

National Science Conservation Centre
Twycross Zoo

Design & Access Statement P05

October 2023

HLM
Architects

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© Google Maps

1.00

Introduction

1.01 Introduction

Overview of the Proposal

This Design & Access Statement has been prepared on behalf of Twycross Zoo and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) in support of the proposed development to the south west of the Twycross Zoo site.

Project Vision

Twycross Zoo, working with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, are looking to deliver three new buildings on the Zoo site, with associated landscape works.

Firstly, a new Orangutan Habitat will provide a new home for the zoo’s existing animals in a much enhanced environment. It includes both internal and external habitats, animal dens and enrichment equipment. The building also includes zoo keeper back-of-house spaces and a visitor centre.

Secondly, a National Science Conservation Centre that comprises of a two-storey higher education campus building. The NSCC will be a purpose-built centre located adjacent to Twycross Zoo. It will offer researchers from around the world the opportunity to study the 4 Great Apes, plus over 100 endangered species, in naturalistic complex environments whilst supporting conservationists and scientists with a world class facility. The centre will provide excellent teaching and research facilities (FE and HE), focussing on conservation, animal welfare, biosciences, STEM activities and public engagement with science. The centre will have both national and international appeal, including a unique 200-seater venue for scientific conferences.

Lastly there is to be a residential facility adjacent to the NSCC building for the researchers studing at the NSCC building to stay. The building will have a small cafe provision to support the NSCC building and users.

The new Orangutan Habitat is to be the focus of a new 'Indonesian village' in the zoo, teaching visitors about this part of the world. This area will comprise of a number of ancillary structures to support the development, some of which are proposed to be additional animal habitats to enhance the area. The proposals have not identified the specific animal species that would occupy the additional habitats: as these are living species and Twycross Zoo is engaged with what would work best from a conservation perspective, there is necessarily a degree of flexibility needed in what the eventual species selection will be.

The additional structures proposed are as follows:

- **Residential Lodges:** For researchers with families or requiring a longer stay.
- **Outdoor Classroom**
- **A Songbird Aviary**
- **Two Additional Habitats**
- **Site Gateway**
- **'Village' Viewing Shelters**
- **Dining Shelters**
- **Kiosk & VR Structure.**

The proposals have been developed alongside the core design team listed below:

- **Project Manager / Cost Consultant:** Baker Mallett
- **Architect and Interior Designer:** HLM Architects
- **Landscape:** HLM Architects
- **Zoo Specialist Designer:** Dearadh Zú
- **Civil & Structural Engineers:** Clancy
- **MEP Engineers:** Cundall
- **NZC Consultant:** WSP
- **Planning Consultant:** WSP
- **Fire Engineer:** Hydrock
- **Acoustic Engineer:** Hydrock
- **Principal Designer:** Vextrix

2.00

Site Analysis

2.01 Site Analysis
Site Location

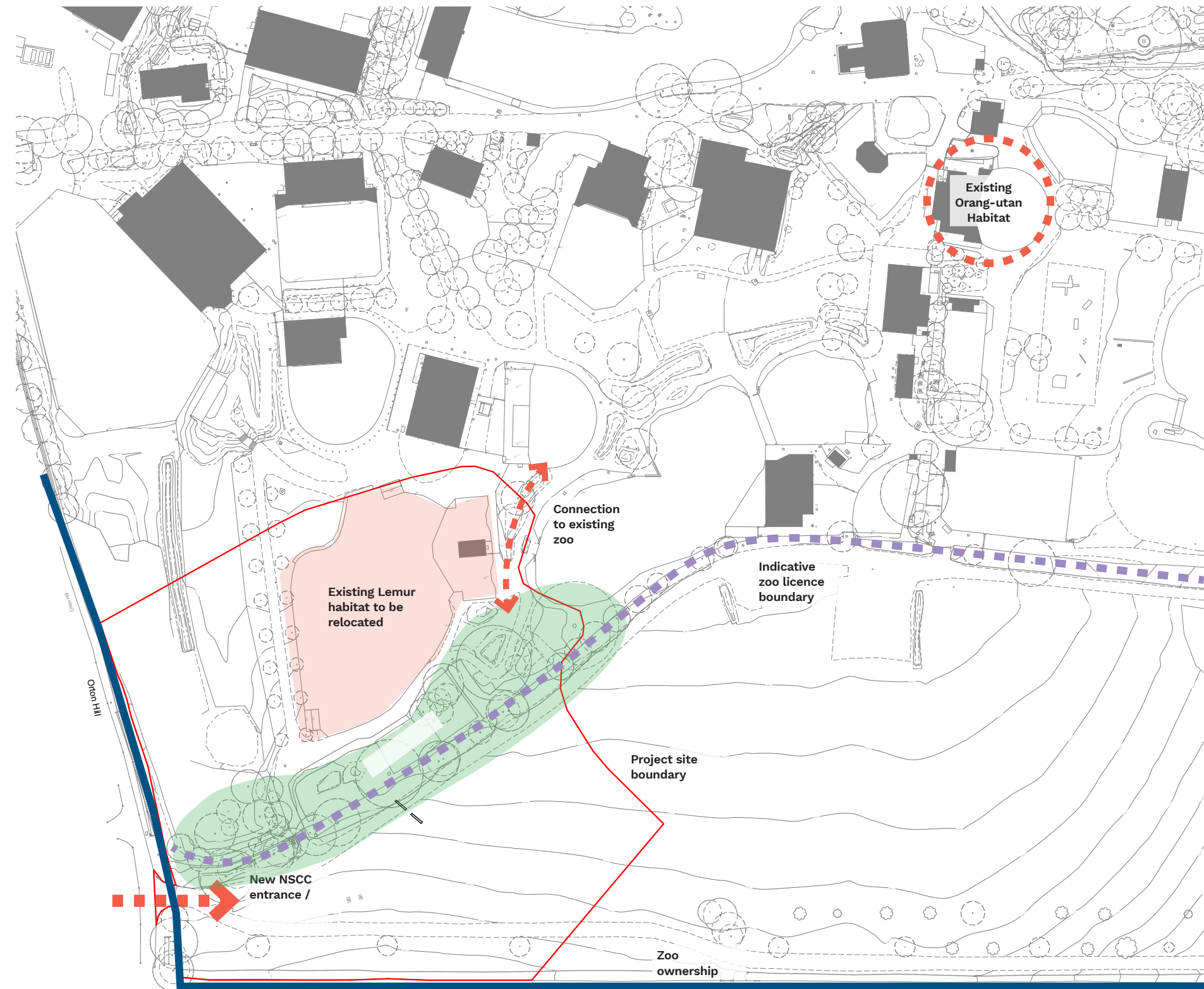


2.02 Site Analysis

Location within the Twycross Complex

Site

The site for the project is within the zoo's existing ownership, to the south-west corner of the site. Primary visitor access to the Orangutan habitat will be from the main zoo, with a secondary entrance off Orton Road providing dedicated access and car parking for the NSCC.



2.03 Site Analysis
Local Character - Twycross Zoo

Some of the existing structures at the Zoo. There are a range of styles and materials used, with seemingly no overriding typology.



Current Entrance to the Zoo



Lorikeet Landing



Gibbon Forest



Chimpanzee Eden



Twycross Administration Building



Giraffe House

2.03 Site Analysis
Local Character - Twycross Zoo

Range of materials used across the zoo: again there is no overriding palette



2.04 Site Analysis

Local Character - Little Orton

Beyond the immediate context of Twycross Zoo, the site is closest too the civil parish of Little Orton. Whilst the buildings are larely of an agricultural nature and of the local red brick, within this there is a great variety in the ages of the buildings and massing.



2.05 Site Analysis

Site Photograph Locations





1 - View looking east towards site



2 - Gate on zoo boundary



3 - Looking east towards Orton Road from zoo entrance



4 - Looking West from entrance to zoo



5 - Looking south east from zoo entrance

3.00

Proposal Development