

OTTERSPOOL FACILITY PROPOSAL



Wheelscape Skateparks
Unit 46
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Easton
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BS5 0HE

FAO: Bryan Wynne
Subject: Otterspool Park Skatepark and BMX Pump Track
Date: 16th June 2014

Dear Bryan

Thank you for inviting us to tender for the Skatepark in Otterspool Park.

We are pleased to submit our proposal for a wheeled sports facility with a concrete surface area of 755m².

Our proposal for Otterspool skatepark is a smooth, organic skatepark, woven into around the trees, plants and contours of this calm quiet park. Following the profile of the site, we anchor the proposal within its surroundings. We are retaining the central tree on site and wrapping it with a timber decking. This protects the tree, forms a social/ seating space and makes contextual links to neighbouring activities.

The skatepark's natural form sits within the landscape as organically as possible by follows the contours of the site. Large decks have been used all around the skatepark to allow plenty of room for riders at rest, their boards, bags and bikes. These decks provide clear views across the rest of the park as well as the riding areas. The site itself acts like a natural amphitheatre and we have accentuated this by providing timber sleeper seating around and above the skatepark to allow views into the skatepark for spectators whether they be skatepark users or not.

The skatepark features themselves are mainly transition and banked based in keeping with the organic feel of the overall design. The terrain forms a free flowing loop around the central tree with elaborate central volcano feature surrounding the tree itself. Other obstacles are placed throughout, at the edges, into the bans or on the flat – anywhere that a good hit can be palce whilst keeping good flow in the park.

Wherever possible we have made rolled edges and banked the end of raised decks to ensure the park can be used by all disciplines and abilities. A fairly large entrance area with off-skatepark seating and spectating areas look into the skatepark where the paths enter it. A bespoke decorative timber sign has been proposed to complete the natural timber accents of the park, along with two timber benches, a bin and more formal safety sign.

The skatepark will appear as a horseshoed form shape set into a grassed bank. Equal volumes of cut and fill are maintained, with excavated material used to blend the skatepark into the grassed banks on either side. These bunds will be grassed and existing landscape planting retained or restored to give a smooth flowing park nestled into the contours of Otterspool Park.

This scheme, as with all of our designs, complies with all of BS EN Standards and ROSPA guidelines whilst also adhering to our own enhanced standards. This is to provide a safe, functional environment for all users without sacrificing the design. We look to ensure that all obstacles have sufficient run-up/run-out as well as space between obstacles to allow the best use of the skatepark. Larger platforms have been incorporated where possible to give more standing space and allow room for multiple users to avoid collision whilst safely awaiting their turn.

Community Consultation

Wheelscape prides itself on its interaction with users throughout a project, especially post tender to ensure the final design is suitable for the local users. Although it may not be an expected part of this process we would urge the client to take full opportunity of our services to refine and develop this design in conjunction with the local users until it is a completely resolved solution. Wheelscape has a history of commitment in developing our designs and welcomes all feedback; we hope to simply facilitate the users in designing their own park.

Local community input and evaluation have proven critical to ensuring the long-term success of any skatepark. Our consultation and design team is made up of professionals, from architect to graduate designers, who are all experienced wheeled sports users. They can communicate on skatepark design in all of the different forums encountered from a Planning committee meeting to the back-room of a skate shop. Their in-depth and practical knowledge covers all areas needed to turn the initial ideas of a user-group into a truly unique and professionally designed skatepark for all users. We encourage our client to take full advantage of this service.

Planning Permission

Wheelscape have successfully facilitated the planning process for many projects and have the in house expertise and understanding to deal with a wide range of site conditions. We specialise in catering for complex contracts and have experience with building on sites that have a variety of sensitive considerations and can confidently steer this process to a successful conclusion. We have attached an example of a recent application we made on behalf of a client. References are available.

Drainage

The skatepark is designed with a 1:80 fall in the same direction as the falling contours of the site, this will ensure that the existence of water ponds is eliminated. The attached proposed master plan shows the anticipated solution for channelling water. The system consists of two drainage channels at the front end of the street course following the route to the soak away via the silt trap.

The soak away construction will be 1.2 diameter perforated concrete rings 2.5m deep with reject stone to surround.

Technical Experience and References

We have a proven track record of providing a quality design and build service; this is evident in the attached Experience and Capability document (S1) accompanied by a supplementary Reference document (J3). References for previous clients are listed alongside information of key projects from previous years. Please feel free to make contact.

Wheelscape are a truly in-house design and build team which completely eliminates the risk of inter-company conflicts. There is a close working relationship between all of our staff which provides continuity, particularly with contracts, design and quality control. We will take responsibility for every aspect of the job, from community consultation and design right through to construction and official opening of the skatepark without subcontracting any of the work to a third party.

Safety of Design and Construction

We think carefully about where people will congregate and allow for social space. Allowing for social space avoids the creation of 'collision zones' and leaves space for the dynamic use of the skatepark. Wheelscape have developed a set of standards that address the position of elements, spacing, and safety which incorporate and surpass British Standards BSI EN 14974 2006 A1 2010.

Our dedicated Health and Safety Manager, Matthew Hewitt, is Nebosh accredited and has developed comprehensive policies and procedures to ensure the safe delivery of all our projects. The Wheelscape Health & Safety Policy (available on request and supplied pre-construction) is based on decades of building experience and comprehensive, up-to-date training. We are also accredited by CHAS and Construction line (certificate included) and hold ISO 9001, 14001 and OSHAS 18001 accreditation.

Quality Control

Our skatepark build teams are the longest serving in the UK and are comprised of experienced concrete finishers, ground workers and skaters to provide on-the-ground quality control. Regular site visits during construction will be made by senior managers Duncan Holley and Jeremy Donaldson, Project Manager and Architect respectively, both of whom have been skating for over twenty years. During these visits there will be formal inspections of work completed. A record of this inspection will be left in the site file for referral during subsequent inspections and for the client's contract administrator to examine during the construction phase. A photographic record of this inspection is taken and emailed to head office on the day of the inspection so that our SHEQ Coordinator can monitor these inspections and the managers performing them. This ensures the highest level of quality control and continuity to the original design.

Everyone in the organisation understands that our success lies in the continual progression and innovation of our designs and the construction of our skateparks. The build teams have extensive knowledge, expertise and understanding of the specialist field of concrete skatepark construction. Every member of our team is an integral part of our rise to the forefront of contemporary skatepark construction in the UK.

Value for Money

Sprayed concrete construction is the method used on the most renowned skateparks worldwide. It allows our designers the freedom to create progressive and continually engaging designs which users gain ownership of through in-depth consultation. The structural integrity of sprayed concrete skateparks has proven to last indefinitely and is virtually maintenance free. Skateparks are a social space that provides long term health and social benefits, leading to reductions in anti-social behaviour and benefits for the local economy by way of consequential passing trade.

Official Opening Event

We offer a complimentary service providing an official opening event with demonstrations competitions and prizes. Details of which are within the Added Value document (U1).

Maintenance

The potential maintenance costs of a sprayed concrete skatepark are minimal. No replacement parts, fixtures or tools are necessary, except for potential clearing of drainage. Considerations should be made for litter and graffiti. Our thirty year guarantee is included in our Warranty and Maintenance Document (T1).

Payment Terms

Our standard payment terms are: Fortnightly valuations, with cleared payments within seven days.

Wheelscape does not ask for advance payments.

We look forward to your response; if there are any elements of our proposal that you would like to re-view, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Hewitt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Hewitt, General Manager
On behalf of Wheelscape Ltd.