

A photograph of a forest floor with a wooden path made of planks and corrugated metal sheets. The path leads through a dense forest of tall trees with green foliage. The ground is covered with dry leaves and green ferns. The text "MOREDON SPORTING HUB MTB & TRIALS SKILLS AREA PROPOSAL" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

MOREDON SPORTING HUB MTB & TRIALS SKILLS AREA PROPOSAL

WHAT IS IT?

We would like to build a purpose-built mountain bike (MTB) and bicycle trials skills area at the Moredon Sporting Hub. It will be open and freely available to anyone and everyone regardless of skill, ability or fitness. The skills area will be designed with with progressive features to develop bicycle control and handling skills, as well as being used to host club, coaching and community events.

The rendered image (right) is an example of what one of the proposed skills area could look like upon completion. This particular image shows the use of logs and tree stumps to create obstacles, however as a point of note, it is not necessarily a need to fell trees in order to facilitate this skills area, a vast array of alternative materials can be used as shown later.



ALL AGES

It is crucial for us that people of any ages or ability will be able to ride the area, but there will be a large focus towards youth development and engagement. We are passionate about creating a positive experience for the young people of our local community of Moredon, trying to get them off social media and into activity.

LOCAL CHILDREN

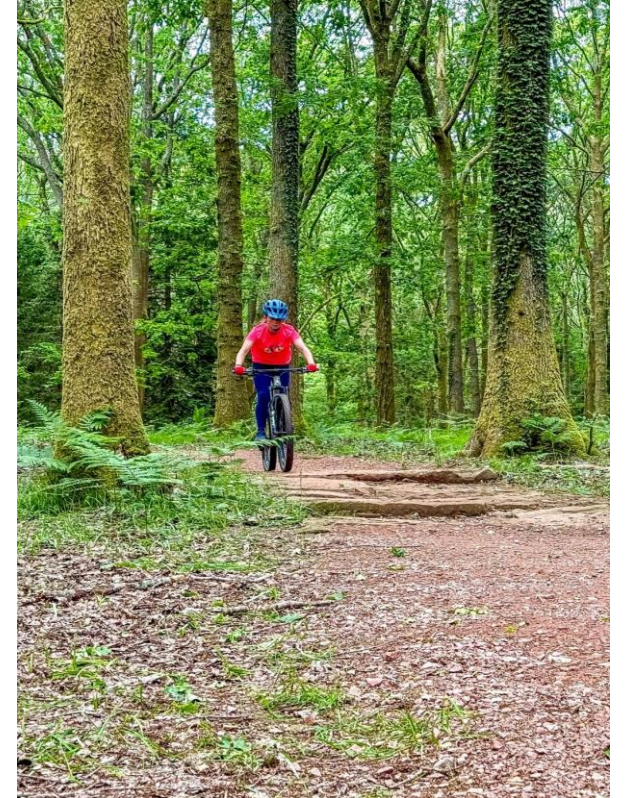
Similar to the pump track, it will provide an outdoor controlled environment for local children to use in order to exercise and improve bike control. This will also enhance safe travel and encourage more environmentally sustainable transport, on the door step of the Route 45 section of the Swindon Cycle Pathways.

JUNIOR CYCLING CLUBS

Currently there are two junior off road cycling clubs that enjoy the current facilities available at the Sporting Hub that could also make use of this facility

- Knobbly Tyres Junior MTB
- Cotswold Veldrijden Minis

It is envisaged that this facility would be used to enhance and refine their off road bike handling skills and experience.



OTHER GROUPS

We would also like to support the Central Swindon North Parish Council in working with the local Nova Academy School where pupils would have the potential to use the area before school, this activity which could contribute positively to attendance and all the benefits of better concentration levels from the physically active. After school clubs and enrichment sessions would also be able to be run and school holiday sessions.

Scouts and Guides could also then use the area for organised sessions lead by leaders or coaches. Local trials riders and riders from further afield would love to come and visit.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT

There is no comparable facility within the Borough or County and there are only two purpose built, free to use public trials parks in the country. Beyond that there isn't another skill park within a 70 mile radius with that one being privately owned.

CHILD FRIENDLY

Other off-road cycling facilities in Swindon do not have dedicated MTB skills areas and are largely aimed at adult riders. Our skills park will be predominantly aimed at grass-roots level riders yet be versatile enough to cater for riders of a higher skill level.



WHERE IS IT?

MOREDON SPORTING HUB

Located along the gravel access road to the 3G Harry Parker Memorial Pitch, two areas of overgrown land with tree cover make for an ideal location.

The land is otherwise unusable for conventional building and recreational projects but does have very good ingress and egress to enable on-site access for any contractor vehicles, deliveries for materials and the such like.

It is situated next to the pump track and thus an ideal location to capture and engage riders who may be keen to broaden their skills.



HOW IS IT BENEFICIAL?

Readily accessible site and location.

Inclusive – to all skill and fitness levels and social demographics.

Health and mental benefits from increased levels of exercise.

Attract more bike riders and families to the Sporting Hub.

Create and foster an all-inclusive riding community.

Increased bike/coordination skills and competencies, applicable to everyday life.

Opportunity to ride in a controlled, safe environment.

Rides led by experienced riders and coaches.

Built with recycled/repurposed local materials typically headed for landfill.

MATERIALS - MTB SKILLS AREA

There are two aspects to the park; some basic and surfaces MTB trails with beginner features and the trials area.

The plans would be to use compacted aggregate for the proposed MTB trails as this will provide a durable all-weather surface with longer periods between any required maintenance. We foresee this to be the main cost for the project once site clearance has been carried out, however, naturally we would like to liaise and engage with local construction companies who may be willing to provide these materials in exchange for either the cost of transportation to site, the opportunity to have their company advertised at the Sporting Hub Skills Park or even both.

We would make use of wood to create features such as balance lines on the MTB trails, or for trials features. The desire is for much of the area to be covered in wood chippings which will help with drainage, make the different MTB trails easily distinguishable and to provide a soft and safe, non abrasive surface should someone happen to take a tumble. Further to that it would benefit the maintenance team by inhibiting growth of unwanted weeds and thus further prolonging the periods between maintenance.



MATERIALS - TRIALS SKILLS AREA

The trials area is a lot more 'open' when it comes to material requirements. No set material requirements for a trials park but they all have a basic formula to ensure a safe environment for all users.

Solid, fixed objects that can be ridden on of various heights, shapes and textures, arranged in such a way that there is a need for artistic and problem solving interpretation when it comes to riding routes or obstacles through the park. Common materials used in other skills parks include, but are not limited to -

- Railway sleepers
- Concrete blocks/barriers
- Concrete pipes
- Wooden cable reels
- Logs
- Rocks
- Used tractor/lorry tyres

Many of these materials can be repurposed or reclaimed from council surplus or even acquired at discounted rates, especially if they are no longer suitable for use in construction. Repurposing or recycling materials from the local area is how we would like to acquire the majority of the materials for the park as it provides a better use for unsuited or unwanted materials than simply sending them to landfill. Of course local business may even benefit from providing these materials, especially if they do not need to pay to dispose of them.

The images to the left are example of (much larger) trials parks within the UK.



BUDGET

We are asking for a budget of £5000 from the Sports England Test and Learn Initiative. This would provide us with sufficient funds to prepare the location ready to build the MTB and trials skills parks.

This budget would cover -

- Material costs
- Delivery of said materials
- Hire of machinery/tools, for example wood chipper
- Arborist to manage any dead or hazardous trees
- Signage to promote awareness and for activation of the skills areas.

It is worth pointing out that there are very minimal costs incurred in the building of these parks, partly due to the nature of the TB trails and the opportunity to use reclaimed materials for the trials park but also because of a small but very willing local MTB and trials community who have already pledged their time to help prepare and construct these trails for the good of both Moredon Sporting Hub and for all those that will benefit from these facilities.



SUMMARY



The image above is an AI generated image combining a picture we took of the area of land we propose to use and a set of trial features from another trial park. Obviously this is in no way a definitive design but serves merely to be a representation of what the area could look like.

In summary, we strongly believe this is an excellent opportunity for both the Moredon Sporting Hub and the local community. Current riders can engage in trying out new cycling disciplines, as well as the facility capturing people who don't currently ride MTB, trials or even ride at all.

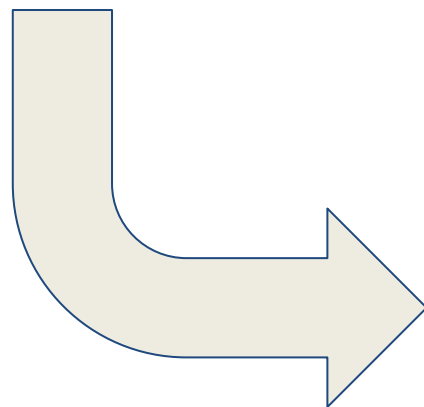
It would be a unique venue in the local area, versatile enough to be used as a valuable training facility yet also be a fun and safe place for the more casual or very novice rider.

Our team of enthusiastic and dedicated MTB and trials riders behind this project have decades of experience behind them and are passionate to see the love and desire of our sport grow and flourish to futures generations. It really can be considered a win win opportunity with increased mental and health benefits coupled with much improved bicycle handling skills and control that can be carried over to all aspects of cycling, be that cyclocross racing, MTB trails or simply riding to school

Note of support from Matt Gleed, Leisure Manager CSNPC

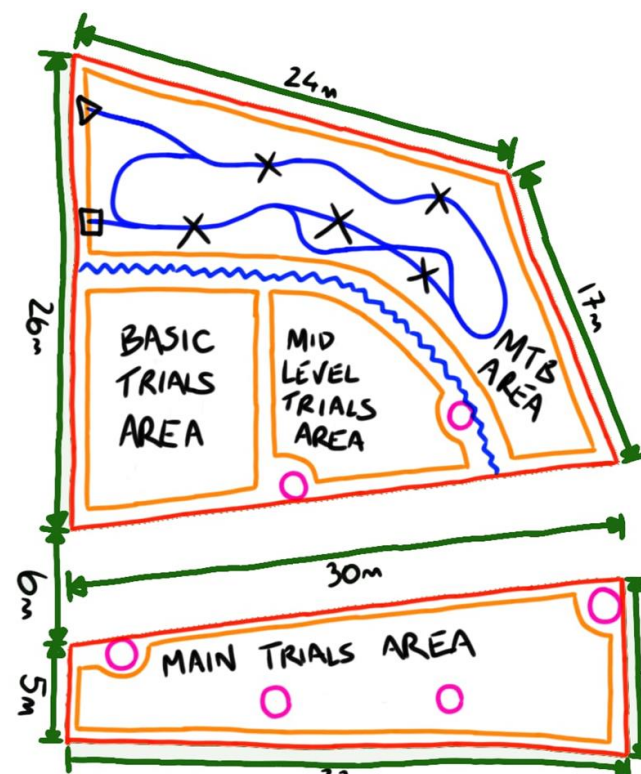
I believe this project would add massive value to the residence in our Parish. A free to use offering with activity in its foundation will support many. I think with £5,000 a lot can be achieved in setting this up and I would work with the CSNPC Grants Manager to seek further support through the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Action Fund to see if we can gain funds to support activation through targeted user groups to enhance community groups.

APPENDIX - INITIAL LAYOUT CONCEPT



North

/// FOOTBALL PITCH ///



- ~ - AREA BOUNDARY
- - MAJOR TREE
- △ - TRAIL START
- - TRAIL END
- X - TRAIL FEATURE