



National
Trust

Castlefield Viaduct: Phase 2 Statement of Community Involvement August 2024

Overview

- Introduction
- A community-led project (2021 – 2023)
- Phase 2 consultation (2024)

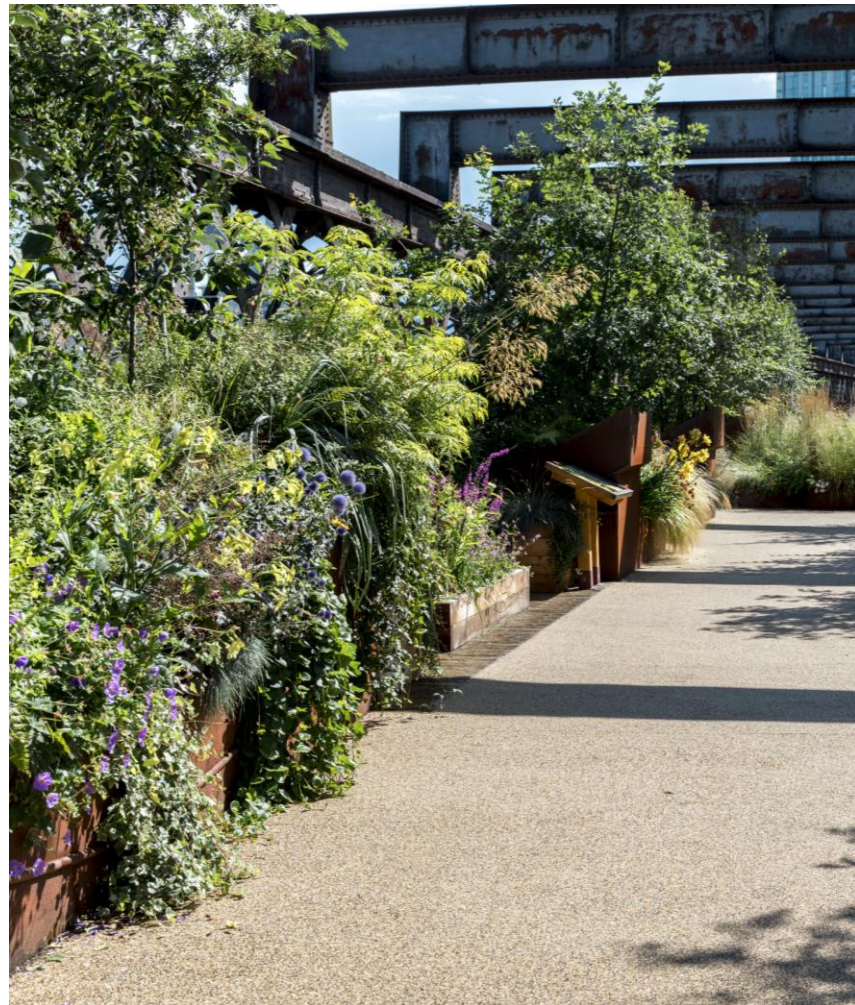


Introduction

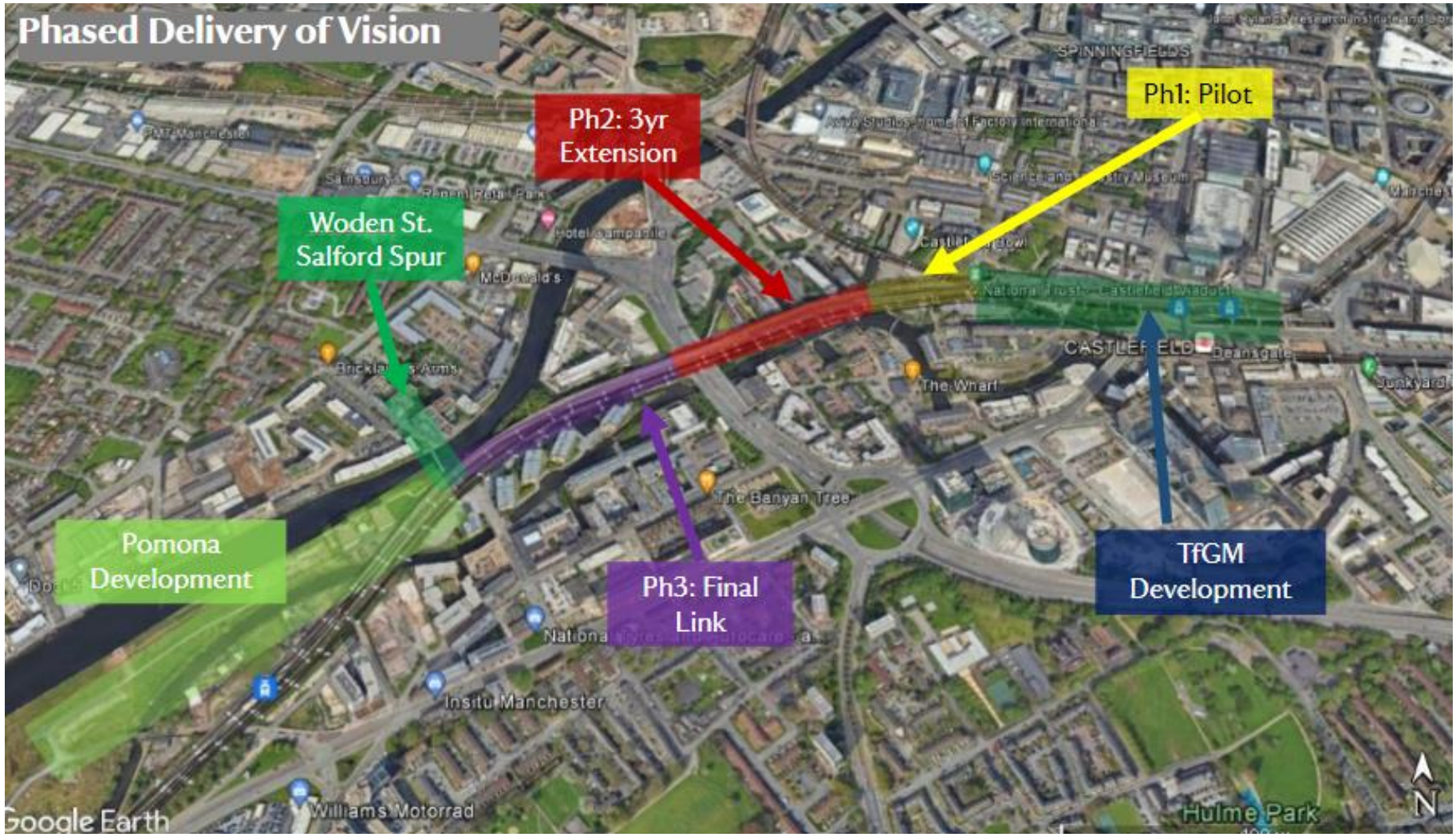
Working with partners, the National Trust has repurposed Castlefield Viaduct as a publicly accessible 'green oasis' in the heart of the City of Manchester.

The project objectives are to improve access to history, nature and beauty for local communities and provide much-needed green space in an urban setting.

The long-term ambition is to deliver a 1km through route connecting Deansgate-Castlefield tram stop all the way down to Woden's Street bridge in Salford (the 'Vision'). The intention is to deliver the scheme in phases, as shown overleaf. The vision has been shaped through extensive engagement with the community and stakeholders in the local area.



Phased Delivery of Vision



Ph2: 3yr
Extension

Ph1: Pilot

Woden St.
Salford Spur

Pomona
Development

Ph3: Final
Link

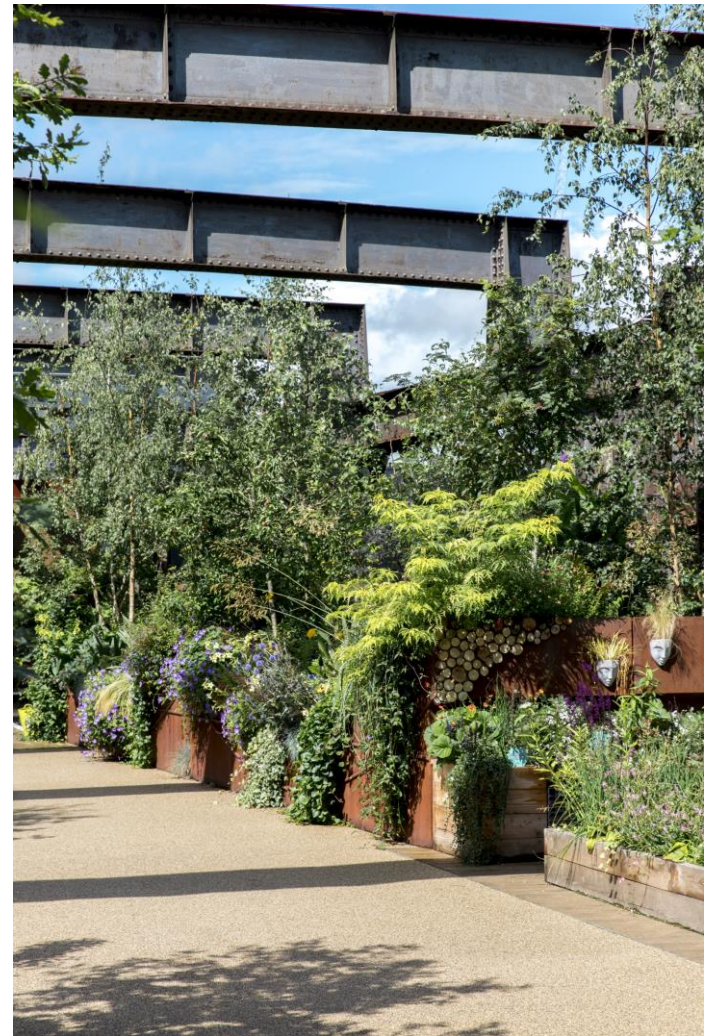
TfGM
Development



Introduction

The next practical step towards delivery of the Vision extends the current scheme over Mancunian Way creating a new access/egress point by Egerton Street ('Phase 2').

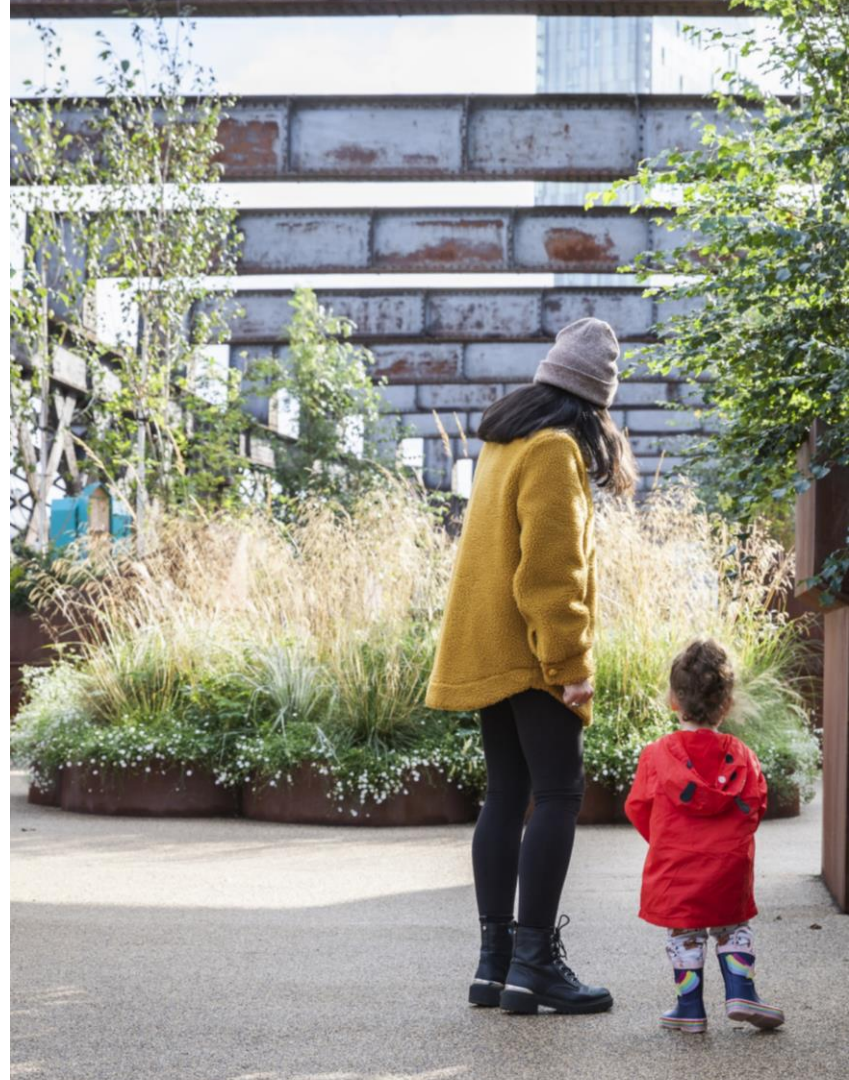
This document sets out the ways in which the National Trust has engaged with the community throughout the project and specifically through the design development of 'Phase 2'. This document forms part of the planning application for the permanent use of Phase 1 and the Phase 2 extension to be submitted August 2024.



A community-led project

The project has been shaped through ongoing consultation and co-design with the local community over a period of several years:

Summer 2021	Pre-Phase 1 consultation
Summer 2022 – Summer 2024	Phase 1 consultation
Autumn 2023	'Vision' scheme consultation
Summer 2024	Phase 2 consultation



Summer 2021

Throughout June and July 2021, the National Trust carried out consultation in advance of a planning application submission for Phase 1. This included:

- ❑ 3 x online sessions delivered on Teams delivered at different times to allow people to attend
- ❑ One drop-in event at the Science and Industry Museum
- ❑ A presentation to Castlefield Forum
- ❑ A questionnaire of 17 questions
- ❑ Key documents made available on a webpage on National Trust website (i.e. Masterplan documents, Videos, link to the questionnaire)

The public were invited to share feedback through an online questionnaire, the Q&A section of the online sessions, through speaking with staff at consultation events and via email to the project team.

Full details can be found in the Public Consultation Summary Report which accompanied the original planning application in 2021.



Transforming Castlefield viaduct

Have your say

The National Trust is at the start of a project to bring **Castlefield viaduct** back to life, transforming it into a green oasis for the benefit of local people.

We'll be hosting events in June and July where you can find out more and have your say.

Wednesday 30 June 2021 1-2pm, online event via the web address below	Thursday 1 July 2021 6-7pm, online event via the web address below	Tuesday 6 July 2021 7-8pm, online event via the web address below	Thursday 22 July 2021 drop in between 12-3pm, Science and Industry Museum*
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If you're unable to attend one of these events, you can also complete our online survey from 23 June - 25 July 2021.

For more information, please visit
nationaltrust.org.uk/castlefield-viaduct

*Subject to local circumstances. Please check our website for updates on this event.

Summer 2022- Summer 2024



Phase 1 (the 'Pilot' phase) has served as physical piece of ongoing consultation with the public. Through multiple methods, we have asked visitors to share their views on the future of the viaduct.

The Engagement space included a feedback wall, pictured here, which invited members of the public to respond to several questions:

1. What could this place become? (2022 July-December)
2. What could this Green Space could be for you? (Feb-July 2023)
3. How did your visit today make you feel? (August 2023-July 2024)

Responses were captured over a 2 year period in an Excel spreadsheet and shared with the project team.

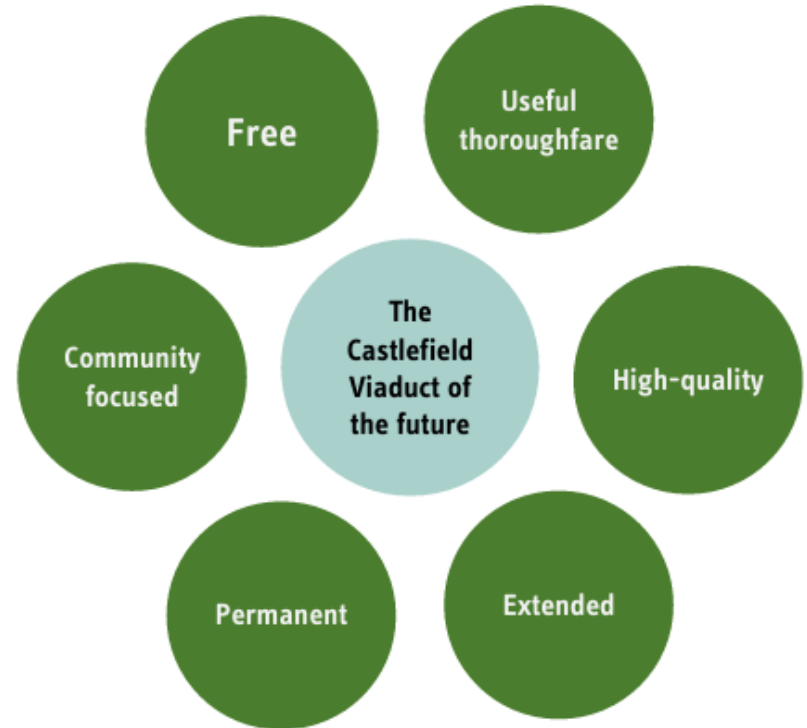
Summer 2022- Summer 2024

The National Trust also commissioned an in-depth piece of evaluation to understand what visitors would like to see in the future. This included:

- Onsite iPad survey (311 responses)
- Web survey (1,502 responses)
- Vox pops
- On-street survey (136 responses)
- Depth interviews with staff and partners - 4 community partners and 9 members of NT staff.
- 304 onsite written comments

99% of onsite survey respondents stated that they would like to access a permanent Castlefield Viaduct site in future.

The key findings are summarised in the diagram opposite. The full report is available on request.



Autumn 2023

Following unanimous support from the public for Phase 1, the NT commissioned BDP to design a long-term Vision for the Viaduct.

The public consultation for the 'Vision' scheme consisted of:

- ☐ In-person creative workshops
- ☐ Online engagement strategy and ad campaign with questionnaire

Reach was prioritised to within a 5km radius of the Viaduct. The findings are summarised on the following slides.



Autumn 2023

An overview of in-person engagement sessions:

Date	Group	Participants
2nd November	Staff and volunteers including onsite Welcome Managers	30
2nd November	<u>Local residents</u>	30
9th November	Year 1, St Philip's Primary School, Hulme	29
9th November	Year 4, St Philip's Primary School, Hulme	30
11th November	Drop-in for Viaduct visitors and <u>local residents</u>	80
16th November	Group 1 Manchester College Level 2	30
16th November	Group 2 Manchester College Level 2	30
17th November	Venture Arts - Parents and Carers of <u>Learning Disabled Artists</u>	12
Last week of November	Learning Disabled Artists from Venture Arts	15
	Total number of people	266

Online Engagement

(Live from 1pm, 14th Nov - 9am, 11th December)

- **818 Responses**
- **63.12%** None NT Members
- **23.06%** Had never been to the Viaduct before
- **83.78%** of postcodes from the Manchester Postcode Area (When you add the Oldham, Stockport and Warrington postcodes this becomes **94%**)

“Make it a bold beautiful space. Make it a place with zones and areas of different moods, textures and tempos. Make it worthy of its setting.”

Which of these stories do you think are important for us to tell and are relevant to the way you would interact with the Viaduct? You can pick as many as you like!

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The Viaduct is part of a network of key transport links, including earlier railways and canals, that were critical to the development of the city.	86.17%	696
Part of the Viaduct is located on the site of the Roman Fort.	52.35%	424
The Viaduct, canal and river pathways have become home to iconic graffiti in Manchester	28.15%	226
It was manufactured and constructed by the same company who were responsible for Blackpool Tower (Heenan & Froude)	22.59%	183
In the late 1800's docks were constructed linking to the Manchester Ship Canal in the area we now know as Salford Quays. In 1892 Castlefield Viaduct was built to connect the docks to a goods warehouse next to Manchester Central Station. Lots of goods were transported along this route.	70.12%	566
Are we missing a piece of history you feel is important to tell - please share	Responses	14.07% 114
Total Respondents: 810		

Consolidated findings

Learning and Respecting. Celebrate that it is an old rail line, it supported the industrial success of Manchester, and the social history of the people who built it. People seem to like the idea of learning here - whether through immersive interpretation or workshops;

Lighting and extended open hours. Doesn't necessarily need 24 hour access (this raises some safety concerns), but needs to be open outside the 9-5 work day;

Playspaces. Think of more natural play opportunities such as peepholes, planted dens, tyre swings. Not classic design plastic swings and slides;

Management. People like how it is currently managed by the friendly NT team;

Dogs. Not a clear yes or no - some people were afraid of dogs but wouldn't mind them on leads;

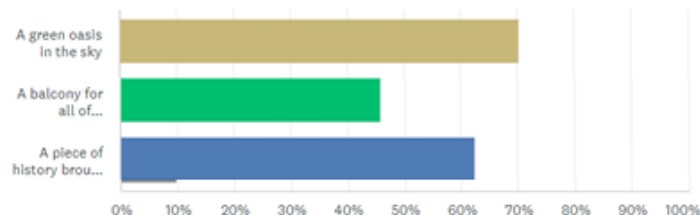
The cycling debate. People wanted to prioritise dwell time and walking and were keen it should not be used by speedy cyclists;

Safety. Lighting, visible presence of staff (but not overbearing security), not too many hiding places, clear sight lines, multiple access/egress points.

When you think about public spaces you have visited, what kinds of activities have you enjoyed doing or seeing in those spaces?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Play areas	27.25%	221
Areas for recreation and sporting activities	26.14%	212
Learning about nature, culture and history	74.35%	603
Looking at and learning about plants	66.83%	542
Being able to sit and rest	88.53%	718
Pop Up Markets	39.21%	318
Artworks	47.10%	382
Performances	30.21%	245
Food and Drink offer	57.58%	467
Community growing spaces/gardening	52.65%	427
Events	30.58%	248
Socialising spaces	49.69%	403
Other or add more detailed examples to the above:	Responses	21.21%
Total Respondents: 811		

What appeals to you most when thinking about the Viaduct?
(pick your top 3)



Phase 2 consultation: Summer 2024

In early 2024, the National Trust successfully secured funding to design and plan the next proportionate step towards the Vision scheme for Castlefield Viaduct. Phase 2' will deliver some of the key elements we heard through the consultation to date:

- additional access/egress point at Egerton St
- a through route connecting over Mancunian Way.
- permanent 'green oasis in the sky'

The public consultation ran throughout June and July 2024.

The following principles were adopted throughout the consultation period for Phase 2, as per the *Planning & Development Statement of Community Involvement, Adopted 11th June 2018, Manchester City Council*:

- **Be inclusive**
- **Be transparent**
- **Be clear and understandable**
- **Set a clear timescale and allow sufficient time for responses.**
- **Use a wide range of engagement methods.**



Phase 2 consultation: Summer 2024

- **Be inclusive.**

An in-depth stakeholder analysis was carried out, building on the stakeholder analysis undertaken for the Vision scheme. This identified stakeholders who hadn't necessarily visited the viaduct before and included a broad range of ages and demographics. Key stakeholders identified:

- Local residents
- Castlefield Forum
- Participants from the Vision scheme consultation (including Venture Arts, local schools, Manchester College)
- General public
- Castlefield Landowners Steering Group (MCC)
- Local councillors
- Manchester Central
- Canal & River Trust
- Local developments – Embassy village, Porcelanosa, TfGM
- Landowners – National Highways, Department for Transport, Peel, Manchester City Council (DCF)
- Historic England
- GMP, GMP Counter terrorism, Fire and Rescue



Phase 2 consultation: Summer 2024

- **Be transparent.**

The Phase 2 designs have been presented to the public as ‘the next step’ towards the longer-term vision scheme. We have been transparent in explaining the scope of this project as well as what can be changed and what can’t as well as our longer-term ambitions and approach to ‘phased delivery’.

- **Be clear and understandable .**

We have used jargon-free language both through digital and physical consultation, pulling out key themes and offering a wide range of communication tools. Much of the information has been presented verbally by project team members who can respond to queries/questions and provide clarity.

- **Set a clear timescale and allow sufficient time for responses.**

All participants have been made aware of the timeframe for feedback and submission of the planning application. Feedback was welcomed via email directly to the Senior Project Coordinator, through verbal conversations with the project team and via a physical comments box on the viaduct. Participants were made aware of the timeframe to share feedback and the anticipated date of planning application submission (16th August 2024).

- **Use a wide range of engagement methods.**

A variety of different methods were used to engage stakeholders as shown overleaf.

Phase 2 engagement methods

Website	The National trust website was updated to include: • Details of Phase 2 and how it relates to the longer-term vision: Our work Castlefield Viaduct Manchester National Trust • A page to specifically promote the public consultation events
Local/National press	Coverage in local and national press outlining the plans for Phase 2 and sharing details of the consultation events
Email	Direct emails were sent to participants of the Vision scheme consultation, making them aware of the upcoming consultation events
Face to face presentations	The following groups requested a face-to-face update on the proposals. The Project Manager presented at the following events: • Castlefield Forum meeting 8th July on the Viaduct • Castlefield Landowners Steering Group meeting 18th July
Online presentations	Local councillors – PM presented to Cllr Joan Davies and Cllr Anthony McCaul online 15th July
Public consultation event – Online	Thursday 18 July 2024 6pm – 7.30pm Microsoft Teams

Public consultation events – In-person	Monday 22 July 2024 4pm-8pm Castlefield Hotel – A fully accessible room at ground level Wednesday 24 July 2024 4.30pm-6pm 6pm-7.30pm Castlefield Viaduct Banners and physical print outs of the Phase 2 designs were available. Large print available on request. A range of times were available to enable people to attend at a time to suit them. A digital presentation was provided as well as face-to-face interactions with the public where feedback was welcomed via email and through a comments box.
Physical display and banners at the viaduct	A new display has been installed at the Viaduct to inform visitors of our future plans for the viaduct.
Social media	Regular updates on the project provided through Instagram. Public consultation events also promoted this way. A targeted social media campaign was implemented, targeting the same audience who engaged in the Vision scheme consultation.
Other	A member of Castlefield Forum sits on the Board for the project and two other members of Castlefield Forum actively participate in the design team meetings. Regular updates are provided by National Trust colleagues at Forum meetings.

Phase 2 public feedback

Feedback gathered	Our response
"Castlefield Viaduct is great, and the plans will make it even better. You'll need to consider how to balance it as a transport route vs a destination – risk it is overrun by electric bikes to the detriment of other visitors. In general, I support the plans completely in my view this is exactly the sort of thing the NT should be involved with- much more reflective of UK history and people's experiences than stately houses (yawn). I like the work in partnership with other bodies, such as the RHS, MCC and GMCA." 24th July 2024, Consultation attendee, written feedback	We are not primarily designing as a cycle path, moreover the design incorporates a winding path intended to slow visitors down and to invite reflection.
"A well thought out proposal for phases 2 and 3, we fully support it! Castlefield Viaduct is one of the few reasons we have for visiting Manchester and when here we shop, lunch and try and take in a show. If Castlefield Viaduct wasn't here, we'd do none of that." 24th July 2024, Consultation attendee, written feedback	
"Just the type of thing that the National Trust is for! More places like Castlefield Viaduct please!" 24th July 2024, Consultation attendee, written feedback	
"The new phase 2 and 3 plans look brilliant- very supportive! It would be good to see later opening hours e.g. till 10pm. More events too in evenings please!" 24th July 2024, Consultation attendee, written feedback	Operational overview (submitted as part of planning application) mentions events and potential for longer opening hours in response to public feedback.

Phase 2 public feedback

Feedback gathered	Our response
"I love the viaduct garden! Today was really interesting to talk to one of the architects and NT staff about plans for extending the viaduct garden further. It is a lovely calming oasis in the city centre, and it feels special to be amongst nature, but also up high so you feel surrounded by sky. Keep up the good work!" 24th July 2024, Consultation attendee, written feedback	
"I was very pleased to have attended the "next steps" event recently along with my work colleague/friend. I wanted to offer the following feedback/ thoughts. I note that on every visit, upon walking in, the energy is immediately calming, I note that my friend and I focussed our conversation not on work/ other issues but instead on naming herbs/ plants/ talking about the ambience/ other havens in the city centre. It is always good to experience a space that allows you to release tension and breathe, this is an outlet both physically and mentally. I clocked about myself that when walking to and from work/ nights out I am always rushing, sometimes when there is actually no danger of me being late, it's like I was programmed to rush but at the viaduct, I found myself taking things slowly. If I have friends visiting from outside of Manchester, I will always have the viaduct as an option to visit- to showcase as it is unique and it is unlikely they have something like this where they live. I love that you are in the heart of the city, but it feels rural. It is a nice quiet space and would lend itself well to people eating their lunch/ tea..." <i>cont....</i>	

Phase 2 public feedback

Feedback gathered	Our response
...cont "I love the plans for extension and the extra entry and exit points. I discussed how it would be good to take in the Viaduct on my way to work (instead of a straight walk from the big roundabout along Chester road/ Deansgate. I would consider walking along regent road, but my concern would be re safety due to it being a very busy road traffic wise and also personal safety if the area is not well lit/ well signed. I discussed with a lovely lady there about Mayfield park, myself and some friends visited a fair while ago and whilst it is a great space, the signage was terrible, it was a bit out of the centre- more than we anticipated and at the time we visited there were no staff/ rangers. It felt eerie and we did not feel safe. All of us said we would not feel safe visiting again alone- I believe there may be rangers now but it is worth taking these concerns into account when you extend the viaduct. My friend and I loved the look of the RHS water aid garden- aesthetically and design wise; it is tall and so it does not take up the walkway- meaning that accessibility is not compromised. My biggest concern is that you start charging visitors to view the viaduct; this would only attract those that can afford it and would create a divide and marginalise groups in society" 24th July 2024, Email feedback	Lighting scheme around lift/stair entrance to address safety concerns. Other public feedback showed that public felt safer when staff on site. We propose 3 x staff on site at all times during core opening hours. Interpretation/signage strategy (in development by NT) will address orientation concerns. Phase 2 will be free-flow for visitors with no charge.

Phase 2 public feedback

Feedback gathered	Our response
My only opinion is that the viaduct should be a full pathway- is pointless have the length of the bridge not in full use- if they can make a safety path to get out at Cornbrook station- that is the best solution. Also opening and encouraging people to have a walk back down the canals or getting the trams back from the station. Castlefield Forum Facebook group feedback. July 2024.	The full 'Vision' scheme will extend the Viaduct further towards Salford and Trafford. Phase 2 is presented as a step towards delivery of the Vision. Visitors leaving site at the Western end will be signposted towards the walking routes available along the canal.

Summary

In summary, community engagement is at the heart of the Castlefield Viaduct project. We hope to have demonstrated here how we have approached the consultation in a meaningful and transparent way. We aim to continue this spirit of consultation and co-design with the local community as we move forward with the planning process.

