, which traces the line of a bee waggle-dance; a movement routine used by bees to communicate where food sources are.
- ④ A living willow 'bee burrow' connects with a willow tree and wetland planting along the swale, forming an area of discovery and wet habitat creation.
- ⑤ Wildlife pond with a small jetty offering wildlife watching and educational opportunities. The pond also connects with swales, providing flood attenuation functions. Spoil from the excavation works will be used to create play earth mounds.
- ⑥ The wildflower meadow consists of species found in nearby limestone grasslands (including Minchinhampton Common SSSI) and provides valuable habitat and foraging for pollinators.
- ⑦ Honeycomb-shaped stones provide stepping stones along the swale, offering play opportunities and a reminder of the area's former quarries.
- ⑧ A living willow hive-shaped hideout located opposite the site's entrance draws people into the park and provides a secret play space.
- ⑨ New tree planting provides a sheltered picnic space and offers views across the rest of the site and towards Nailsworth and the surrounding countryside.
- ⑩ A natural play area winds its way through an area of bee-friendly small trees and shrubs, strengthening the habitat corridor to Hazel Wood.



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Objectives

To address the brief and issues identified as part of the site analysis, the following objectives are proposed:

- To provide a flagship site for Nailsworth's bee-friendly community initiative through habitat creation and awareness-raising interventions and interpretation;
- To inspire children to play and explore through the creation of a bee-themed natural play trail;
- To strengthen habitat corridors between nearby ecologically important sites, including the limestone grasslands of Minchinhampton Common SSSI and the ancient woodland of Hazel Wood;
- To create imaginative and enticing welcome areas and routes through the installation of lighting and sculpture;
- To create new SUDS features which slow down and store water on site, and increase habitat diversity;
- To strengthen connections between the site and the town through improved waymarking and the framing of key vistas.

Phasing

It is understood that the project will be phased as grant funding becomes available. The following phasing plan is suggested as a guide to the order in which the works take place.

Phase 1: Habitat creation and enhancement

Give wildlife a head start by focusing on creating new habitats and enhancing existing ones. This includes tackling the site's drainage issues by installing the site's SUDS (including the pond and swales).

Phase 2: Infrastructure

Start attracting and providing for more visitors, by installing seating, interpretation boards and signage.

Phase 3: Art and community

Now that the site is a much-loved nature park, work collaboratively with the local community to develop public art and nature installations.

Maintenance

The Hive has been designed with maintenance costs and efficiencies in mind. The meadow will be kept long and cut for hay, except for the mown paths. The maintenance of the swales can be incorporated as part of this regime. The new planting areas will consist of species which will respond well to the site conditions and will establish quickly, thus minimising future maintenance requirements. The infrastructure and play features will need to be inspected regularly to ensure they remain in good repair. The living willow features and bee habitats could potentially be maintained by a local wildlife group or friends group, which would give the local community a sense of pride and ownership of the Hive.

Capital Costs

The cost estimates below are provisional and are subject to detailed design.

Item	Description	Estimated cost
Pond and swales	Excavate and line 70m ² retention pond. Excavate 2no. 30m linear swales.	£2,500.00
Footbridge and jetty	Supply and install pressure treated softwood jetty over pond. Allow for kick rail and post and timber barrier. Supply and install pressure treated footbridge over swale.	£3,000.00
Picnic area	Supply and install 5no. wooden picnic benches.	£2,500.00
Children's play area	Supply and install natural play features, such as balance beams, hollow trunks and soft timber posts, at a suitable quantity to cover an area roughly 30m ² . Supply and install stepping stones to cover 15m linear of swale.	£6,000.00
Bee habitats	Large bee hotel to be installed at site entrance, and other smaller scale bee habitats to be installed around site. Potential to be created in partnership with local wildlife groups and schools.	£500.00
Living willow structures	Supply and install living willow tunnel (approximately 10m linear) and dome (approximately 3m radius). Potential to be created in partnership with local wildlife groups and schools.	£500.00
Entrance area	Proposed entrance area to include new bespoke gate which continues to allow for maintenance access; wooden lectern information board; UV low level lighting.	£10,000.00
Soft works	Prepare planting pits, supply, plant and stake 15no. trees. Supply and plant wet habitat species for swales and pond.	£3,500.00
Meadow	Enhance existing grassland species mix with hay strewing/ seeding/plug planting (approximately 2000m ² area)	£750.00
Preliminaries	Allow for site set up, storage, health and safety etc.	£2,500.00
Technical advice and support	Allow for specifications, design work and contract administration @ 10% of works.	£3,175.00
Contingency sum	Allow for general contingency sum @ 10%.	£3,492.50
	TOTAL (excluding VAT)	£38,417.50