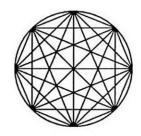
# CLEVELAND LAKES ~ AMMONITE POOLS CONCEPT PROPOSAL

global impacts







This design proposal was funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund with financial assistance from Arts Council England.



## **COTSWOLD WATER PARK SOCIETY**

Cotswold House, Manor Farm, Down Ampney, Cirencester GL7 5QF

## **CLEVELAND LAKES – AMMONITE POOLS CONCEPT PROPOSAL**

BACKGROUND DESIGN STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES WHY THE AMMONITE EXISTING STRATEGY AND PLANS DESIGN TEAM DRAWINGS

List of Drawings:

108/22A Ammonite Pools Concept Plan 108/25B **Perspective Overview to Ammonite Hide** 108/27 Contour Plan 1:1,000 **Concept Elevations** 108/28 Perspective View North East from Visitor Centre Exit To Hide 108/25 **Perspective View North from Visitor Centre Bund** 108/23 108/24 **Perspective View North East from Ammonite Hide** Perspective View South West to Ammonite Hide 108/26 108/29 **Indicative Sectional Elevations** 

**GLOBAL IMPACTS Ltd** 

Pendana, Hampton Lane Nr Brook, Ashford, Kent TN25 5PN www.globalimpacts.co.uk







Page No. 2 5 7 9 11 12 13

#### 3 4 6 8 10 14 15 16 17



#### BACKGROUND

#### The Cotswold Water Park

(www.waterpark.org) comprises some 40 square miles of worked out active gravel pits, but also farmland in the floodplain of the River Thames. By 2050 it is set to become one of the largest man-made wetland complexes in Europe created by commercial and industrial activity. 10 out of its 146 lakes have achieved SSSI status already in recognition of the distinctive aquatic flora which thrives in the lime-rich water. It also has a reputation as the most prolific fossil sites in the UK.

#### The Cotswold Water Park Society (CWPS -

**The Society)** is a not-for-profit charitable body which has worked for 10 years to enhance the opportunities for communities' awareness and enjoyment of the Water Park by working with public authorities and private companies to enhance the public access and biodiversity of land reclaimed for the Water Park.

**In Our Element** is the Arts Development programme for the Water Park, commissioning artists as an integral part of CWPS' biodiversity and education initiatives. Artists help bring creativity, imaginative thinking, and different ways of enhancing projects and community understanding of the Water Park ecology. **Cleveland Lakes** is the largest new lake development to be initiated by the Society. This is an unique opportunity and the Society has asked Global Impacts to develop an exciting phased programme of high quality habitat creation work which aims to turn 112 hectares of used gravel pit into a nature reserve with full public access, alongside watersports such as rowing and canoeing.

A proposal to create stunning new artist designed landscape and Ammonite-form bird hide will make Cleveland Lakes a key visitor attraction in the UK. These fantastic designs provide a quality viewing platform over the northern extent of Cleveland Lakes, with the major water sports facility to the south. This initiative builds upon an existing restoration scheme whose funding by Natural England through DEFRA's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund allowed this concept design and development strategy to be developed, primarily for the land bridge between the lakes.

Figure 1 Satellite Views Of Cleveland Lakes Before And After The Ammonite Land And Waterscape Sculpture Has Been Installed

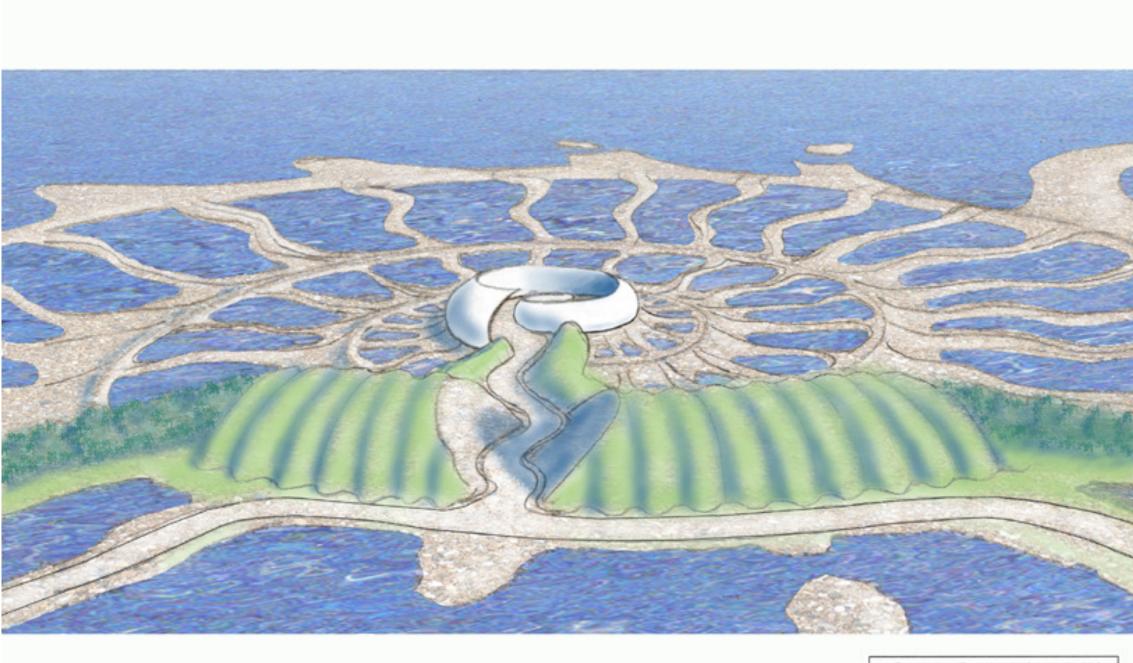












-- 12/03/08





#### DESIGN

#### Concept

The design concept is based on the way in which fossils often break away from their bearing rocks in an irregular fashion, revealing both positive and negative forms akin to the opening of an erratic mould. Here, this notion of positive and negative imprints within the bedrock has been developed as an overall landscape treatment; designed to give a particular rhythm and continuity to the whole land bridge between the two lakes. The spiral is a natural growth form and in many cultures is symbolic of life, development and progression. These ancient Ammonite forms are given a physical and dynamic expression within this contemporary landscape. A beautiful object from the past can act as a message of creative environmental regeneration for the future.

#### **Functionality**

The two Ammonite forms work visually and physically in very different ways. The first forms a viewing focus from the proposed visitor centre where the ribs of the Ammonite spiral form a mini-archipelago of loafing islands and potential nest sites for water birds, with different species taking advantage of the higher spiral island at the centre. The second Ammonite forms a focal point from which to view a wide panorama of the Ammonite Pools with the main Nature Reserve Lake, waders scrape and duck marsh areas beyond.

The inclined spirals of the Ammonites with their gently rising segments arising from the Nature Reserve's lake lend themselves perfectly to a site with fluctuating water levels. At various times of the year, and within different weather conditions, certain areas will become inundated, capturing and retaining water for different periods of

time. This variation within the Pools will inevitably produce varying habitats which will affect feeding and breeding patterns, plant growth, and form part of a visually changing and dynamic landscape rich in biodiversity.



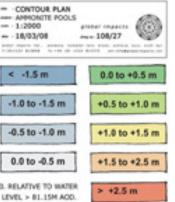




-0.5 to -1.0 m 0.0 to -0.5 m

0. RELATIVE TO WATER LEVEL > 81.15M AOD.





#### **STRATEGIC AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

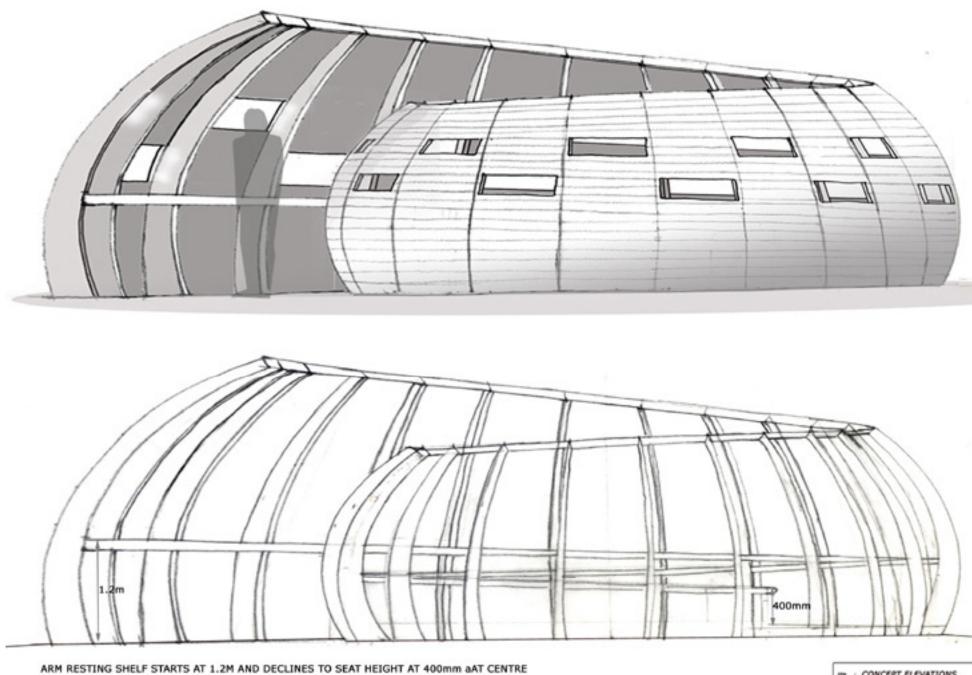
The design for this innovative landscape and • Ammonite Bird Hide is to:

- Inspire the visitor. •
- Commission innovative yet totally • appropriate wetland design and iconic architecture.
- Set new and high standards for the • regeneration of an industrial mining site.
- Achieve biodiversity objectives for both • the pools/ponds area and the scrape/march areas within innovative design, using forms and shapes inspired by nature.
- Enhance people's experience and understanding of nature.
- Create an imaginative landscape and • sympathetic approach to the hide designed to welcome the general public to the site.

- Attract new audiences and communities to enjoy the site.
- Complement the programme of new footpaths and community access.
- Provide for an unusually magnificent panoramic view over the surrounding land sculpture and waterscape, including wader's scrape, duck marsh and heronry in the distance.
- Use locally available materials including • reed, willow, timber, rammed earth and materials recycled from gravel extraction and other sources.
- Create an interior to the hide that is as attractive to the general public as it is to bird watchers.
- Involve communities in the process and development.

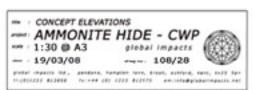












#### WHY THE AMMONITE?

The bedrock is filled with Ammonites revealed by guarrying. These ancient creatures are continuously re-flooded under the quarrying process.

The Ammonite embodies a significant design form in its own right, but for this project is a key design metaphor, illuminating how the ancient underlying bedrock with its amazing fossils has been brought to the surface of the land through aggregates extraction.

As a design form the Ammonite:

Contains a rich diversity of form and • function. It consists of slopes, spirals and whorls that marry well with achieving the habitat and species development objectives and biodiversity enhancements. These can range from: the bird watching experience itself; creating suitable water habitats for duck, marsh waders and scrapes; nestling on into bank habitats for Biodiversity Action Plan target species, such as Water Voles and Great Crested Newts; enhancing the possibilities to be developed by the extension of ditches and hedges.

- Embodies the Golden Section and Fibonacci series, ancient links between the "Design of Nature" and the "Design of enhancements. These are as rich in their Artists and Architects".
- Creates a striking symmetry of form for land and water whose presence in the future will put the Water Park guite literally "on the map" and certainly on the hit list of "most interesting" Google satellite sites.

### Figure 2 View NE to Where New Hide Will Be



Figure 3 A Typical Local Ammonite Fossil





All these create an interconnected, diverse network of land and waterscape potential for the actual conservation and management of biodiversity as they are rich in information and storylines providing a wealth of experiences for visitors of varied ages, backgrounds and interests. There is a depth of possibilities for:

- Education
- Interpretation
- Creative learning and
- Expanding people's awareness -

not just of geological time, but also the values of biodiversity within land and waterscapes and the Aerial Ammonite Montage.

The additional scope to expand visitor attractions around new sites and landform initiatives on the "Fossil Theme" at the Water Park is considerable.





#### **EXISTING STRATEGY AND PLANS**

The Ammonite Development Strategy is complementary to the general guidance of the current CWP Master Planning initiative being undertaken by Scott Wilson. There will be a need to comply with any required consents involving the Local Authorities and any agreements with Environment Agency for flood and pollution management.

The Cleveland complex will be one of the most important sites for wildlife in the

region. The northern section will be designated as a nature reserve to be kept free from human disturbance to protect shy wildlife. Carefully screened paths and hides are planned to allow visitors access to nature, and attractive walks will link to the Thames National Trail.

Plans to convert Cleveland Lakes into a nationally important rowing centre have existed for almost 40 years and the CWPS

intends to carry these forward as a flagship project to provide a regional, national and international training and competition flatwater course for paddle-sports for everybody. If extended to 2,000 metres the proposed course would be one of the few in the UK to meet international standards and have the potential to become a training venue for Olympic rowing and canoeing crews. This would generate it own clientele of potential visitors.



#### DESIGN TEAM

The design process is artist led by Mick Petts landform sculptures, seafront and and Bryan Spooner of Global Impacts Ltd commissioned by the CWPS and its arts development programme 'In Our Element'.

Mick Petts is a renowned ecological designer and sculptor with an extensive body of work, He has been involved in numerous design both rural and urban, ranging from small ephemeral works, to buildings, to interpretative and landscape sculptures on a vast scale. Over the past 28 years his work has mostly been collaborative; often working numerous consultancies for multialongside engineers, ecologists and others involved in the transformation of brown-field sites and habitat creation schemes.

His works have included visitor centres, access and gateway structures, major

promenade renovations, visitor interpretation installations, stage works, and external play works for the young and structures and spaces for disabled people.

and build projects and as construction design supervisor. He has worked in the commercial, education, conservation and government sectors and has undertaken disciplinary design teams.

Mick's work is about reinterpreting and animating different landscapes, as he puts it - ..." my job is to see the full potential of a certain site, to make new ideas spring to

life, to re-engage people and wildlife with the land..."

Mick works extensively with Bryan Spooner who has worldwide experience in managing creative approaches to sustainable development. He has considerable experience in organisational strategies and in project planning and management. He has worked extensively with artists to help organisations, constituencies and communities research and engage in sustainable development and biodiversity management initiatives.

Their work can be reviewed on their website www.globalimpacts.co.uk . Some directly relevant projects are illustrated in Appendix A - Previous Projects.



#### DRAWINGS

The drawings which follow show various perspective views across the site, together with the necessary Plan View and Elevations required for planning consents and public consultations. Also provided are views from the hide interior across Cleveland Lakes.

Research on bank detail and habitat needs for target species have already been undertaken to confirm the feasibility of a substantial project component for habitat

and species management using the spirals and whorls associated with the Ammonite hide and its associated landforms and waterscapes. Illustrations of these habitat criteria to be developed during detailed design are being held on file. The materials to be used currently are envisaged to include:

# Figure 4 Typical Spoil Heaps



#### Landscape Materials

- Quarrying waste
- Backfill material
- Corn brash fossil-bearing limestone
- Oxford clay

#### **Ammonite Hide**

• Locally sourced timber



13

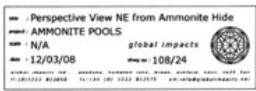






- 12/03/08







Perspective View SW
AMMONITE POOLS
N/A
12/03/08



W to	Ammonite	Hide
	al Impacta 108/26	۲
ntan tanu. Kasi kumi	inani, satiya, Mi aminifadyi	tant, publicar adarbagante.org

