

COIS ABHAINN - LIFFEY VALE BIODIVERSITY CENTRE

Liffey Vale House is on the northern banks of the River Liffey at Longmeadows along the Chapelizod Road. The house and gardens, which are derelict, are owned by Dublin City Council. The Parks, Landscape & Biodiversity Department are developing proposals for the regeneration of this important site.

Concept:

Following the recent completion of surveys, inspections and consultation we are now proposing that Liffey Vale is developed as a site for biodiversity and education. The site will offer the opportunity for all to spend time in nature, and learn about the animals, plants, and ecological systems that thrive in close proximity to the city and along the river's edge. The house and gardens will intertwine to form one unique experience of nature with learning opportunities throughout.



Artists impression showing Liffey Vale proposal, set between the Phoenix Park and the Liffey

Liffey Vale House will include interpretation on biodiversity and the history of the Liffey, a learning space (large enough for school groups) a small café and associated public toilets. The building will tell stories as well as provide the setting for stories to be told. It will celebrate the richness of the natural history of the site and encourage curiosity in visitors of all ages and abilities.

Liffey Vale once accommodated a family who tended a garden and orchard along the River Liffey's edge. Today, the lands are home to multiple habitats containing a range of species who moved into the damp walls, the overgrown orchard and adapted to life along the water's edge.

Biodiversity affords us our own circle of life by providing clean air to breath, water to drink, food to eat - a sensitive, interdependent ecosystem that we must understand and protect. Liffey Vale will demonstrate how human hands can delicately manage the once manicured area of Liffey Vale, guiding nature along its natural course to welcome diverse habitats and species.



Artist's impression showing restored Georgian house, classroom, café, toilets adjacent to orchard

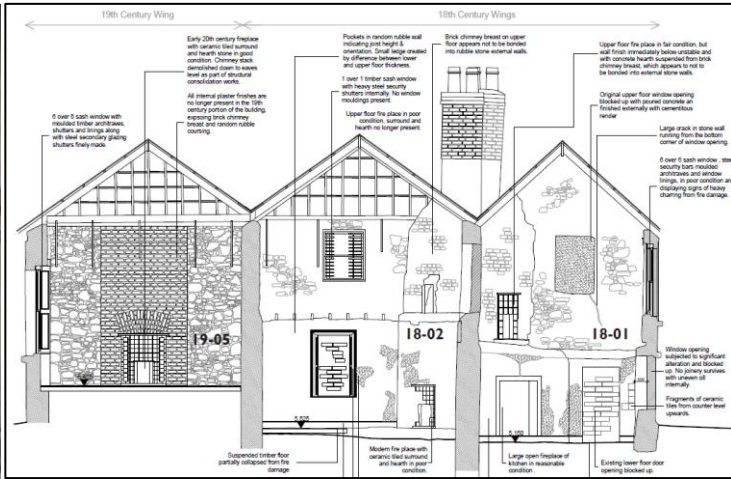
Liffey Vale will embed itself within the locality, becoming an eye-opening and culturally relevant stop on a daily walk or weekend cycles. It will reawaken us all to the interconnectedness of the Liffey corridor and natural surroundings, renewing lost understanding and connectedness of the world around us while re-enforcing wellbeing and calm. Greater awareness will impact on homelife, bringing green issues to the dinner table, influencing decisions and changing behaviours into the future.

The ground at Liffey Vale will open onto a series of paths which will be provided to allow universal access through a range of natural features, including woodland, wetland, the river edge etc. A range of interpretative methods will be used to inform and guide while a significant area of the site will be left inaccessible and wild.

Next Steps:

Following further consultation in the coming weeks with a range of stakeholders including community representatives, Parks will develop further the design, before progressing with formal notification of a Part 8 application in the coming months. Works are scheduled to begin early in 2022.



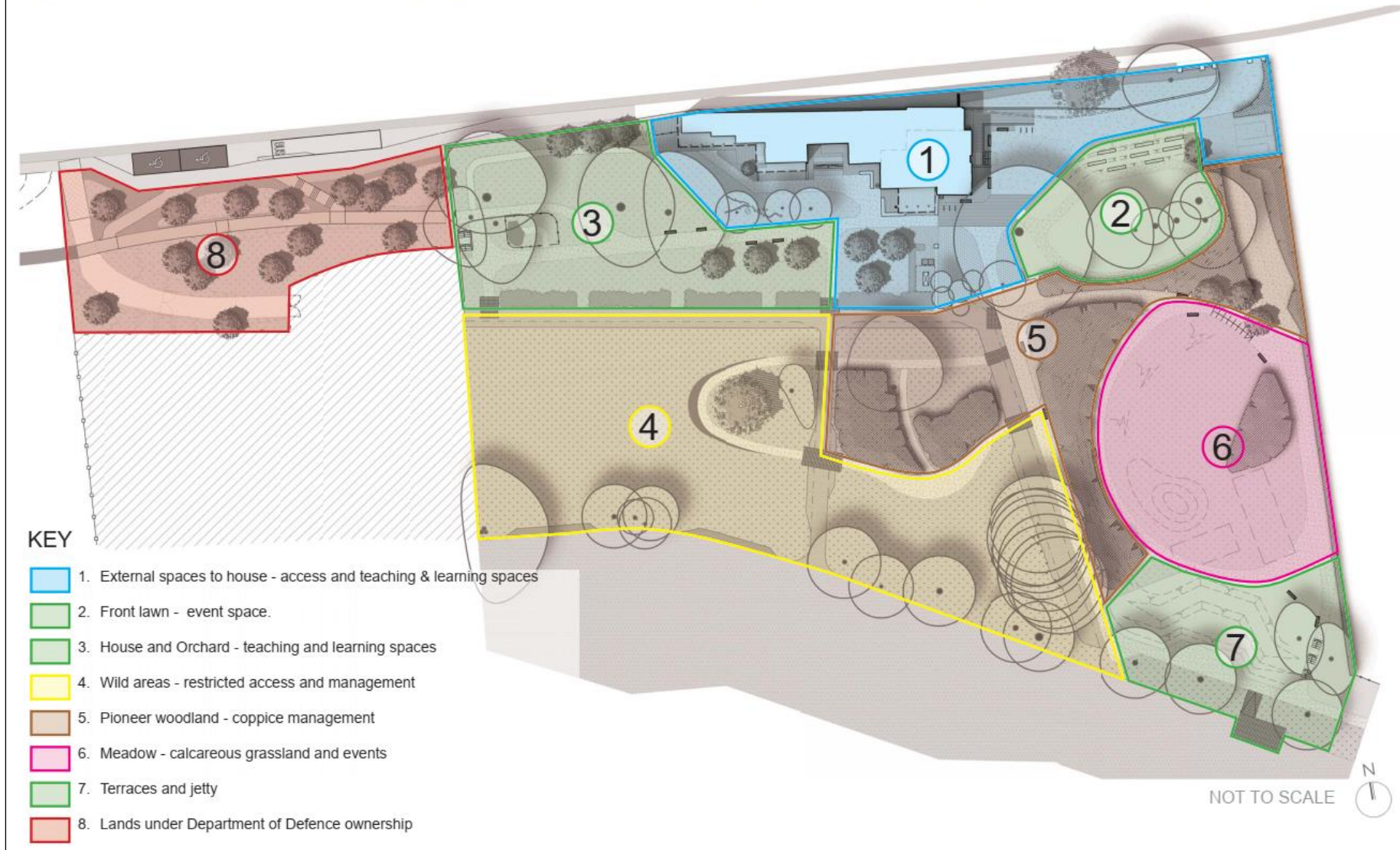


Exterior & Interior of derelict Liffey Vale House

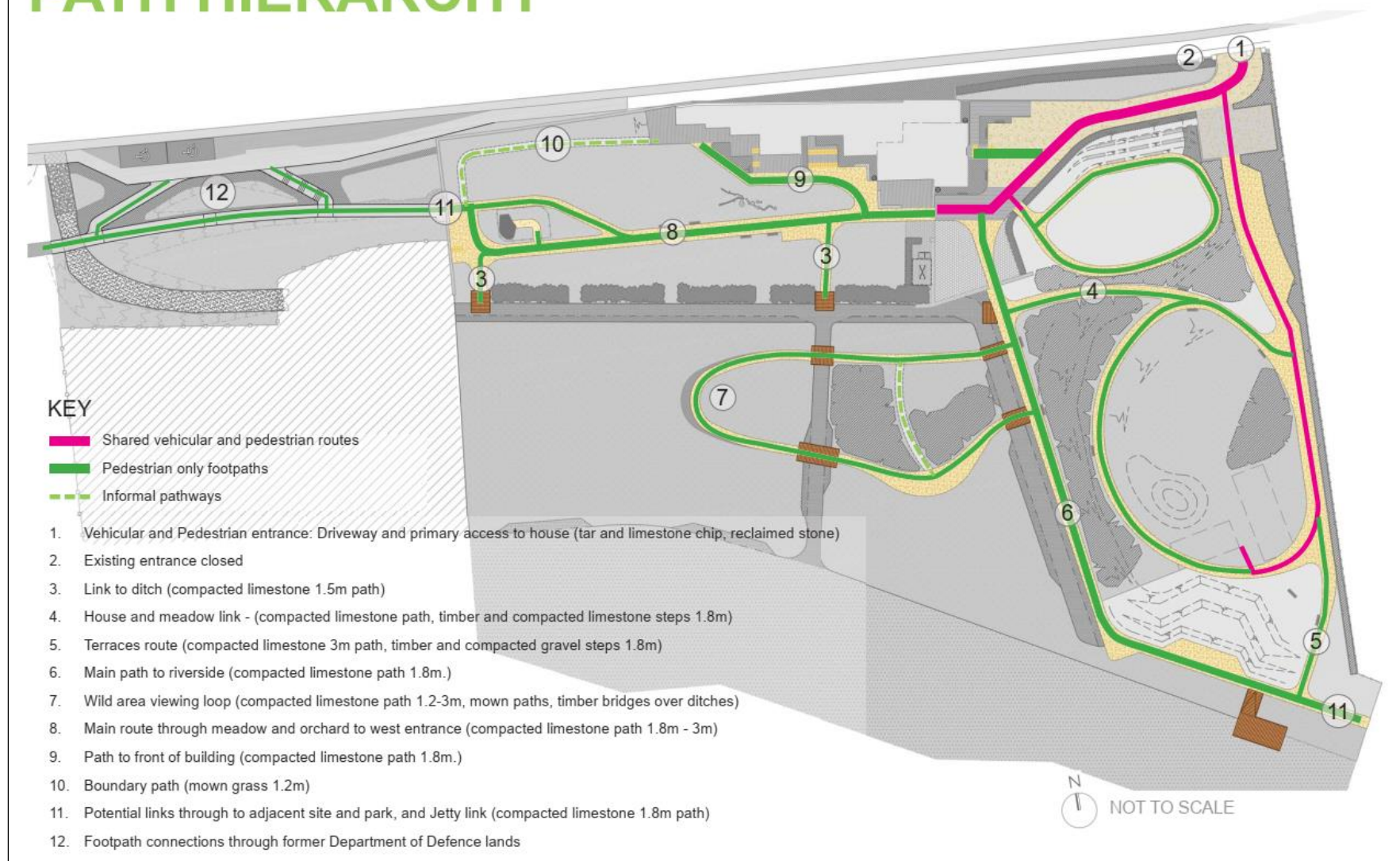


The grounds of Liffey Vale, including water's edge, orchard, well, wilderness and approach from Chapelizod

SPATIAL LAYOUT - LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

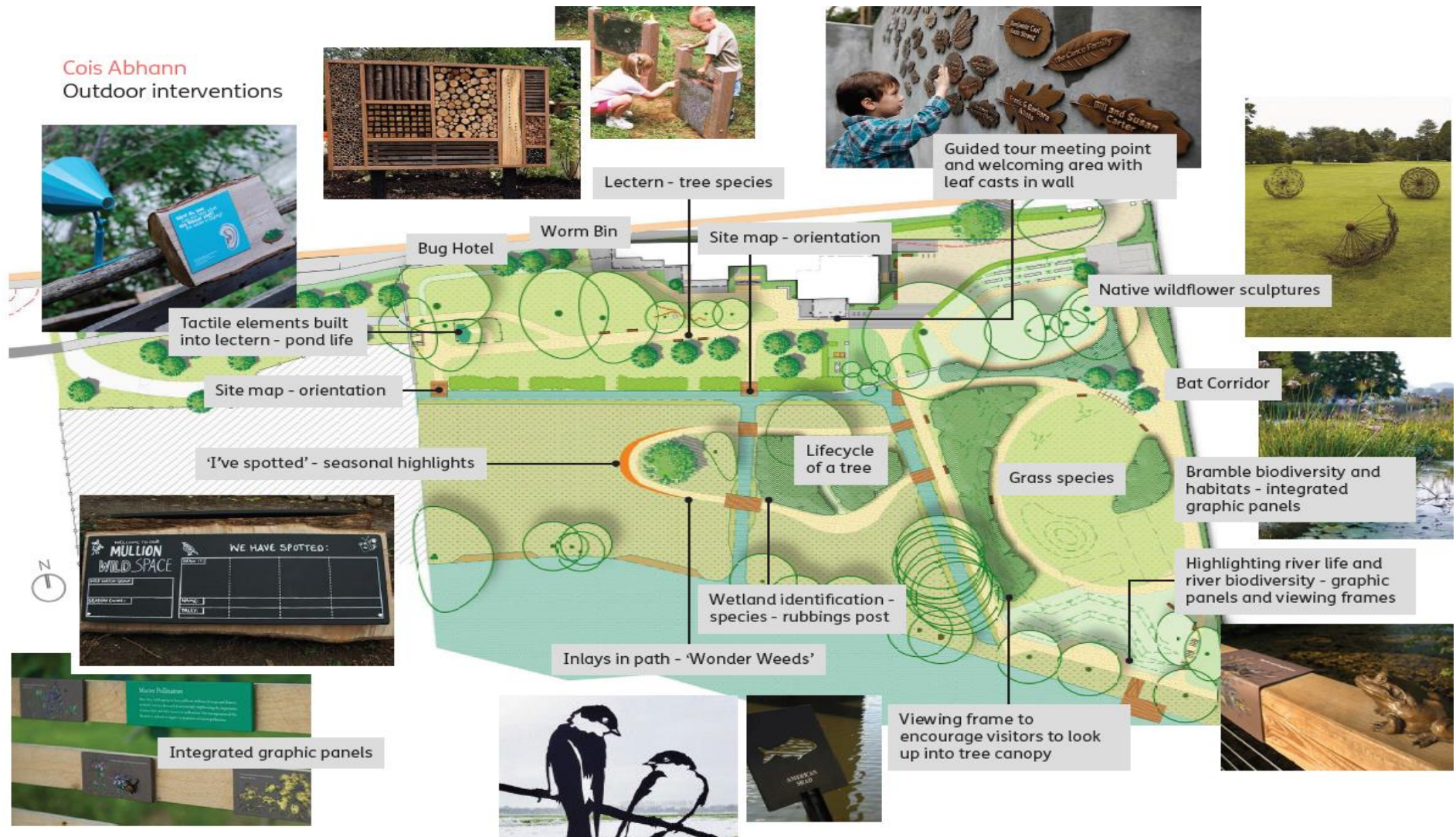


PATH HIERARCHY

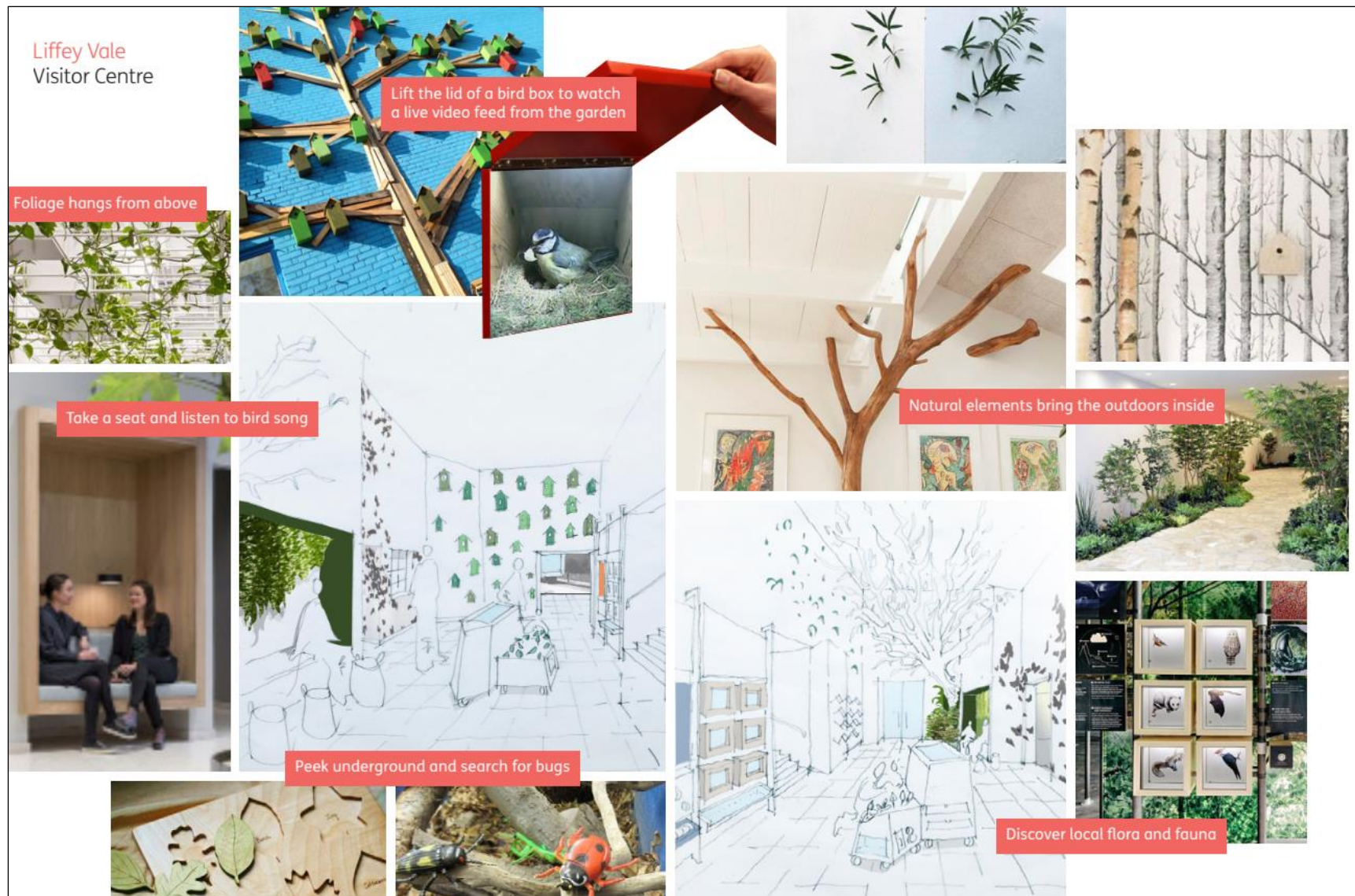


Proposed landscape strategy and access routes

Cois Abhann Outdoor interventions



Outdoor interpretation themes



Indoor interpretation themes