



DESIGN
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Design Review Report

Roath Brook Flood Defence,
Cardiff

DCFW Ref: 43

Meeting of 12th August 2014



Declarations of Interest

Panel members, observers and other relevant parties are required to declare **in advance** any interests they may have in relation to the Design Review Agenda items. Any such declarations are recorded here and in DCFW's central records.

Review Status

Meeting date	12 th August 2014
Issue date	19 th August 2014
Scheme location	Penylan, Cardiff
Scheme description	Landscape/flood defence scheme
Scheme reference number	43
Planning status	Pre-application

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Declarations of Interest

None declared.

Consultations to Date

Remodelling of the much-loved historic parks to accommodate flood protection works will need to address a number of important issues which are being explored by the NRW and their design team through a programme of public and stakeholder consultation. Further community consultation events are planned for August and September.

The Proposals

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has identified the need for flood defences along Roath Brook where it runs through a string of Victorian parks in the residential area of Penylan. The proposed scheme will incorporate significant flood defence structures within a landscape design.

Main Points

Communication of Processes and Design

The verbal explanation of the processes that are informing the designs was much clearer than the visual and written materials. It is important that design processes and proposals are communicated clearly, especially during consultation with public who are not used to reading plan drawings. Pages of text take time to unpick and understand.

Diagrammatic analysis drawings, along with short bullet points, would help to explain how analysis is shaping the designs. For example, a plan with trees colour coded to show their importance or quality would clearly demonstrate the extent to which the alignment of paths and flood defence walls has been influenced by the desire to retain the best trees.

Sketch sections cutting through the park, brook, and streets and houses on either side would help to show the impact of the flood defences and the nature of the new spaces created. A physical model would also help.

The team might consider using a fence/mock up wall in part of the gardens to demonstrate proposals to the public, and to assess in greater detail the qualities of spaces being proposed.

As designs progress, it will become more important to communicate how soft landscape measures will influence the impact of new structures.

A combination of diagrams, drawings and annotations should clearly tell the story of the design process. The story should include emerging enhancements from the scheme, not only those in and around the brook, but throughout the surrounding spaces.

Vision and Objectives: design and place-making

This scheme will change the series of parks forever and some of the functions and qualities of the park which people value today will be reduced or lost. However, the scheme presents opportunities to create new functions and types of places which will be valued in the future.

Now that the engineering requirements have been defined and feedback from consultations has been collected, the team should give more detailed consideration the types of new spaces that the scheme will create.

For each area of the scheme, there should be a clear vision and accompanying set of objectives. These should relate to place-making and should consider the reasons why people will value the new places created. What will they be like to experience? The vision should clearly define and communicate what each area is doing.

In the industrial area, where there is less public use, the team might consider developing a wildlife corridor.

Language of New Structures

The team will soon need to consider design of the new structures, such as walls, fence, bridges and gates, in more detail. They might think about developing a common language for these which is appropriate for new interventions in this setting. The language should consider materials, form and quality.

It may be more appropriate to consider simplified, good quality solutions rather than complicated forms, such as the combination of wall, steps and ramps next to Waterloo Road bridge. Different options should be tested so that the best solution can be found.

Further Engagement

The Design Commission welcomes the opportunity to review this scheme for a second time now that consultation and design investigations have progressed. As there is still much design work to be done, we would recommend that a third review takes place in the Autumn, leaving time for further design refinement before a planning application is made.

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A Welsh language copy of this report is available upon request.

Attendees

Agent/Client/Developer:	Marianne Jones, NRW James Goldsworthy, NRW Tim Hopkins, NRW
Designers:	Alice Johnson, Engineer, RHDHU Paul Jolliffe, Landscape, Nicholas Pearson Associates
Local Authority:	Emma Parsons, Urban Design, Cardiff Council
Design Review Panel: Lead Panellist	Andrew Linfoot Jonathan Adams Amanda Spence, Design Advisor, DCFW