



 PURCELL

WOKING PALACE

MASTERPLAN PRESENTATION 16.01.13

Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Agenda

- Introduction
- Consultation Responses
- Proposed Masterplan
- Phasing





Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Agenda

Process to date:

- April 2012 - Conservation Statement produced
- June 2012 – Condition survey undertaken
- July 2012 - Masterplan Option Appraisal issued for comment
- September 2012 – Conservation Management Plan issued for comment



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Consultation Comments

Options Appraisal June 2012:

- General agreement to the re-opening of the moats
- Agreement to the representation of the archaeological remains, with a green roof to the vaulted room and soft capping to the standing Tudor walls
- Approval of the desirability of providing a removable tensile canopy within the standing walls, providing a sheltered, flexible space for activities on site associated with open days, etc.
- Agreement to the principle of providing a raised platform to view the remains and wider landscape, albeit in a revised location from that shown in the options appraisal
- Agreement in principle to the reinstatement of a wharf structure to the riverbank, albeit relocated from the location shown in the Options Appraisal to the east bank of the eastern moat to avoid disturbance of archaeological remains



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Consultation Comments

Options Appraisal June 2012:

- Provision of a visitors centre in the form and location shown in the Options Appraisal
- Suggestions that the main interpretive theme should present the story of the development of the site from its origins as a mediaeval moated manor house through Royal ownership and eventual decline
- Agreement to the provision of a new entrance off of the Old Woking Road to the north of Carters Lane
- Agreement to the provision of a car park to the south side of Carters Lane located before the houses and water treatment works. This should be lockable
- Agreement to restoration of the ponds within a coherent vision for them and the surrounding copse.



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Consultation Comments

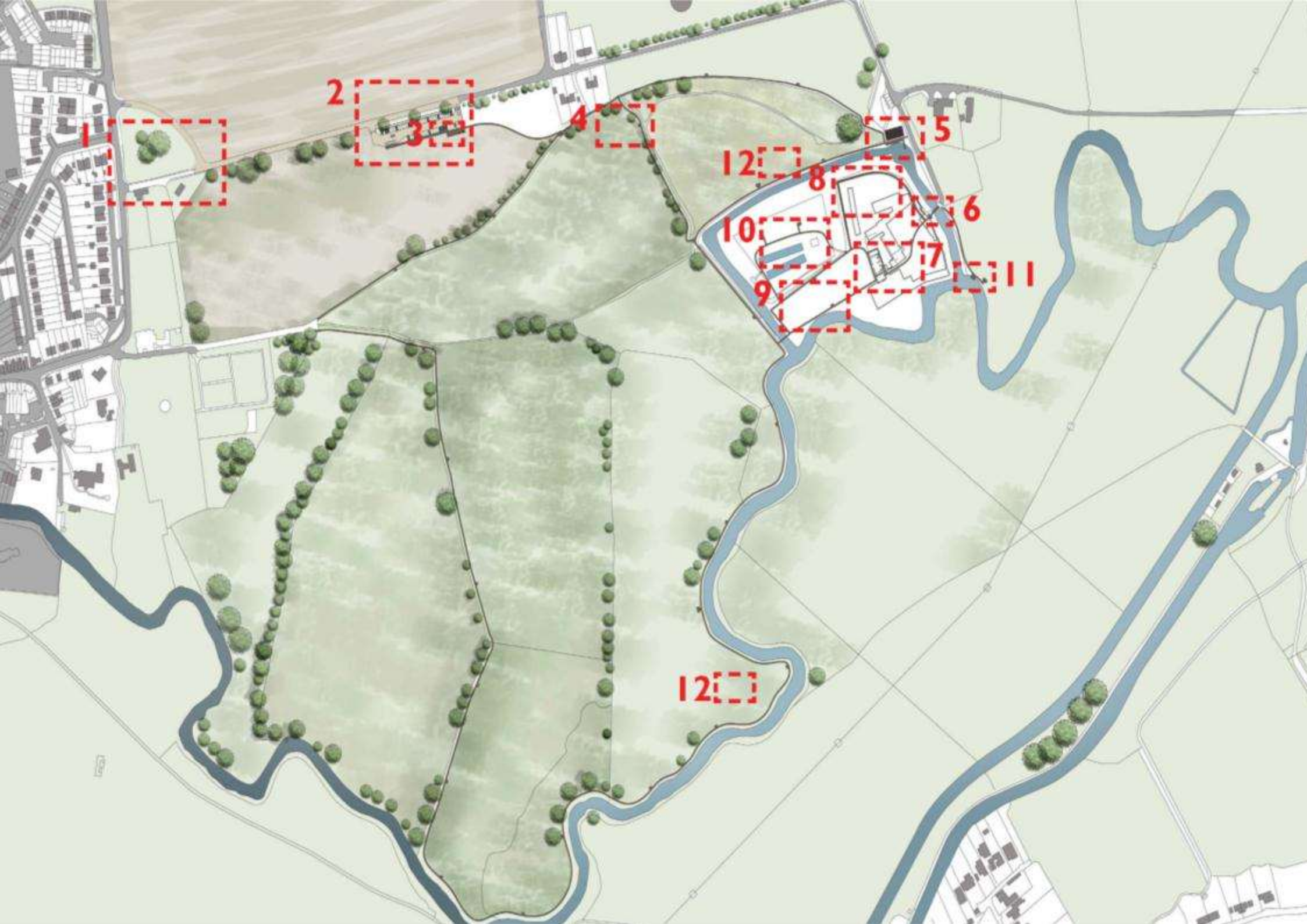
Options Appraisal June 2012:

- A desire by some to see the clearance of a section of the historic viewing platform to the north-west corner of the site to allow its original purpose to be more clearly understood
- Provision of an orchard on the site
- Consideration of the age and function of **'Madge's Hole'** to the south west corner of the site and the recreation of the possible lake (Sluice Mead) to the west of the site
- Comments incorporated into Masterplan proposals except:
 - Provision of orchard
 - **Proposals for Madge's Hole** – interpretation?
 - Sluice Lake



PROPOSED MASTERPLAN





Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Proposed Masterplan

AREA 1: SITE ENTRANCE

AREA 2: CAR PARK

AREA 3: INTERPRETATION

AREA 4: BOARDWALKS

AREA 5: VISITOR CENTRE

AREA 6: SITE ENTRANCE

AREA 7: REMAINS

AREA 8: VIEWING PLATFORM

AREA 9: KING'S GARDEN

AREA 10: COPSE

AREA 11: WHARF / FISHING PEG

AREA 12: HIDES / WIDER LANDSCAPE



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 1: Site Access



EXISTING JUNCTION

- Options Appraisal - agreed to use existing Carters lane
- Improve access - adjustments to the junction onto the B382
 - To improve road safety for access and egress to the site
 - To reduce the impact on the neighbouring properties – the Old House and the adjacent bungalow.
- Discussion with traffic engineers - junction moved northwards beyond the junction with Poundfield Gardens.
- Opportunity to reinstate the road along the line of the historic field boundary



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 1: Site Access

1. Existing Carters Lane junction
2. Old House
3. Bungalow
4. Section of road retained private (demarcated with signage, etc)
5. New junction off B382
6. New access road to car park
7. New landscaped margin between existing houses and new access road



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 1: Site Access



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 1: Site Access

BY ROAD

- Via new junction on B382
- Park within car park in 1st section of Carters Lane
- Approach site on foot

ON FOOT

- Use the vehicular route
- Existing footpath from the Grange is to be maintained and enhanced through the addition of boardwalks (see later).

MOBILITY IMPAIRED / SERVICE & MAINTENANCE

- Via **Carter's Lane, continuing on past the new car park to existing 'fisherman's car park' (to be enhanced)**
- Similar for servicing of site and visitor centre, utilising existing council access arrangements with adjacent owners.



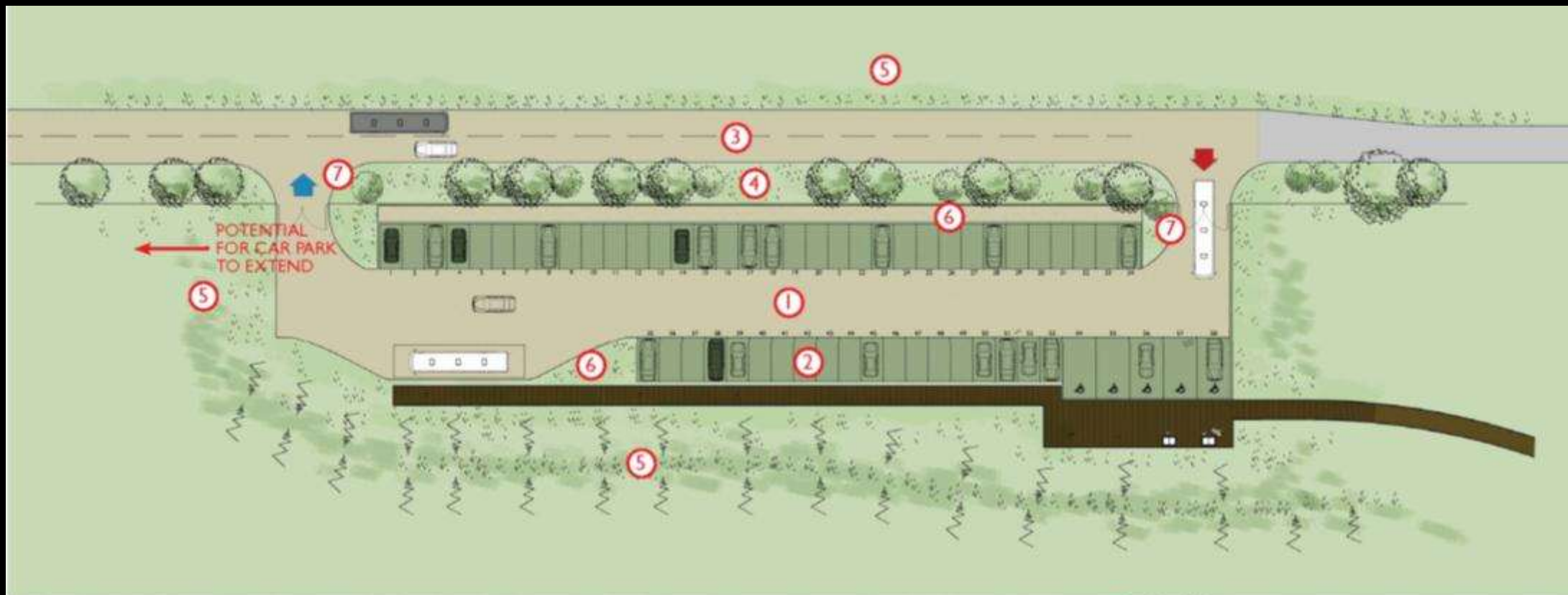
Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 2: Car Park



STRATEGY

- located remotely from the site :
 - Studies revealed that one of the aspects of the site that users most enjoy is its remoteness and the potential to become immersed in a landscape that has barely changed since medieval times
 - Minimising of potential impact on neighbouring properties (and therefore potential objections)
 - Reduction in the need to upgrade road surfacing for the minimum amount of roadway
 - Potential for expansion
 - Servicing of potential future leisure uses within the locale
- Parking is currently proposed for 58 cars and 2 coaches





- 1. Bound gravel surfacing to car park
- 2. Grasscrete surfacing to parking bays
- 3. Bound gravel surfacing to widened access road
- 4. Landscaped boundary maintaining historic field boundary

- 5. Swale/drainage ditch
- 6. Lighting bollards
- 7. Lockable gates



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 2: Car Park

Car park is intended to have minimum impact on the location. This is to be achieved as follows:

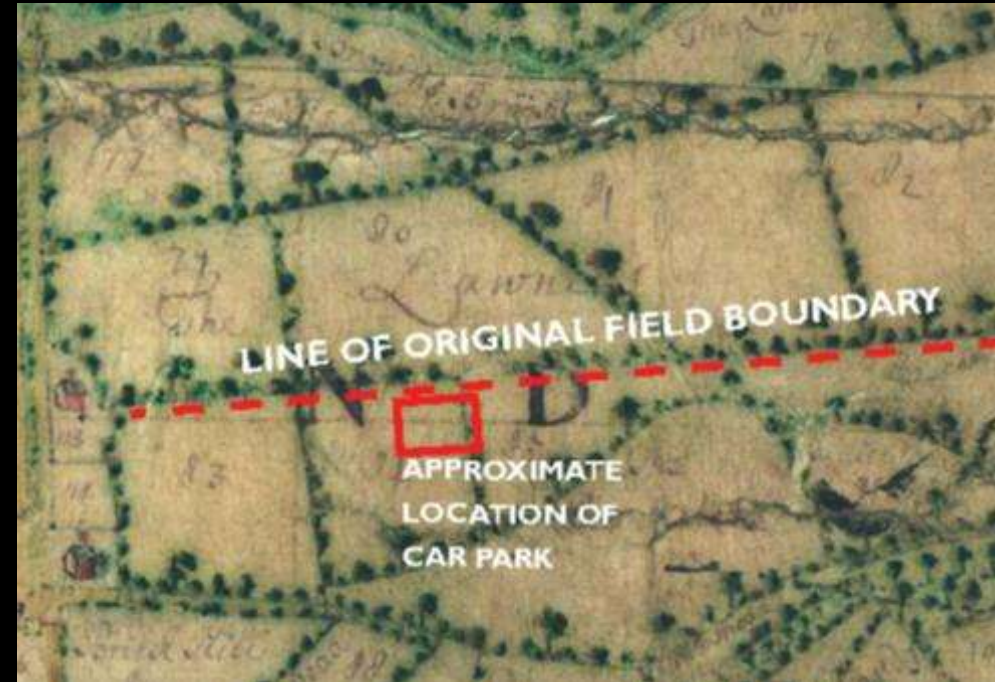
SURFACING

- Carriageway areas are to be of tarmac covered with bound gravel;
 - softer, natural appearance
 - demarcate sections of surfacing that are associated with the site and those that are private (roads beyond the car park and adjacent to the Old House)
- Areas of parking are to be demarcated by Grasscrete;
 - maximise the green nature of the site
 - environmentally advantageous
 - reduce water run-off.



LANDSCAPING

- Simple approach is to be adopted, with the original tree line as indicated on the historic map retained/reinstated.
- Around this grass verges are to be maintained.
- The perimeter of the car park work with the Grasscrete as part of a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) in the form of a swale



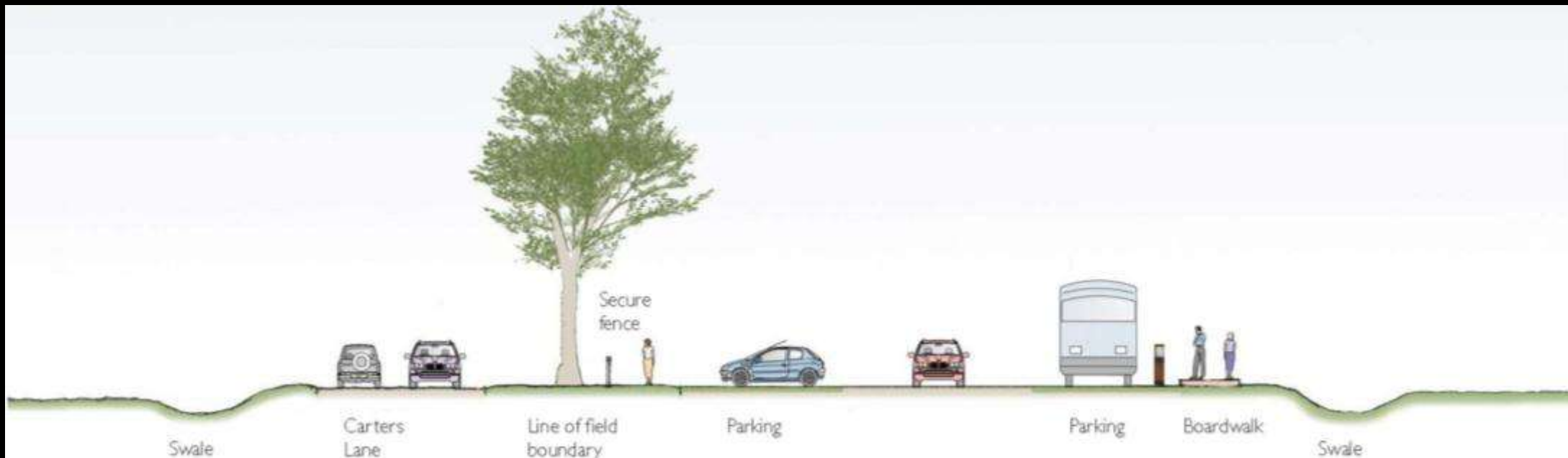
Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 2: Car Park

LIGHTING

- low-key; bollards to perimeter of the car park

SECURITY

- Lock the car park at night
- Current fence line is to be maintained with 2 no. gates
- Remainder of boundary protected by swale to reduce impact



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 2: Car Park



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 2: Car Park



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 3: Interpretation



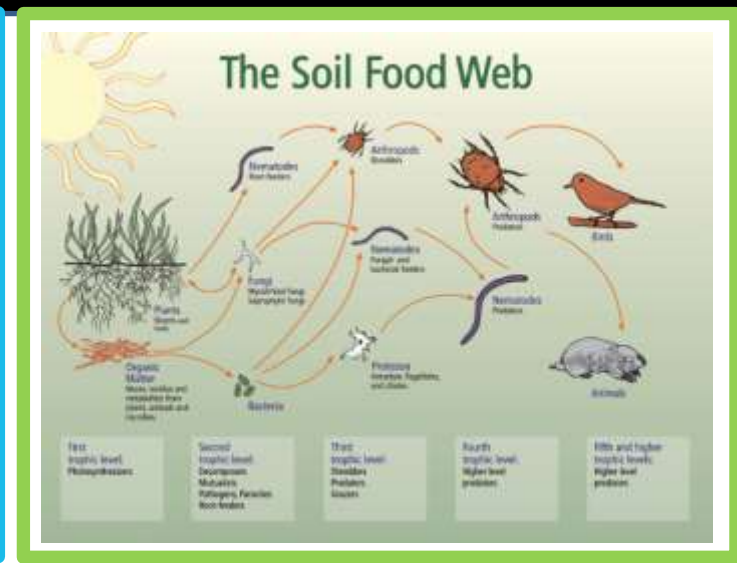
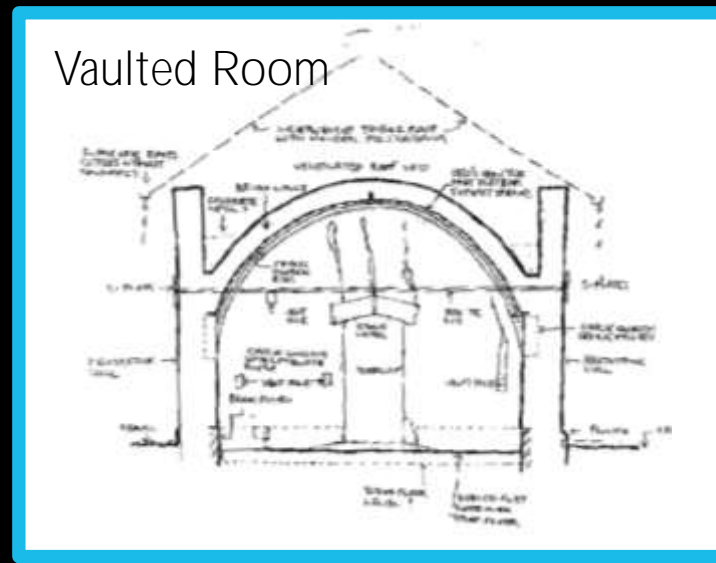
STRATEGY

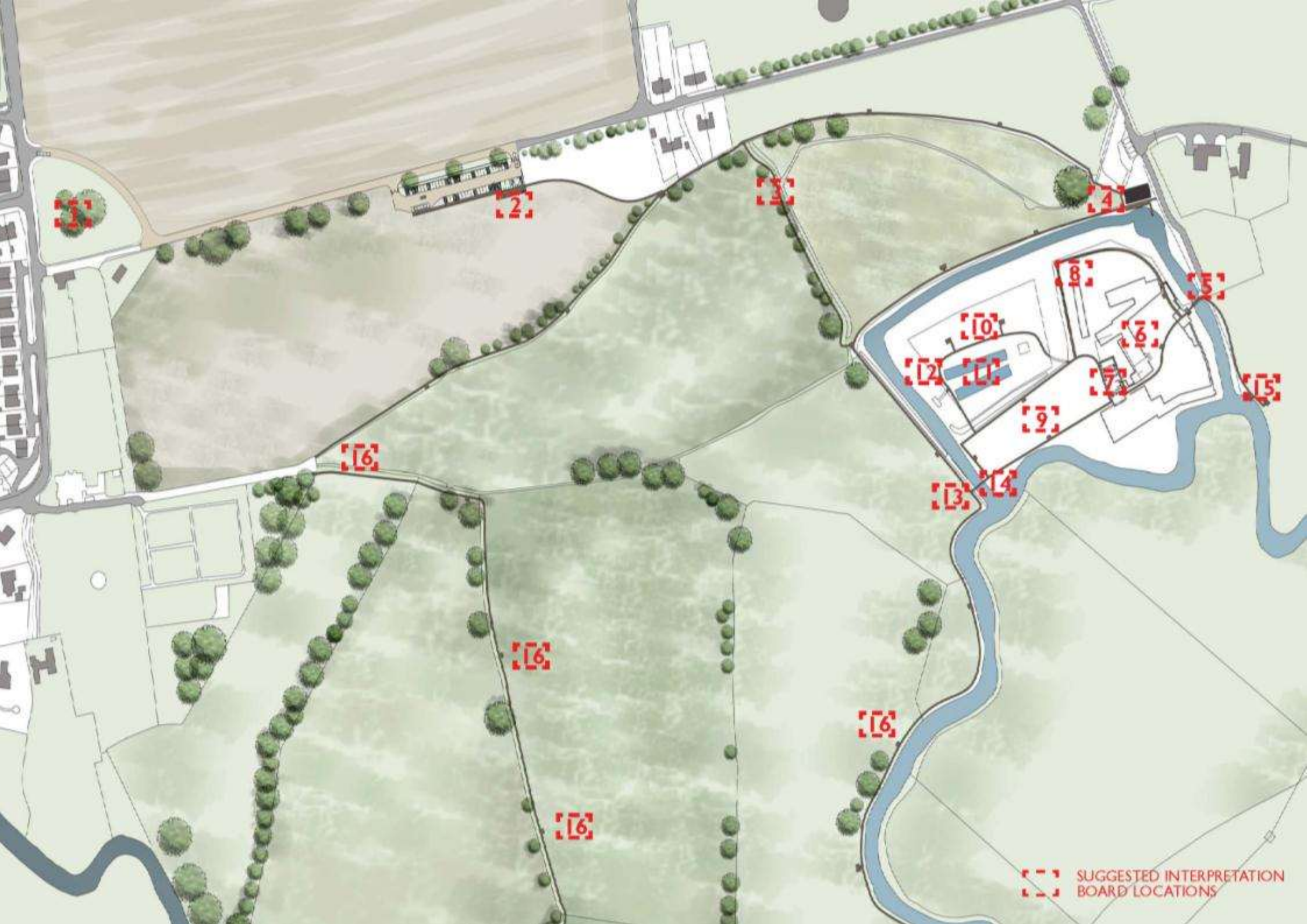
- It is recommended that an interpretation consultant is engaged to work with the Friends on developing the interpretive presentation of the site;
 - identify particular themes to inform the visitor experience;
 - story of the development of a major house from the early medieval period onwards.
- The interpretation continues to be divided into 3 strands:
 1. Permanent Interpretation, including boards
 2. Digital media
 3. Event-based interpretation, including re-enactment or role playing



PERMANENT INTERPRETATION:

- This is to take the form of boards placed at strategic points along the journey.
- **In recognition of the site's historical** and natural assets the boards are to be divided into 2,
 - HISTORIC
 - NATURAL





 SUGGESTED INTERPRETATION
BOARD LOCATIONS

Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 3: Interpretation

1. Site Entrance
2. Car Park
3. Boardwalks
4. Visitor Centre
5. Site Entrance
6. Buried Remains
7. Standing Remains
8. Viewing Platform
9. Kings Garden
10. Copse
11. Fishponds
12. Viewing Platform
13. Secondary Site Access
14. River
15. Wider Landscape



EVENT-BASED INTERPRETATION

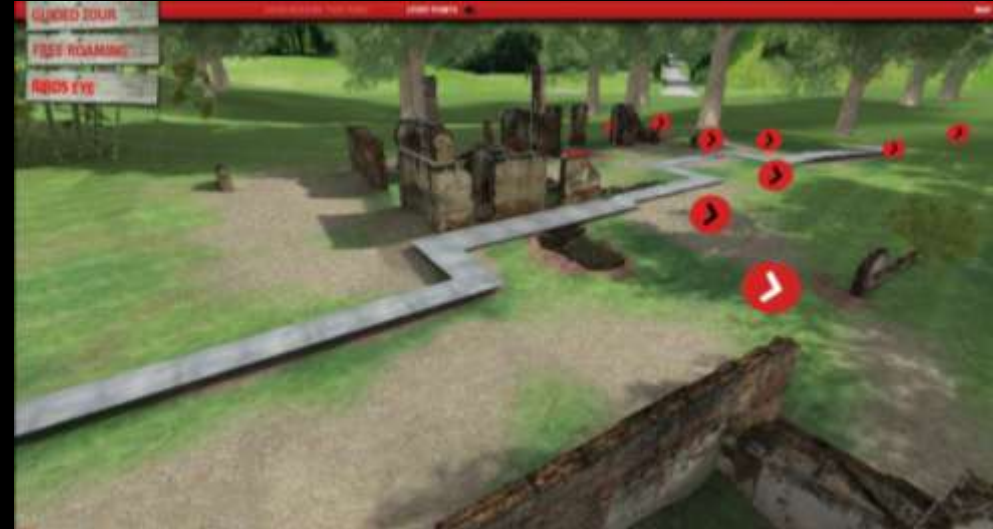
- Programme to be organised in conjunction with interpretation consultant;
 - Themed weekends
 - Events related to the themes of the site
 - Costumed performances
 - Displays of related arts and crafts
 - Art programmes; specially commissioned works/sculptures in conjunction with the Lightbox?
- The above could work in conjunction with facilities on site such as the tensile canopy within the standing remains (see later notes).



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 3: Interpretation

DIGITAL INTERPRETATION

- Mobile 'phone App to cover the historical development of Woking Palace
- James Brennan Associates and 3D design agency Wagstaffs Design:
- The archaeological records & surveys compiled into one drawing to link all elements
- create outline 3D models of site at different periods to be used for information, entertainment, tourism and learning



DIGITAL INTERPRETATION

- 4 Phases:
- PHASE 1 - virtual recreation with descriptive text outlining site development & key figures involved
- PHASE 2 – palace in the wider context; series of historic maps with clickable points allowing user to zoom in from the 2D maps into the outline model
- PHASE 3 - detailed virtual rebuilding of the palace at most active period 1509-33. detailed reconstruction of the exterior user interact in two ways:
 - offsite - virtual tour.
 - onsite - stand at key locations for reconstructions
- PHASE 4 - increase the interactivity and content - user moves around the virtual palace to information points with written or spoken text and images including finds from archaeological digs



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 4: Boardwalks



STRATEGY

- Access achieved via raised boardwalks
 - Ensure access for all users at all times of the year including marshy areas
 - Directing visitors around site
 - maximum exposure to visitor attractions
 - crowd control
 - Protection sensitive areas
- Precedent - Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire
- boardwalks constructed from recycled plastic;
 - Sustainability –made from plastic bags, etc
 - Durability –more hardwearing than timber with superior rotting resistance; approx 2 x lifespan.
 - Affordability –significant cost saving over timber, both in terms of capital costs and maintenance.

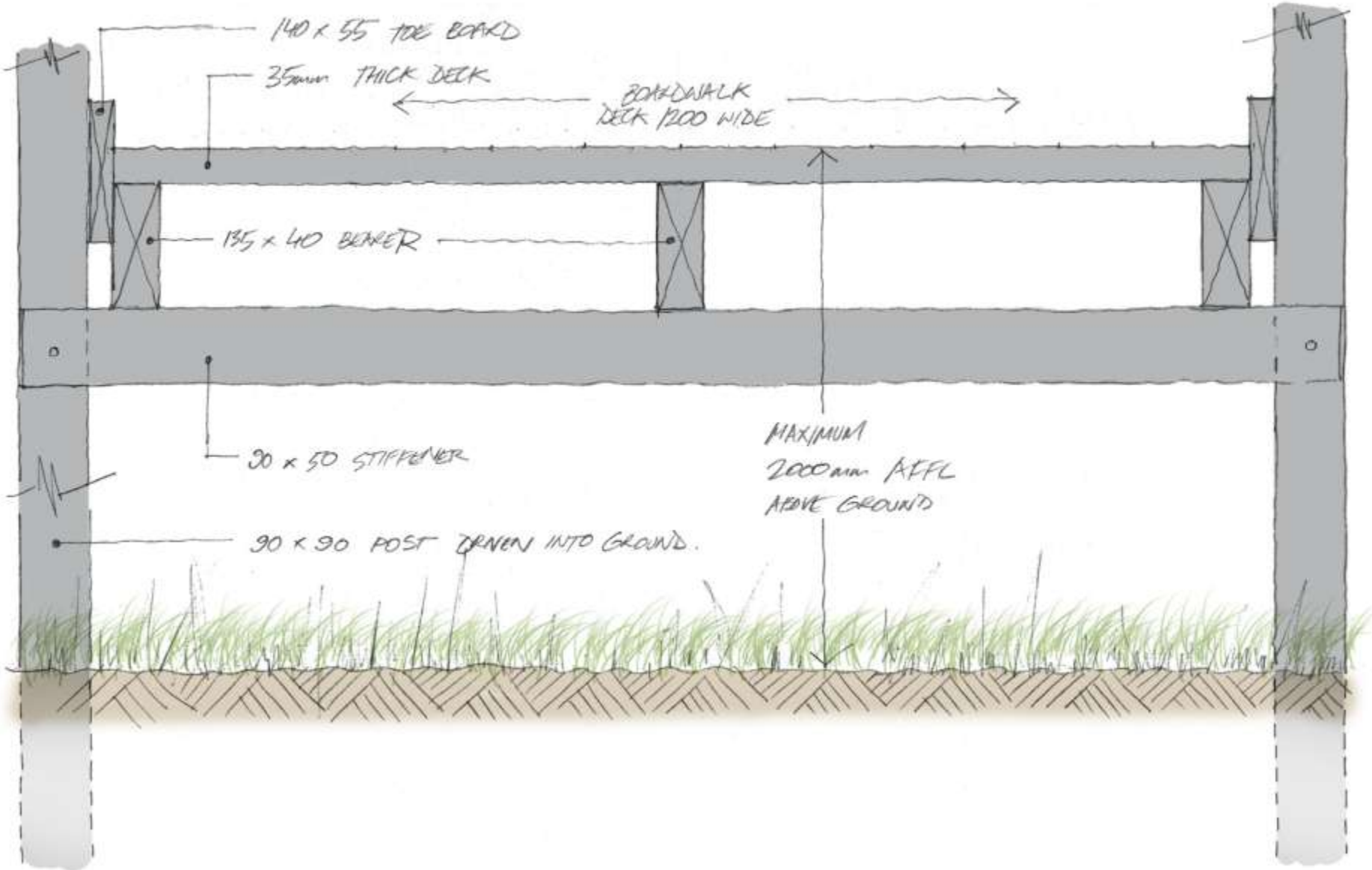


STRATEGY

- Potential for the site to become one of the most extensive examples of boardwalks in the country. The current
 - proposals measure 3.2km. (including within site)
 - Wicken Fen = 1.25 km.
- Boardwalks will significantly increase visitor numbers,
 - represent a visitor experience in themselves,
 - allow immersive interpretation of the marshes and site.
- Wicken Fen attribute 75 – 80% of their 40 – 50,000 per year visitor numbers to the presence of the boardwalks.



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 4: Boardwalks



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 5: Visitor Centre



STRATEGY

- located to the north west of the site:
 - Easy access to road for deliveries
 - Close to existing services/utilities
 - Located on the visitor route into the site
 - Adjacent to site so easy access to and from but does not impact on the setting of the site
 - Adjacent to the winding hole in the moat, benefitting from an enhanced outlook at this point and offering potential for interaction with the moat in the form of pond-dipping or boat/canoe rental.
 - Remote from existing properties



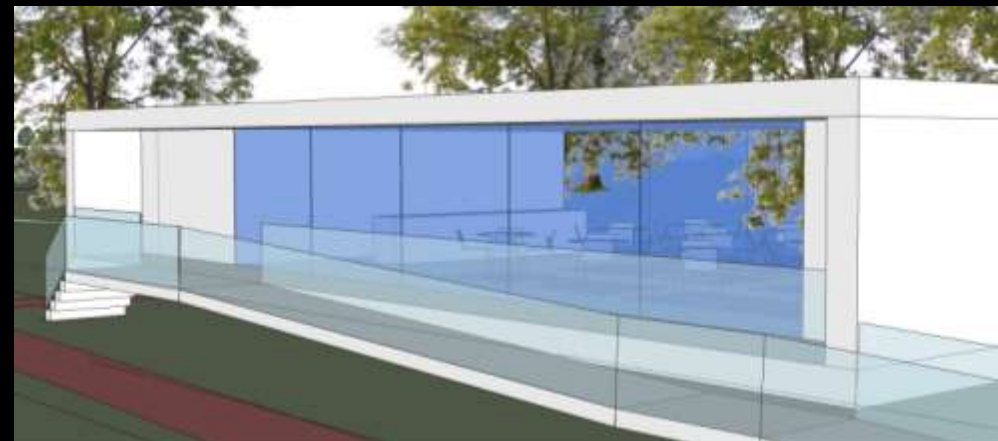
Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 5: Visitor Centre

BUILDING FORM

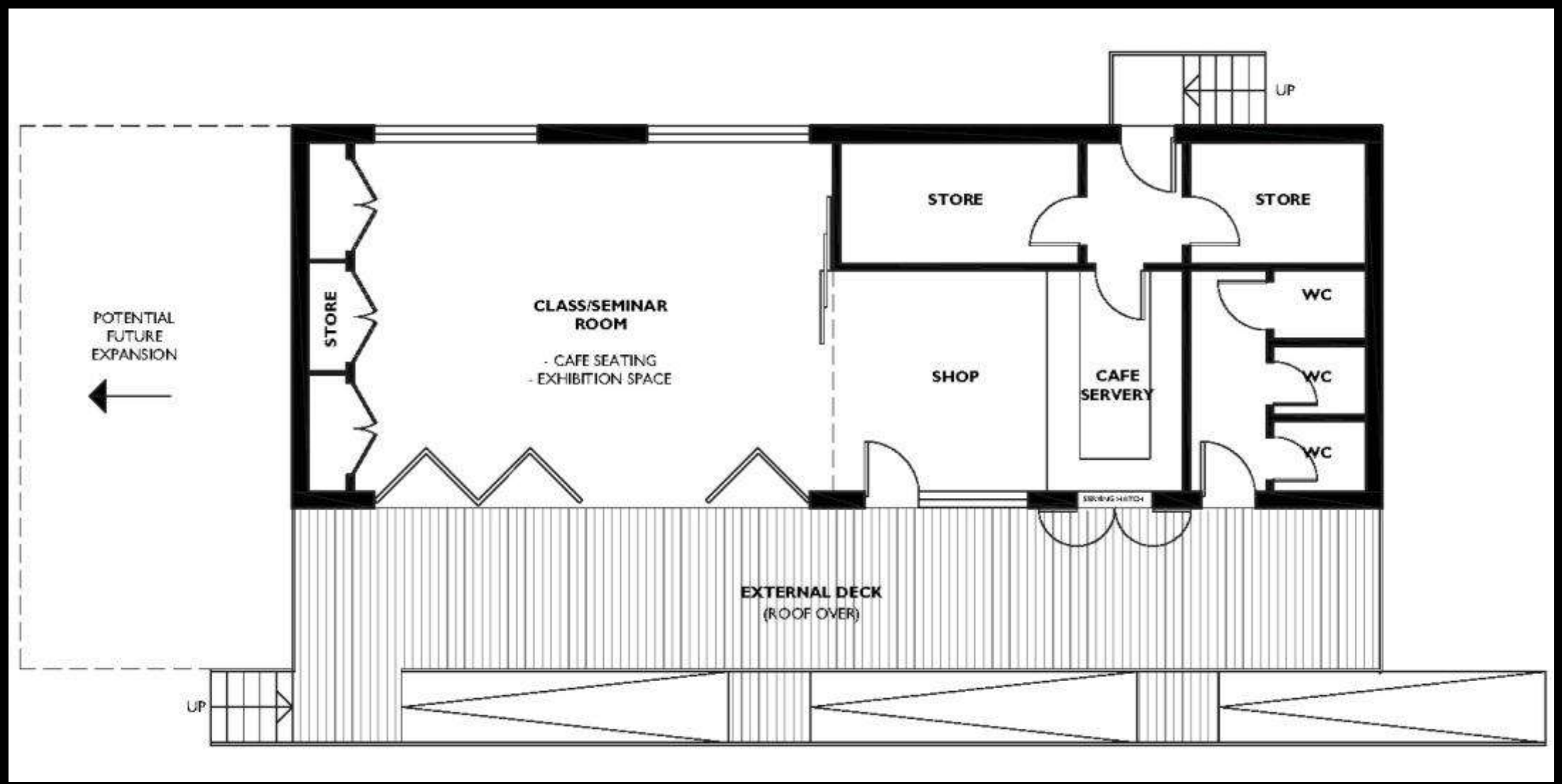
- Simple with an emphasis on flexibility and sustainable energy sources and materials.
- Low-lying to suit the terrain
- Lightweight (steel frame, timber and glass cladding) on stilts to touch the ground lightly with minimum impact and avoid flooding.
- Green roof to blend in with the landscape
- Sustainable facilities such as composting WCs

PROGRAMME

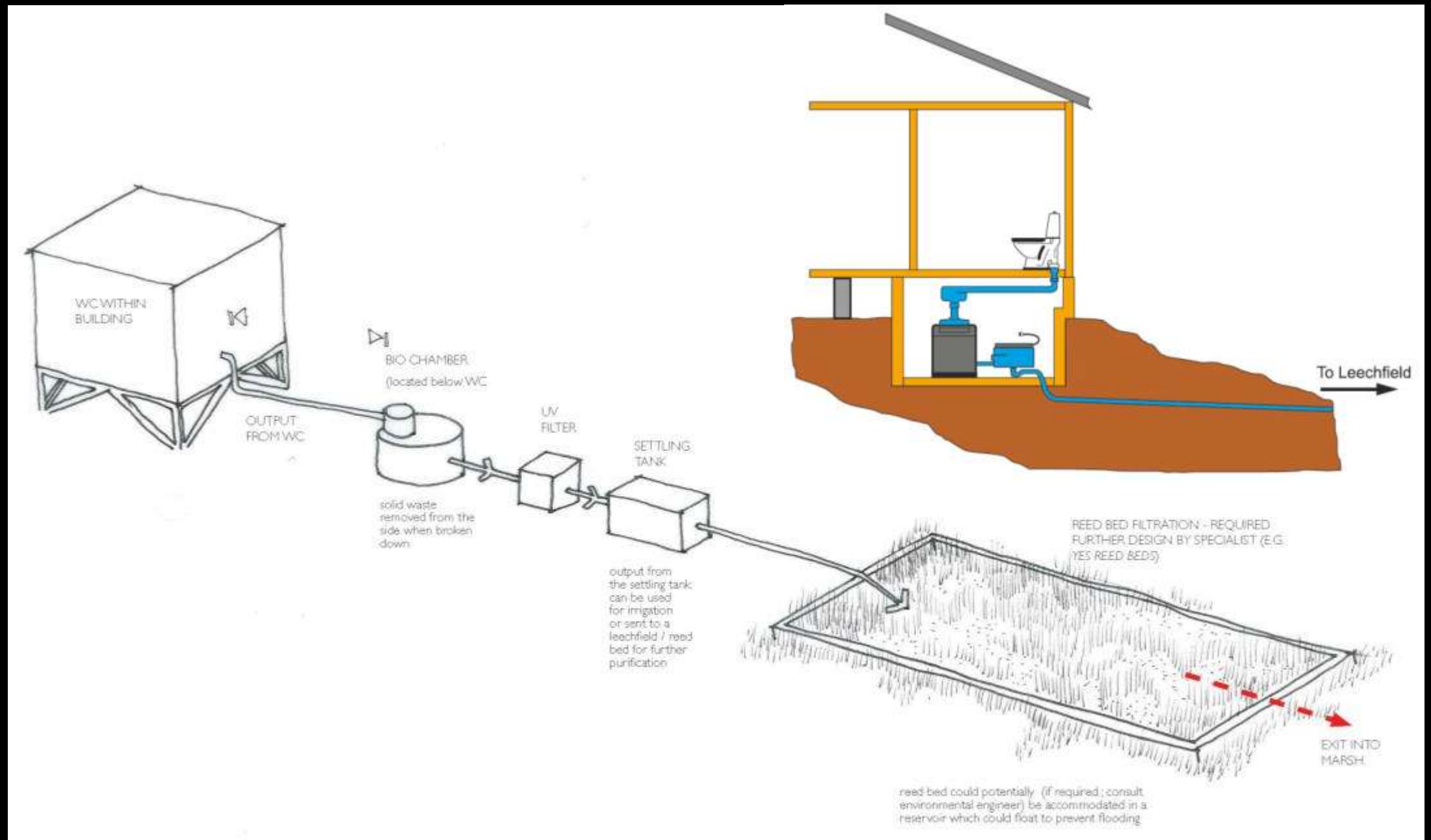
- Becomes **the ‘hub’ of the site, housing visitor facilities** such as café, shop exhibition space and WCs
- Education and community engagement; teaching space for schoolchildren and seminars for site-related education for all ages and user groups
- Easily extendable - future proof for expansion
- opportunity for revenue generation



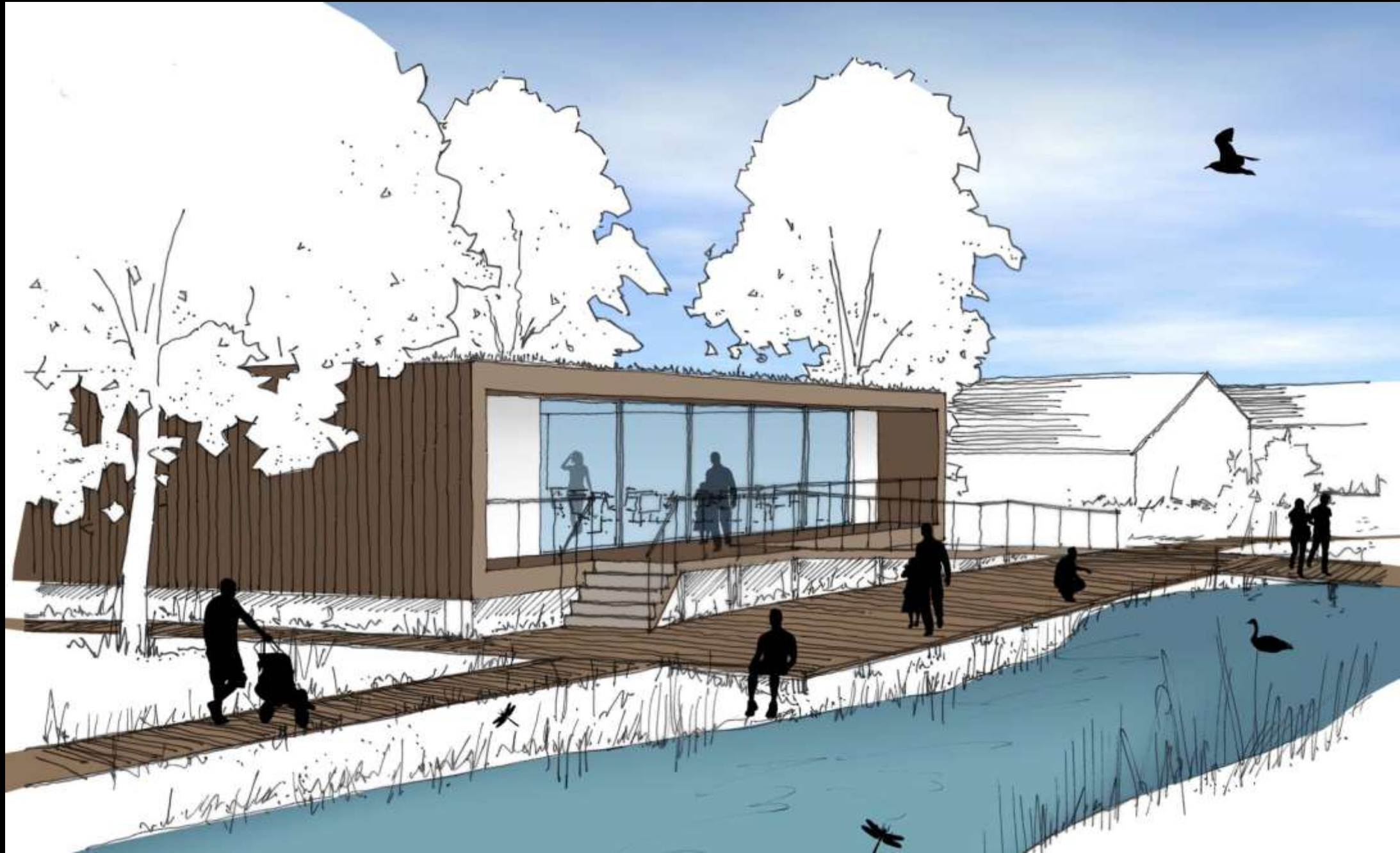
Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 5: Visitor Centre



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 5: Visitor Centre



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 5: Visitor Centre



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 6: Site Entrance



EXCAVATION OF MOAT

- Historic entrance to site is to be maintained;
 - maintain authentic visitor experience
 - assist with the interpretation of the site.
- Re-connect the moat to the River Wey
 - infilled during the 17th century
 - Variable water level
- Reopening of the moats advantageous:
 - Interpretation –principal interest is as a medieval moated manor site and royal palace; re-forming of **the moat will reinforce the site's derivation and** connection to the wider landscape.
 - Security – vandalism an ongoing issue; reopening of the moats would prevent this, controlling access
- The proposed extent of excavation is as follows:
 - Western arm = 25 m long x 5 m wide x 2 m deep
 - Eastern Arm = 10 m long x 5 m wide x 2 m deep
- Excavations require an agreed programme of archaeological investigation.

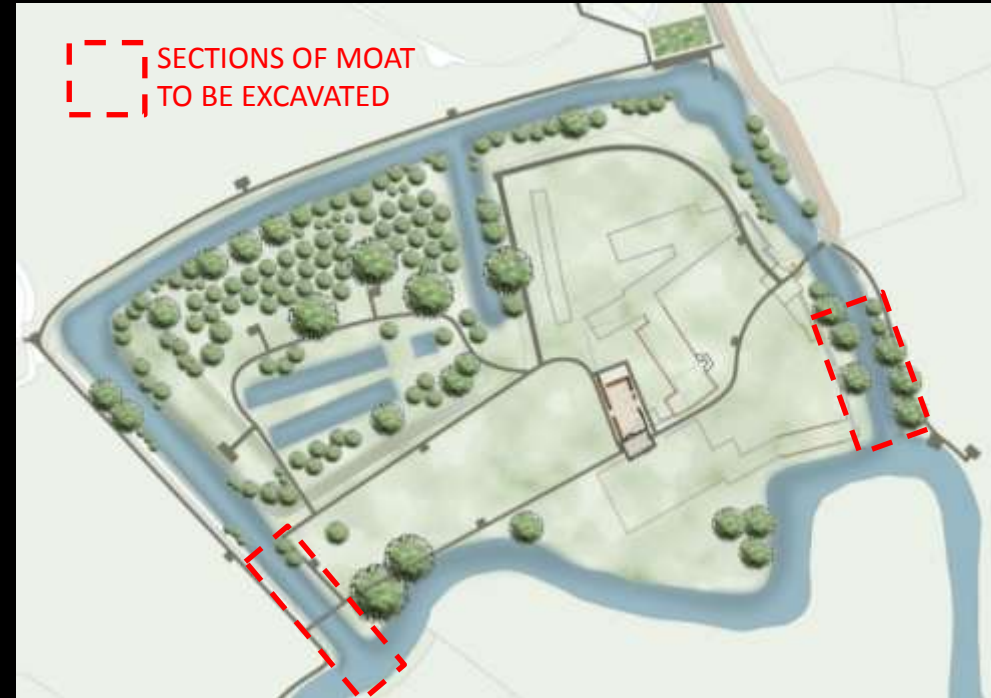


*“We would have no objection to the reconnection of the moat to the River Wey and indeed it could form a valuable backwater for fish and other aquatic **wildlife**”.*

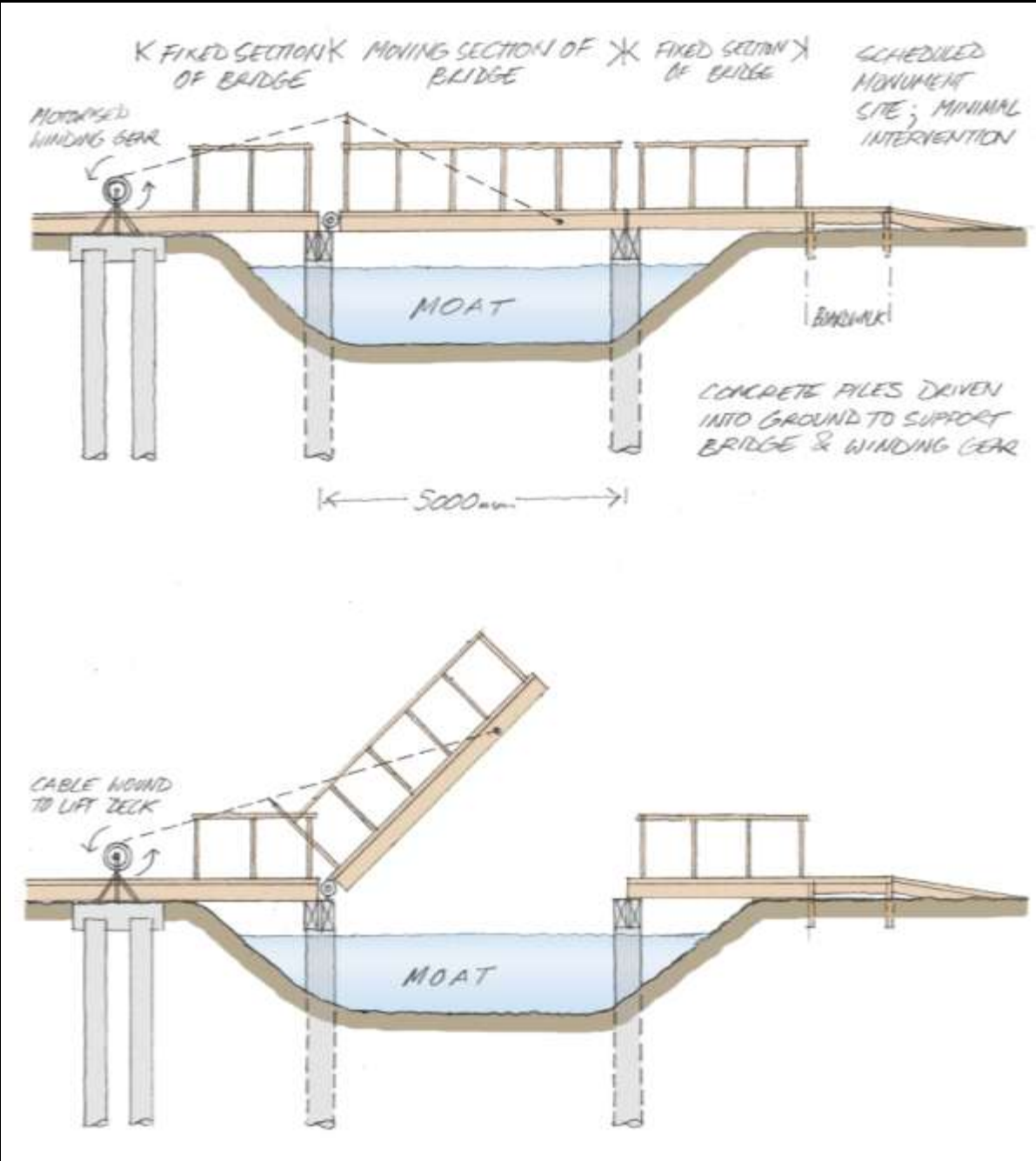
Environment Agency, November 2012

REINSTATEMENT OF DRAWBRIDGE

- Maintain security & assist interpretation
- Based on C19 canal bridge; timber with steel subframe
- Lifting gear located to opposite bank, minimising impact on the historic remains.
- Automated with appropriate safety features for operation by trained operatives
- Bridge raised when the site unoccupied
- Capable of carrying emergency & contractors vehicles
- Pedestrian version to western arm
- potential to enhance visitor experience & numbers,



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 6: Site Entrance



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 6: Site Entrance



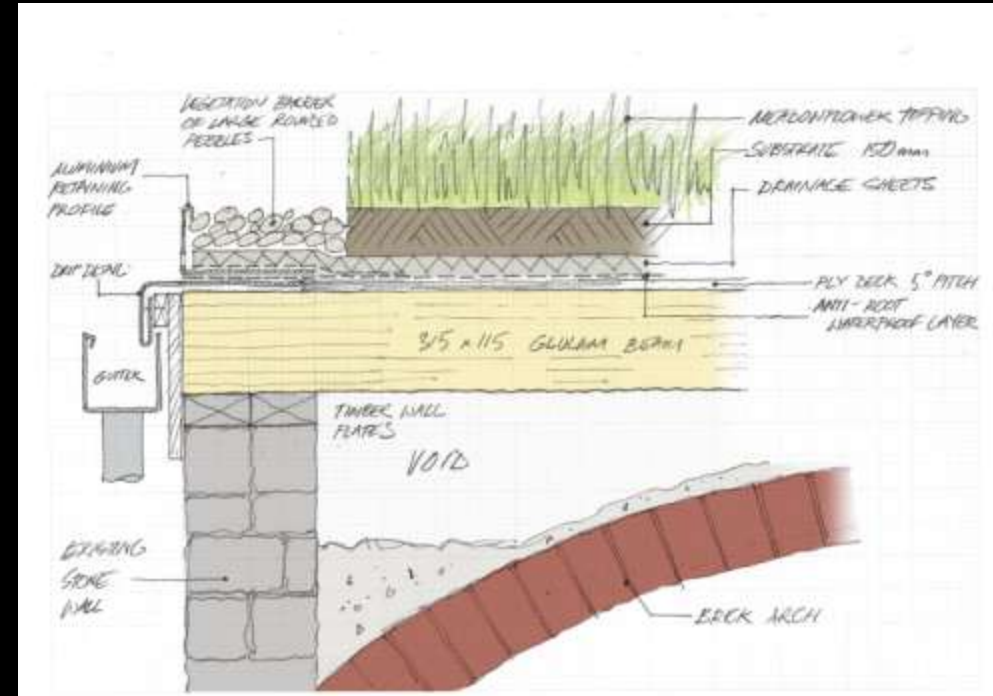
Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 7: Remains



STANDING REMAINS

Vaulted Room

- Condition survey June 2012.
 - Category 1 repairs (i.e. necessary within 1 year)
 - Category 5 works are to be enacted:
- Roof - removal of the existing unsympathetic felt roof and replacement with a new green roof
 - vaulted room former undercroft of a larger structure ; tiled roof conjectural
 - green roof obvious modern addition
 - water run-off is reduced, improving ground conditions & reducing damp within the walls.
 - Potential for biodiversity; flora on roof
 - Sustainable
 - blend well with the site and surroundings.



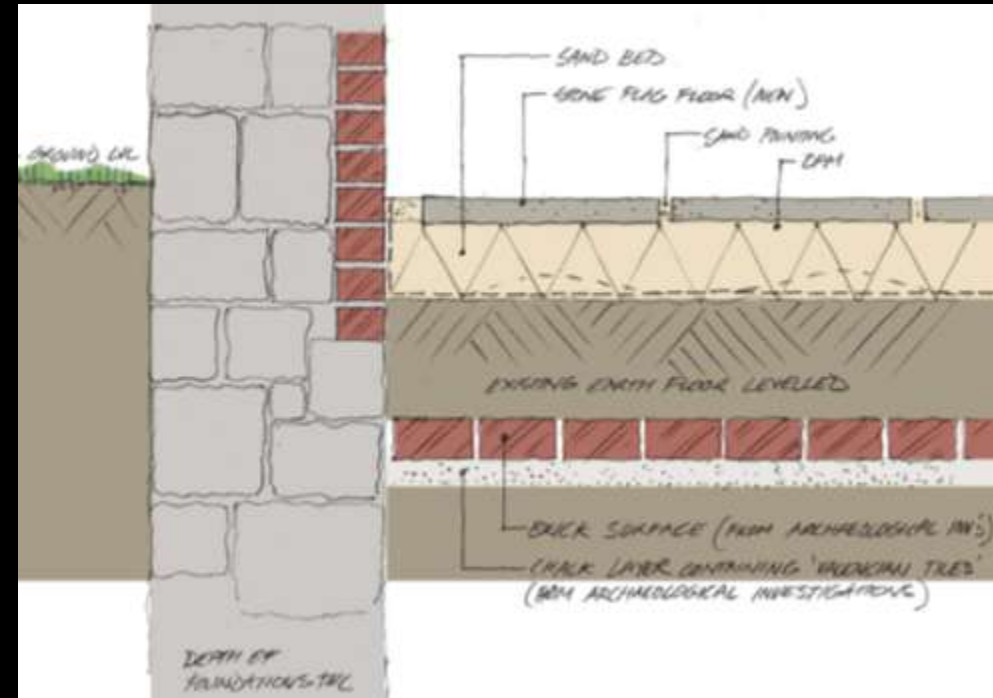
STANDING REMAINS

Vaulted Room Floor

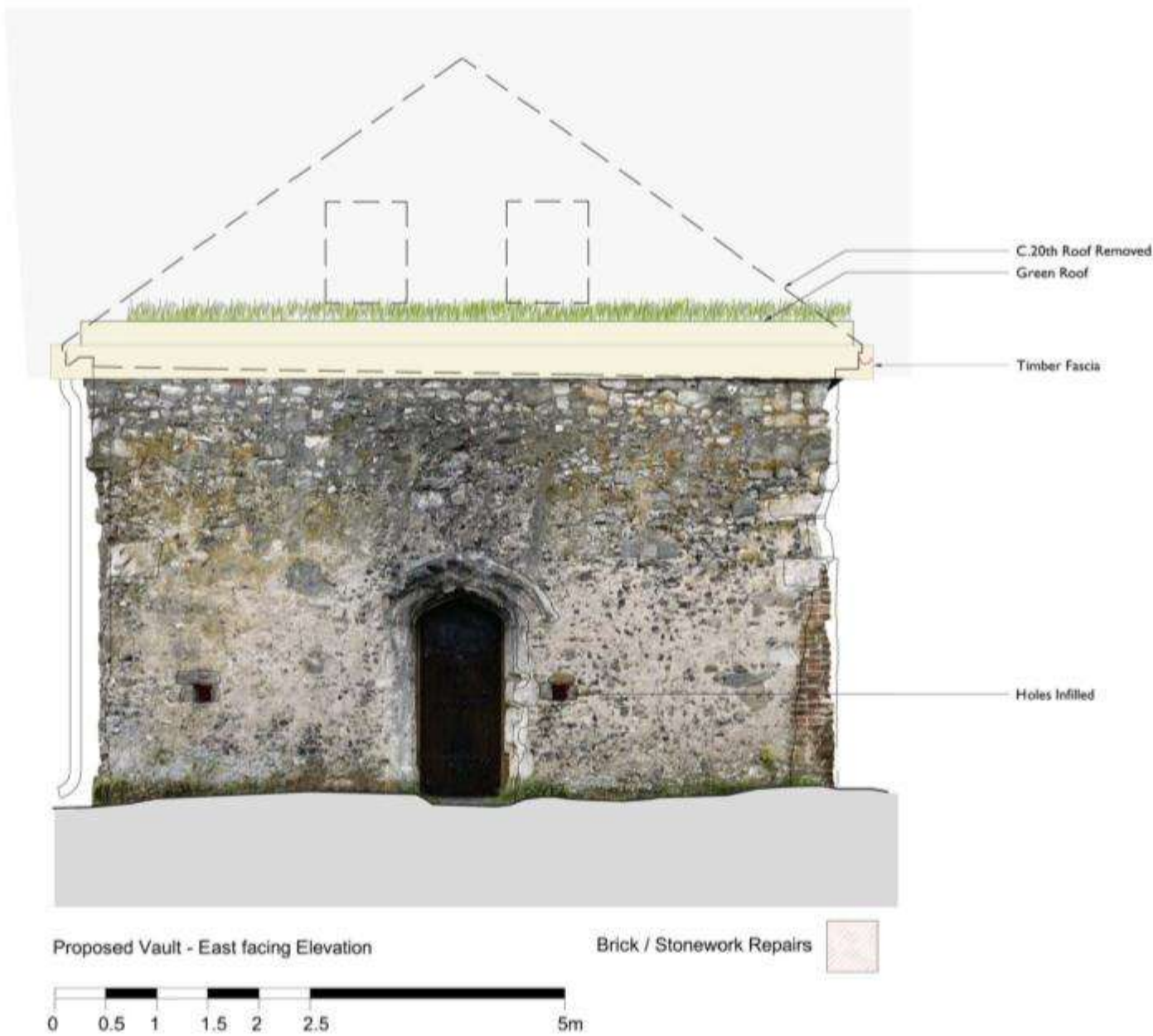
- New stone floor to be laid over the top of the existing earth floor, which is to be levelled and a layer of blinding sand laid over onto which the flagstones are placed.
- Archaeological deposits to remain in-situ.
- Raises the internal floor level to approximately the same as that outside, reducing exposure of damp walls, and providing level access for visitors.
- Inclusion of a dpm (damp proof membrane) reducing damp within the space

Opening up of doors and windows;

- Modern unsympathetic infilling to be removed
- New steel and timber security shutters/door inserted
- Enables ventilation of building and admission of daylight
- Return building to original form.

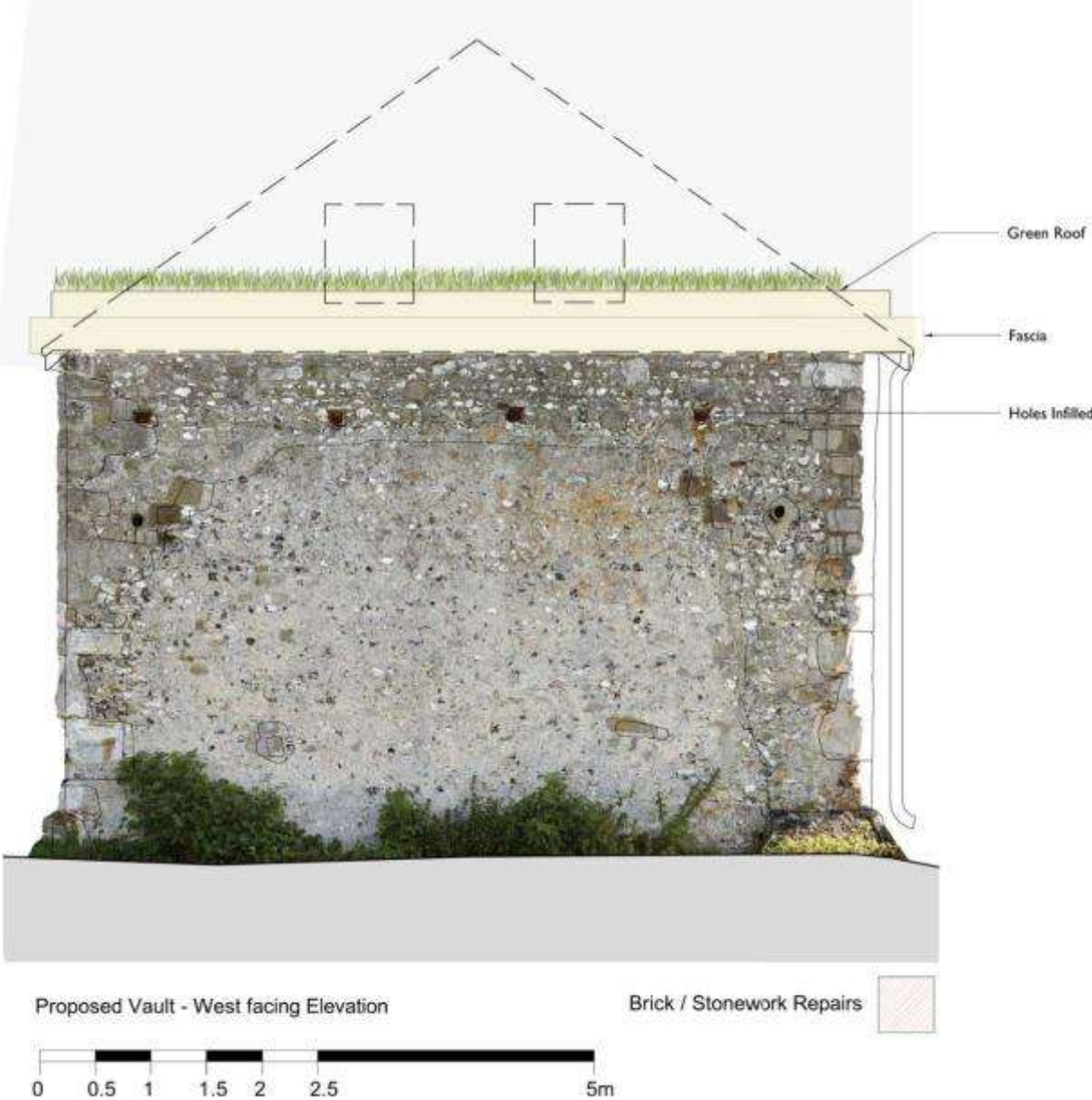


Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 7: Remains

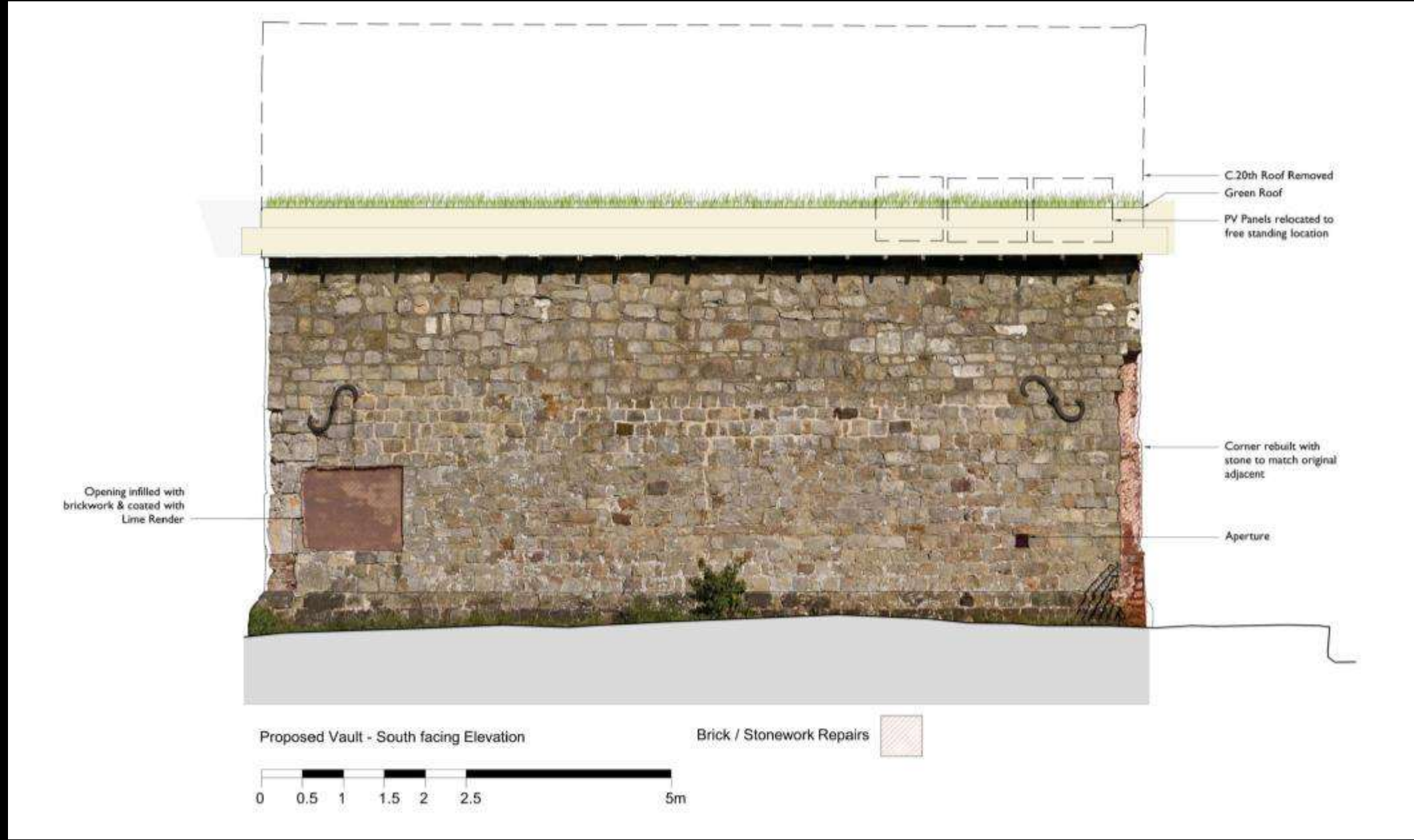


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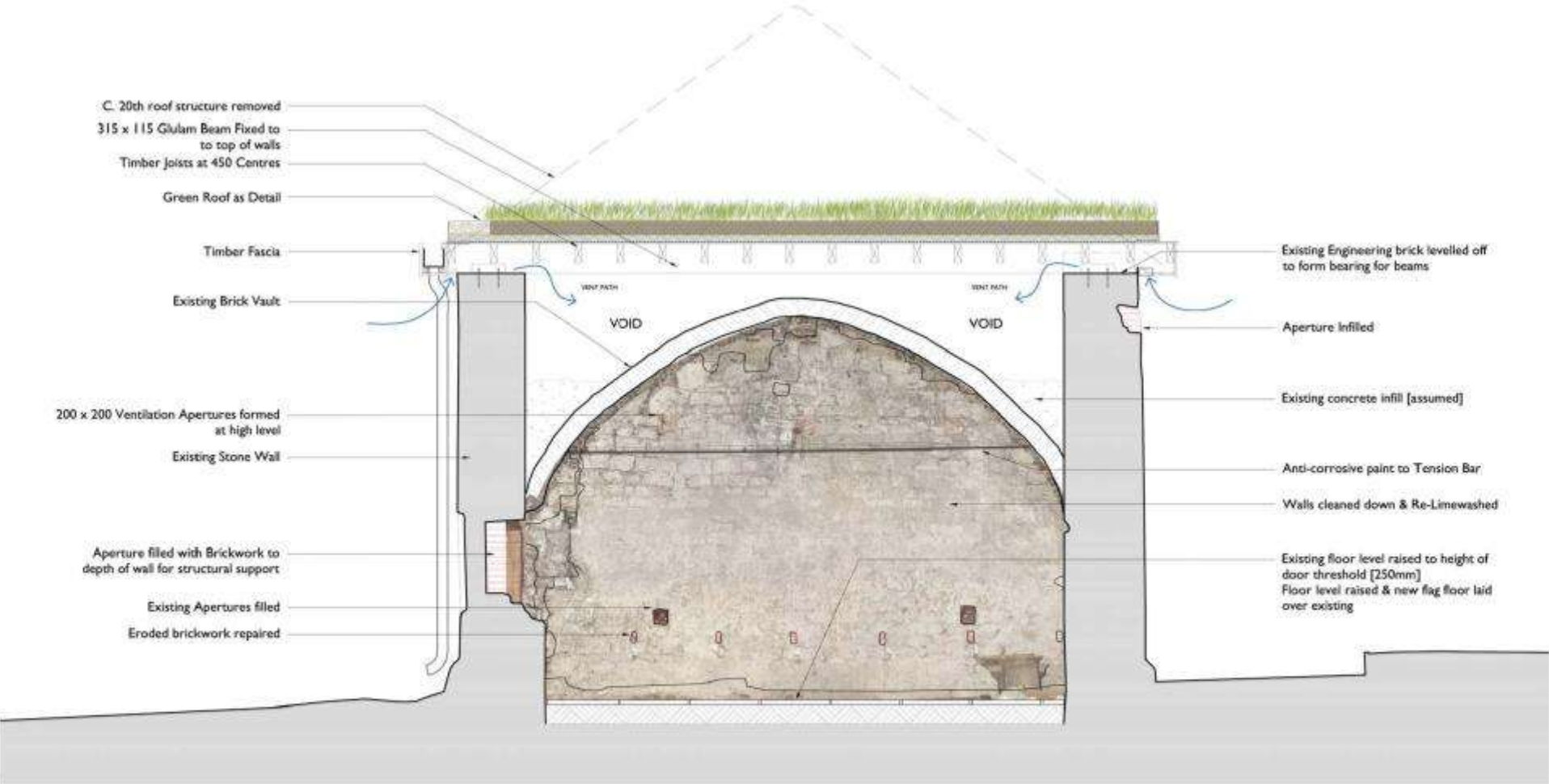




Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 7: Remains



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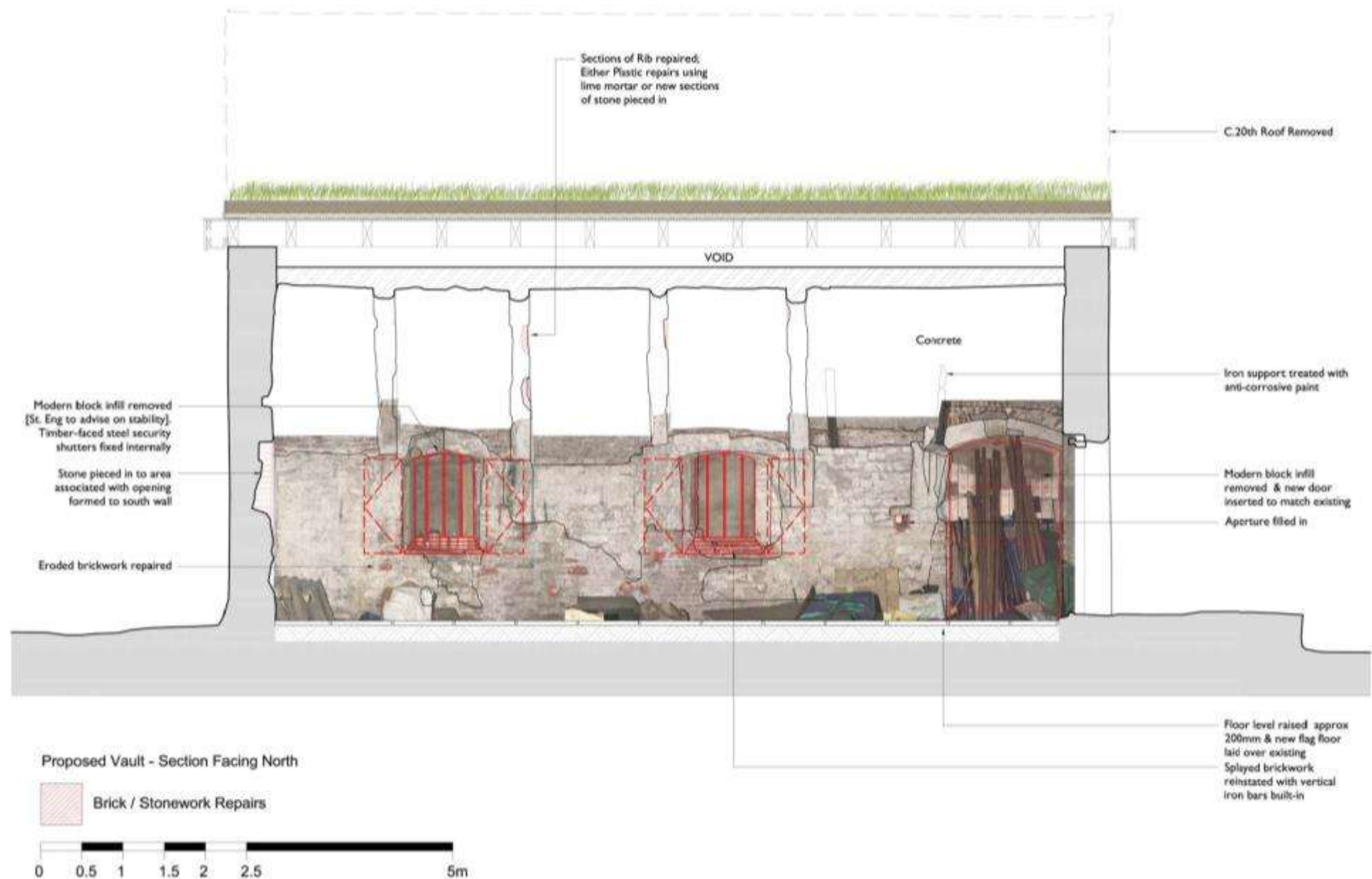


Proposed Vault - Section Facing West

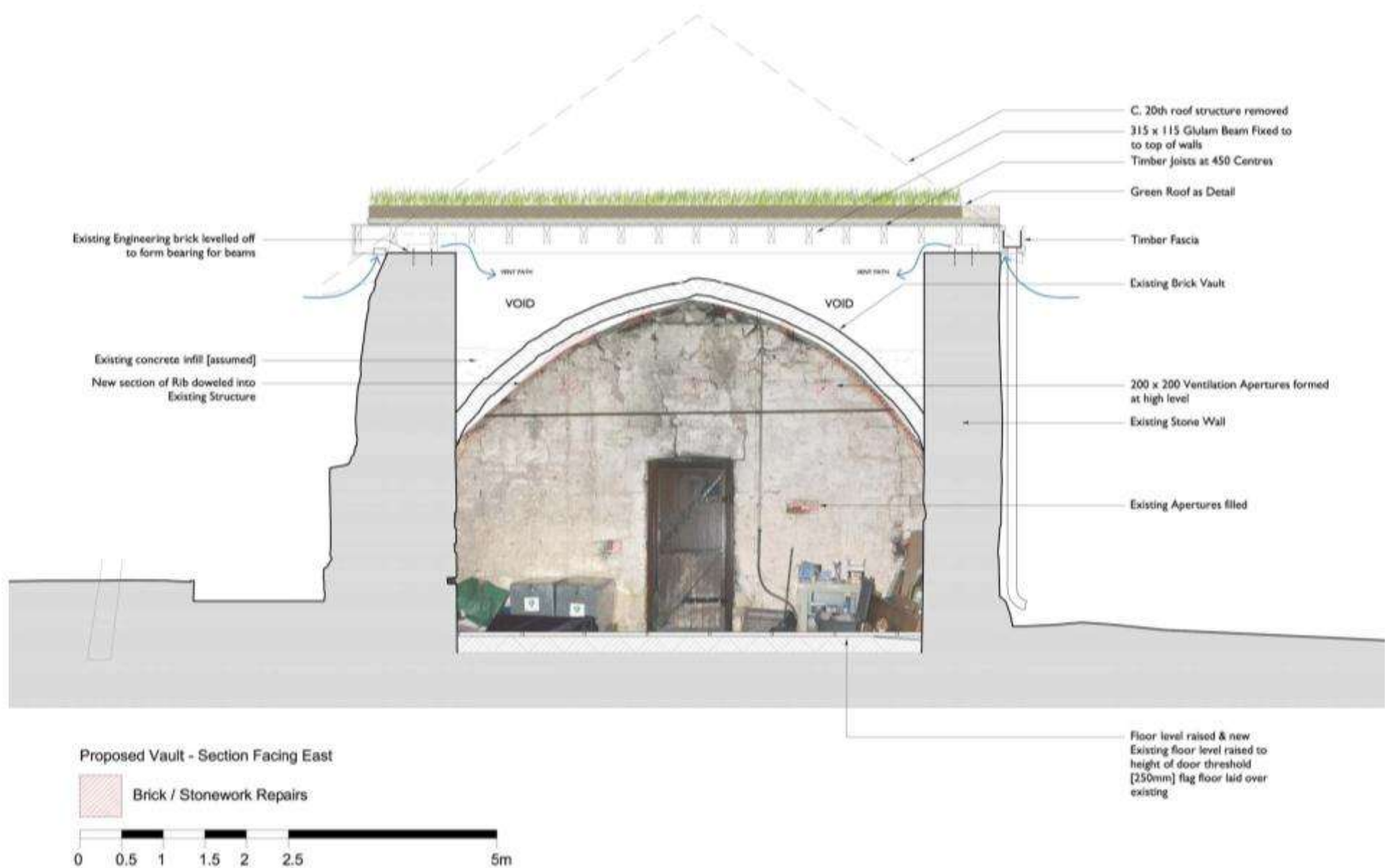
Brick / Stonework Repairs



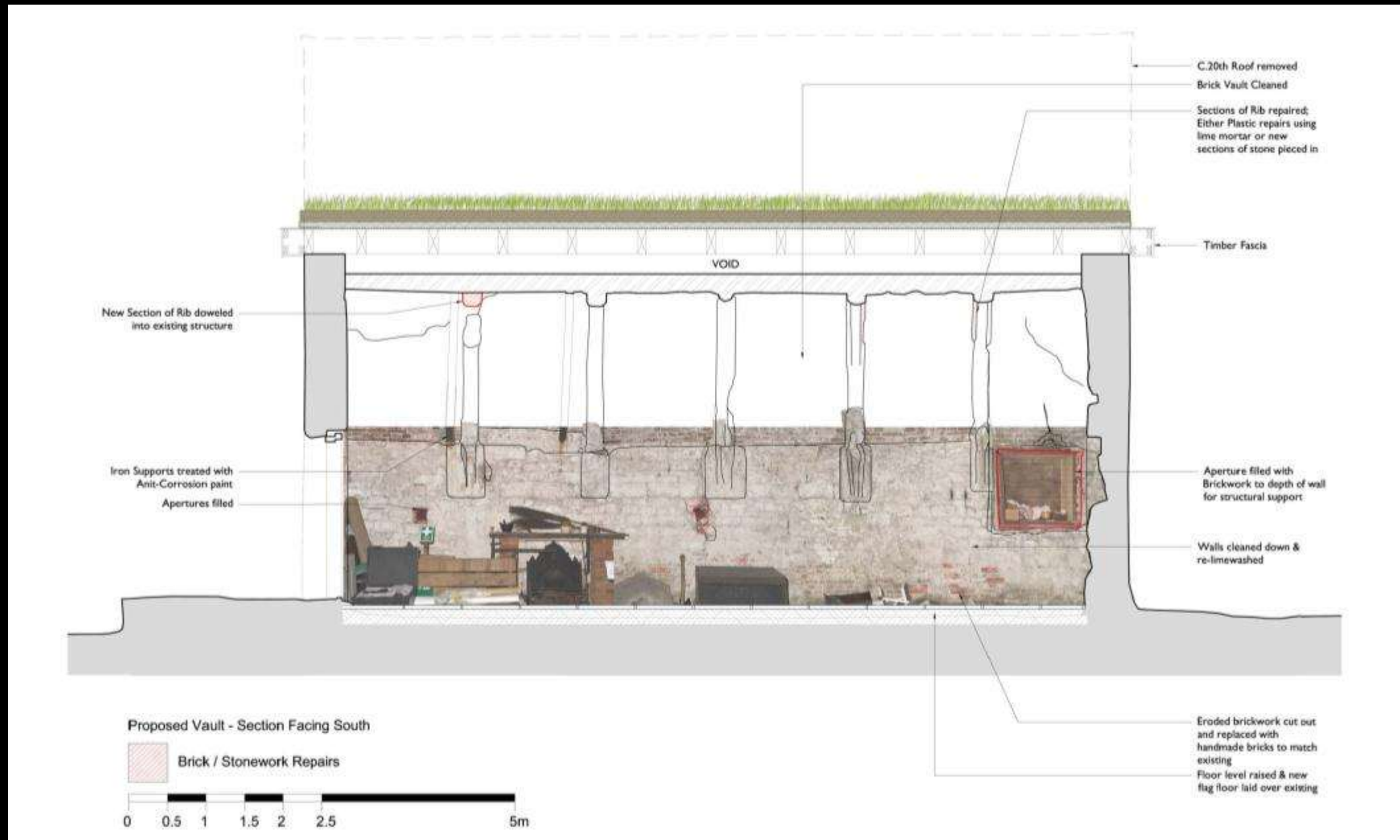
Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 7: Remains



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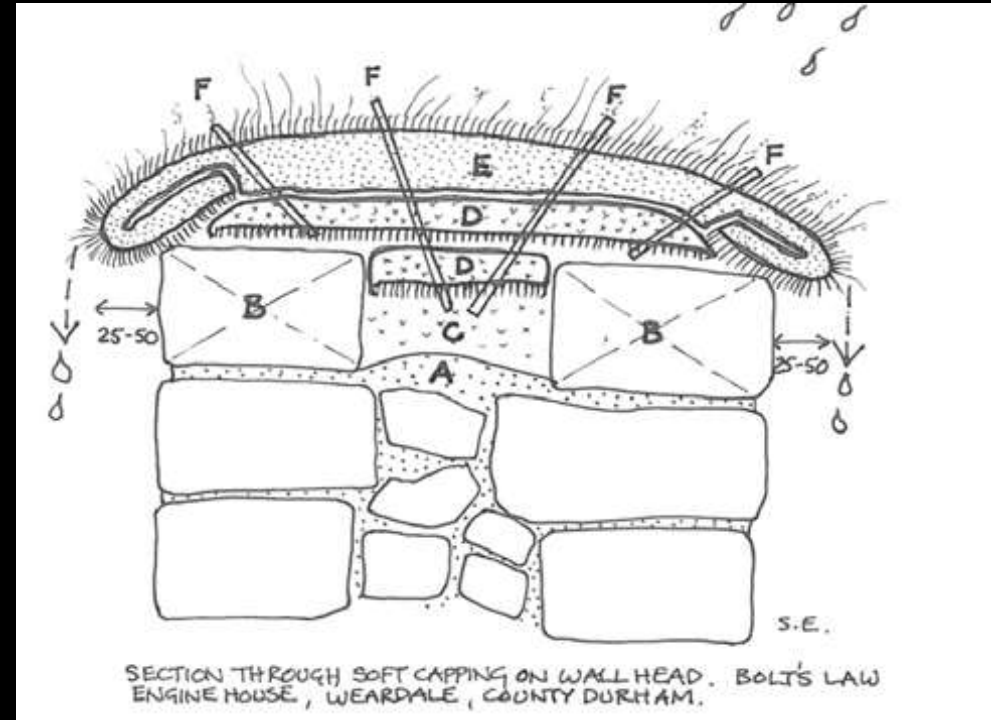
Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 7: Remains



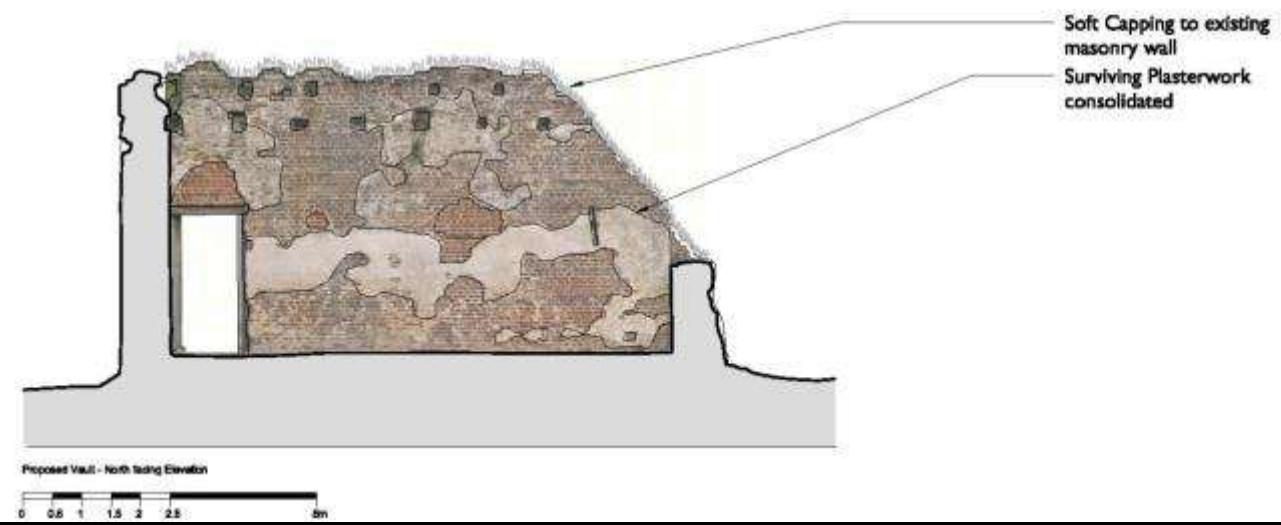
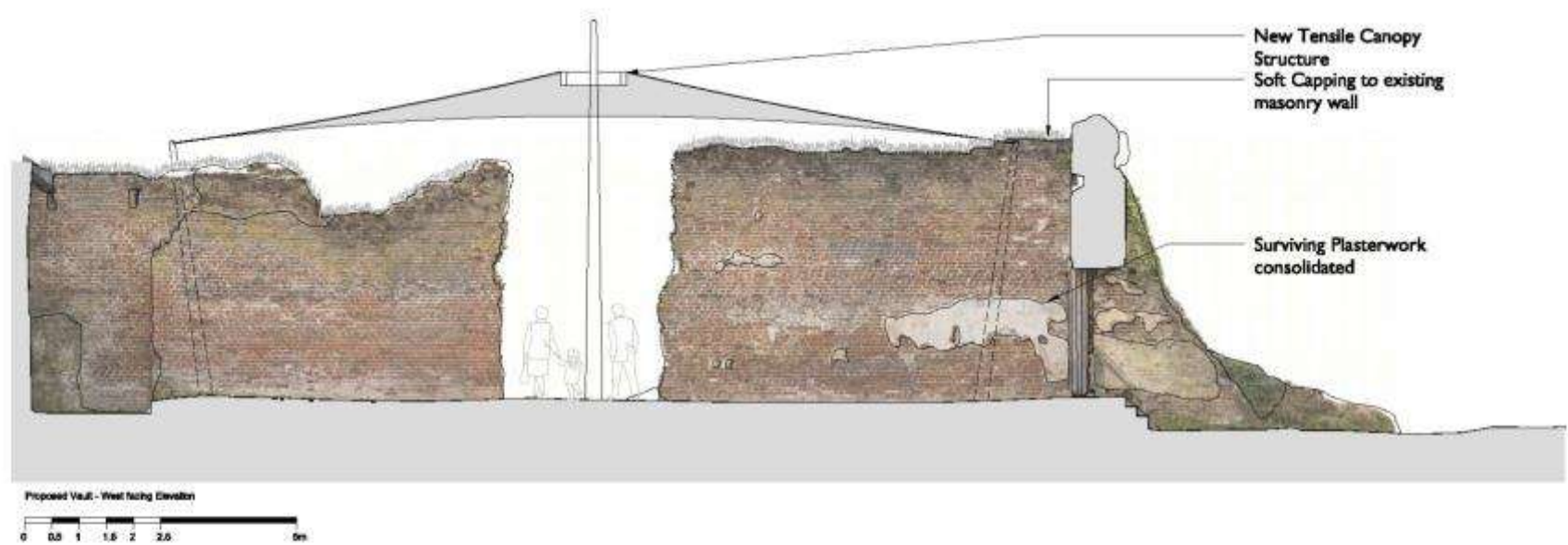
STANDING REMAINS

Tudor Walls

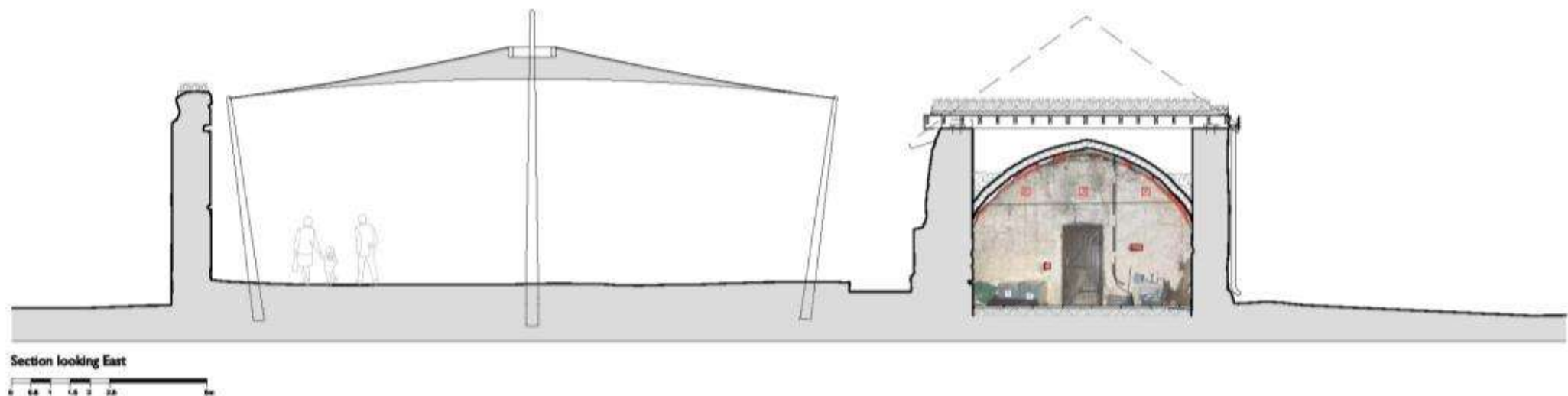
- Condition survey June 2012.
 - Category 1 repairs (i.e. necessary within 1 year)
 - Category 5 works are to be enacted:
- Soft topping to the walls is to be installed.
- Provide tensile canopy over supported on independent steel frame
 - entirely demountable; steel supports set within sockets ground, carefully located with reference to substrate archaeology
 - canopy to be used as a covering for external events/performance space, staging of plays and exhibitions, etc during the summer months.



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 7: Remains



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 7: Remains



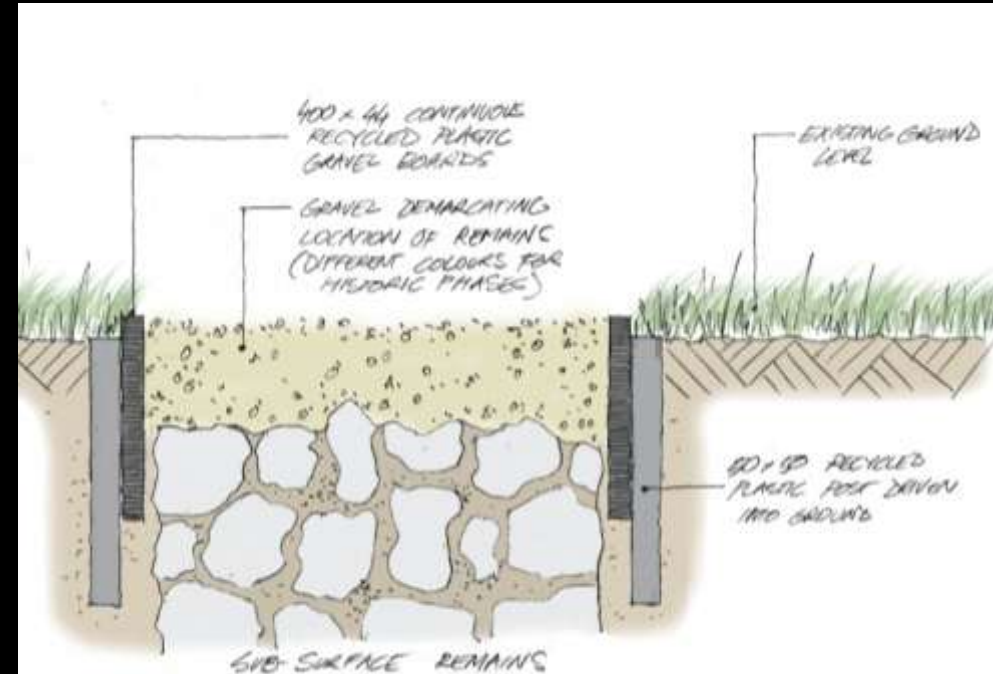
Placement of a tensile structure has the potential to replace individual temporary structures as used currently on the site (right)

Tensile canopy to historic structure (centre and far right)



BURIED REMAINS

- Delineated using gravel trenches.
 - Different coloured gravels are to be used to differentiate between the various building periods.
 - Gravels are to be retained within boards of the same recycled plastic as the boardwalks for minimum maintenance.



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 7: Remains

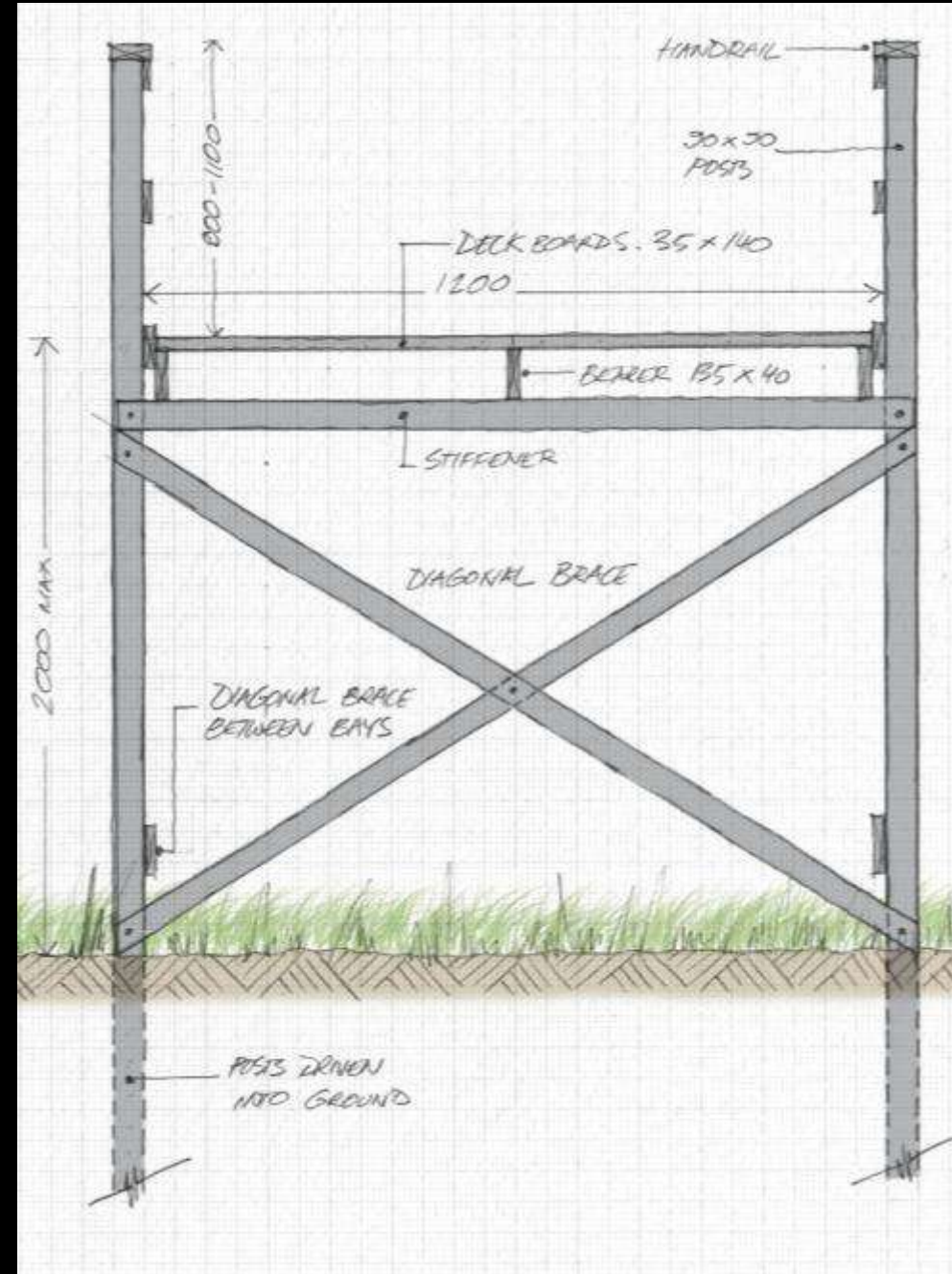


Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 8: Viewing Platform

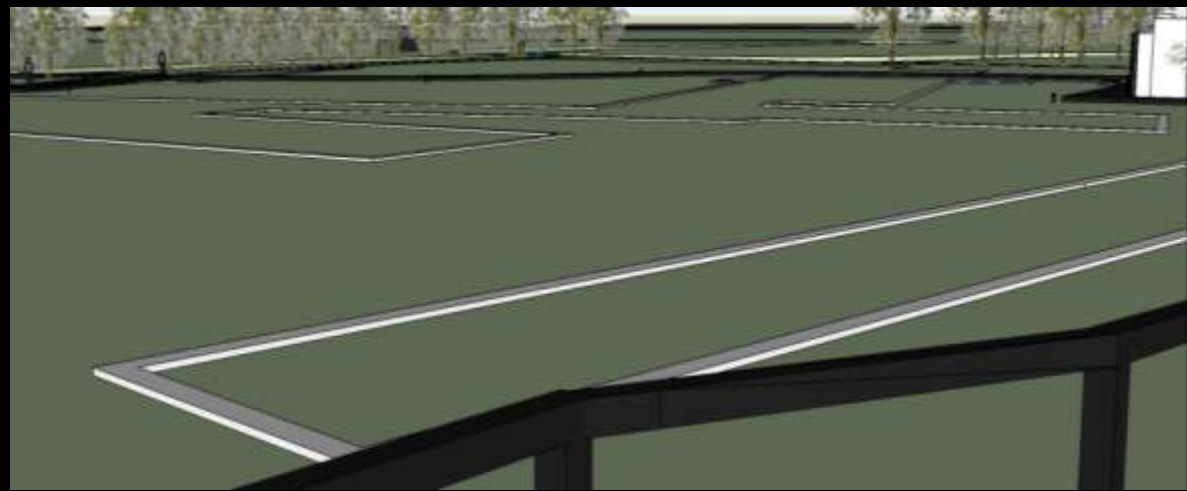


Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 8: Viewing Platform

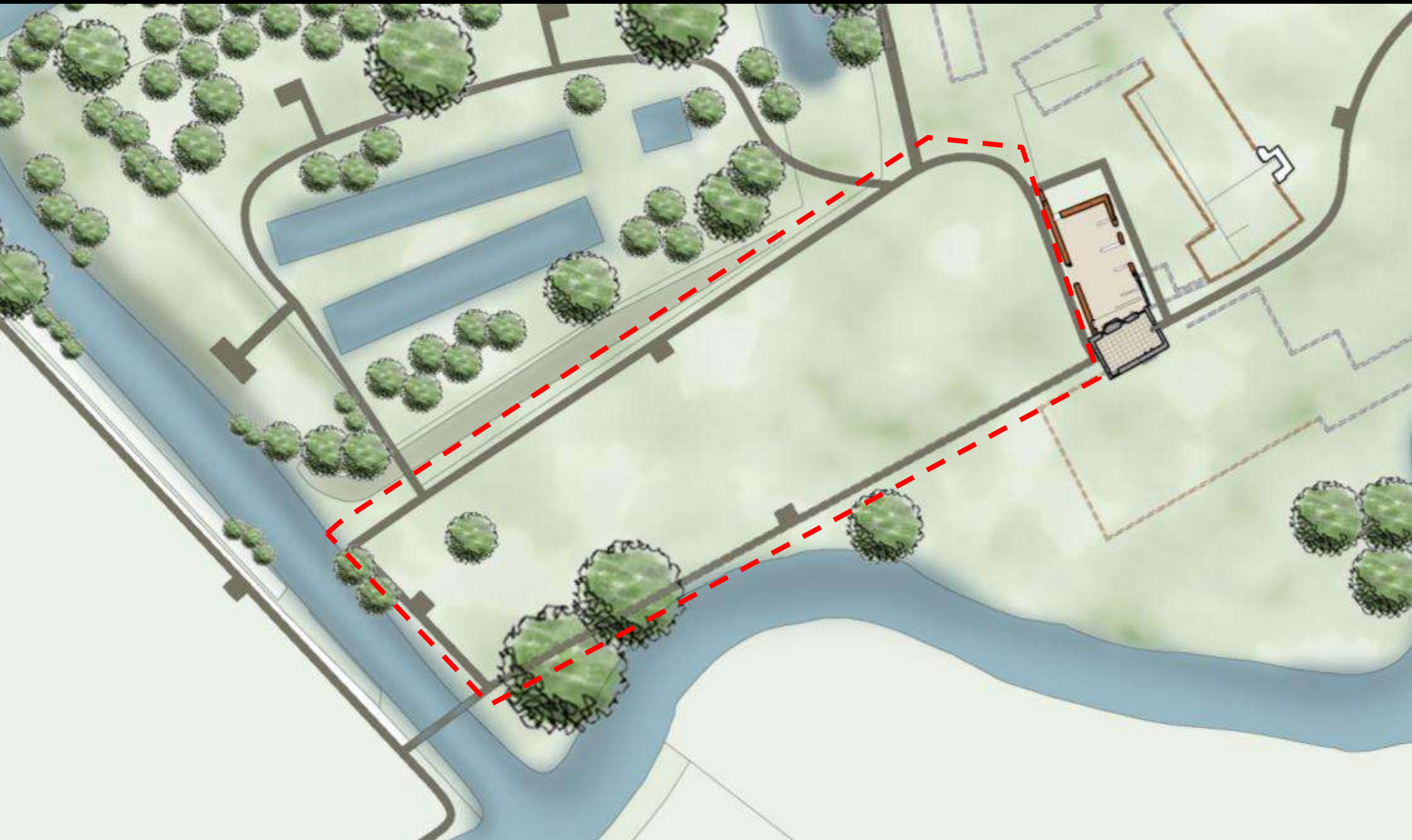
- Options Appraisal - elevated viewing platform from which to view the site and wider area – concerns;
 - proximity of the platform to standing remains
 - access arrangements for mobility impaired users; mechanical lift is not considered to be appropriate due to capital cost and the impact on the historic site.
- proposals modified; platform as an extension of the boardwalk to the north-east section of the site
- The platform fully DDA accessible;
 - 1:20 ramp to a height of 2 m.
- Views - overview of the buried remains
- Extended long range views over the site and surrounding area; proposed to remove some trees along the eastern side of the central moat. This will also address the damage to the historic walls in this location.



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 8: Viewing Platform



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 9: Kings Garden

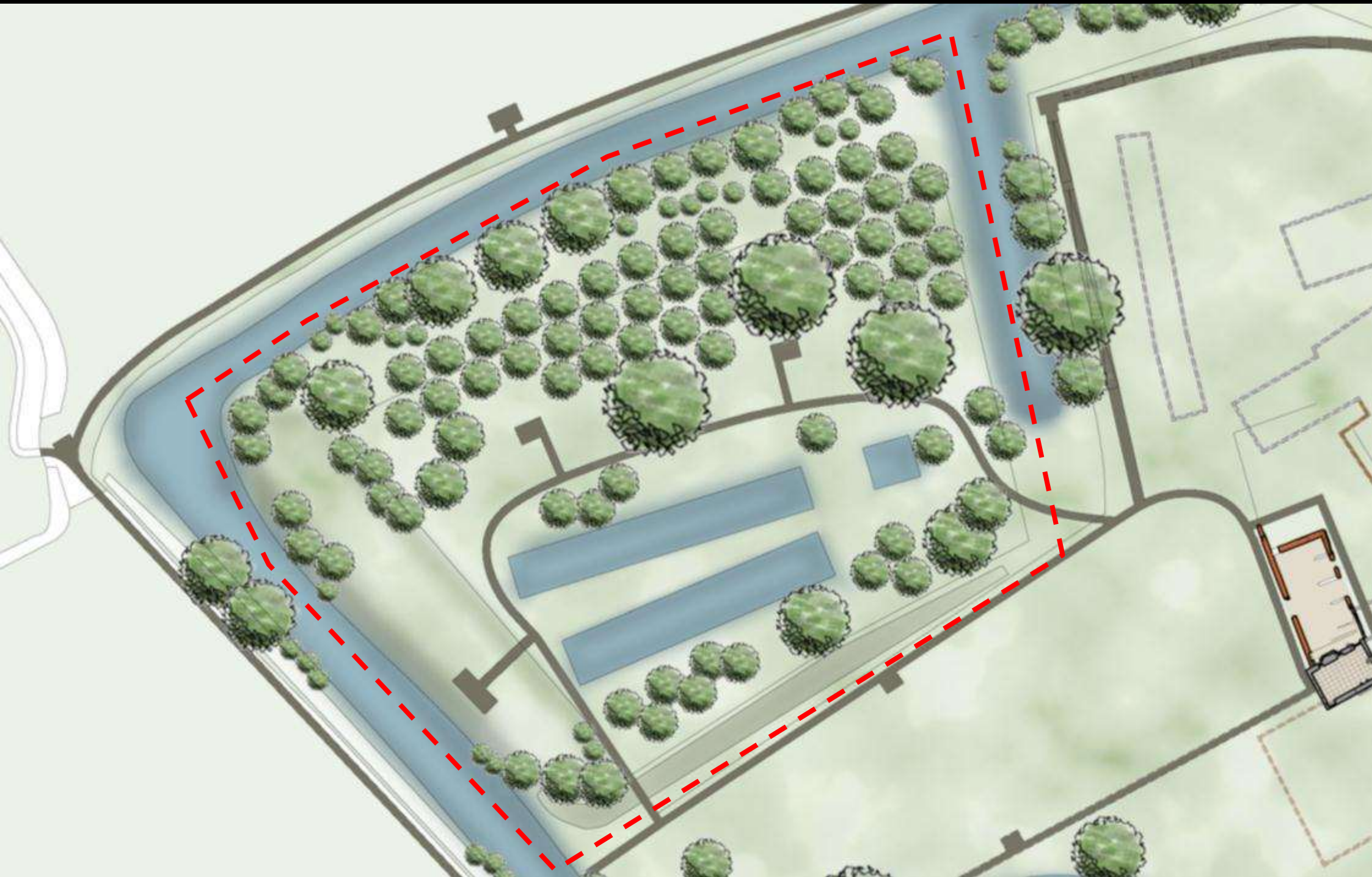


Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 9: Kings Garden

- To remain as existing as a flexible open air events space.
- Potential users include;
 - displays on open days similar to those already undertaken, such as archery, falconry, jousting, etc.
 - Events & corporate hospitality; erection of marquees, etc, weddings, etc,
 - another possible revenue stream.

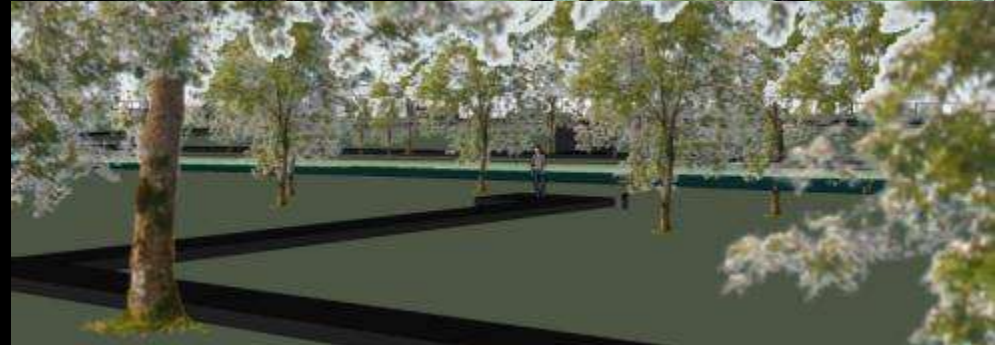


Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 10: Copse



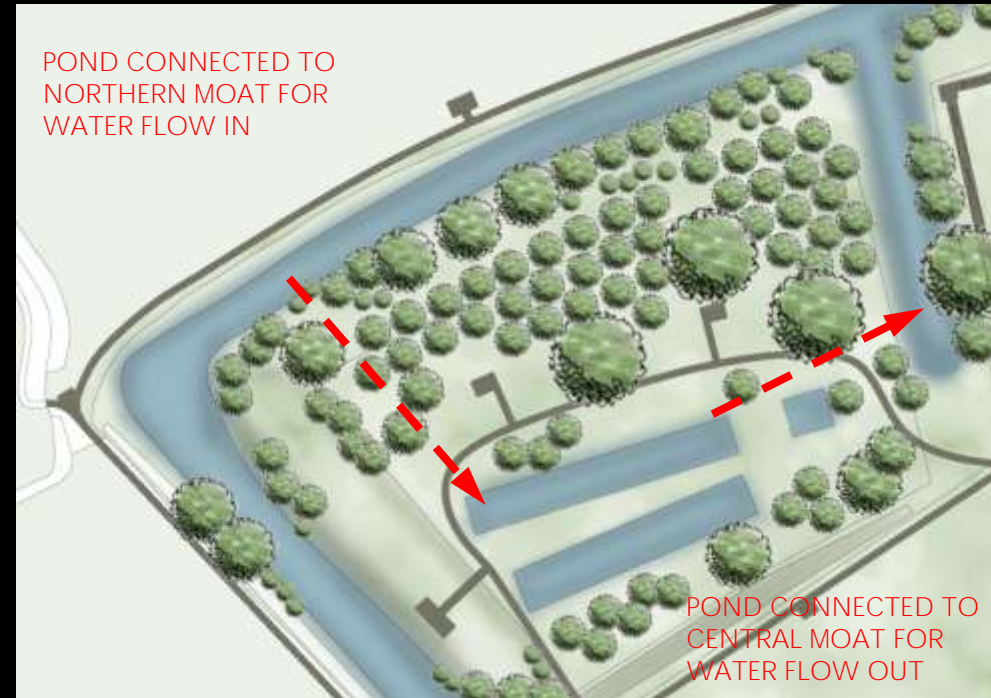
Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 10: Copse

- Emphasis on the natural assets of the site;
 - bluebells and daffodils
 - Hazel coppice
 - Species associated with the ponds (newts, frogs, invertebrates)
 - Bats (boxes in trees)
- Boardwalks on set route avoid damage to flora & fauna
- Interpretation boards at strategic places along the route will provide information on the habitat
- 2 no. seating areas for quiet contemplation.
- **‘working’ element of** copse is to be retained,
 - contributes to natural and historical interpretation
 - hazel coppice area roughly equivalent to existing
 - boundary defined to prevent encroachment onto viewing platform, ditch feature & Kings Garden
 - copse major visitor attraction on the site, opportunity for volunteer working is considerable, and the
 - products have potential for visitor participation and sale, raising revenue.



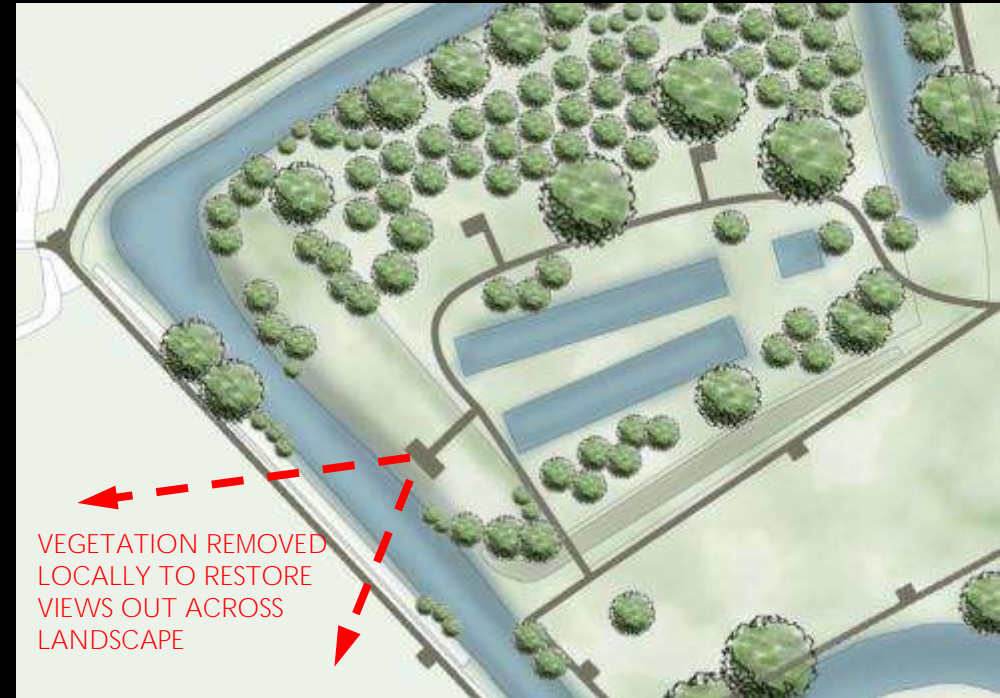
FISH PONDS

- 1 no. pond to be connected to the moat to introduce fresh water flow and maintain consistent water levels throughout the year
 - This will enable the pond to be restocked with fish. Species are to be carefully selected to match those originally kept in the ponds.
- The remaining historic pond and the smaller (presumed modern) pond are to remain as existing, albeit with some dredging and re-formation of banks. This will maintain the ecosystem in these areas, allowing existing species to continue occupation



VIEWING PLATFORM

- 13th / 14th century **‘viewing terrace’** to the north-east corner of the copse is currently overgrown, obscuring it and its original purpose.
- Enhancement through the removal of trees on the terrace and across the adjoining section of moat;
 - open up views and
 - re-establish connections with the landscape and historic deer
 - further enhanced through the inclusion of interpretation.



CO-ORDINATED VISION FOR THE COPSE

- Despite different periods, the hazel coppice and fish ponds are able to co-exist; wary **of trying to ‘over-prescribe’ the re-presentation** of the site to one period.
- The historic development of the site across all periods needs to be presented; restoring one of the fish ponds and re-stocking with fish is the best way to communicate their original function, as well as restoring natural habitats and having the potential to be a popular visitor attraction.
- Likewise **the retaining the ‘working’ element of the copse encourages biodiversity and introduces another chapter in the site’s rich development, as well as providing the opportunity for volunteer involvement and income generation through the sale of products.**
- These activities should not be mutually exclusive, particularly if the differences in the relative time periods are explained via interpretation.



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 11: Wharf / Fishing Peg



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 11: Wharf / Fishing Peg

- Located outside of the site adjacent to the mouth of the eastern moat arm, close to the site of the original wharf.
- Initial feedback from English Heritage raised concerns about the sensitivity of archaeological remains in this area and for this reason the platform has been relocated.
- It is anticipated that the wharf is to be used for embarking/disembarking vessels, and by anglers as a peg, bringing further activity to the site and improving security.
- The platform is to be constructed of recycled plastic posts and boards similar to those used for the boardwalks.



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 12: Wider Landscape / Bird Hides



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Area 12: Wider Landscape / Bird Hides

- Bird hides are to be placed in strategic locations within the environs of the site, although the site itself is to remain clear to avoid detrimental impact on the setting of the historic remains.
- Locations are to be advised by the natural environment consultant, and are to be placed to enable views across the SSSI to the other side of the river.
- These could be connected to the boardwalk network to allow easy visitor access



SUGGESTED PHASING PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Phase 1: Carry out essential repairs to remains
 - maintained in a good condition throughout the duration of the initial phases.
- Phase 2: Road junction and car park
 - provide a sound infrastructure for works;
 - good access
 - car park establishes facility for the future phases,
 - brings activity to the site
 - partial use as a compound for the construction works
 - establishment of temporary visitor centre Portakabin or similar.



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Phasing

- Phase 3: Boardwalks (external to Palace site) and Moats
 - establishment of the boardwalks with temporary visitors centre
 - establish activities on the site
 - natural assets of the site can be exploited
 - boardwalks have the potential to attract visitors & presents fund-raising opportunities.
- excavation of moat potential visitor attraction, **‘restoring the moat to its medieval splendour’** a newsworthy event.
- community digs arranged around the works with finds placed in the temporary visitor centre.
- improves wild habitats, increasing biodiversity and further enhancing the visitor experience.
- enables site to be made secure in preparation for the next phases of work, with the drawbridges being provided at the end of the phase.



Woking Palace – Masterplan Presentation, January 2013: Phasing

- Phase 4: Fish ponds & copse
 - potential for volunteer participation
 - removal of vegetation and cultivation of the hazel coppice and production of items such as hurdles.
 - Access gained using the western footbridge moats to allow construction works to take place to east
- Phase 5: Alterations to remains
 - boardwalks within the Palace site
 - Priority 5 items from Condition Report.
 - main phase of the work following infrastructure establishment and the site made secure.
- Phase 6: Visitor centre
 - Replaces temporary facilities
 - extended programme allows for funding to be generated
 - pulls the site together; presents the opportunity of grand opening of the site to raise public awareness
 - further helps the security of the centre, ensuring draw for visitors on a regular basis and activity on site

