



GIVING DUE CREDIT
£70 million contributed

2010



Viridor Credits

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Viridor Credits looks to the future

It's hard to believe that another year has passed and once again I am writing the introduction to a new edition of Viridor Credits' annual report to the community and stakeholders. I can only think that this is the result of having been exceptionally busy during 2009 and having seen a lot of good projects get underway.

Our news

Since people are at the heart of every successful enterprise, I will start there. Patrick Capper, who many of you will know, has moved on to an exciting new function within Viridor and we wish him well in his new role.

A successor to Patrick was appointed and I am delighted to welcome Lisa Nelson as our new general manager.

Lisa has enjoyed an exceptionally varied career and previous roles have taken her to many parts of the world before moving to Taunton and joining Viridor in 2002.

The Viridor Credits office has also moved, from central Taunton to larger premises in Aintree House on the outskirts of the town. From this new base we have continued the good work of supporting wonderful environmental, conservation and community projects initiated by you.

Lisa and Bob, our LCF scheme administrator, have been joined by two new administrative colleagues, Phil and Rosa, who are helping to ensure diligent management of funds, compliance with latest Entrust guidance and a friendly and efficient service to Viridor Credits' partners and funding applicants.

Funding levels

I'm pleased to announce that Viridor Credits has now awarded over £70 million in support of community and environmental projects throughout the UK and in 2008/9 allocations to our steering groups were increased over the previous year.

We continue to work closely with Environmental Bodies and community organisations and to support numerous highly commendable projects within the vicinity of Viridor's landfill sites. Although

we can only describe a handful of them here, I am satisfied that each has made a worthwhile difference to a community and will give pleasure as well as environmental and social benefit for years to come. That said, the UK is bound by a European Directive that insists we move away from landfill as our waste disposal method of choice and replace it with other alternatives. We all need to continue to expound the benefits of the LCF and continue to deliver positive messages in all relevant circles to ensure the long term sustainability of the LCF.

You, the applicant, are the engine room of the LCF. The scheme succeeds only because of the various highly imaginative and exciting projects you put forward for funding. I would urge you to continue to do so.

Dr Ian White, Chairman, Viridor Credits



Funds allocated to Environmental Bodies and Steering Groups

	Donation
River Wandle Gateways - Global to Local Foundation	265,000
The Great Crane Project - Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	700,000
SS Great Britain - The Brunel Institute	391,500
Community First	294,000
Derbyshire Environmental Trust	444,706
Forward Scotland	588,000
Pennon Environmental Fund	61,250
Pilsworth Environmental Company	294,000
Suffolk Environmental Trust	500,000
Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment	294,000
Uffculme Environmental Limited	564,000
Ugbrooke Environmental Limited	394,000
Viridor Credits Caradon Limited	294,000
Yanley & North Somerset Environmental Company	352,750
Viridor Credits - Dorset	294,000
Viridor Credits - East Sussex	294,000
Viridor Credits - Essex	294,000
Viridor Credits - Hampshire	150,000
Viridor Credits - Kent	294,000
Viridor Credits - Sheffield	294,000
Viridor Credits - Somerset (Carymoor)	98,000
Viridor Credits - Somerset (Dimmer)	294,000
Viridor Credits - Somerset (Walpole)	294,000
Viridor Credits - Thames	372,420
Viridor Credits - West Sussex	344,000
Viridor Credits - Whitehead	294,000
	8,753,626
To be distributed by Viridor Credits	441,563
Entrust - payments to scheme regulator	214,017
Donated by Viridor in 2008/09	9,409,206

Commitment to communities and the environment

Viridor Credits Environmental Company distributes money that the leading recycling and waste management company, Viridor, would otherwise pay out as Landfill Tax on wastes going into its landfill sites. This funding helps to support a wide range of environmental and community based projects, working through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF), and in association with a number of registered Environmental Bodies.

Viridor Credits' job is to manage this LCF funding, ensuring compliance, in order to benefit local communities and the environment within easy reach of Viridor's landfill sites. On this basis it is willing to support all approved types of projects. It does not impose lower or upper limits on the amount of money granted to suitable projects.

Viridor Credits has awarded over £70 million of LCF funding to qualifying projects since the LCF was started as the Landfill Tax Credits Scheme in 1996. Even though the UK is reducing its reliance on landfill disposal in pursuit of other methods of dealing with its wastes, we currently expect that there will be more of the same for the foreseeable future.

Although they are separate organisations, Viridor Credits and Viridor work closely together in a long-term partnership, enabling them to deliver substantial environmental and social benefits through the LCF.

Our strategy for giving

Viridor Credits aims to make the process of applying for funding as simple and user-friendly as possible in the interests of providing a friendly and efficient service to applicants.

The funding comes from Viridor's operations across the UK and we distribute it through a network of local steering groups or Environmental Bodies. These groups comprise representatives from local businesses, communities and special interest groups. The body of knowledge and expertise these groups possess enables them to consider and evaluate potential projects effectively by using extensive local knowledge and community awareness.

There are no upper or lower limits to the size of the awards we make and each of Viridor's landfill sites will have a local Viridor Credits body which will consider applications. Awards can be made for any of the approved types of projects, which include:

- Provision or maintenance of public amenities
- Conservation or promotion of biological diversity through:
 - the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat; or
 - the maintenance or recovery of a species or its habitat on land or water.
- Maintenance, restoration or renovation of buildings of historical or architectural importance or those used for religious worship, provided they offer public access.

Our policy is to assess all applications carefully, ensuring that the process is as transparent and seamless as possible in the interests of efficiency. We use the following criteria to assess each application:

- Eligibility
- Sustainability and environmental advantage
- Value for money
- Need and community involvement.

We hope you will continue to contact us at any time with details of your project, large or small. We can advise you as to whether your project is eligible or within a qualifying area. Importantly, we are keen to hear from as many projects as possible in order to make the best possible use of the funds available.

Viridor Credits can be contacted on 01823 624656 or via our website: www.viridor-credits.co.uk which also provides further information.



Great Crane Project, Somerset

Since 1981 cranes have nested or attempted to nest in East Anglia and on the Humberhead levels, but the population still has a tenuous foothold in the UK.

Through the Landfill Communities Fund, Viridor Credits has given the Great Crane Project, £700,000 to re-introduce a population of common cranes into the Somerset levels and moors, to help secure its future as a UK breeding species. The project is a partnership between the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Pensthorpe Conservation Trust.

Viridor Credits' funding will build a hatching and rearing facility for crane chicks at the WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre – the starting point for the Great Crane Project and a release enclosure in the wetlands of Somerset.

The rearing facility builds on the knowledge and expertise gained over the past three years at WWT's hugely popular Crane School exhibit. Here, crane chicks have been raised by aviculture staff wearing specially created crane suits and fed using customised crane head litter pickers to finely tune the techniques for raising crane chicks prior to release.

This spring, UK conservationists will travel to Germany to carefully collect the first crane eggs for release with the help of their German colleagues and transport them back to the new Crane School rearing facility at WWT Slimbridge in the UK.

Once hatched, the chicks will learn how to forage for food, interact with other cranes and avoid predators at Slimbridge. The first release of cranes into the wetlands of Somerset is planned for autumn 2010.

Dr Debbie Pain, the WWT's director of conservation said: "Cranes are magnificent birds that were driven from their wetland habitats and hunted to extinction long ago. Now with Viridor Credits' support we are determined to give them another go at survival."

£700,000

Reintroducing cranes into the UK



"It will be incredibly moving to experience these wonderful birds, once again living wild in their natural landscape in the south west of the UK."

Damon Bridge, project manager



Rex Cinema, Dorset

Local residents in Wareham in Dorset can now go back in time and watch modern movies in a restored working cinema and historic building, which was originally built in 1889 and is now named the Rex Cinema.

Prior to World War 1 the building, known as Oddfellows Hall, provided various entertainments such as the travelling theatre shows, banquets, concerts and visiting Bioscope shows.

During the Great War, Wareham folk used the Garrison Cinema at Worgret, just west of Wareham, but later this venue closed and no local cinema existed until the Empire Theatre opened in the Oddfellows Hall in 1920.

Over the years, with the help of the Purbeck District Council, much work has been done to maintain the facilities and keep one of Britain's oldest working cinemas alive.

But thanks to the Dorset film charity, The Purbeck Film Charitable Trust, who applied to Viridor Credits for a grant of £150,000 to buy and restore the cinema, the building has now been preserved and a start has been made on improvements.

With the Rex Bar open 45 minutes before the film starts every evening, the cinema is also one of the few in the UK where it's possible to have a glass of wine or locally brewed beer while watching a film.

This historic cinema has also established itself as the centrepiece of the Purbeck Film Festival, the largest and longest running rural film festival in Britain.



£150,000

Bringing one of Britain's oldest cinemas back to life



"It's fantastic that we have secured the long term future of the Rex Cinema for the local community and preserved this special building which is such an important part of Purbeck's heritage. None of this would have been possible without the fantastic support of Viridor Credits, Purbeck District Council, Wareham Town Council and the local community."

Peter Tinsley, marine conservation officer, Dorset Wildlife Trust

The Fusilier Museum, Bury Technical School, Lancashire



£66,000
Supporting Lancashire's proud military past

The Lancashire Fusiliers have been an important part of the county's history and the British Army for over 300 years. Thanks to a £66,000 Landfill Communities Fund award from Viridor Credits, in association with Pilsworth Environmental Company, that history is now more readily available to interested Lancastrians, historians and old soldiers at the Fusilier Museum in Bury.

Originally raised in 1688, the Lancashire Fusiliers moved to Wellington Barracks just outside Bury in the late 19th century and in due course, its museum was established there. In 1968, however, the Lancashire Fusiliers amalgamated with three other fusilier regiments to form the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. This is the first time that the RRF has had its own museum, highlighting its tour of duty in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Viridor Credits, in association with Pilsworth Environmental Company, helped to support the relocation of the Fusilier Museum from Wellington Barracks to the Grade II listed Technical School, a Victorian Arts and Crafts building in central Bury, through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF).

The Technical School is a much-loved landmark, immediately opposite Bury Art Gallery and Museum and the town's main library. It was built in the 'Free Renaissance' style in 1894 and it remained in educational use throughout the 20th century, counting artist L.S. Lowry amongst its teachers.

The LCF funding covered the renovation of the lovely Victorian entrance to the building and included a 10th anniversary grant towards the creation of the glazed education room on the upper level of the new museum. The museum was opened in September 2009 by HRH Duke of Kent.

Mike Booth, general manager of the Fusilier Museum recently said: "We have been open for six months now and it has been a very exciting time. Since the end of June 2009 we have welcomed over 14,000 visitors including many school and community groups.

"The whole project has had a strong sense of the community coming together to create this new museum, which commemorates over 300 years of regimental history and the close links with the North Manchester towns.

"Thanks to the generous gifts and donations that went towards funding the museum project, the history and heritage of the collection and the associated community and regiment, we now have one of the finest regimental museums in the North West."



£106,500
New wetland home for once abundant mammals

Back From The Brink, Gloucestershire

Otters, a beaver and other wetland mammals once abundant in Britain, can now be appreciated in a new home thanks to help from Viridor Credits Environmental Company. Working through the Landfill Communities Fund, Viridor Credits gave £106,500 to help fund a new exhibition at the Wildlife & Wetlands Trust's (WWT) Slimbridge Wetland Centre in Gloucestershire.

The exhibit, called Back From The Brink, shows wetland mammals at Slimbridge Wetland Centre for the very first time. Otters, a beaver, water shrews, harvest mice and water voles can all be seen; and a CCTV camera ensures that none of the beaver's antics are missed by visitors to Slimbridge.

Back From The Brink took over six months to complete and includes a viewing gallery which was built using the ancient art of mixing earth, straw, water and sand together to create a traditional cob building. A mesolithic camp area equipped with a tree house, firepit and circular seating area is used for campfires, storytelling and educational activities.

Veronica Morriss, senior operations manager at WWT Slimbridge, said: "With the help of Viridor, Slimbridge is now one of the few attractions in the UK where visitors can watch a beaver in its natural habitat.

"The new exhibit engages the public in important conservation issues such as wetland habitat loss, species decline and extinction and the potential reintroduction of once native species like the beaver into the British landscape."

As well as the help received from Viridor Credits, Back From The Brink has also been funded thanks to a legacy from the late Raymond Victor Safe, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Dorus Trust, The Olive Herbert Charitable Trust and WWT members.



Exeter Cathedral's Third Millennium Campaign, Devon



£400,000

Restoring an open space and protecting historic evidence

Exeter Cathedral's Third Millennium Campaign seeks to raise a total of £8 million to support several important areas in the traditional life of the cathedral.

These include assuring the future of choral singing, restoring the organ, renovating the fabric of the cathedral and the historic buildings it owns and much work on improving public access.

For 2009, Viridor Credits awarded two Landfill Communities Fund grants to support this work; £150,000 for a new open air project, the Vision for the Green and a further £250,000 towards improving public access to the library and archives.

The north side of the green is a popular open space forming part of Exeter's Cathedral Close. It has become seriously worn and degraded over the years as a natural result of its popularity with local people and tourists.

"The Vision for the Green is a scheme to reinvigorate this area with new paths, interpretation boards, trees, seating and lighting," said Jill Taylor, the campaign director at Exeter Cathedral. *"This is important as the setting enhances the visual impact of the cathedral and the entire visitor experience."*

Exeter Cathedral's Library and Archives contain nationally and internationally significant treasures, some of them over 1,000 years old. Viridor Credits gave £100,000 towards the conservation of the building in 2008. Its latest donation will be used towards the cost of housing the Library and the Archives together for the first time in proper environmental

conditions, as well as conservation work on the rich heritage of manuscripts, archives and books that are housed there, making them more accessible to the public.

The library's treasures include the Exeter Book, which dates from around AD 965-975 and is of enormous value in the study of Old English poetry. Only 30,000 lines of Old English still exist today and the Exeter Book contains a third of them.

Also on view is the Exon Domesday. It is the only regional Domesday survey to have survived, and was used to compile the West Country section of the Domesday Book in 1086. The survey contains much detailed information that was excluded from the final Domesday Book and so it is of exceptional value to historians and scholars.

£18,500

Improved recreational facilities at Glenny Wood



Scout Camp at Gordano, North Somerset

It's amazing just how far money will go when it's spent on materials and the work is done by volunteers, but that's just what Gordano Scouts discovered when using Landfill Communities Fund grants.

The Scout District comprises around 1200 young people and 260 adults. For the past 43 years, members have enjoyed a 9.7 ha (24 acre) camp site at Glenny Wood, Clapton in Gordano. However the facilities had become rather worn and out of date over all that time and the site remained somewhat under developed.

Since the District succeeded in obtaining help from Viridor Credits in association with Yanley and North Somerset Environmental Company (YANSEC), things have changed and several ambitious projects have been completed.

Perhaps most important of these was upgrading the toilet block.

"We now have hot water for the first time, which certainly makes camping a lot more comfortable," said District Commissioner Phil Woolcock. *"And this is not the only spin-out from the addition of four smart and comfortable modern showers with all the extras."*

The biggest element of the improvement package concerned the lodge – the main communal building on the site, where campers cook and younger boys and girls in the Beavers and Cubs have their sleepovers. A new well insulated roof on the building ensures that it is warmer and that scouts can hear each other at all times. "Rain on the old metal roof drowned out any hope of conversation," Phil added.

Viridor Credits' funding also covered the materials for a new verandah to the lodge. The kitchen was refitted and qualified scout

adult volunteers re-wired the lighting and power circuits. Other safety and practical features included fire breaks, doors, a serving hatch and a new storeroom.

Since scouting means 'Be Prepared', the District enhanced facilities with equipment to help young people polish up their scouting skills. An outdoor 'chess board', a confidence course, an aerial runway – also called a death slide – and wetland areas for environmental studies were added. The District also planted 2000 saplings and 50 larger trees.

A new flat sports area is still under construction on a very hilly site and future plans include an enlarged car park.



Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

Big scary dinosaurs are perennially popular with young and old alike and as we continue to learn about them through the fossil record, the fascination with these long extinct creatures is constantly refreshed.

No doubt this is one of the reasons why the Dinosaur Garden at the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock has been such a success. Not only has it attracted generous funding of £325,000 from Viridor Credits through the Landfill Communities Fund, it also received a prestigious award from the Royal Horticultural Society.

The garden was built to display fossil footprints thought to have been created by a member of the megalosaurus species that walked the earth around 160 million years ago. The footprints were unearthed

at Viridor's Ardley landfill and recycling centre in Oxfordshire 1997 and had to be carefully prepared before they could be moved.

Viridor Credits gave museum owners, Oxfordshire County Council more than £325,000 to help preserve, transport and conserve the footprints.

They are now the highlight of a walled garden, built especially to show them off in a convincing Jurassic setting, rich in appropriate plant species. A life-size replica of a carnivorous megalosaurus has been included to add to the impact and the fun.

In 2009, shortly after its official opening, the garden was nominated for the Royal Horticultural Award for the Best Garden to Interpret Local Roots in the Thames Valley region by the chairman of Woodstock in Bloom, Pauline Richardson. To the delight of all concerned, it won.

Judges praised the garden saying that it was one of the most imaginative interpretations of a heritage site that they had ever seen.



£325,000

Dinosaur garden wins prestigious award



Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol

Britain's Victorian cemeteries hold a fascination all of their own. Their elaborate buildings and monuments are by turn exotic, triumphant, poignant and serene. Their often overgrown landscapes are superb for city centre wildlife. There is, in fact every reason to preserve and conserve them for their history, architecture and environmental benefits.

Bristol's Arnos Vale Cemetery, for instance, is an amazing urban sanctuary; a place to explore nature and see some extraordinary monuments, historic buildings and a unique landscape. It's a tranquil place for remembrance and reflection with unbeatable social history. It is easy to reach, being located off the A4 Bath Road, a mile east of Temple Meads Station, Bristol.

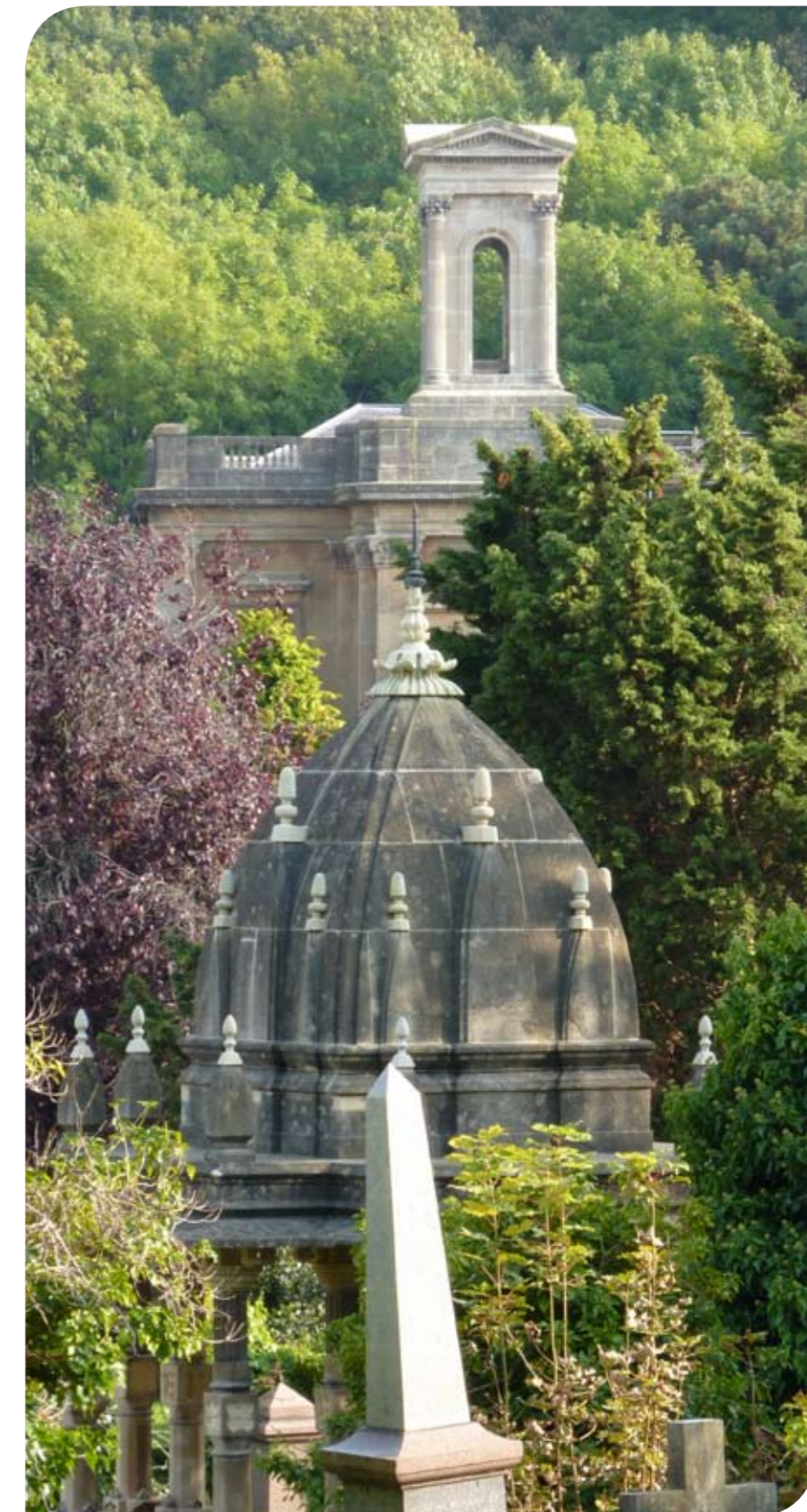
The cemetery is run by a registered charity, the Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust. For years the trust has struggled tirelessly to keep the cemetery open, relying on campaigning by dedicated volunteers, Bristol City Council and the wider community to preserve Arnos Vale and protect it from development.

Recently, however, it received £20,000 from the Landfill Communities Fund towards its maintenance, repair and management costs. The grant was made by Viridor Credits in association with the environmental company Yansec, for trail markers, information panels, bird attractors, specimen labels, alterable signage and seating areas across the 45-acre site.

In parallel with this, Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust is now progressing well with its wider restoration programme and is getting ready to re-open officially as a heritage, wildlife and education centre, complete with visitor reception area, a small shop, sculpture trail, exhibitions and waymarked paths during the early May Bank Holiday.

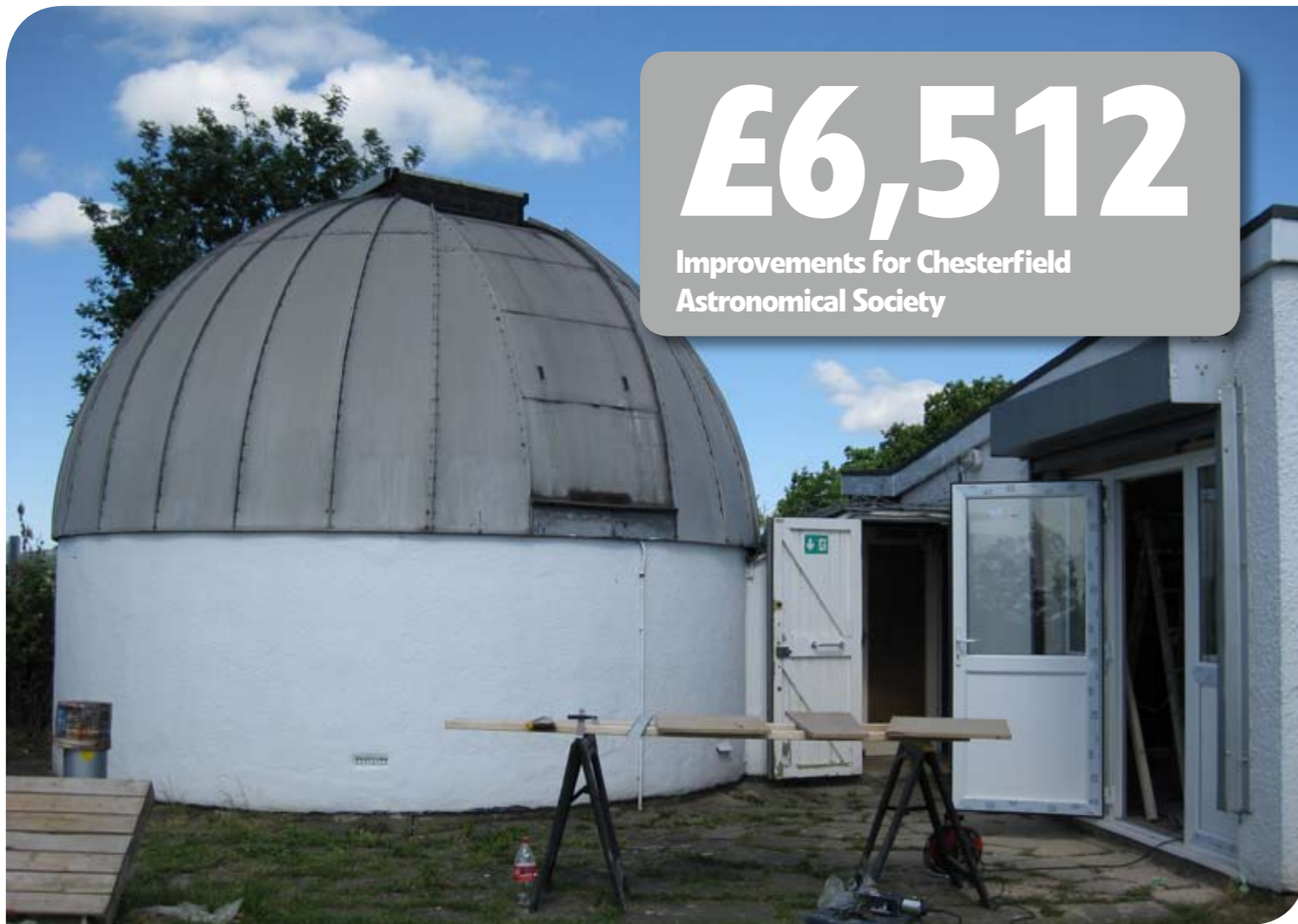
"The grants we have received are making a huge difference to what we can achieve and offer. The end result will create a place where people of all ages can enjoy the history and surroundings of this Victorian gem.

Rachel Schofield, Trust's chief executive.



£20,000

Preserving a city centre sanctuary



£6,512

Improvements for Chesterfield
Astronomical Society

Barnett Observatory, Chesterfield, Derbyshire

Everyone who has seen clear night skies with no light pollution knows that the stars are truly awesome. They're not just dotted about one here and one there as they appear when you look up from a city street. Rather, there are simply too many to count and they really twinkle in the blue / black night sky.

Chesterfield Astronomical Society has been helping Derbyshire residents to enjoy the beauty of the stars for the last 50 years and to add to their pleasure by learning more about them. Thanks to a contribution of £6,512 from Viridor Credits and the support of Derbyshire Environmental Trust, the society and visitors to its observatory can now follow their interest in astronomy in much greater comfort.

The society's Barnett Observatory in Newbold, Chesterfield was built in 1957 and consists of a rotating dome building housing a William Brown 18 inch (457.2 mm) diameter Newtonian type telescope, equipped with automatic tracking stars. Adjacent to the dome is a meeting / lecture room that accommodates approximately 30 people.

There is also a modern 12 inch (304.8 mm) Go-To portable Mead Cassagrain telescope, which can be used outside and two smaller manual and portable scopes for general use.

Approximately 50 amateur astronomers meet every Friday evening for viewings and attend seminars on varied aspects of astronomy. The public is welcome to join in as the society has an open door policy. However, prior to the improvements that Viridor Credits paid for via the Landfill Communities Fund, its facilities were not so welcoming.

The meeting room had no toilet facilities, no wheelchair access, problems with security and a leaking roof. The grant from Viridor Credits has enabled the society to repair the flat roof above the meeting room, install an accessible toilet and a new accessible, secure entrance and doorway.

The society also redecorated the meeting room, refitted and upgraded the outdated kitchen and overhauled the mechanics and mounting of the William Brown telescope.

During 2010, the society will hold a series of events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Barnett Observatory in 1960 and to show off the improved facilities to the local community. Importantly, it will encourage people who are interested in astronomy to make use of the observatory and enjoy the stars to the full.

Cooper's Meadow, Marlborough, Wiltshire



The River Kennet is one of England's finest chalk streams. It flows through the centre of Marlborough in rural Wiltshire and is accessible for residents and visitors to enjoy.

In past years, the urban stretch of the river and its mill pool, back stream and surrounding meadow area was neglected and the banks of the mill pool had become severely eroded due to storms.

Thanks to £15,000 from Viridor Credits, through Community First, the rural community council for Wiltshire, the Cooper's Meadow project restored a section of the chalk stream in Marlborough and the adjoining water meadow to create a space for wildlife and leisure enjoyment.

The aims of the Landfill Communities Fund grant were to:

- improve the chalk stream habitat of the river in the town centre;
- increase the biodiversity and wildlife value of Cooper's Meadow;
- address river bank erosion, reduce silt and improve water quality; and
- increase public understanding of chalk stream and water meadow habitats through the use of interpretive panels and community involvement.

Releasing three Belted Galloway cows into the meadow to graze encouraged the return of the traditional flower-rich water meadow. The cattle were initially on the meadow for a month and will return again this summer / early autumn for another month. In addition, several sections of the meadow were re-seeded with a wild grass and flower mix. Poplar trees were carefully felled to let light reach the river bed and banks.

A community open day attracted over 50 volunteers from St John's Community College and Marlborough College who planted over 1000 plants around the river banks while learning about the wider aims of the project.

"Cooper's Meadow was one of the most unusual and imaginative projects to be funded in recent years. We have been impressed with the amount of work undertaken by the local volunteers of all ages, the very real impact on the local environment and the pleasure it will give to the community".

Gillian Barber, programme manager at Community First



£15,000

Creating a space for wildlife

Cricket for Change, Wallington, Sutton

On Wednesday 23rd September 2009, the new Cricket for Change indoor school was officially opened at the Cricket Centre on Plough Lane, Wallington in the London Borough of Sutton.

Many big names from the sport attended, which was an excellent reflection on the good work that the charity does, 'using cricket to change the lives of disadvantaged young people'.

They included Devon Malcolm, Cricket for Change vice president and former England fast bowler, Mike Gatting, the former Ashes winning England captain; and current England women's cricketer, Ebony Rainford-Brent, a graduate of Cricket for Change.

The indoor school was formally opened by Tom Rodwell, chief executive of Cricket for Change, John Hooper, chairman of The Lord's Taverners and David Golton, chief executive of The London Marathon Charitable Trust.

Once the formalities were over, the first official net session at the new facility took

place, which included some young, talented and inspiring cricketers from the Hackney Community College and players from the England and Wales Blind Cricket Team. The day was rounded off with a Twenty20 match between a Croydon's Finest XI and a No Won Famous XI.

Tom Rodwell said, "The opening of the Indoor School completes a 10 year dream of making Plough Lane into a year round facility. Over that period, Cricket for Change has invested more than £1m to transform a once derelict playing field into a state of the art cricket centre."

Viridor Credits was among a select group of organisations and individuals who earned special thanks from the project, having given £60,000 via the Landfill Communities Fund. Others who contributed were The Lord's Taverners, The London Marathon Charitable Trust, The Cloth Makers Company, Paul Wickham, Croydon Economic Development Company, Blue Sky Developments, Natwest, Barclays, Norman Pearce and Karen Day.

Together they made this fantastic new facility into a reality and the opening a great success.



£60,000

A new indoor school for young cricketers from mixed backgrounds

£59,458

Resolving a Victorian design fault for a watertight church roof



St Mary the Virgin, Ellenbrook, Lancashire

When the Rev Kathryn Carmyllie became vicar for the parish of St Mary the Virgin in Ellenbrook, she knew that the biggest task after ministering to the needs of parishioners would be the church roof. As it turned out, a contribution of £59,458 from the Landfill Communities Fund made all the difference. The grant was awarded by Viridor Credits using landfill tax credits from Viridor's Whitehead landfill site.

Once a village in its own right, Ellenbrook is now part of a desirable and fast-growing residential area straddling the A580 Manchester to Liverpool road.

The Grade II listed church of St Mary the Virgin was erected in 1758. It is quite small, seating about 200 people, having been built to serve as a chapel of ease for the main church of St. Mary's, Eccles some miles away to enable workers to go to church without having to walk for miles. Over the years, it was subject to a number of alterations and additions.

Unfortunately, a Victorian design fault in a valley between two roof ridges meant that for many years water had been seeping into the structure and causing wet rot. As the Rev Carmyllie said: "This gave rise to a permanent musty smell and the church always felt damp inside – not the most welcoming atmosphere in the world, even when the congregation is so warm and friendly!"

What happened next was an intense period of work to change things and get the roof fixed. This involved close cooperation with

Viridor Credits with regard to funding and the appointment of an architect and builder approved for the renovation of a listed building. Importantly, it engendered a great community spirit in Ellenbrook as additional fundraising was undertaken with gusto.

"The church is now warm and watertight and I am very grateful for Viridor Credits' generosity," the Rev Carmyllie added. *"Of course there is always more to do on an old building, with three cracks in the baptistery wall to deal with and a memorial garden to re-landscape in a second round of improvements, but the biggest task is complete."*



£70,000

Preserving stables for an endangered species

Refurbished stables for the Suffolk Punch Trust

Suffolk Punches are handsome chesnut coloured heavy horses and a critically endangered species as there are only around 400 of them alive in the world today.

The future of these lovely animals is in the hands of a small group of committed owners and breeders and the Colony Stud of the Suffolk Punch Trust at Hollesley Bay, Suffolk, which is a registered charity and environmental body crucial to the preservation of the breed.

The Trust has recently received £70,000 from Viridor Credits. This comprised a direct grant of £42,500 and a further £27,500 given through Suffolk Environmental Trust, which works with Viridor Credits to distribute funds from the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) in the Ipswich area. In recognition of this generosity, one of the seven foals born at the Suffolk Punch Trust in 2009 was named Colony Viridor.

The LCF funding has enabled the Trust to refurbish its stables and open them up to the public six days a week from March 23, 2010, alongside its new Heritage, Education and Visitor Centre. Visitors will be able to see the horses under cover as well as in the paddocks and enjoy an impressive harness room.

Project manager for the Suffolk Punch Trust, John Marsh said:

"Over the years, the stables had become quite dilapidated and the support from Viridor Credits and Suffolk Environmental Trust has been very generous as they also helped with the purchase of the site in 2006."

The improved visitor experience is crucial to the whole project as visitor income is essential to pay for the development and delivery of a range of educational and work skills programmes and to ensure the Colony Stud is viable in the longer term.



Importantly, the Trust will be able to increase school visits for young children from inner city deprived areas who spend a day at the Trust for a countryside experience and for other vulnerable groups, including those with learning difficulties.

Whitsome Ark, Berwickshire

Whitsome is a Berwickshire village, about three miles over the border into Scotland and with spectacular views across the Lammermoor hills. It now enjoys the many benefits of a light, modern community hall with a difference, thanks in part to Viridor Credits. The company contributed £30,000 towards the building costs, drawing the money from the Landfill Communities Fund and managing the donation in association with Forward Scotland.

Whitsome Ark, as the new hall is called, accommodates a main function hall, community shop, post office and health visitor surgery. There's a meeting room, café area and post office, plus a fully equipped fitted kitchen, disabled toilets and a shower.

Prior to the building of the Ark, the 200 Whitsome villagers only had an old army hall on the edge of the village as a community centre; it was condemned following an ice storm.

Determined to replace the old hall with something better, a group was formed to design and build a new community hall in a central location within the village. The project took four years to plan and bring to life and emphasis was placed on energy saving and conservation in all aspects of the building process.

The total cost of the Ark was £423,000 and Viridor Credits' contribution went towards the provision of a state of the art ground source heat pump system and additional insulation. The way this works is that water is drawn and stored in a tank, then injected through a myriad of pipes under the floorboards when required. This keeps heating costs to a minimum and ensures that the hall is warm as well as friendly throughout the year.

Whitsome Ark is run by a voluntary management committee, officially opened on 5th September 2009 by the Lord Lieutenant of Berwickshire, Major Alexander Trotter JP.

"Getting the Ark off the ground has been hard work but everyone involved is very happy with the final outcome. The Ark is already proving to be a big hit and is making Whitsome a much more desirable place to be."

Derek Russell, secretary of the committee, Berwickshire News

£30,000

A new and improved village hall



Creswell Crags, Derbyshire

Amazing as it may seem, Creswell Crags has been attracting visitors for 40,000 – 60,000 years and still remains popular today.

While modern trippers include eager school children, families, walkers and archaeologists, the original visitors were groups of Neanderthals on short summer hunting trips to the northern-most extremity of their range.

Aurochs (the ancestors of modern domestic cattle) and woolly rhinoceros were to be found in the limestone gorge and in the surrounding countryside in Middle Palaeolithic times and no doubt made for good eating. The honeycomb of caves and smaller fissures along the gorge provided shelter for the hunters.

These days, Creswell Crags offers far more comfortable visitor facilities together with an impressive modern museum – as befits one of the UK's most important archaeological sites – with displays of Ice Age stone tools and animal remains. There's also a country park and wildlife centre.

Viridor Credits' involvement with the site relates to the new Community Bridge, which it has supported jointly with Lafarge Aggregates. A donation of £33,000 was made as a Landfill Communities Fund grant in partnership with Derbyshire Environmental Trust and in celebration of the Trust's 10th anniversary.



The bridge links the new visitor centre complex, which was opened in the summer of 2009 by Sir David Attenborough, with the prehistoric landscape. It is decorated with plaques that were designed by local school children from Whitwell, Creswell and Clowne, local community groups and by local oak artist David Judd, with the benefit of the LCF funding.

Each interpretation panel carries an image depicting the wonderful wildlife that inhabits our waterways and links this in to the journey from the neighbouring villages through the inspiring landscape to the new centre. The bridge itself was designed by OMI architects to allow visitors to view the ecology of the stream channel as if they are in a hide.

£33,000

Depicting wildlife at Creswell Crags



£21,458

Football as the route to achievement



Spartans Football Academy, Edinburgh

Spartans Community Football Academy has recently completed a fantastic new £3.2 million sports complex at its base in Granton, North Edinburgh.

This consists of a community owned and managed facility providing grass and synthetic football pitches. At certain times, members of the community can hire some of the facilities for birthday parties and other functions.

The Granton area of Edinburgh suffers from high unemployment, deprivation and high crime levels. There are numerous low income families in the area and far too many of the local children under achieve.

Spartans is tackling this by providing a top class sports facility that will encourage young people to participate in sport and divert them from anti-social behaviour elsewhere in the community. Viridor Credits Scotland provided £21,458 towards the cost of the football nets, corner flags, shelters and other training equipment for this excellent initiative via the Landfill Communities Fund, working in association with Forward Scotland.

One particularly interesting part of the project is the purpose-built state of the art clubhouse, which includes educational resources as well as full changing facilities, meeting rooms and a recreation area.

Children who under achieve and are either excluded from school or fail to turn up for their classes, are encouraged to come to the

centre and take part in a programme that combines schooling with sport.

In return for joining in the morning classes and making progress with their education, they are rewarded with the pleasure of football coaching once the school work is done. This has helped many youngsters turn away from the spiral of low attainment, exclusion and poverty.

The Spartans Football Academy has also employed a female football development officer. The job is to encourage girls to take part in the sport, with the possibility to eventually joining one of the fast growing number of girls' football teams in Scotland.

£12,353

Quarter in Bloom remembers its miners



Quarter, South Lanarkshire, Scotland

Quarter is a small former mining village in South Lanarkshire, in the south west of Scotland. Its mining history goes back at least 200 years and is still important to local people even though the coal seams are worked out and the local mine closed over 50 years ago.

Today's villagers include a good many keen gardeners. The village supports a strong horticultural group, Quarter in Bloom, who wanted to create a memorial garden to those who lost their lives working in the mine, using some boggy ground at the front of the church.

Viridor Credits Scotland, working with Forward Scotland, contributed £12,353 to cost of the project, in the form of a Landfill Communities Fund grant. This enabled the work to go ahead.

The garden now consists of raised beds, turf and edging, but the centrepiece is a coal hutch retrieved from the former mine. Coal hutches are small open railway trucks that hold a ton or so of newly mined coal and carry it along the track – also known as a hutch road – to the regular railway for distribution.

The hutch at Quarter has been beautifully restored and now holds pride of place in the garden. Alongside the hutch is a small

memorial stone which bears the names of the 69 miners from the village who died whilst working in the mine over the last 150 years. Sadly, some of them were as young as ten.

Besides being a permanent memorial to Quarter's lost miners, the garden also acts as a pleasant local place to visit on a sunny day. Seating has been provided for those who would like to stay a while and Quarter in Bloom has also provided a path alongside the garden to give wheelchair access to the church.

Volunteers from Quarter in Bloom maintain the garden in tip top condition. It's so good that it earned a silver award from Britain in Bloom for its displays in the garden.

Stoke Lyne playground, Oxfordshire

Stoke Lyne is a village in rural Oxfordshire, not far from the market town of Bicester. With no village hall and few community facilities, there was little at Stoke Lyne to engender community spirit until Ginny Duffell and her friends on the village playground committee got together to change things.

Their objective was to replace the somewhat scruffy children's playground on the local recreation ground with a much improved facility. It was to be a playground for all ages in the village that would provide a meeting place for young, old and in-betweens.

The group approached Viridor Credits through the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, in the hope of securing a Landfill Communities Fund grant. Their application met the essential criteria and they were rewarded with £30,000 towards the relocation and renewal of the playground.

Now that the work has been completed, Stoke Lyne Playground is the source of considerable civic pride within the village and, as Ginny Duffell says: "has fuelled community spirit."

The once scruffy playground has been moved to a different part of the recreation ground site and equipped with smart modern facilities, starting with safety surfacing and a good range of play equipment for the village children.

Seating and a picnic table have been provided to help in involving the adults – whether this be parents who want to enjoy family activities

with their children or older people hoping to enjoy a bit of company in the fresh air. The project has been finished off with recycling bins, which are 'right on the money' with regard to sustainability and supporting the villagers' new-found pride in their local environment.



£30,000

Renovated playground at the heart of an English village



Nature reserve at Cheston Combe Wood South, Backwell, North Somerset

Backwell is a village just seven miles south west of Bristol. With a population of 5,455, it punches well above its weight as an environmentally aware community.

In January 2005, Backwell Environment Trust (BET) was set up as a charity by the villagers with the objective of purchasing a local woodland and creating a nature reserve.

Having succeeded with this, the Trust has now acquired a second area of somewhat neglected woodland – to be known in future as Badgers Wood Nature Reserve. This has been possible because of a £59,578 grant from the Landfill Communities Fund, which was provided by Viridor Credits working in close association with Yanley and North Somerset Environmental Company (YANSEC).

According to Bill Charnock, chairman of BET, buying the woodland was not without its moments. Most, but not all of the 4.75 ha (11.75 acre) wood was owned by a large company that underwent an internal reorganisation during the negotiations. Nonetheless, a deal was finalised and BET has started to implement its woodland management plan.

As Ian Chambers, the leader of BET volunteers explains: “The ecology of Badgers Wood is divided in two. To the west the land is predominately flat with dry, thin soils overlying hard limestone bedrock. These areas were once extremely rich wildflower meadows and the small area of meadow that survives shows an amazing diversity of flowering plants, including the increasingly rare bee and pyramidal orchids.

“To the east, steeply sloping woodland is in almost permanent shade, giving rise to ferns and fungi nestling under exposed limestone cliffs. Wildlife on the reserve includes peregrine falcons and rare dormice may also be present.”

“Our plan is to remove scrub and bracken, coppice trees and restore overgrown sections of rare limestone grassland. We also aim to improve access and create new hedgerows. Subject to planning permission, we would like to create a small car park and wheelchair-friendly path with benches to make the most of a stunning viewpoint.”

£59,578

A second nature reserve for an active environmental group



£150,706

Providing outdoor play for today's youth

New facilities for older children and teenagers in Bolsover

Old Bolsover in Derbyshire has a long and varied history and was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. In more recent times, it prospered as a coal mining and processing community, but as the industry declined and finally closed in the 1990s, the mining areas were hard hit.

Under investment in social and recreational infrastructure in these communities resulted in run down, unappealing and unproductive public spaces. The area gained an unenviable record of problems with anti-social behaviour, poor health indicators, high obesity levels, high levels of social deprivation and youth offending to the fore.

To help in remedying the social impact of the years of deprivation, Old Bolsover Town Council has now launched a town-wide approach to the transformation of five areas of derelict recreation space. Viridor Credits, working with the Derbyshire Environmental Trust (DET), is supporting this initiative with a £150,706 grant for work at Hornscroft Park, one of the key sites.

“Having approved this project in July 2009, we were delighted to sign funding agreements with DET and Viridor Credits in October and look forward to the completion of work at Hornscroft Park in the Spring of 2010,” said David Kee of Old Bolsover Town Council.

Hornscroft Park was gifted to Old Bolsover by the Duchess of Portland in 1921 to mark her son's 21st birthday and was once considered the jewel in the crown of Bolsover's parks. The park was formally laid out in 1937 as a national fitness park and for many years it played host to a range of activities and sports groups, many of which fell into decline with the closure of the local mines.

Surrounded by the conservation area the park contains castle entrenchments, which are listed ancient monuments and a public right of way, which forms part of the Cavendish Trail. Whilst some improvements have been made to facilities for younger children, the park is greatly in need of facilities for older children and teenagers.

This project that Viridor Credits is supporting will provide comprehensive outdoor play facilities for this older age range. It will feature a covered meeting point seating area and an arena style multi-sports court incorporating football and basketball facilities and markings.

Play equipment aimed specifically at teenagers will also be provided. This include a basket swing, a climbstone, a Freeride (to practice and show off snowboard or surfing skills), a Momentum (inclined roundabout for use solo or with friends) and an overhead carousel.

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