

1. Overview

1.1 Headline vision: To extend the footprint of Castlefield Viaduct- an elevated urban park and visitor attraction in Manchester City Centre. Following a successful pilot scheme which explored what is possible by utilising an unused historic structure, National Trust are working towards a long-term community vision to enhance access to quality green space and create a through route to connect the city. The pilot provided a platform to facilitate consultation with local communities, enabling the project to deliver something of, for and by Manchester in the long-term. Over the past 3 years we have been working with the local community and partners to decide together how the whole vision will look, feel and work most successfully to improve the city's green and blue infrastructure. Phase Two is the next practical and proportionate step towards achieving this.

1.2 Objectives:

To extend the footprint of the park on to the currently inaccessible grey space of the viaduct as the next practical step towards the long-term vision scheme- maximising benefits for both communities and biodiversity.

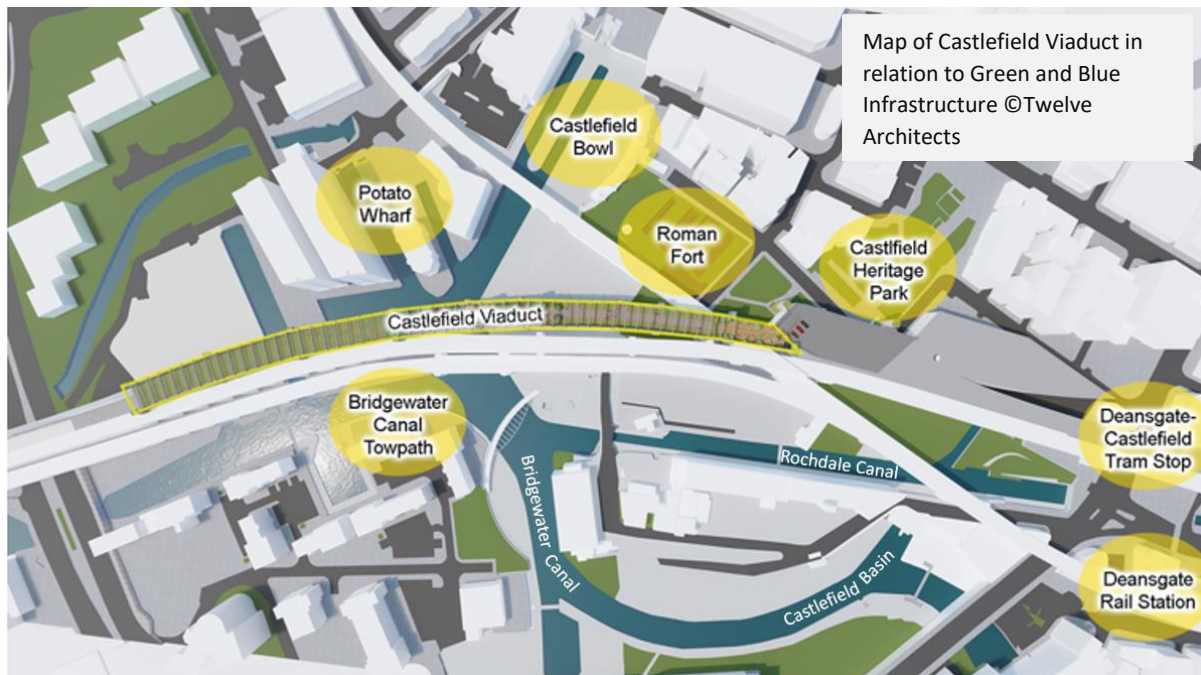
- To build the key infrastructure needed for the next phase of the project which will works towards delivering a permanent, accessible high-quality nature and heritage space in the long term.
- To create more high quality green and open space for the people of Manchester that is appropriate to its location.
- To create the next step towards a destination park for onward and active travel.
- To build on a sense of Mancunian ownership and sense of place for the viaduct.

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

2. Location

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 green and blue 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 area. The viaduct itself provides an opportunity to further create new green infrastructure by extending the development on to the disused side of the asset. This will complement 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.



3. Environmental Standards Statement

As the nature of the development is an 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;

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;
- We will explore the use of composting toilets

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

- As part of the Phase 2 project, the National Trust is working closely with Historic Railways Estate who maintain the structure. HRE intend to undertake some key works to the structure including a full brush down and drainage clearance. These works will help to reduce the amount of material falling in the waterways below.