

1. Overview

1.1 Headline vision: To construct and operate a temporary elevated urban park at Castlefield Viaduct that explores what may be possible by utilising an unused historic structure. This pilot provides a platform to facilitate consultation with local communities, enabling the project to deliver something of, for and by Manchester in the long-term. The pilot will seek input from local audiences and partners and test interventions so we can decide together how the main scheme will ultimately look, feel and work most successfully to improve the cities green and blue infrastructure and offer a new heritage attraction supporting the local economy.

1.2 Objectives:

Phase One (subject of this application)

- To temporarily reutilise an unused and currently inaccessible grey space for an elevated urban park at to test and codevelop a long-term scheme that maximises benefits for both communities and biodiversity.
- To test design elements and make sure the urban park becomes a high-quality nature and heritage space in the long term.

>> All feeds into viable Phase Two main scheme (long-term objectives below)

- To create a new, high quality green and open space for the people of Manchester that is appropriate to its location.
- To create a destination park for onward and active travel.
- To create sense of Mancunian ownership and sense of place for the viaduct.

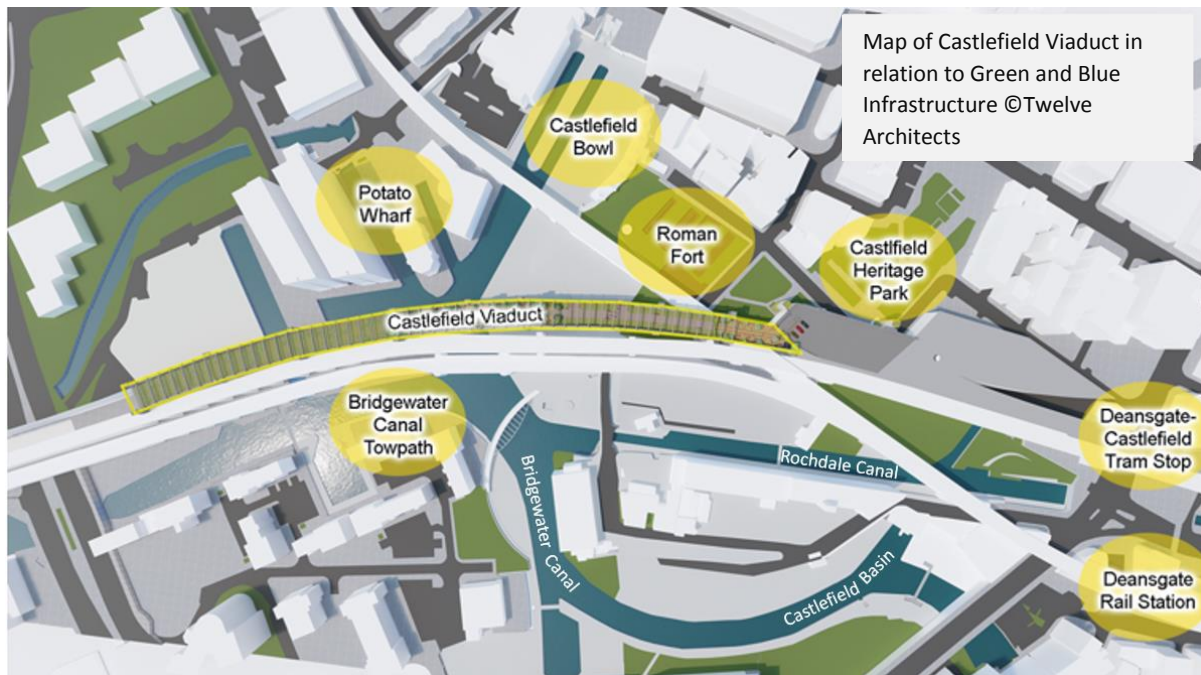
Please refer to the Design and Access statement for architectural designs.

2. Location

The Castlefield Viaduct is located in the historically significant area of Castlefield, characterised by the criss-crossing network of transport infrastructure, two historic canals and canal basin, a river overlaid with railway lines and surrounded by historic warehouses. The blue and green infrastructure of Castlefield is linked to its heritage, with the Bridgewater and Rochdale Canal and towpaths, alongside the Urban Heritage Park and Roman Fort Gardens with the viaduct right in the centre.

The city centre of Manchester, of which Castlefield forms a part, is identified as a distinct area in the city with relatively low levels of green and blue infrastructure provision as a densely populated area¹. The viaduct itself provides an opportunity to create new green infrastructure through the development of a disused asset that complements the green blue infrastructure in the immediate area including the Urban Heritage park, Roman Gardens and Canal basin. There is also the potential in the longer term to work with partners to enhance the canal corridors and urban street networks through active travel and/or wider initiatives.

¹ Figure 10 City Centre, pg.30, *Manchester's Great Outdoors- A Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Manchester 2015-2025 (G&BIS)*



3. Environmental Standards Statement

As the nature of the development is a new urban park comprising of green infrastructure and minimal temporary construction that is demountable and reusable environmental sustainability will be core to the development. Please find principles that will guide development and operation below.

Energy Efficiency

- Minimise use of energy on-site through use of energy efficient appliances when used e.g. energy efficient screens, LED lighting;
- Utilise natural lighting in the central event space;
- Ensure central event space is well insulated with features to enable natural ventilation and cooling, including the use of canopies for shading at the event space entrance;

Renewable Energy

- Seek renewable sources of on-site energy including on-site PV and green energy providers;
- Experiments will be conducted to investigate alternate means of onsite renewable energy production;

Water Management and Weather Resilience

- Rainwater harvesting systems will be deployed on-site and used as part of a sustainable irrigation strategy for watering plants;
- Plant watering drainage will be controlled;
- Shade will be provided to mitigate periods of high temperature;

Waste Management

- Waste will be minimised on-site and during construction and operation;
- Materials will be re-used where possible;
- Recyclable waste will be recycled;
- Garden waste will be composted;
- Composting toilets will be used;

Construction Management

- Reuse of an asset containing tonnes of embodied carbon;
- Construction materials will be demountable and reusable where possible;
- Procurement will be undertaken in line with the National Trust's sustainable procurement policy;

Biodiversity

- Biodiversity will be increased through the planting of trees and shrubs sympathetic with native species and ecosystems;
- Pesticide and herbicide free horticulture strategy will be promoted;
- A peat free policy will be adopted;
- Environmental mitigation for species identified in the ecology survey will be implemented;
- The role of the viaduct as a green corridor supporting nature movement will be monitored and enhanced.

Waterways

- A drainage strategy will be adopted to avoid harmful site run-off and ensure blown waste does not enter waterways, including those over sailed by the viaduct.