Rural & Agricultural Diversification

- *Bruisyard Hall, Wedding & Conference Venue, Bruisyard, Suffolk*
- *Historical Estate Courtyard Restoration, Stowlangtoft, Suffolk*
- *Touring Caravan Site Diversification, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk*
- *Luxury Log Cabins, Foxton, Leicestershire*
- *Milton Golf Course, Milton, Cambridgeshire*
- *Historical Walled Garden Restoration, Dunham Hall, Little Dunham, Norfolk*
- *Natural Woodland Burial Ground, Chelmsford, Essex*

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Bruisyard Hall, Wedding & Conference Venue

Bruisyard, Suffolk

Landscape Masterplan.

Bruisyard Hall.

Existing Driveway & Medieval Barn.

Driveway & Barn After Completion.

Inner Courtyard, After Completion.

Project Description

Bruisyard Hall is a magnificent 14th Century Hall house and former Abbey, set within 700 acres of country Estate in the heart of Suffolk. ELD was commissioned by the owners, to produce a Masterplan for the adjacent Medieval Barn; to create a new courtyard garden setting, as part of the renovation works, for an exclusive wedding venue. The Barn lies to the east of the main Hall, overlooking the wider parkland to the south and west, with the working farm located to the north.

Where possible, existing trees and shrubs were retained to frame views and maintain scale, with extensive coppicing of rampant boundary hedges to allow for regeneration from the base. New 'garden rooms' were designed to either side of the access drive with large well manicured lawns and herbaceous borders, ensuring the long views from the Hall were maintained. A large terrace has been provided to the south of the barn and to the inner courtyard. A new bridge provides access to the Hall and to the south, a jetty is proposed to provide a contrast in materials to jut out over the open brook that divides the Hall and Barn. Wild flowers and grass cut paths are intended to meander between trees to the southern area, leading into the former gravel pit, which acts as a natural amphitheatre and photograph location for wedding parties.

The existing farm drive was renovated to provide access through the parkland setting, leading to a new car park that accommodates 115 cars to the north. Embracing new technologies and best practice, a new woodchip boiler has been installed in an adjacent farm building, using wood from the estate or from local supplies to provide heat for both the Hall and Barn.

Phase 1 of the development has been completed with the barn fully renovated and operational as a beautiful wedding venue; with the external space currently laid to a large sandstone terrace and an expanse of mown lawn. Phase 2 hopes to see the grounds fully planted and enhanced to provide the aspired wedding venue setting, to be completed over forthcoming seasons when further funding is available.

ELD Requirements

- To produce a detailed Masterplan with proposed levels, to reinstate the setting of the Medieval Barn, as a high quality visitor facility with accompanying gardens.
- Liaising between various parties and client to ensure the scheme progressed on programme.

Project Particulars

Client: Private Owner

The Barn, After Completion.

Barn Interior, Before & After Completion.

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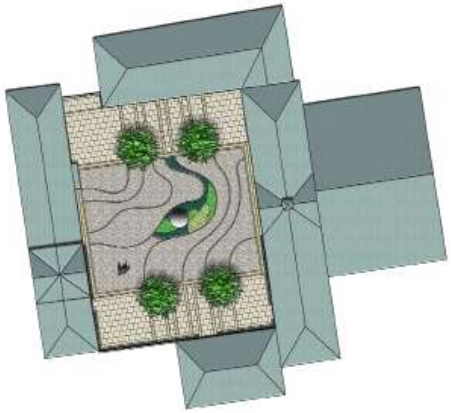
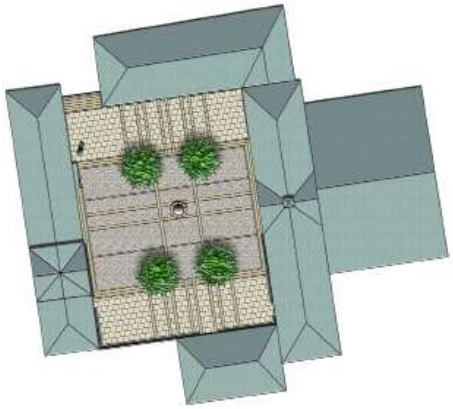
Historical Estate Courtyard Restoration

Stowlangtoft, Suffolk



Concept 1- Fish Design with Resin Bound Coloured Glass Aggregates and Contemporary Sphere at the Centre.



Concept 2 - Grid Based Design with Resin Bound Gravel Aggregates and Contemporary Sphere at the Centre.

Project Description
This existing courtyard on the Historic Stowlangtoft Estate was a former stable yard and coach house, with fine architectural features that included a clock tower and remnant stone surface runners that once provided carriages access into the coach house. More recently, the coach house has been converted into a thriving restaurant and the adjacent stables into rented residential units. The central courtyard was not suitable for regular vehicular access and had become very degraded over time, with uneven ground surfaces and in need of restoration to uplift this historical Estate feature area.

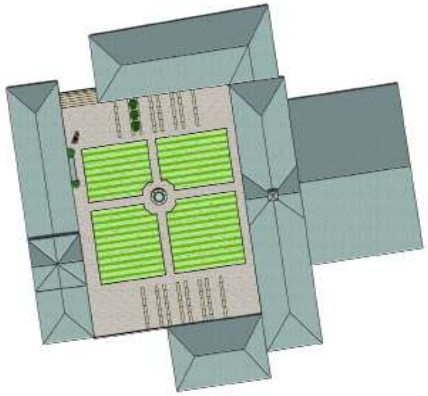
A number of concepts were proposed; all aimed to restore the stone runners and create a low maintenance courtyard that could accommodate a number of uses, that included the provision of an outdoor dining area for the restaurant and external space for residents. A central water feature was desired and proposals included options to retain and renovate the existing stone water feature; replace it with a modern sphere; relay new surfacing in resin bound coloured glass aggregates, gravels or lay it to a simple, formal grass parterre.

The simplest and most cost effective option was preferred and the Estate managed the restoration works under the guidance of ELD.

Project Particulars
Client: Stowlangtoft Estate

Silver Sphere Central Water Feature.

Existing Coach House Runners (Before).



Preferred Option - Simple Lawn Parterre with Stone Water Feature at Centre.

Completed Courtyard with Simple Parterre Option as an Extension to the Restaurant, Retained as a Pedestrian Courtyard.

Restored (New) Coach House Runners.

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Touring Caravan Site *Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk*

"I recommend Elwood Landscape Design as an extremely professional team of Landscape Architects. A very thorough job. Excellent piece of work. Due to my own intense work schedule I was unable to devote sufficient personal time that my land-scape project required. No problem, ELD took what was a complex requirement and broke it into manageable pieces engaging specialists in associated fields as required, completing the project with the highest level of professionalism. Regular updates were provided, but the service I find most reassuring is the way they dealt with the other specialists and the government agencies, clearly defining and managing the project from start to finish, keeping a close watch on the costs incurred and adhering to the legislation required.

I consider myself fortunate that I found ELD; a personal; customer focused; professional team that I can't fault and will certainly reuse in the future for other projects"

Mr. B Sutton, Sutton and Son, Owner.

Landscape Masterplan.

Ground Modelling Plan.

Boundary Planting.

Touring Caravan Area.

Central Lake.

Existing Site.

Project Description

ELD was appointed to provide an LVIA and detailed design for a 60 unit touring caravan site near Bury St Edmunds. As a former gravel extraction site, the field has denuded soils with a deep central lake; being unsuitable for agriculture unable to sustain cropping. A diversification scheme to provide an alternative income from the site was investigated, as H&S issues relating to uninvited public access was of growing client concern, due to risks associated with the open water.

A LVIA was requested by the LPA to assess potential visual impacts from public views within the open countryside. The assessment informed the requirement for mitigation to minimise any such impacts. The proposed scheme included a wardens lodge, sanitary facilities, informal circular access, slight re-contouring of land around the central lake, fishing jetties and suitable open space for informal recreation and privacy around each pitch, combined with new planting along boundaries.

ELD Requirements

- To manage the project and complete all planning application survey & design requirements.
- To undertake site visit, landscape & visual impact assessment to identify key views & potential for mitigation.
- To design a site layout that incorporates all the necessities of a high quality touring caravan site within a wooded copse landscape setting.
- To provide a planting mix that would act as a visual screen, mitigating the development & fitting the rural countryside setting.
- To prepare schedules of quantities, specifications for planting & maintenance.
- To encourage wildlife diversity through choice of plant species.
- To ensure all plants were protected from rabbit predation.
- To attend and respond to vociferous objections at public consultation meetings.
- To review options for alternative diversification strategies.

Challenges

Local opposition became most vociferous and the application was challenged. As a result, the client is looking at alternative diversification options that may include Luxury Log Cabins.

Project Particulars

Client: Private Owner

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Luxury Log Cabins *Foxton, Leicestershire*

"We are certainly very happy with your work" ***Mrs. B Turney, Owner.***

"I cannot recommend Elwood Landscape Design enough. They are competitive and helpful and I suggest they go on your recommended list where you require landscape design services."

Paul Johnson (Berry Brothers)

Concept Landscape Masterplan.

Project Description

Located around Foxton Locks Area of Particularly Attractive Countryside (APAC) in Leicestershire, ELD successfully gained planning permission without query for a diversification scheme, to remove a field from arable cropping and transform it into a luxury log cabin holiday destination.

The site now accommodates 6no luxury log cabins, designed around an organic layout with fishing lake to the lower ground. A SUDS style of permeable, cellular gravel access road will provide a circular access around the site.

Each cabin is to have its own private parking and decked terrace, with a hot tub and outdoor space for private enjoyment of the view, over undulating land, towards Foxton Locks and the Grand Union Canal.

ELD Requirements

- To undertake site visit & Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment to identify key views & potential for mitigation.
- To design a site layout that incorporated all the necessities of a luxury log cabin holiday destination, within a wooded copse landscape setting, framing views across the wider landscape to be enjoyed from each log cabin.
- To provide a planting mix that would be pedestrian and equestrian friendly, in areas of recreation and adjacent to the existing and redirected bridleways.
- To prepare schedules of quantities, specifications for planting & maintenance.
- To encourage wildlife diversity through choice of plant species.

Challenges

The development did not present any significant challenges as it was well coordinated and well considered by the design team at all levels. There were relatively few comments made by the LPA and swift planning approval was gained for the development, resulting in a very happy client.

The site has now opened and can be visited at

Project Particulars

Client: Mrs B Turney
Project Manager: Berry Brothers, Northampton

One of The Completed Cabins.

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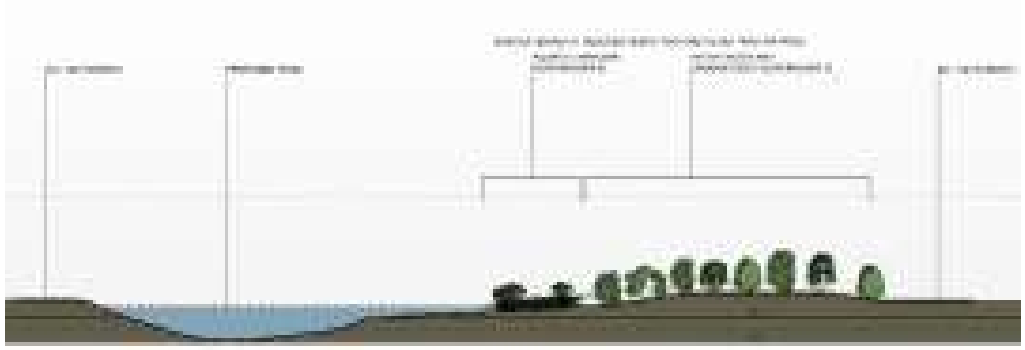
Milton Golf Course

Milton, Cambridgeshire

Landscape Masterplan.



Proposed Section Showing Pond & Mound Planting.

Project Description
ELD was commissioned by the owner of Milton Golf Course, to provide advice and design services regarding controversial planning issues relating to 'bund construction'; historically added to provide 'landscape' interest across the 18 hole golf course. These engineered 'bunded' features, up to 4m high, were deemed to be unlicensed 'landfill' by the Local Planning Authority, with confusion over whether they had planning approval or not, as part of an earlier application, resulting in potential enforcement action.

The brief called for ELD to review of the previous application for 'bunds'; undertake detailed discussions with planners; review of bund profiles; with the need for a retrospective planning application, to include specifications to undertake soil analysis for contamination; remove concrete debris from within the mounds, re-profile them and add soil improvers to take the subsoil to a topsoil quality, to permit seeding and planting whilst avoiding mass importation of new materials. All works were to be completed whilst keeping the course open for play.

Detailed sections to demonstrate reprofiling with volume calculations were produced along with detailed proposals and discussions undertaken with Local and County Councils.

ELD Requirements
- Assess the current site and advise on remedial works.
- Commission and undertake topographical surveys.
- Produce a concept masterplan showing re-profiling with new contours.
- Produce detailed sections through each bund to show existing and proposed profiles.
- Provide balanced cut and fill to calculations for additional topsoil required.
- Detailed planting plans & biodiversity enhancement proposals.
- Liaison with the Local Authority.

Project Particulars
Client: Private Owner

Existing Engineered 'Bund' Profiles.

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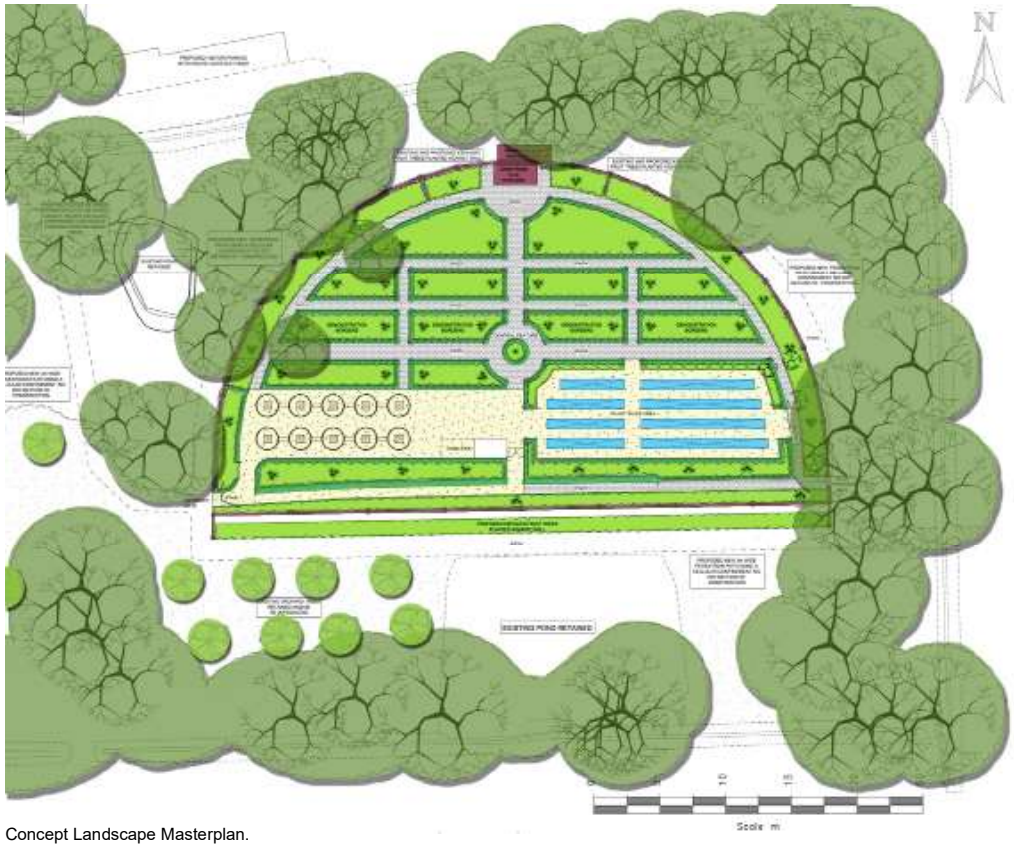
Historical Walled Garden Restoration

Dunham Hall, Little Dunham, Norfolk



Concept Landscape Masterplan.

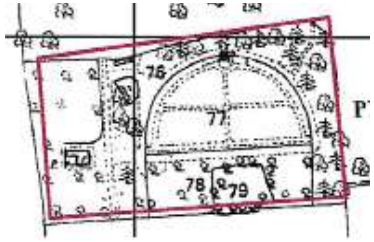
Project Description
This historical walled garden was built in 1884 as part of the Dunham Hall Estate. Some years ago, an outdoor swimming pool had been built & more recently filled in, leaving the garden unused & derelict. It has since become overgrown with self seeded woodland trees & scrub. The client was keen to restore it to its former glory, with the assistance of grant funding from Natural England, which ELD successfully achieved through their design & presentation ideas.

Proposals required a landscape design and 3D images for the walled garden (which is about an acre in size) to demonstrate that it could be successfully returned to private use as a kitchen garden, or, used as a publicly accessible small horticultural nursery outlet.

ELD Requirements
• To undertake a site visit & review the space to include the former green house & identify trees to be retained within the garden, whilst restoring the old pond outside the garden.
• To prepare a robust design that incorporated formal kitchen garden parterres, that would demonstrate the plants on sale within the retail area.
• To illustrate how the retail area could work, with fun, coloured trestle tables to keep plants off the ground.
• To provide paths with clear circulation for trollies and visitors, seating & a parking area.
• To provide a kiosk for sales & staff to monitor the garden.
• To encourage the re-establishment of historical espalier fruit trees against the south facing walls, combined with a new orchard.

Challenges
The main challenge was to ensure grant funding was successful, otherwise the garden restoration works would not be possible.

Project Particulars
Client: Albanwise Estate Farms Ltd



Extract from the 1884 Walled Garden Map.

Features Within the Wall.

Existing Overgrown Site to be Transformed into a Local Plant Nursery.

Colourful Trestle Tables to be used in the Plant Nursery.

Route of 1884 Historic Path Access.

Existing Historic Greenhouse with Smoke Room to be Renovated.

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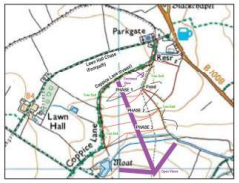
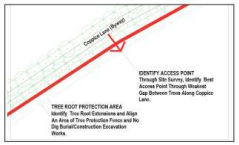
Natural Woodland Burial Ground

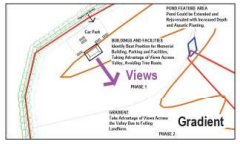
Old Park Meadow, Chelmsford, Essex

ITERATIVE DESIGN PROCESS

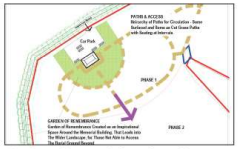


Desktop site analysis and review of opportunities and constraints


Desktop review of possible access locations off of Coppice Lane



Desktop review of possible building location to take advantag of the view


Review of potential garden of remembrance around the building

Initial proposal for Phase 1 & 2 burial areas

PROPOSED MASTERPLAN FOR THE GREEN BURIAL GROUND, NORTH END, CHELMSFORD

Project Description

Strutt & Parker (Farms) Ltd has recently developed the first of many Green Woodland Burial Grounds in conjunction with Chelmsford City Council near their farm at Old Park Farm.

ELD provided expertise in both the design of the burial centre to gain planning approval, taking the scheme forward to fulfil the aspirations set out by the wider public, as a beautiful, peaceful, inspirational place of spiritual contemplation, where the dead become united and entwined with the natural systems of decay and regrowth in the fauna and flora that can benefit the living. The cycle of life has been encapsulated within the surroundings and the four seasons, to create a sense of place and belonging.

Pam Ayres sums this up beautifully in her Woodland Burial poem as follows:

Don't lay me in some gloomy churchyard shaded by a wall
Where the dust of ancient bones has spread a dryness over all,
Lay me in some leafy loam where, sheltered from the cold
Little seeds investigate and tender leaves unfold.
There kindly and affectionately, plant a native tree
To grow resplendent before God and hold some part of me.
The roots will not disturb me as they wend their peaceful way
To build the fine and bountiful, from closure and decay.
To seek their small requirements so that when their work is done
I'll be tall and standing strongly in the beauty of the sun.

The design encapsulated the following:

- A strategy of planting using appropriate native and semi native trees, shrubs and ground cover species, that will create a 'landscape for all seasons' in an Arboretum style of layout, avoiding a pure palette of native species.
- A well maintained, natural effect is desired, with meadow 'effects' across much of the site, but with more flowers and less grass.

Project Particulars

Client: Strutt & Parker Farms
Landscape Architect: ELD

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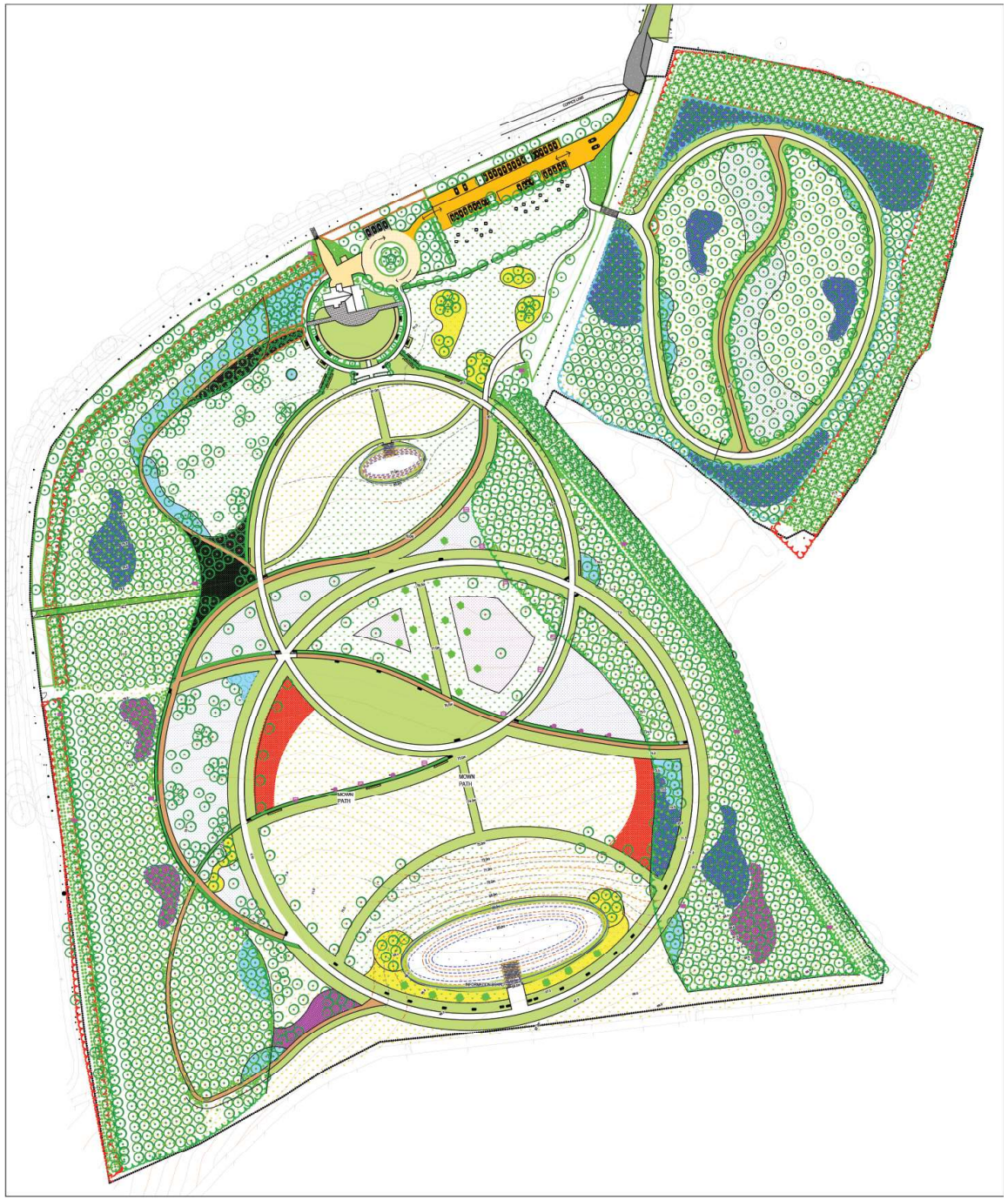

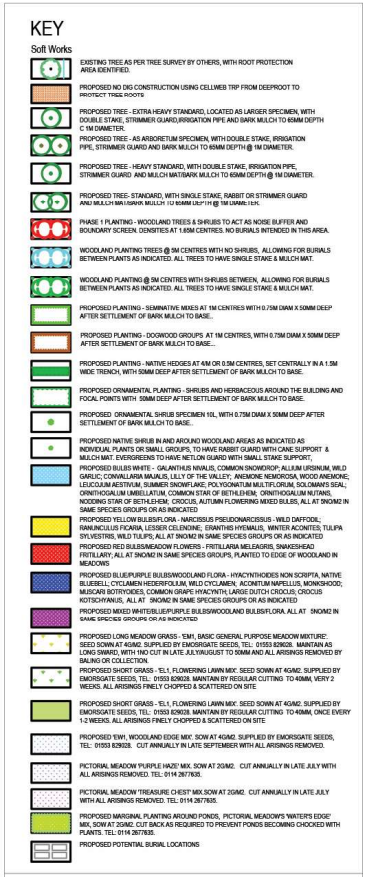

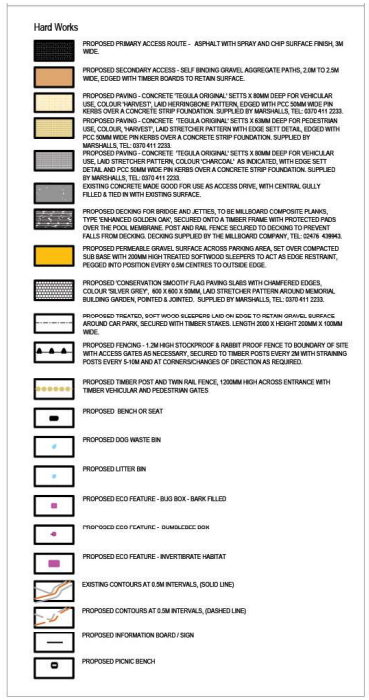

Detailed CAD drawing to show the Woodland Burial Ground Layout as part of the construction package.

Natural Woodland Burial Ground

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The existing field before development, taken from the site entrance.

Natural Woodland Burial Ground

Winter, Spring, Summer & Autumn.....

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