



WELCOME

COWDRAY

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR EXHIBITION

Welcome to this Public Exhibition related to environmental enhancement works and public amenity improvements at Town Meadow, Midhurst.

The purpose of today's exhibition is to ensure that you, the local community, are aware of and understand the evolving plans of Cowdray Estate for Town Meadow.

In partnership with Southern Water, and alongside a team of professional advisors, Cowdray Estate are committed to improving the natural environment at Town Meadow, at this important historic site within Midhurst.

The team are on hand to explain the proposals and, where possible, answer your questions.



THE VISION

The proposals are hoped to include:

- channel narrowing;
- river bank regrading;
- habitat enhancements;
- the installation of a new boardwalk; and
- new pathways for circular walking route opportunities.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Please feel free to view the boards at your leisure and discuss any queries or questions that you may have with Cowdray Estate, Southern Water, and their representatives.



PRITCHARD
ARCHITECTURE

PRO VISION

TOWN MEADOW LOCATION



TOWN MEADOW, MIDHURST

Midhurst's 'Town Meadow' is located to the north-east of the Town, and to the west of Cowdray Ruins, forming part of the Cowdray Estate.

On the eastern edge of the Meadow, runs the River Rother. The River Rother in this location is generally over-wide, over-deep and unnaturally straight, and therefore suffers from high levels of sedimentation from upstream land use management practices.

It has been identified as a location where restoration measures could deliver a high environmental benefit, alongside Cowdray Estate's ambitions to create a public amenity "riverside park" for appreciation of biodiversity by the local community.

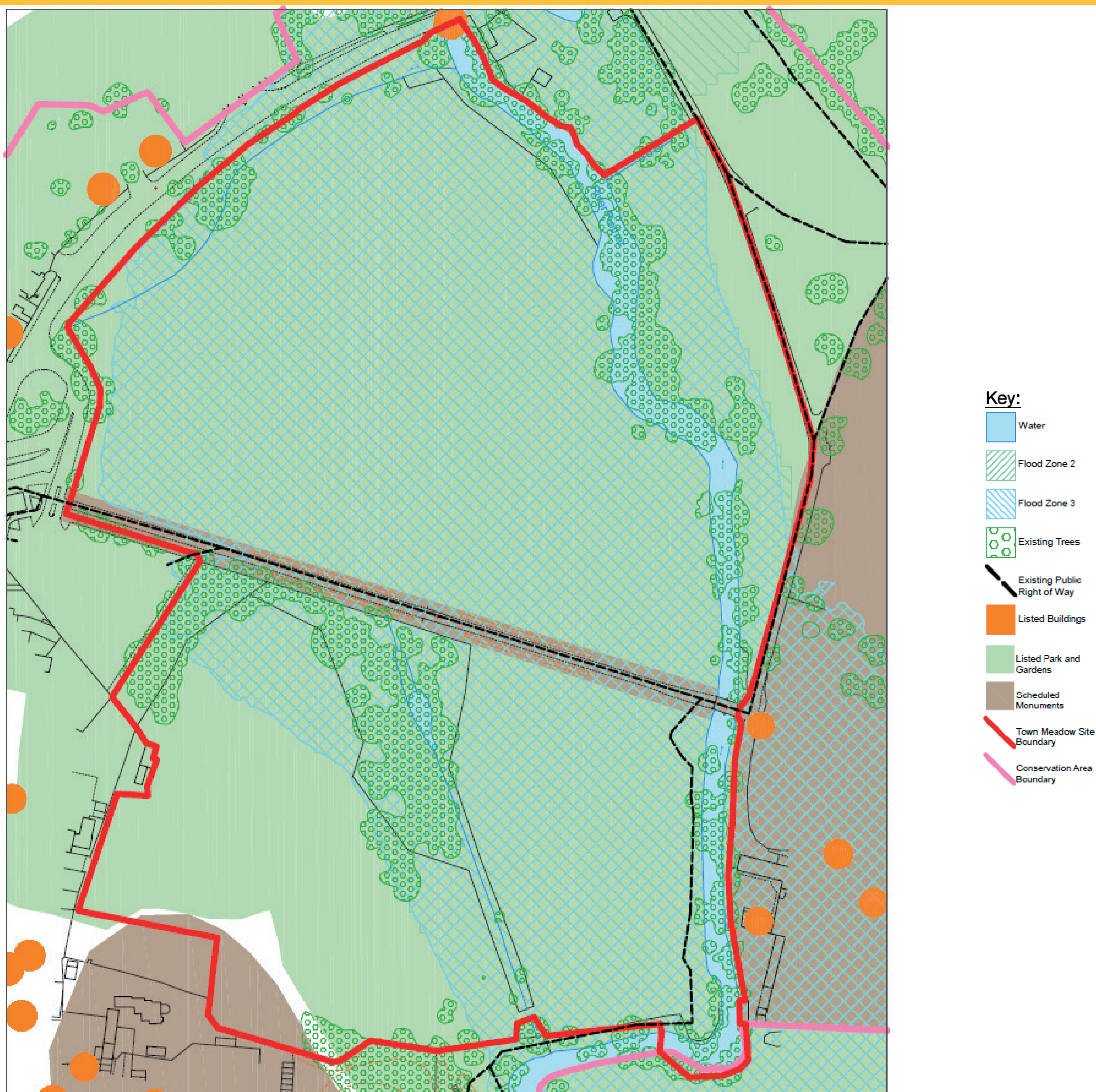
The boundary for the proposed enhancement works is shown on the image below.



Image Source: Google Maps



CONTEXT AND TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS



The proposal site is subject to a number of environmental and historic designations. The ruins of the original Cowdray House are considered the most distinctive landmark in Midhurst. They are an important example of early Tudor houses and are statutorily protected as a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument. Cowdray Town Meadow sits within the wider Grade II* Listed Registered Park and Garden of Cowdray House. The site also lies within the Midhurst Conservation Area.

The Causeway provides a direct route from Midhurst town centre to the Cowdray Ruins, and dates from at least the sixteenth century. Whilst the ruins lie outside of the proposal site, the Causeway, which also forms part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument designation, runs through the middle.

All proposals are being carefully considered and developed alongside specialist heritage advisors, Pritchard Architects, to ensure that there is minimal disturbance to these identified heritage assets.

In addition to the Causeway, there are a number of Public Rights of Way that run through the site.

Cowdray Town Meadow lies on low land providing a wetland and river habitat. However due to its position next to the river, Town Meadow is at high risk of flooding and is designated largely as Flood Zone 3.

Due to its wetland and meadow characteristics, part of the site is designated as an area for local nature conservation.



PROPOSALS

COWDRAY



Infill existing road ditch to promote water flow into newly constructed floodplain scrape network

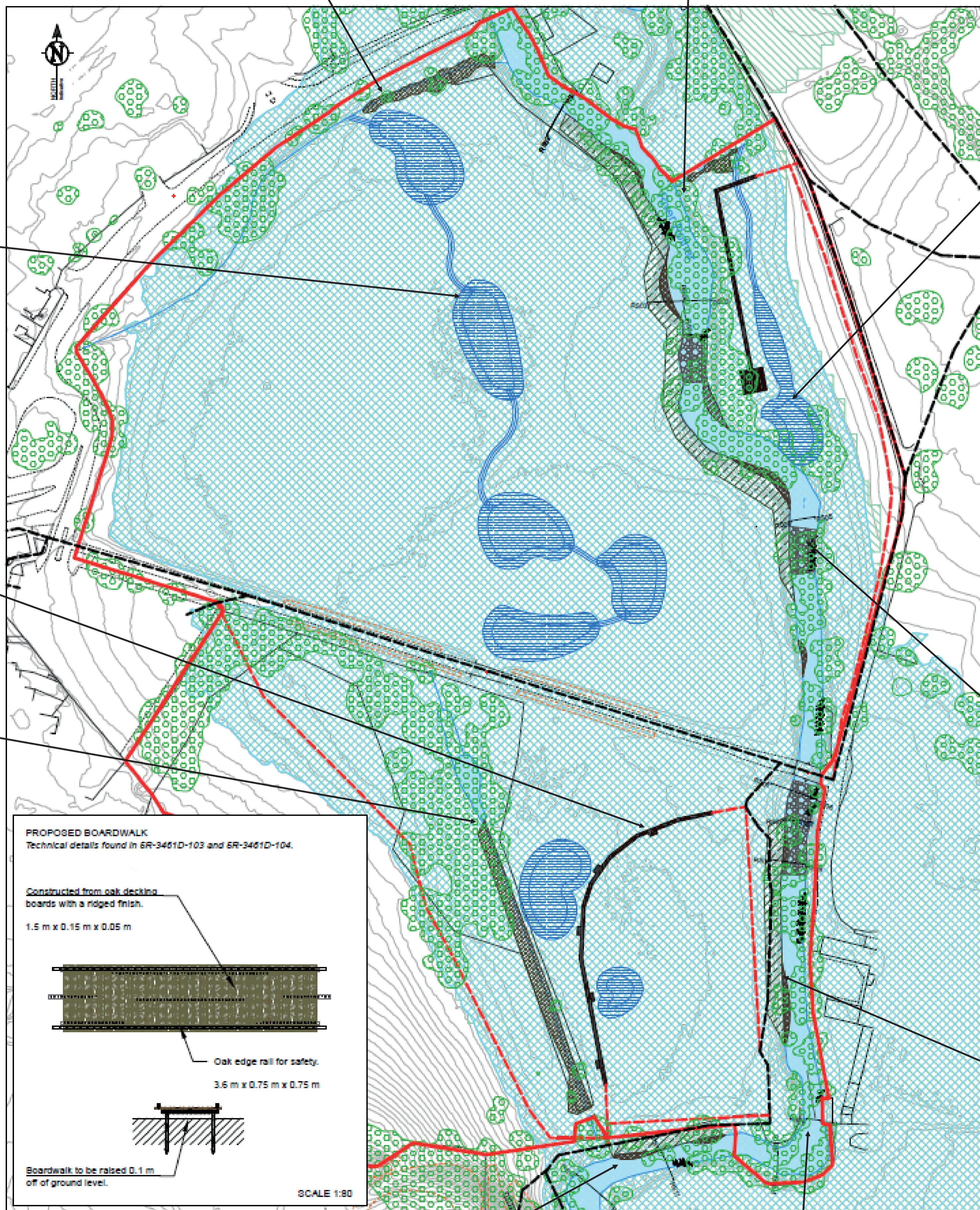
Bank reprofiling of existing steep, riverbanks to increase bank stability and encourage growth of vegetation. Areas of bank to be pushed into the channel creating earth berms and flow diversity.



Wetland scrapes 0.4 m deep with shallow edges to prevent livestock getting stranded. Interlinking 2 m wide, shallow swale network to direct surface water into newly created floodplain scrapes.

New raised ~150 m long boardwalk to create year round foot access to the site and provide improved vista of the Cowdray Ruins and newly created wetland scrape. Passing place every 25 m.

Infill existing ditch to promote water flow onto the floodplain.



Rerouting of River to create a wetland area adjacent to the River Rother. ~80 m of raised boardwalk with viewing platform / picnic area to provide amenity value to the area.



Imported gravel to create potential spawning areas for fish in conjunction with woody enhancement features to provide fish refugia



River bank reprofiling. Imported gravel to complement bank reprofiling and provide fish spawning habitat



Bank reprofiling of existing steep riverbanks to increase bank stability and encourage growth of vegetation. Areas of bank to be pushed into the channel creating earth berms and flow diversity.

Woodland planting to deflect water flow away from existing wall.



NEXT STEPS



Following consultation with local people and stakeholders, we intend to undertake further consultation with the relevant statutory bodies and planning officers, to ensure that all technical matters have been addressed prior to the submission of a planning application.

This includes:

- Pre-application engagement with planning officers
- Pre-application engagement with Historic England
- Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

Alongside a planning application the required applications will be made to formalise any proposed changes to public rights of way within the site.

An application for Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent will also be submitted to Historic England.

The required environmental permits will also be sought from the Environment Agency.

A timeline of the next key steps and project stages are set out below:



THE VISION

Cowdray Estate and Southern Water would like to thank you for attending this event and would be grateful for your views on the proposals and any comments that you provide.

This exhibition material will be made available on the Cowdray Estate website at www.cowdray.co.uk/town-meadow where you will also be able to make comments.

The deadline for any comments is **Friday 6th October**.