



ANALYSIS AND PROPOSALS
for works at
Pittville Park

Character Area 1 - Pump Room Lawn

Character Area 2 - Upper Lake

February 2018

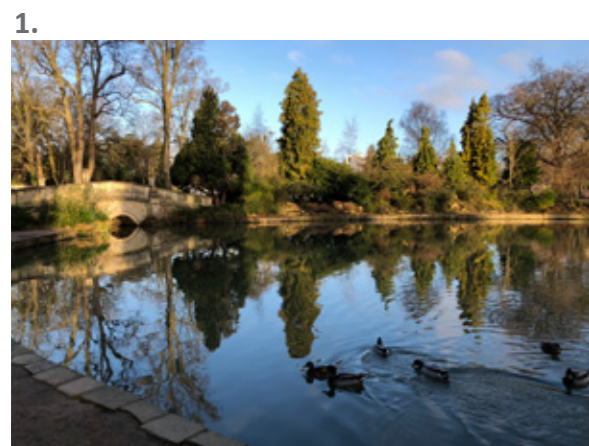
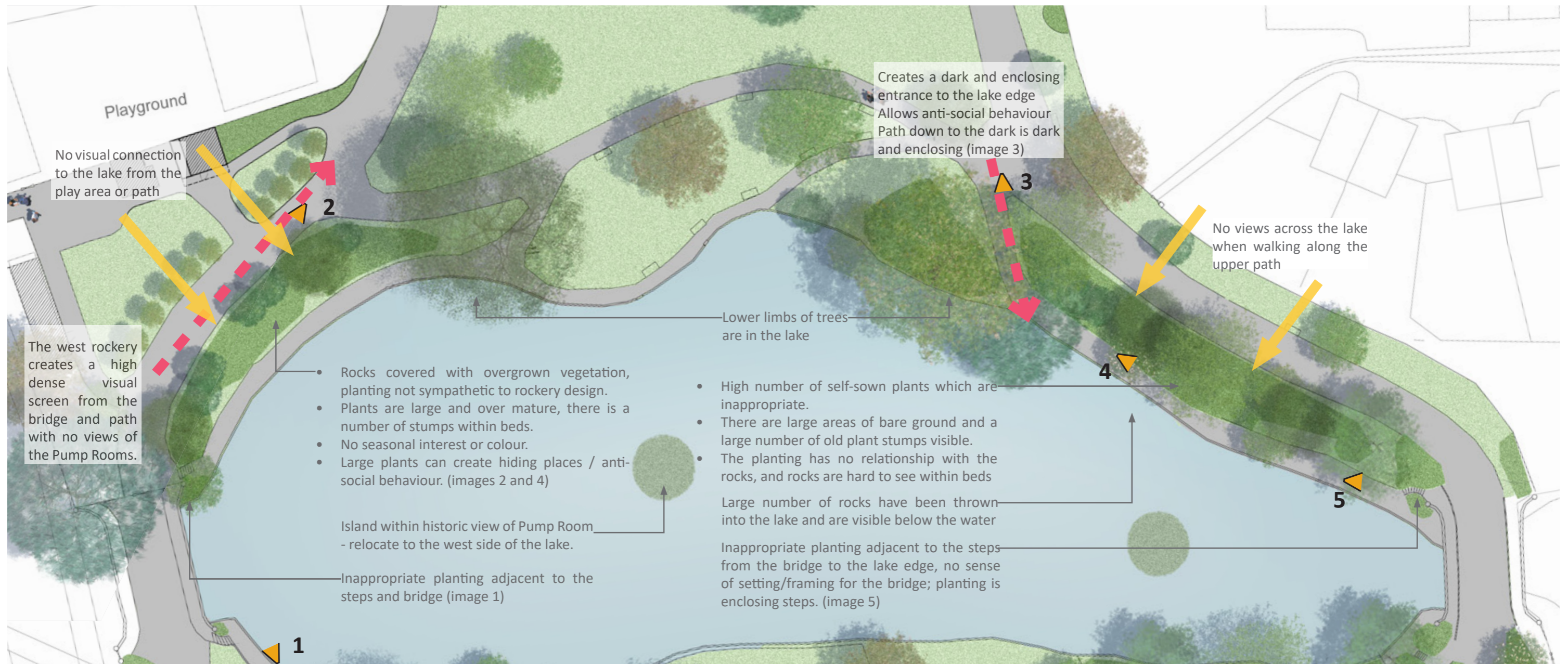


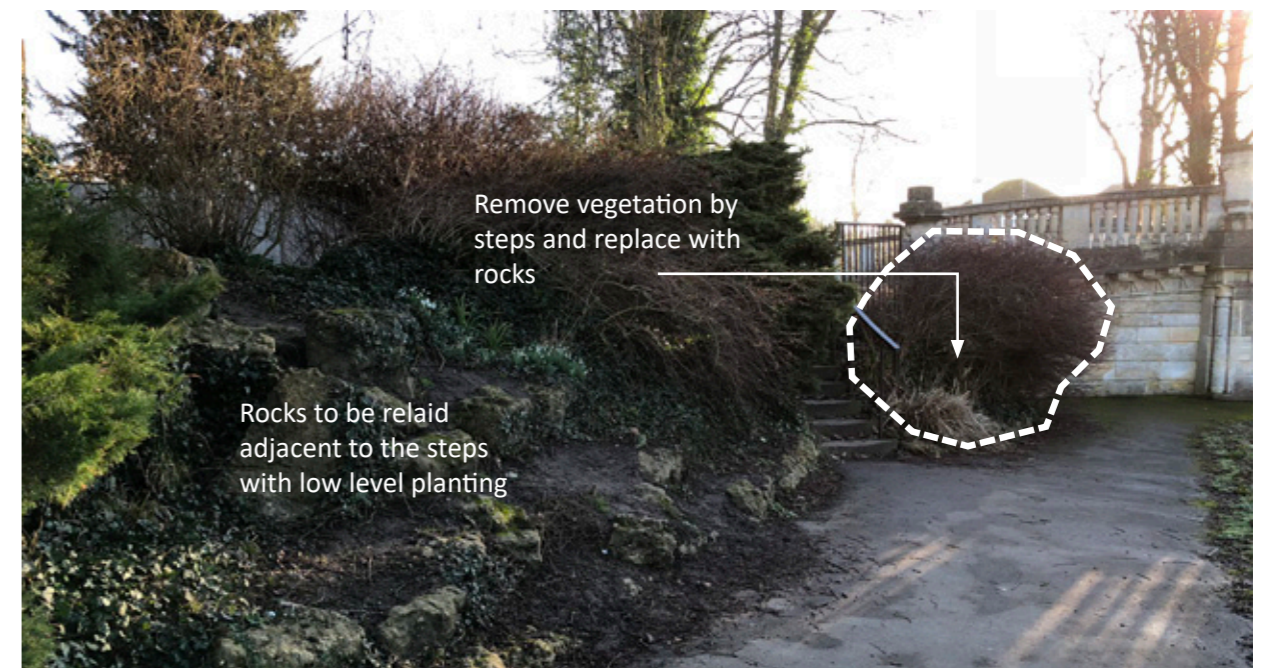
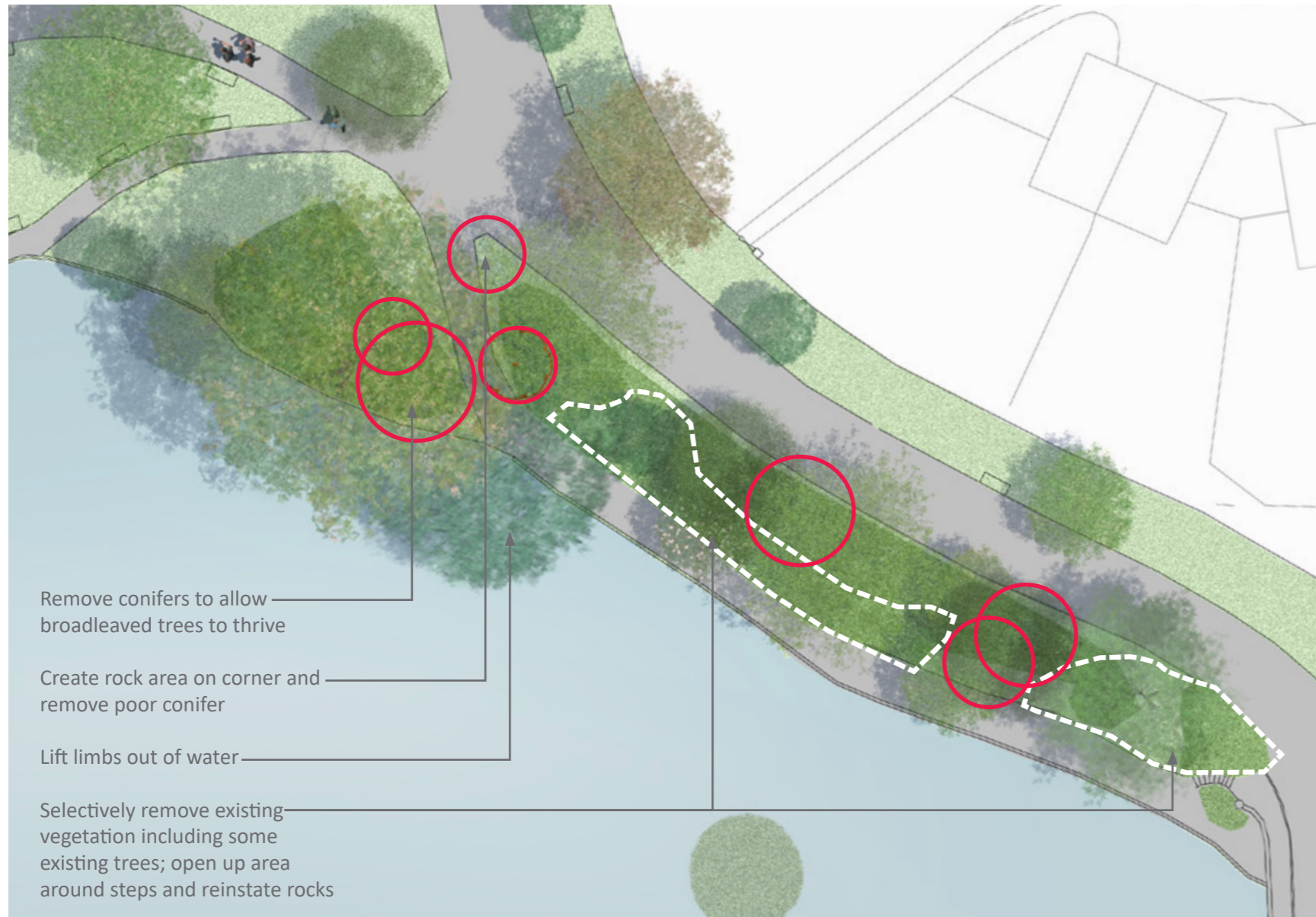
Illman Young Landscape Design were commissioned by Cheltenham Borough Council and the Friends of Pittville to undertake a study of the issues and opportunities for character areas 1 to 2 as identified within the Conservation Management Plan (listed below). The study is a follow on from the CMP taking on the principles and strategies identified within the document.

The objectives were to review each of the areas, identifying the current issues and proposing a range of works which could be carried out either by the Friends or by a contractor. The document is also to provide a basis for further discussion, fund raising ideas and as a basis for future detailed design works.

The character areas have been broken down into the following zones:

1. The Rock Garden
2. The South Lake Shrubberies
3. The Pump Room approaches and frontage
4. The Eastern Border





East Rockery Proposals:

Main Objectives:

1. Reinstall the rockery so that rocks are visible and they read as rockeries (see historic image at right).
 2. Create a visual connection between the upper paths/play area and the lake.
 3. Remove overgrown, inappropriate and over mature plants and retain key plants and trees as a structure and backbone to the new planting.
 4. Remove dark enclosing feeling as you walk down to the lake.
 5. Create a setting for the bridge.
- Uncover and re-set rocks to form the structure of the area, install the rock in a horizontal strata formation with a small area of vertically standing rocks to reflect the past formations.
 - Remove conifers competing with the large dominate broadleaf trees at the entrance.
 - Remove the rocks from the lake and reuse .
 - Selectively remove trees and shrubs, it is proposed to remove up to approximately 80% of the existing plants. A number of the larger specimen trees would be retained to create a structure for the new planting to be built around.
 - Replant bed adjacent to the steps to create an appropriate setting for the bridge.
 - Remove vegetation to the north of the steps to create a space for the bridge and steps. Install dense rock formation as per the see historic photo to create a feature at the steps allowing lower level planting to be used to retain the openness.



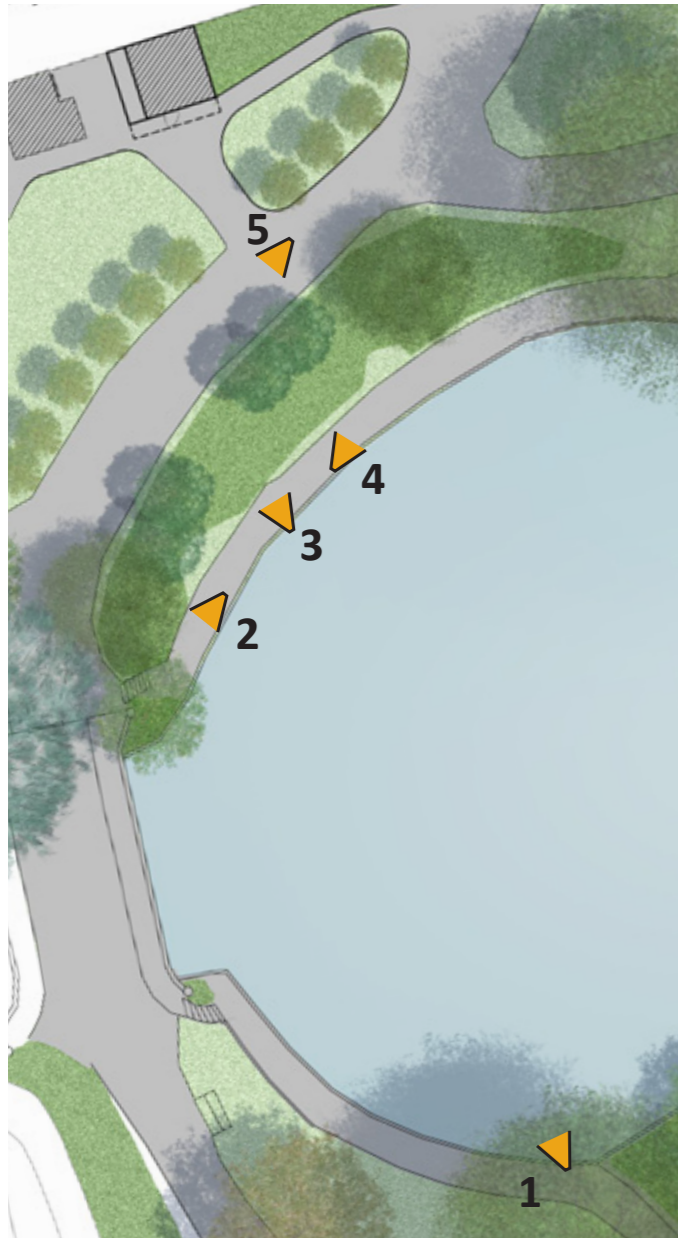


Photo Location Plan



2.



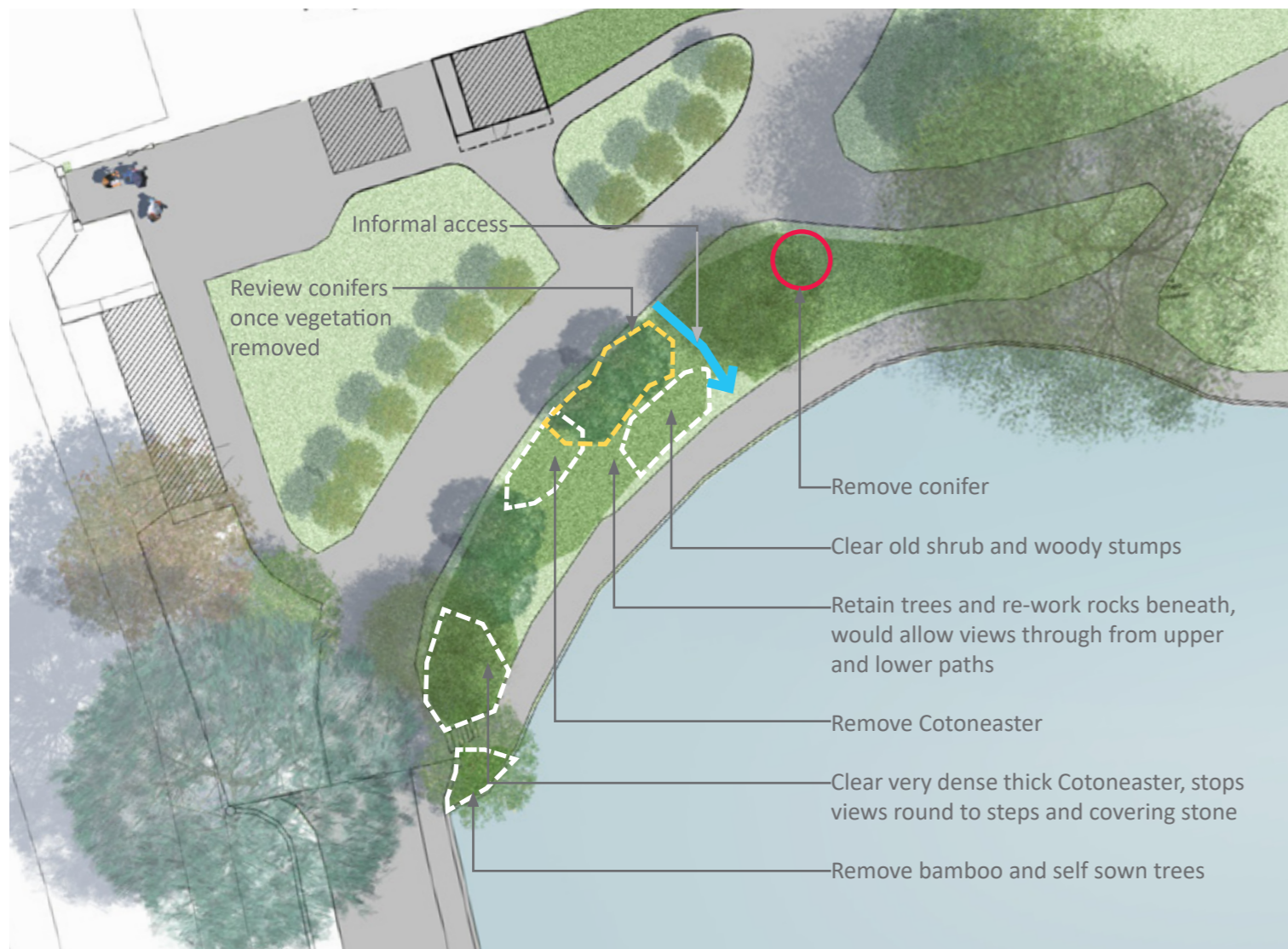
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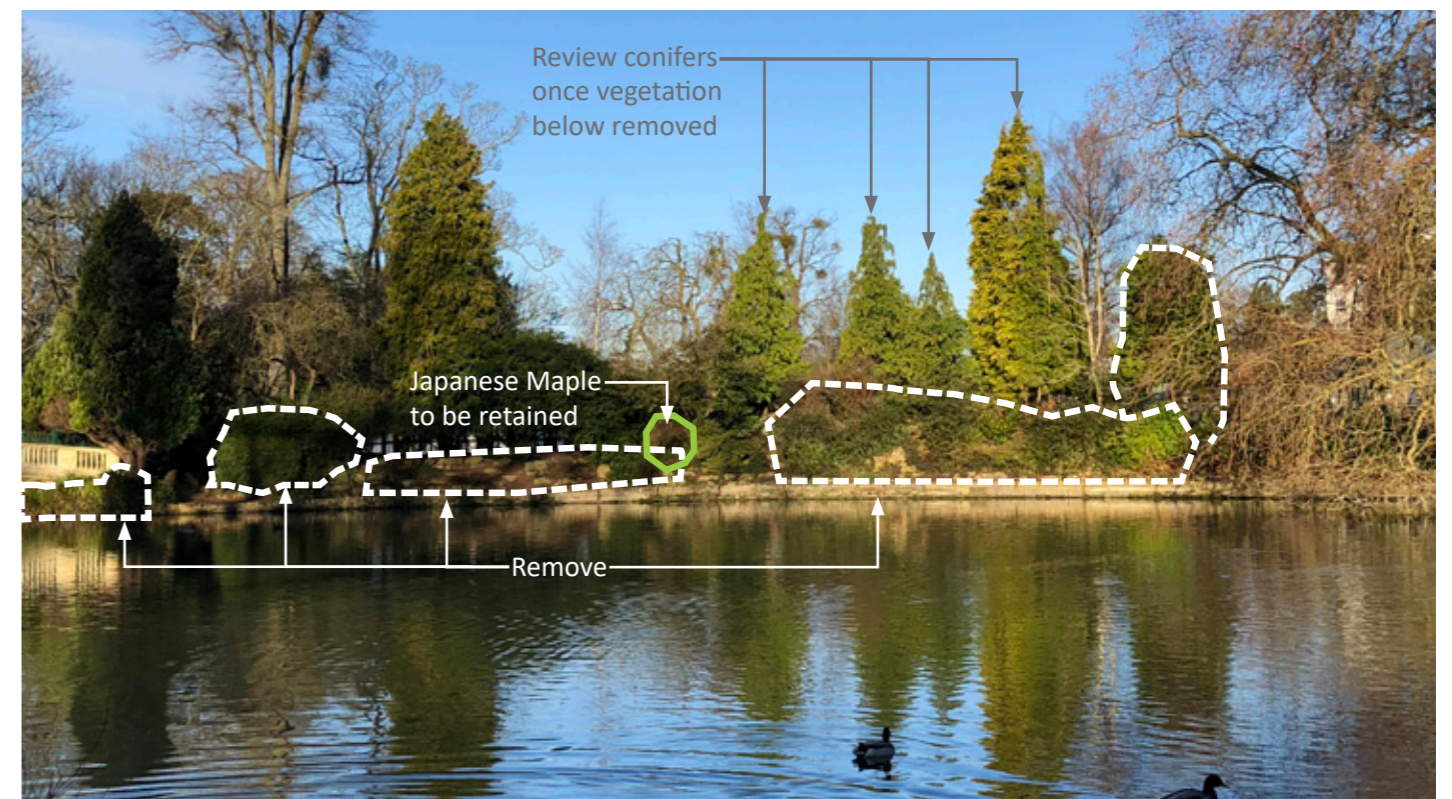
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West Rockery Proposals:

Main Objectives:

1. Reinststate the rockery so that rocks are visible and they read as rockeries (see historic image at right).
 2. Create a visual connection between the upper paths/ play area and the lake.
 3. Remove overgrown, inappropriate and over-mature plants and retain key plants and trees as a structure and backbone to the new planting.
 4. Create a setting for the bridge.
- Uncover and re-set rocks to form the structure of the area, install the rock in a horizontal strata formation with a small area of vertically standing rocks to reflect the past formations.
 - Allow informal access down across the rock creating a step formation in the rocks.
 - Remove bamboo and self-sown saplings
 - Open up the entrance down to the lake via the steps by removing dense vegetation to the north of the steps as this blocks views and is overcrowding the area. Reset the rocks along the contours and around the existing tree and replant with appropriate low-growing species, install a new handrail to the steps.
 - Retain the group of trees and rework the rocks beneath to allow views from both the upper and lower paths.
 - Retain existing Japanese maple.
 - Clear all vegetation, old woody stumps, rework the rocks and replant.
 - Three conifers located along the northern edge of the bed to be reviewed once vegetation is cleared and a judgement made as to whether they are to be retained or removed.
 - Install interpretation boards explain the history of the rockery areas.



1. (see opposite page for location plan)

The west rockery circa 1900

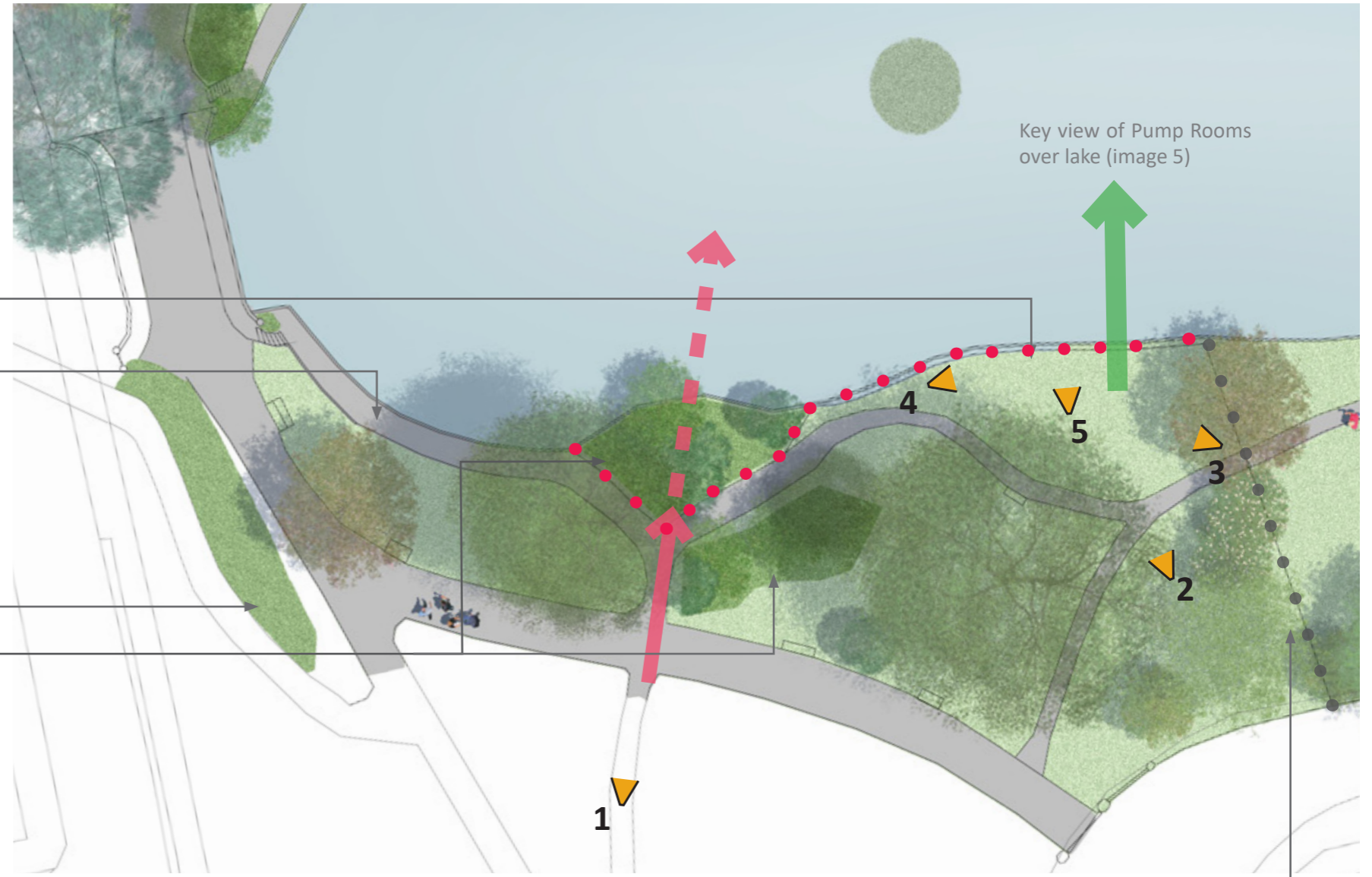


Section of railings sitting adjacent to the lake edges reduces accessibility and is the only remaining section around the lake (images 2-4). Vegetation is growing out of the side of the lake, with some larger Sycamore saplings starting to impact on the view, railings create a barrier for maintenance.

Lake edge accessible via footpath

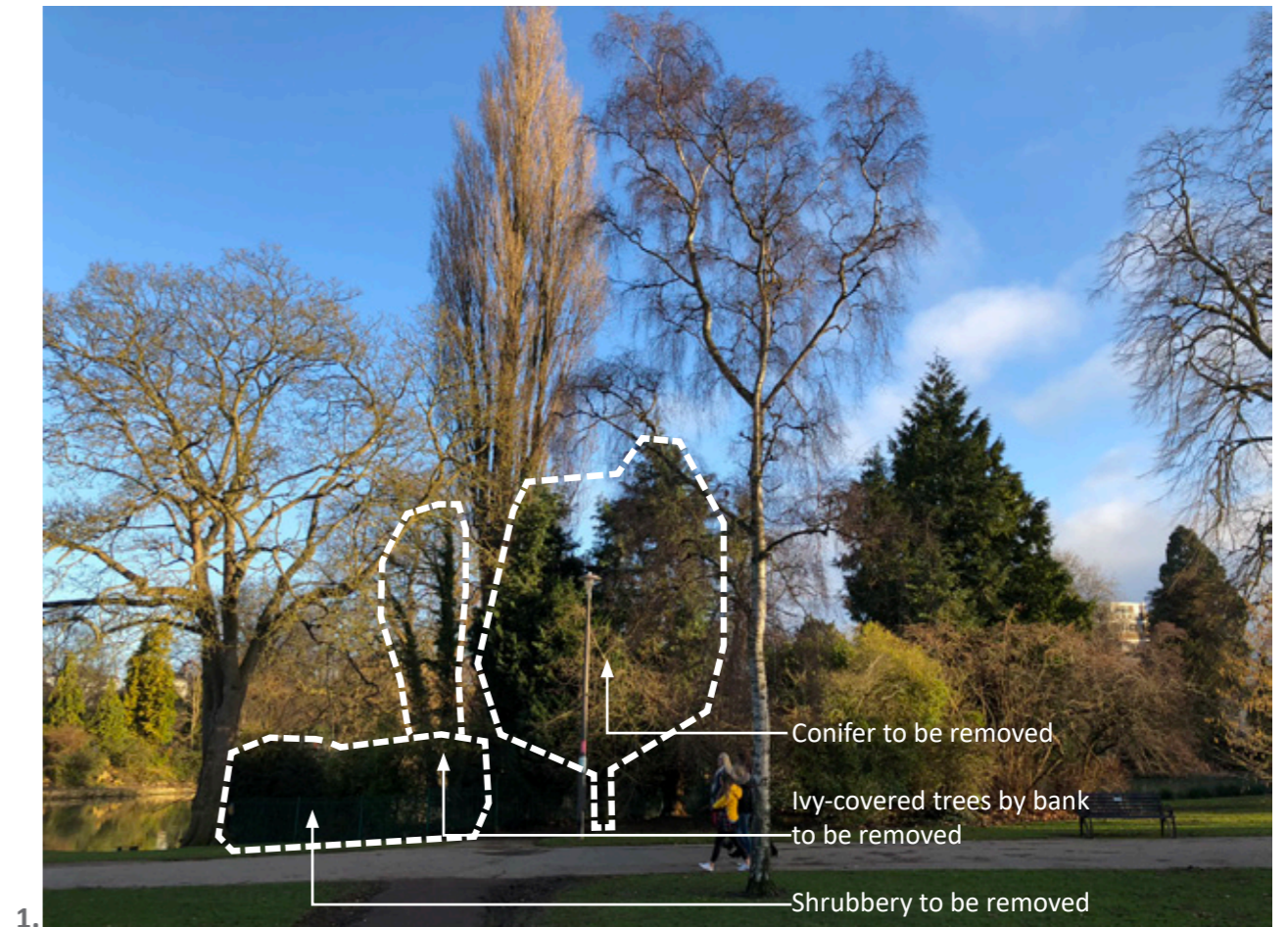
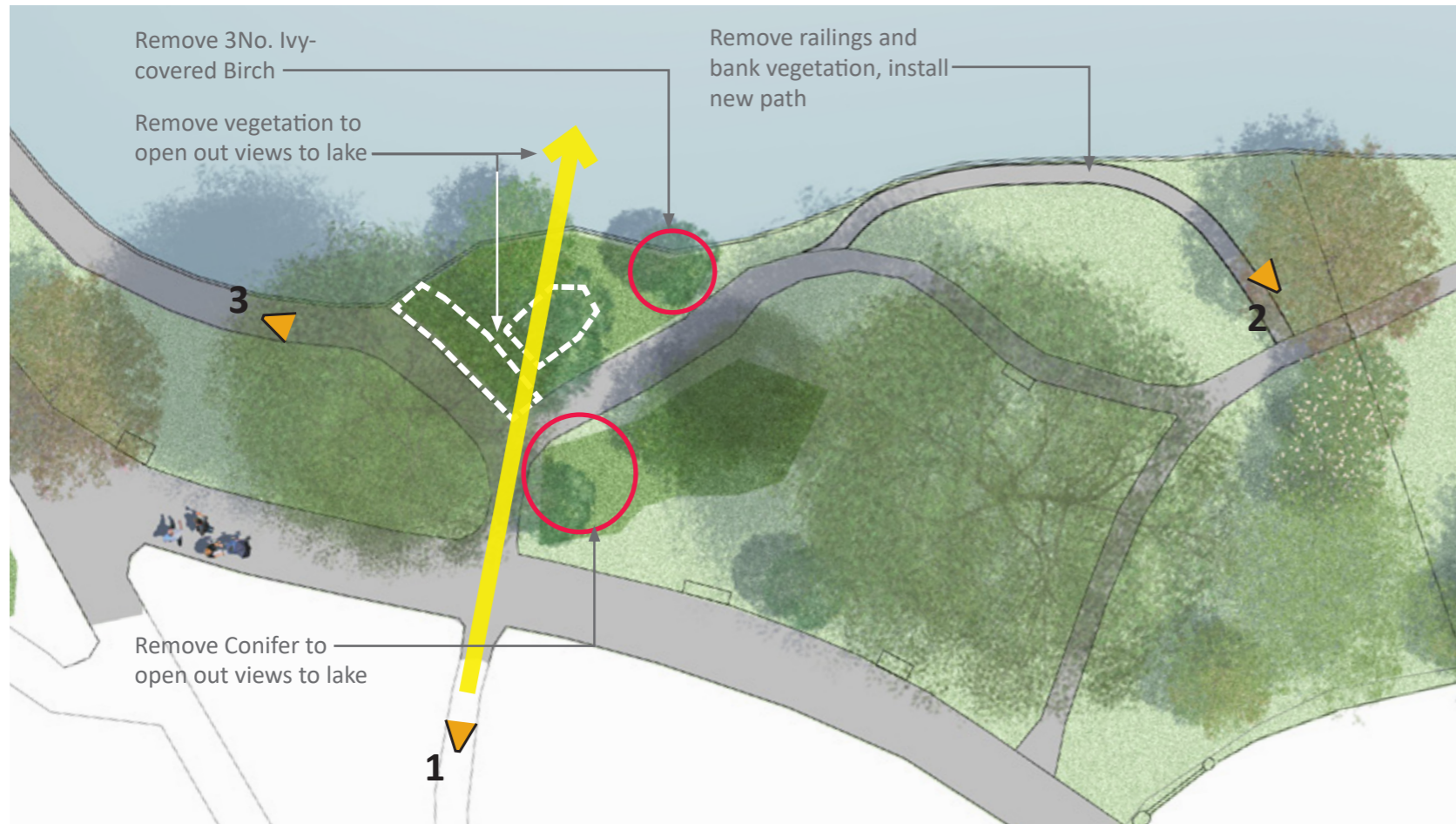
Block of vegetation used to defend top of bank

Large block of vegetation which is fenced in. Very unkempt and visually intrusive; view of lake and wider path obscured by vegetation (image 1)



Original railings - small section to be removed to allow access.

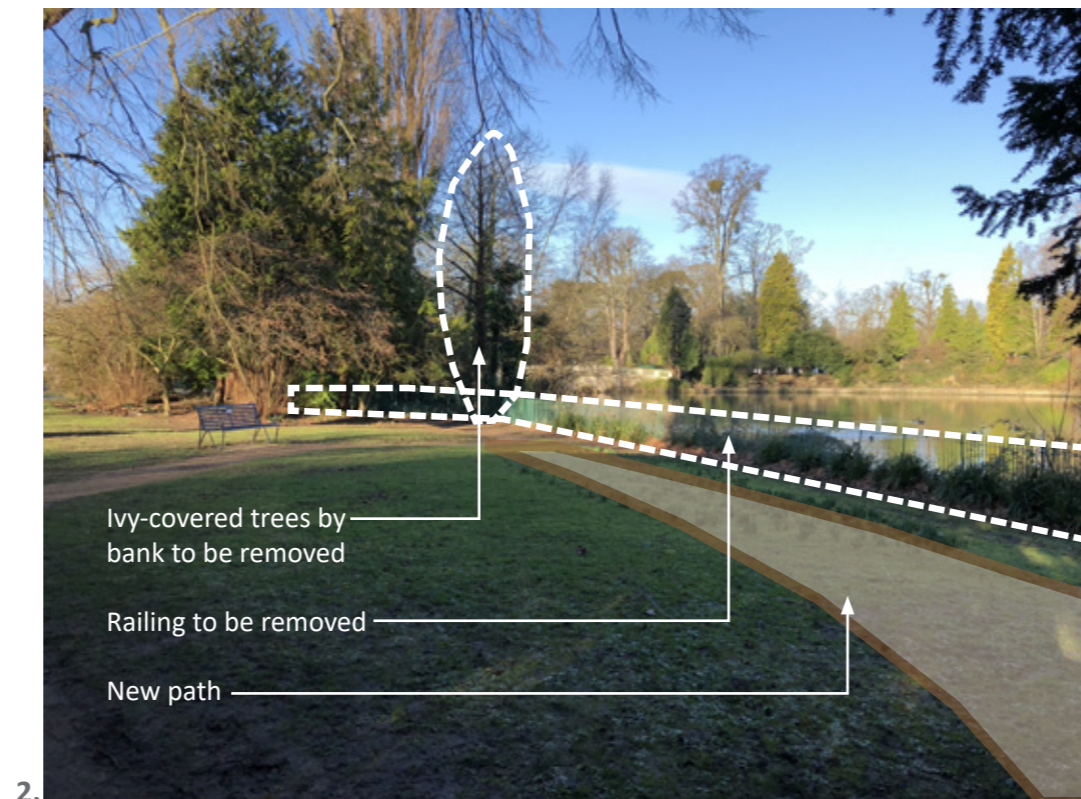


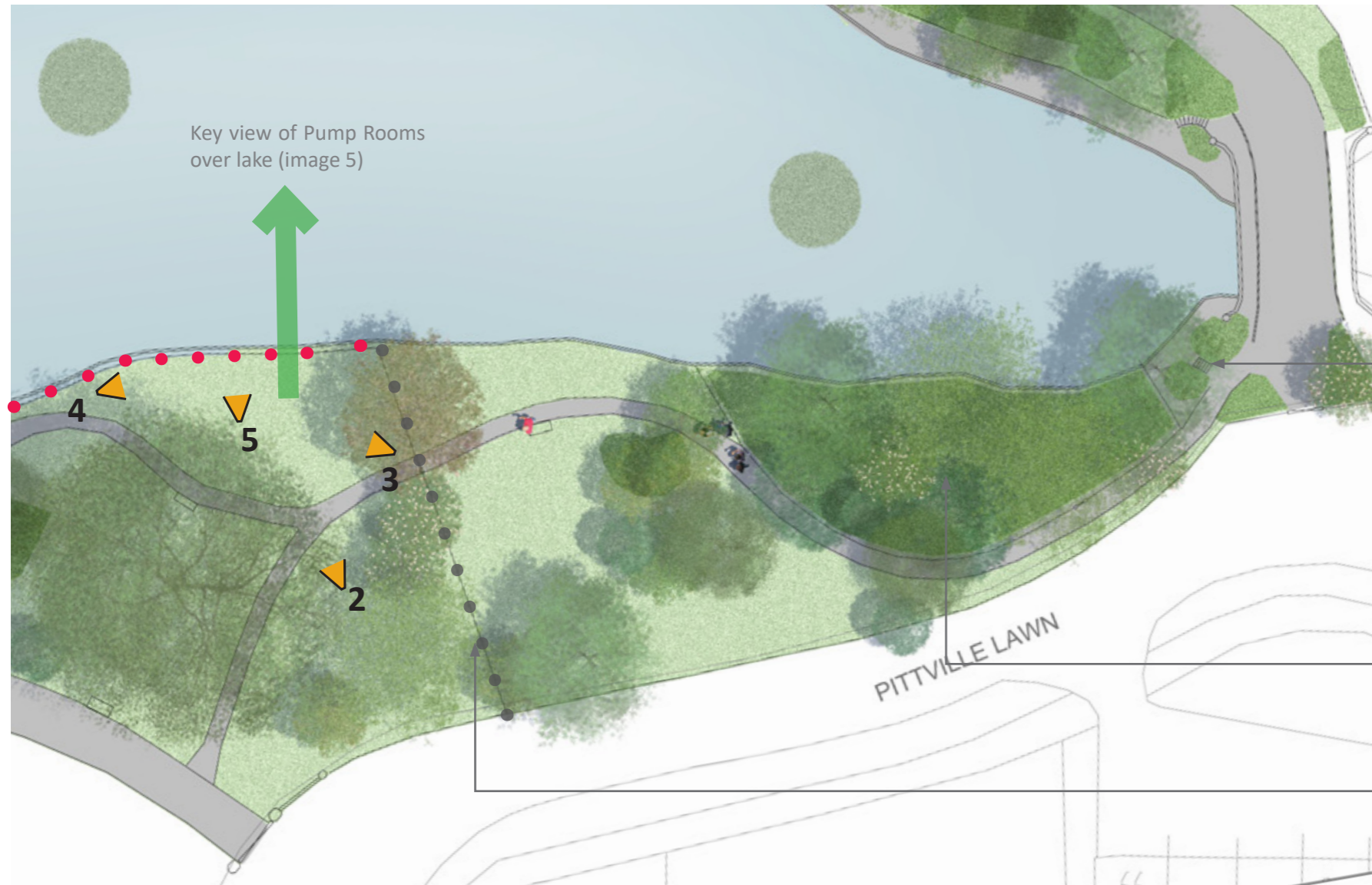


Opportunities

Main Objectives:

1. Provide better connectivity/accessibility to the lake edge.
 2. Open views across the lake and to the Pump Rooms.
- Open up the southern edge of the lake to allow park users access to the lake by removing the railings and clearing out the self-sown vegetation.
 - Install a new path adjacent to the lake edge, connecting into the existing path network, to promote circulation around the lake and to provide access to historical vistas of the Pump Room across the water.
 - Remove selected trees and shrub vegetation to create glimpsed view of the Pump Room from the paths of the south park.
 - Upgrade and repair the edge of the lake as required.
 - Remove railings and clear vegetation from the edge of the lake.
 - Use the islands within the lake for art installations these could either be temporary or permanent features.



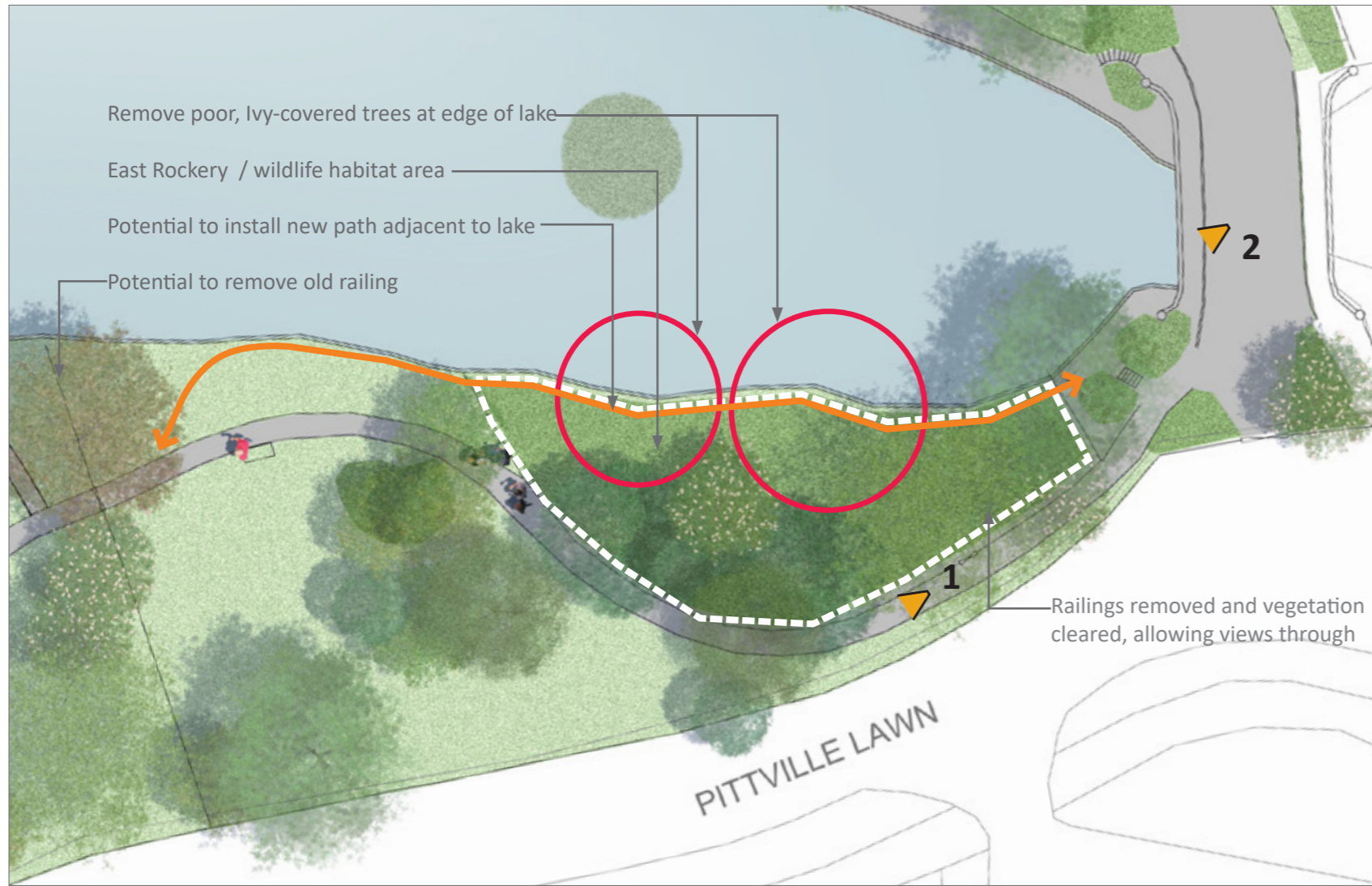


Steps down from the bridge over-grown by adjacent vegetation.

Fenced off area where the maintenance regime has been reduced to create a wildlife/ecological area. There is a large amount of fallen branches which results in a very unkempt look. In addition, maintenance is not being undertaken within area to promote wildlife habitats.

Original railings - small section to be removed to allow access.





1.



2.

Main Objectives:

1. Remove dark, unkempt feeling to the area.
 2. Promote accessibility and connectivity of the area.
- Currently the area is enclosed by railings and has a rough and unmanaged feel to it and the area is of low benefit as a wildlife habitat.
 - Remove the railing enclosing the area.
 - Manage the vegetation, remove a number of trees and bushes to allow views of the lake, look into removing the ground ivy and laying back to grass.
 - This would allow the steps and the bridge to be opened out to create a more traditional setting with views of the bridge from the wider park.
 - Once the work is complete consider potential options to remove railings and realign footpath to lake edge



1. 2.

Pump Room – East entrance

- Existing railings create a poor setting for what is the main vehicle entrance to the Pump Room.
- Existing railings are a ‘modern’ replacement of historical entrance.
- Poor alignment/context of the current railings with adjacent paths and grass verges.
- Single stone pillar evident.



3.



4.



5.

Frontage to Pump Room

Large expanse of tarmac, generally in a fair condition.

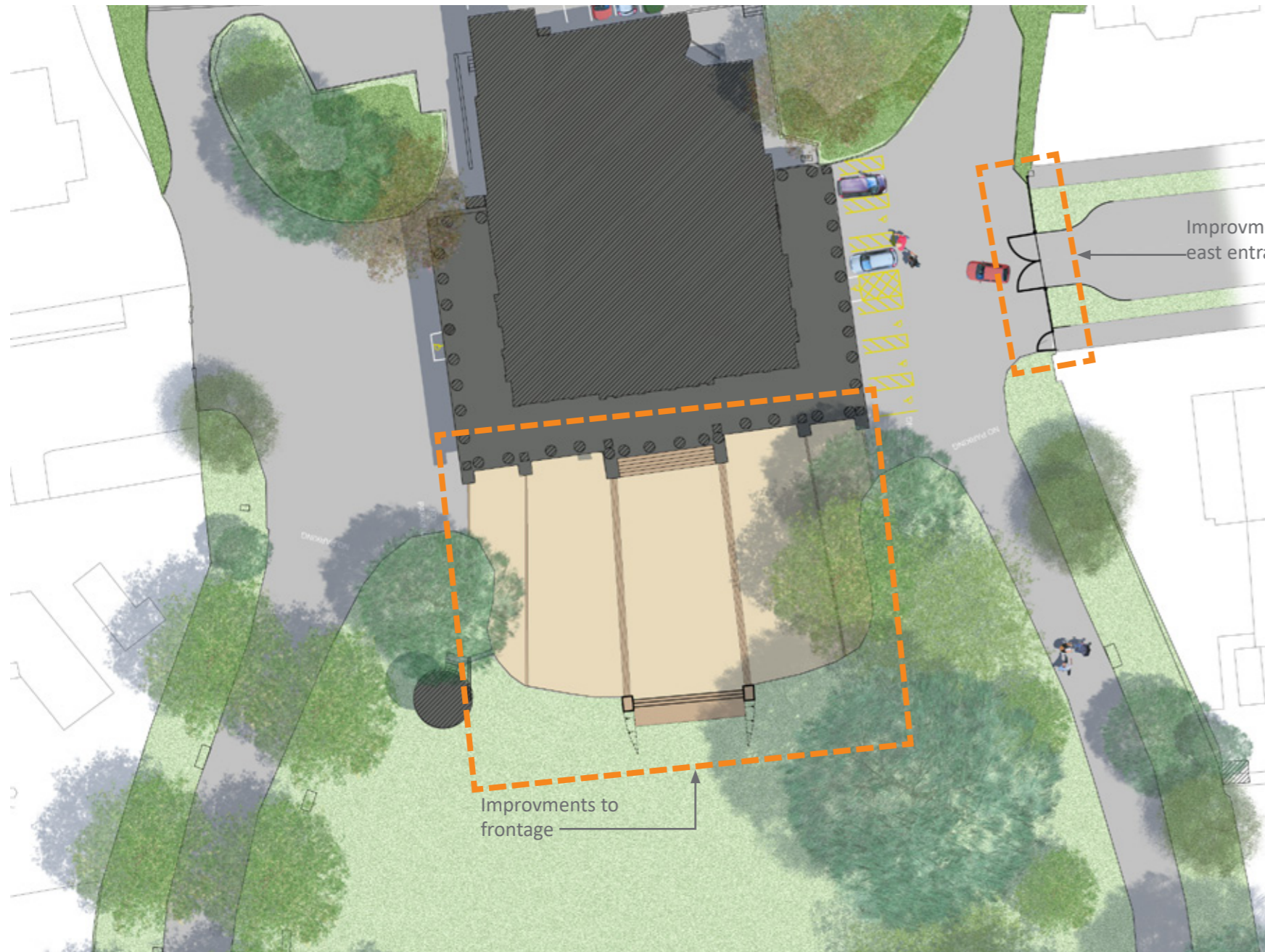
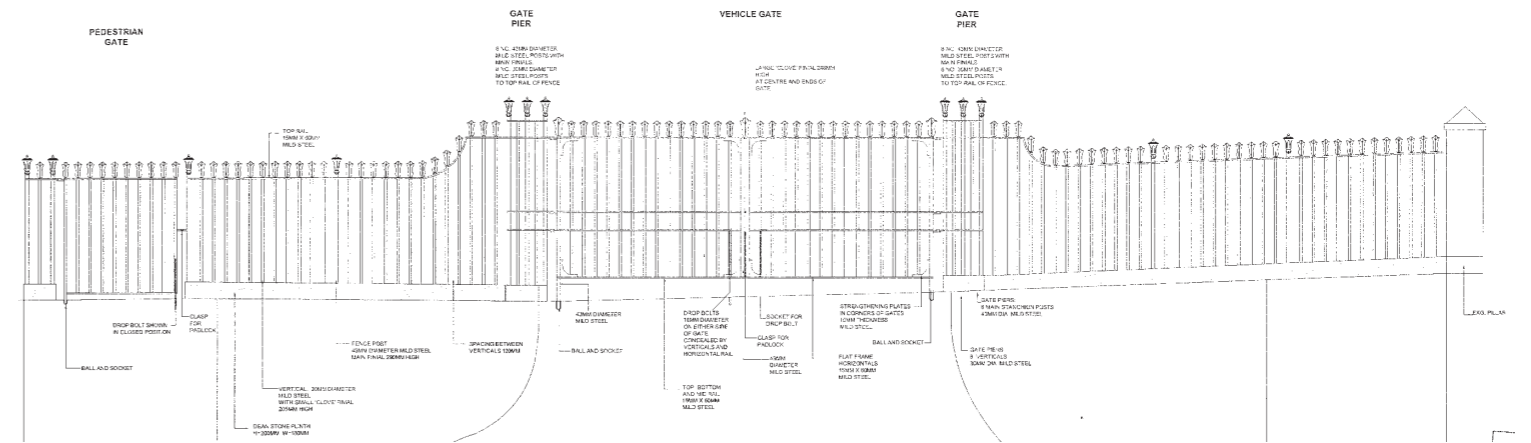
Definition of historic path down the central lawn has been lost with the removal of the steps to the southern edge of the hard standing (see images at centre and below centre). The bases of two plinths are the only retained feature defining the step location.

Yew trees either side of Pump Room maturing and starting to obscure Pump Room façade, discussions to be sort with the tree officer to assess the health of the trees and the ability to reduce in size.



6.





Pump Room – East entrance

Opportunities:

- Create a sense of arrival at the entrance. Upgrade the railings to provide a sense of grandeur and announce your arrival into the Pump Room.
- Construct new railing based on the previously proposed drawings. Railings would be based on the railings adjacent to Pittville Gate (see images above).
- Railings either side of the main gates will be approx. 1.5m high, and will sweep up to the gates which will be approx. 500mm higher.
- The main gate stanchions will be eight bars arranged in a square with finials on top.
- The gate width will be increased to 5m to allow for the necessary vehicle tracking with the road and verge alignment altered to create the correct proportion and context for the gates.
- Reinstate the second stone pillar.

Frontage to Pump Room

Opportunities:

- Reinstate the historic steps down to the south lawn area including the plinths and ornamental urns at the top of the steps (see images at top) and a paved threshold at the base of the steps.
- Replace the tarmac surface to the south side using stone banding within the new surfacing to help to reduce the scale of the area.
- The new surface within this area could be a stand-alone material to this specific area as it will be defining and helping to create a setting the front of the Pump Room.
- Create a new surfaced path to the band stand.
- Surface materials will need to be robust and hard wearing yet be textured to create interest and to give the area identity, also responding to the design and finishes of the Pump Room.

Eastern Border

Minimal works are proposed within this area, as the simple management regimes and small interventions proposed will help consolidate the existing features.

Opportunities

- Review the trees within the border with the tree officer, inspect for health and species suitability.
- Remove pampas grass specimen plants.
- Opportunities to plant new trees and bulbs within the grass, to help soften areas where there are large expanses of timber fencing.



Plant new broadleaf tree

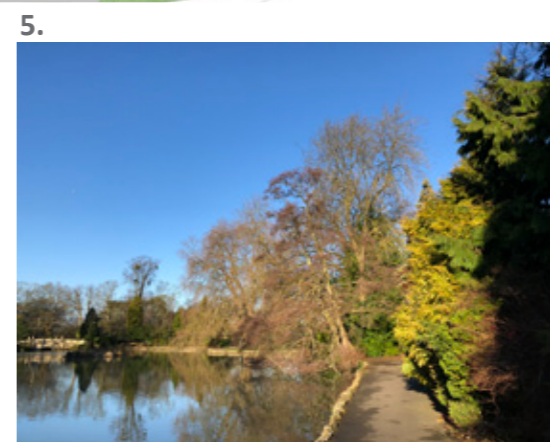
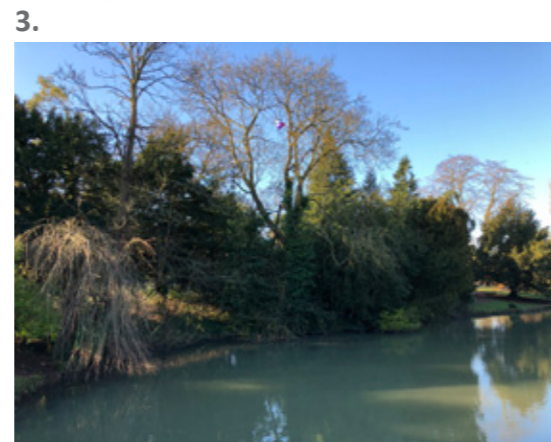


Remove clumps of pampas grass



Review and manage trees







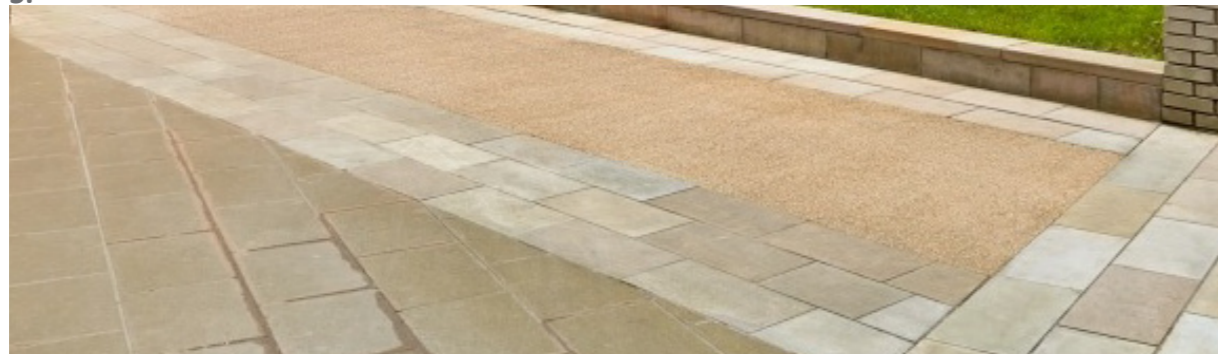
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HARD MATERIALS for new paving to frontage of Pump Room:

- coloured tarmac (1) or resin bound gravel (2) to wider areas - available in a range of colours / tones, and suitable for vehicle access
- banding to run through tarmac / resin to break up space and relate to columns along facade - would be formed of sawn stone setts for a high quality finish (examples 3, 4 and 5)
- colour palette to be neutral and include at least one buff element to echo the facade materials; but a colour contrast could be made by, for example, using grey granite banding

5.



4.



2.



ROCKERY PLANTING

The following lists are proposed to be a starting point for the plant selection within the rockery areas. The plants have been chosen to provide year-round interest and colour while being robust and suitable for a modern park. They are generally small growing plants to allow the views which will be opened up to be retained as the plants establish and mature.

PERENNIALS AND GRASSES

- Alchemilla enythropoda
- Ajuga reptans
- Bergenia cordifolia
- Campanula portenschlagiana
- Carex montana
- Dianthus ssp – ‘Houndspool Ruby, ‘Widecombe Fair’
- Geranium cinereum group
- Hamamelis x intermedia ‘Jelena’
- Helleborus foetidus
- Pennisetum alopecuroides
- Luzula nivea
- Persicaria affinis spp
- Polystichum aculeatum ‘Pulcherrimum’
- Polystichum setiferum
- Saxifraga ssp
- Sedum ssp
- Tiarella cordifolia
- Thymus serpyllus

SHRUBS

- Ceratostigma willmottianum ‘Forest Blue’
- Daphne laureola
- Daphne x burkwoodii ‘Astrid’
- Escallonia ‘Red Dream’ 60-150h
- Fuchsia ‘Mrs Popple’
- Hebe ‘Red Edge’
- Hebe pinguifolia ‘Sutherlandii’
- Rhododendron (AJ) ‘Madame van Hecke’
- Rosa ‘Carpet Rose’
- Rosmarinus officinalis ‘Miss Jessops Upright’
- Santolina chamaecyparissus
- Spiraea jap. Little Princess’
- Spiraea cinerea ‘Grefsheim’

CONIFERS

- Pinus mugo ‘Mops’
- Pinus strobus nana
- Picea abies ‘Little Gem’
- Thuja occidentalis ‘Danica’



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