

Entrance to Polytunnel 3, children's den, pathway to den, pathway through wild area

<p>The ground immediately to the left-hand side of Polytunnel 3 is currently waterlogged and therefore very soft, meaning that it is not accessible for wheelchair users. The drainage here therefore needs to be improved and a solid surface created.</p>	<p>Improve the drainage in this area and create a solid, level area leading to the pathway down to the den. This area would, in effect, be an extension of the recommended solid, level area at the entrance to Polytunnel 3 mentioned above.</p>
<p>Whilst the area in front of the Polytunnel is level, the surface is made up of large pieces of gravel, making it difficult for wheelchair users, visitors with mobility impairments and others to negotiate.</p>	<p>Provide a solid, level surface to this area as part of the development plans.</p>
<p>The access route to the proposed den is flat and level with a surface of bark chippings, which is unsuitable for wheelchair users and other with mobility impairments. There is also a storage area here for temporary fencing and this will need to be moved in to create a wide, level access point.</p>	<p>Ensure that the new path has a solid, level surface. The path should be 1500mm wide along its entire route. The path should have a cross-fall gradient of no more than 1:50.</p> <p>Drainage improvement (currently a shallow French drain round the perimeter of the concrete slab base of the polytunnel) down the length of the tunnel is needed in improving the pathway down to the den.</p>
<p>Although the approach to the proposed den area is relatively flat and level, as is the proposed den area itself, there is a significant change in level between the two, formed by a mound of earth and bricks. The mound is approximately 1m high x 4m long.</p>	<p>Clear this spoil heap to create a level pathway to the den area. Ideally, this should be level, with a gradient of 1: 60 or shallower. If this is not possible, the path should be 'gently sloping'. 'Gently sloping' means a gradient of more than 1:60 but less than 1:20. The ground may need to be dug away to locate the den at a lower level in order to achieve either of the above.</p> <p>Ensure that the den has a level, solid base. The entrance should be at least 1 metre wide: enough to accommodate wheelchair users, pushchairs and double buggies.</p> <p>Ensure that the den is large enough to facilitate a wheelchair turning space with a diameter of 1800mm.</p>

Route to the accessible toilet	
<p>The approach to the route is currently over roughly made terrain comprising largely of bark chippings and soil. The soft and uneven nature of this surface is likely to make it difficult for wheelchair users and others to use.</p>	<p>Provide a solid, level route through this area, creating the start of the pathway to the accessible toilet. This should be 1500mm wide with a passing places mid-way or with runs of no more than 25 metres. Passing places should be at least 1.8 metres wide in total and 2 metres long. The path should have a cross-fall gradient of no more than 1:50.</p>
<p>There is currently a relatively narrow 'pinch point', 1.170 metres wide along this route between two planting beds.</p>	<p>One section of a raised bed planter will need to be removed to create a wider route.</p>
<p>There are two makeshift steps along the route which comprise of a stone wall and a wooden beam. The steps are necessitated by a change in level of approximately 500mm over approximately 4 metres. This, and the unmade terrain, again makes the route inaccessible for wheelchair users and others with accessibility requirements.</p>	<p>Option 1: Create a ramp at this point. This should have handrails at dual heights of 900mm - 1100mm above the pitch line of the ramp. However, the drop of 500mm over a distance of 4 metres may mean that the ramp created is likely to be relatively steep. It is recommended that steps should also be provided in addition to a ramp, as some people find ramps difficult to negotiate. This should have handrails to both sides at the heights indicated above.</p> <p>Option 2: Create a gently sloping path which takes a broader, sweeping route from the top level, through the area pictured opposite, taking in part of the pathway to the Quiet area and joining the lower path slightly further along. This gentler slope may mean that handrails are not necessary. Create steps on the site of the existing makeshift steps with handrails at either side, as described above. Steps risers should be between 150mm and 170mm. Step 'goings' (treads) should be between 300mm and 450mm and should be consistent within the flight of steps. The leading edge of each step should be made apparent with a permanent, integral nosing which contrasts visually with the tread and riser surfaces and extends to the full width of the step. The width of the steps should be at least 1200mm and a tactile, corduroy, hazard warning surface consisting of raised ribs should be provided at the top and bottom.</p>

<p>The pathway on the lower level which goes past the polytunnels and greenhouse is largely unmade, with a surface comprising largely of soil and bark chippings, making it unsuitable for wheelchair users and others with mobility impairments.</p>	<p>Create a solid, level pathway along this route, 1500mm wide with passing places every 25 metres, as outlined previously.</p>
<p>Part way along this route, the path is currently blocked by a large tree stump. Beyond this, another tree creates a further 'pinch point' in the path. There is also a change in level here, with a drop of approximately 400mm over 3 metres.</p>	<p>Option 1: remove the tree stump here to create a level route. The creation of a wide, level pathway is also likely to require the removal of the tree a little further along which creates the 'pinch point'. The change in level will also require the ground to be levelled to create a gently sloping route.</p> <p>Option 2: consider re-routing the path to the left of the existing route so that it avoids both the tree stump and the tree above. This is also likely to create a gentler slope which will be more accessible for wheelchair users.</p>
<p>Further along, the path passes a picnic area on the left, which includes a wheelchair accessible picnic table, and composting bins on the right. This is a wider, more level area of the route, although the path surface is again rough, comprising largely of compacted soil and stones, making it currently inaccessible for wheelchair users and others with mobility impairments.</p>	<p>Continue the new solid, level path along the route of the existing pathway at this point, following the guidelines outlined previously</p> <p>Provide a solid, level surface to the picnic area. This could be achieved by extending the pathway surface described above.</p>
<p>Also off this area is a shed which is reached over roughly made terrain. Access to this is via one step into the building, making it currently inaccessible for wheelchair users.</p>	<p>Consider extending the solid pathway surface to encompass this area.</p> <p>Consider providing ramped access to this shed or provide an additional storage area to which there is level access for wheelchair users.</p>

<p>Just past this point, the accessible toilet is reached. Again, the terrain here is largely unmade, although the surface contains some larger stones at this point. Again, it is inaccessible for wheelchair users and others with mobility impairments.</p> <p>There is paving just outside the toilet door, although this extends to only 690mm and does not extend to the entire width of the door, which measures 910mm. This gap in the paving at either side of the door creates a potential hazard for wheelchair users, whose wheels may become stuck in the gap.</p>	<p>Continue the pathway, following the guidelines outlined above, to create level a solid, level access route to the toilet for all visitors.</p> <p>Ensure that the pathway provides level access to the entire width of the door threshold</p>
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Central Area of the Site

<p>The proposed new pathway to the accessible toilet will pass the rear entrance of Polytunnel 2, providing level access and opening up this area for wheelchair users and others with mobility impairments.</p>	<p>Ensure that there is a level threshold at the front and rear entrances to Polytunnel 2 to facilitate easy wheelchair access. This can be achieved using a small threshold ramp. These are relatively inexpensive (typically under £100) and can be either left in place permanently or used as a temporary / portable option. A variety of types and styles are available so it will be important to select ones which are suitable for the threshold type and also the outdoor setting.</p>
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<p>The proposed new pathway to the accessible toilet will pass the rear entrance of the Greenhouse, providing level access and opening up this area for wheelchair users and others with mobility impairments.</p>	<p>Ensure that there is a level threshold at the front and rear entrances to the Greenhouse to facilitate easy wheelchair access. This can be achieved using a small threshold ramp.</p>
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<p>There is a small lip to the entry point from the pathway to the central site area formed of a row of inset bricks. Although small, this lip may make it difficult for independent wheelchair users to access this area.</p>	<p>Create a level access point by levelling of this area. Consider extending the proposed new wheelchair accessible pathway to the toilet to provide a solid, level route up to this area and level access over this small lip.</p>
<p>Phase 1a: Providing access to the forest area - subject to budget</p>	
<p>Extending a pathway into a wild area to the rear of Polytunnel 3.</p>	<p>Minimum 1200mm wide with a turning circle of 1500 mm or a circular route.</p>
<p>Surfaces throughout</p>	
<p>Include surface materials which are firm, smooth, slip resistant and have no loose stones e.g. Tarmac, Paving, concrete and bonded gravel. Sand, gravel, soil and cobbles should be avoided.</p>	
<p>Position drainage channels outside of the access route to avoid trapping walking aids and wheels.</p>	
<p>Use blister tactile paving to identify points where pedestrian and vehicular routes cross.</p>	
<p>Place corduroy tactile hazard warning paving at the top and bottom of external steps.</p>	