



Frimley Park Water Treatment and Storage Facility

Landscape Mitigation Package

Prepared for Hastings District Council
October 2019



W Y F I N D E R

Landscape Planning & Strategy

Frimley Park

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Introduction



Frimley Park - Mature Trees



Frimley Park - Open Space

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Introduction

Hastings District Council (Council) is undertaking a significant project aimed at delivering safe drinking water across Hastings City and Suburbs. It involves the construction and operation of new water treatment and storage facilities in two locations within the city. Following a detailed site selection process (outlined later in the document), Frimley Park was identified as one of the project sites.

In order to deliver the project successfully, it is important to consider the potential adverse effects of the proposed infrastructure (particularly the storage reservoirs). Whilst careful site selection has assisted in this process, the project team considers that there are further opportunities available to help the facility integrate into the Park.

This document provides an overview of the Frimley Park qualities and values, before providing a brief assessment of the proposal and the potential opportunities for its mitigation. It includes an assessment of the potential trees that will need to be removed in order to accommodate the facility, and a concept plan that demonstrates the overall outcomes sought.

Finally, a set of visualisations are provided that show how the location and size of the reservoir and buildings, together with the proposed planting and screening.

Park Qualities



All abilities Playground.
Photo credit: Playground Centre



Historic Williams Homestead

History

An historic 22-roomed kauri homestead was built in 1894 by Frimley Station owner, J.N. Williams, a cousin of the noted Archdeacon Samuel Williams, founder of Te Aute College. The pioneering station of once 2,000 acres was gradually reduced by subdivision and other developments including the expansion of Hastings.

Sadly the Frimley Homestead was destroyed by fire in 1950. By the time the Hastings Fire Brigade arrived, the unoccupied house was well ablaze with the flames reportedly soaring 500 feet. The glow could be seen as far away as Napier and as far south as Waipukurau.

Elsie Williams, A.B and H.B Williams donated the magnificent grounds of over 47 acres to the Hastings Borough Council in memory of their pioneering parents. They gifted the memorial sundial in the Sunken Garden to mark the house site.

Trees

Many of the original trees from around the historic Frimley Homestead still exist today and form the framework of Frimley Park. One better known tree is the *Populus deltoides* "Virginiana" and is reputed to be the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

The park boasts several other notable trees as identified in the Council District Plan. Frimley Park is valued for its mature tree specimens, open space character and views throughout the park. This 'Old English' style provides the main character this Park is associated with.

Rose Garden

The Hastings Rose Society was an offshoot of the Hawke's Bay Rose Society and officially became a Society in its own right in 1959. The idea of a Civic Rose Garden was first mentioned during the Society's AGM in 1954. The recently bequeathed Williams homestead and grounds in Frimley to the Borough Council was suggested as a possible location.

By the end of 1967, 4,000 rose bushes and over 300 cultivars had been planted. The Rose Garden was officially opened on Sunday 26 November 1967. Further development of the Rose Garden included a pergola and a walkway flanked by rose beds that lead park visitors to the Frimley Rose Garden.

Rose Sunday has also been revitalised over the years, with spectators being presented with buttonholes and entertained by the Hastings City Band.

Playground and Sporting Facilities

The play area is specially designed to suit all mobilities. Children are drawn into different play zones through the use of brightly coloured astro-turf that separates each area. This vibrant use of colour and textured surfacing is also designed to help those with poor vision or learning disabilities. Play equipment includes bongo drums, talk tubes, wheelchair-friendly roundabout, swings, slides, rope climb and scooter path.

On the park's Frimley Rd boundary is the Frimley Aquatic Centre, an outdoor swimming complex open over the summer months.

The park also has sports fields catering for football and cricket, a picnic area with tables and a petanque court.

Park Values



Photo credit: Michael Schultz Photography



Weetbix Kids TRYathlon hosted at Frimley Park.
Photo credit: Weetbix Kids TRYathlon

Open Space

Strengths

The Park is a large open green area with minimal hard space and few buildings. The arboretum of tall, established trees are regularly pruned and maintained to ensure open views throughout the site, adding to the open park value of Frimley. The open nature, connected to the sports fields, is well suited to large family events such as the Weetbix Kids TRYathlon.

Weakness

The Park Maintenance Sheds are located in the centre of the Park, blocking views throughout the Park and disconnecting Park features from one another. This buildig is also lit at night, which detracts from evening enjoyment of the Park.

Connectivity

Strengths

Frimley Park has good pedestrian links with the neighbourhood particularly with the neighbouring two Secondary Schools, Primary School and Kindergarten. There is a sealed access from Frimley Road through to Lyndhurst Road, passing through the sports fields.

Weakness

There are few defined axis lines through the Park, particularly from Frimley Road. Whilst there is a direct path to the Rose Gardens, there is more limited formed connection to the sunken gardens in the centre of the Park.

Vegetation

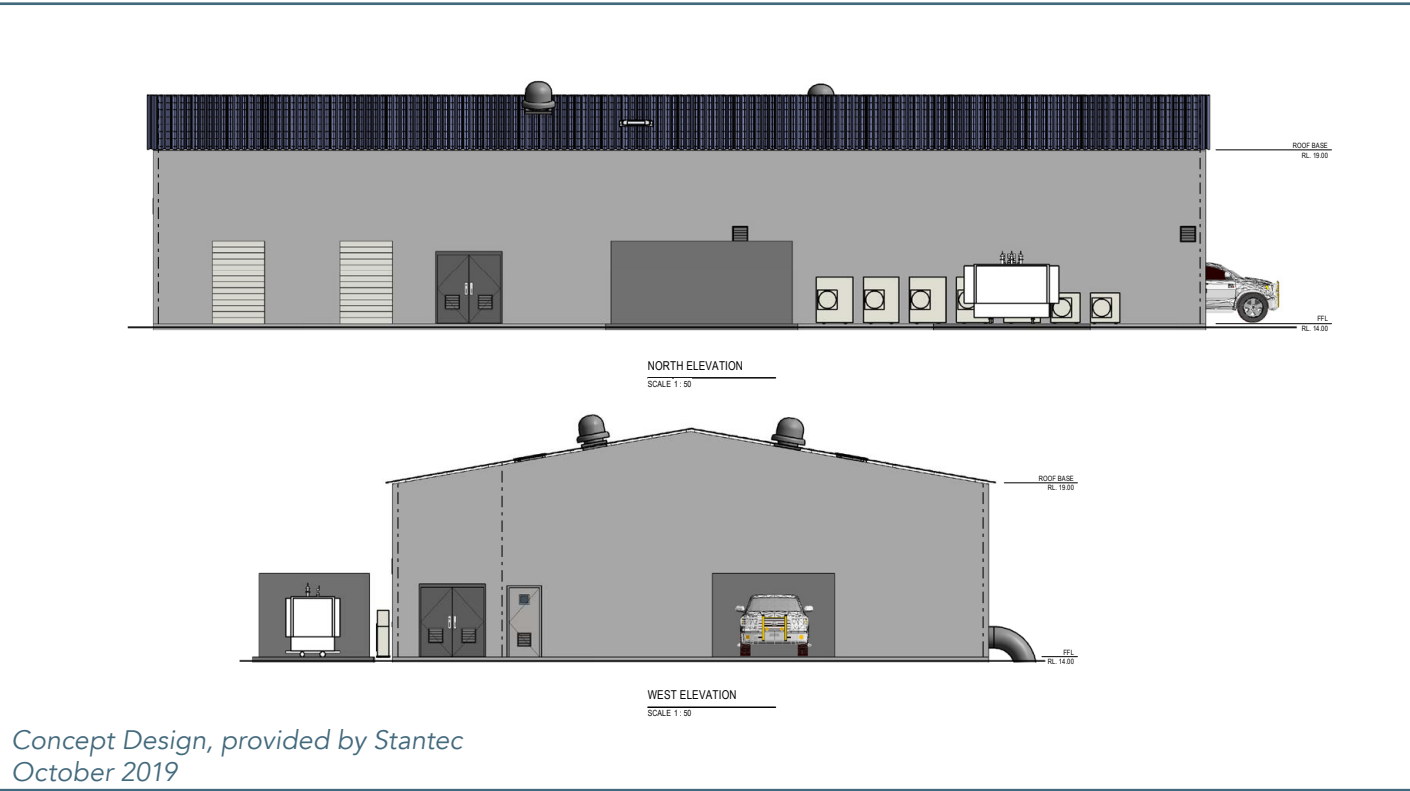
Strengths

Highly maintained gardens are resonate of the original homestead gardens. The gardens seasonal variety are highly valued and bring celebrations to Frimley Park such as Weddings and Art Deco events. Mature tree specimens throughout the Park are particularly balanced, providing a contrast to the surrounding residential environment.

Weakness

The perrennial garden beds (the site of the old homestead) are located in the centre of the Park with no connection to other significant sites within the Park and without any direct connection to Frimley Road.

Proposal



Proposal

To meet the requirements of the Local Government Act (2002), Council is constructing new water storage, treatment and pumping facilities on two separate sites within Hastings City. A detailed site selection process was undertaken to find the optimum location for each facility. This involved the consideration of:

- Proximity to the existing water main network;
- (minimising cost to connect and street disruption);
- Land ownership (Council land preferable, to minimise land acquisition costs and timing);
- Potential effects on neighbouring properties;
- Potential effects on existing land-users; and
- Potential geotechnical requirements.

Following this process, a preferred site was selected on the southern end of Frimley Park immediately adjacent to Hastings Girls High School. The site is suitably

located near existing water sources and infrastructure, is owned by Council, and is currently used less than other areas of the Park. Further details on the site-selection process can be found on the Council website.

Development of this facility would involve the construction of a 8,000m³ reservoir (approximately 38m diameter and 11m tall), together with an ancillary building to house associated pumps, filtration, chlorination and UV treatment infrastructure.

It is recognised that the preferred site is located within a valued Open Space therefore it was quickly identified that any facility in this location be appropriately sited and designed to avoid, remedy and mitigate any potential effects, particularly in regard to visual amenity and the qualities of the Park.

Site Location

A location has been chosen along the boundary of Frimley Park purposefully away from any significant park features.

Topography

The site has natural topography which will aid in grounding the reservoir and ancillary building in the landscape.

Existing Trees

Detailed analysis of existing trees has been undertaken including their identification, current condition and height. This area of the Park contains numerous conifer and evergreen species that will aid in visually mitigating the structures.

Setbacks

The proposal is set back from Frimley Road and any affected residential properties.



View towards proposed project site

Proposed Site Location



Legend

- ■ ■ Frimley Park boundary
- Existing trees
- Open grass areas
- Pathways
- Amenity garden beds
- Notable trees (Council Plan)
- Underground services
- Proposed site
- Mitigation Opportunities Plan (next page)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 Rose Garden | 5 Public toilets | 9 Significant tree (<i>Populus deltoides</i>) |
| 2 Strong pedestrian axis to rose garden from Frimley Road | 6 Sunken garden and site of historic Homestead | 10 Original entrance and driveway to historic homestead |
| 3 Frimley Aquatic Centre | 7 Park Maintenance Sheds | |
| 4 Playground | 8 Perennial gardens | |

Mitigation Opportunities Plan



Opportunities

- 1 Site the facility in context of surrounding trees
- 2 Set back from boundary and avoid underground services
- 3 Utilise the site topography to 'sink' the Water Storage reservoir into the landscape
- 4 Set back from historic entrance and driveway
- 5 Use recessive colour on reservoir and ancillary building (Resene 'Ironsand' or similar)
- 6 Plant additional large tree specimens
- 7 Plant a double avenue of trees along original driveway
- 8 Screen ancillary building
- 9 Remove the Park Maintenance Sheds as offset mitigation
- 10 Extend perennial gardens and formal accessway through to Frimley Road
- 11 Install a feature at the conclusion of the extended perennial path

Legend

- ■ ■ Frimley Park boundary
- Existing trees to remain
- Trees to be removed for construction
- Approximate locations of reservoir and ancillary building

Tree Assessment



Existing trees to be retained:				
Number	Species	Common name	Current Height	Current Quality
A4	Abies Spp	Fir		Excellent
A7	Betula pendula	Silver birch		Poor
A12	Japanese zelkova	Keyaki	12.6m	Average
A13	Japanese zelkova	Keyaki	12.6m	Average
A14	Japanese zelkova	Keyaki	12.6m	Average
B1	Quercus robur	English oak		Good
B2	Quercus robur	English oak		Good
B3	Unknown	Unknown		Good
B4	Malus Spp	Flowering crabapple		Unknown
B5	Quercus robur	English oak		Good
B12	Cedrus deodara	Himalyan cedar		Good
B13a	Quercus Ilex	Holly oak	17m	Very poor
B13b	Quercus Ilex	Holly oak	17m	Good
C1	Quercus robur	English oak		Good
C2	Fraxinus ornis	Mana ash		Poor
C2a	Robinia pseudoacacia	Black locust		Average
C3	Keyaki	Japanese zelkova		Average
C9	Cupressus Spp	Cyprus	17.6	Average
C11	Cedrus deodara	Himalyan cedar	11.2	Average
C12	Cedrus deodara	Himalyan cedar	14.6	Good
C13	Platanus orientalis	Plane tree		Good
C14	Cedrus deodara	Himalyan cedar	17m	Good
C15	Cedrus deodara	Himalyan cedar	18.2	Good
C16	Quercus robur	English oak		Good
C17	Cupressus Spp	Cyprus		Average
C18	Cedrus deodara	Himalyan cedar		Good
C19	Alectryon excelsus	Titoki		Good
C20	Ginko biloba	Maidenhair tree		Poor
C21	Pseudopanax lessonii	Houpara		Good
C22	Pseudopanax lessonii	Houpara		Average
C23	Pseudopanax lessonii	Houpara		Good
C24	Alectryon excelsus	Titoki		Good
C24a	Alectryon excelsus	Titoki		Average
C24b	Alectryon excelsus	Titoki		Good
D1	Eriobotrya japonica	Loquat		Good
D2	Quercus Ilex	Holly oak		Good
D3	Schinus molle	Pepper tree		Good
D4	Fraxinus excelsior	Ash		Good
D4a	Ulmus procera Louie Van H	Golden Elm		Average
D4b	Quercus robur	English oak		Good
D5	Cedrus atlantica glauca	Atlas cedar		Good
D6	Cupressus Spp	Cupressus		Good
D7	Casuarina cunninghamiana	River she-oak		Good
D8	Eucalyptus Spp	Gum		Good
D8a	Quercus Ilex	Holly oak		Good
D8b	Eucalyptus Spp	Gum		Good
D9	Pinus Spp	Pine		Good

Concept Plan



Opportunities

- 1 Potential bore location with plant screening
- 2 Potential bore location with gazebo screening
- 3 Future removal of Park Maintenance Sheds
- 4 Extend gardens along axis and retain all trees
- 5 Extend specimen tree planting where Park Maintenance Sheds are removed
- 6 Strengthen avenues with additional specimen trees
- 7 Plant additional screening specimen trees in open area
- 8 Plant additional specimen trees along the park boundary

Legend

- ■ ■ Frimley Park boundary
- Existing trees to remain
- Proposed new trees

Visualisation



Proposed



Existing



Location Map


View towards proposed site location from main entrance off Frimley Road.

No additional planting or mitigation shown
Building and reservoir rendered for size and location only
Subject to final design revisions


Visualisation



Proposed



Existing



Location Map

View from inside the park looking towards Hastings Girls High School

No additional planting or mitigation shown

Building and reservoir rendered for size and location only

Subject to final design revisions

Visualisation



Proposed



Existing



Location Map

View from playground towards proposed site showing Park Maintenance Sheds removed

No additional planting or mitigation shown

Building and reservoir rendered for size and location only

Subject to final design revisions



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