



## Attingham Park Outdoor Hub

We have identified an area of the Attingham Estate that we plan to open up to provide more access to the outdoors for walking, cycling and other outdoor activities. This would create more accessible green space for the people of Shropshire.

Conservation and sustainability will be at the forefront of every decision, as well as fulfilling our role of providing ‘public benefit’, in line with the wishes of Thomas, 8th Lord Berwick who left the Estate to the National Trust in 1947.

The majority of the area identified has previously had a commercial or industrial purpose, it is a historically interesting landscape for visitors to see and explore with a history from the iron age to the present day.



The proposed new outdoor hub will be located away from the main parkland site and is intended to offer visitors new ways to explore the outdoors and discover nature, providing much-needed facilities for our visitors and local communities in Shropshire. We want to give people more opportunities to get outdoors all year round, to be more active and get closer to nature.

We are working closely with our tenants, visitors and local community groups in the design and development of the outdoor hub. This ensures that their voices are at the forefront of what we do and enables access to the outdoors for those that need it most. That’s why we are focussing on working with groups of children and young people, those with visible and invisible disabilities and people at risk of socio-economic exclusion. That way their voices are not only heard, but help to co-create and shape the outdoor hub.

Our plans will also allow us to deliver for nature, by creating more green corridors throughout Shropshire, working with Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils to connect urban conurbations to the wider countryside. Our work will be environmentally sustainable, using renewable energy and materials and working towards ‘net zero carbon’.

The National Trust protects and cares for places so people and nature can thrive. Nature, history and beauty are for everyone, and we look after the places in our care to ensure that everyone can benefit. The need for access to green outdoor spaces is greater than ever. Despite the rural nature of much of the county of Shropshire, very little is publicly accessible land for people to be active in, and to connect with nature.



"84% of people in Shropshire do not have adequate access to green spaces" - Accessible Green Space Standards, Natural England.

Attingham Park’s General Manager Mark Agnew said:

*‘Attingham was one of the most visited visitor attractions in the UK in 2021 with over 530,000 visitors, with the vast majority from the local area. Our 10-year vision takes into account further visitor growth and sets out a plan for us to be able to diversify and broaden our outdoors offer for local new audiences. The impact of Covid-19 has demonstrated the need for access to nature and outdoor spaces for exercise and wellbeing.*

*At the heart of the Trust’s strategy is improving access to; and awareness of, our many outdoor locations to encourage people to enjoy the unique pleasure of spending time in nature.*

*We want the next generation to grow up loving and caring for the Shropshire countryside. By providing facilities that appeal to them and helping to nurture a positive connection with the outdoors, we hope they’ll grow to love it.’*



# FAQ's

## Q: Where will the hub be?



- Current area of Attingham open to the public
- Indicative location of potential new area for outdoor hub

**A:** In the proposals the outdoor hub will be located on the former Atcham airbase, land which is currently used mainly for arable farming.



## Q: Why was this area chosen?

**A:** We looked at lots of different locations to find an area suitable for the facilities required, whilst having the least impact on the historic park and wildlife.

## Q: What are the benefits of the project?

**A:** There are a number of benefits for all outdoor hub / multi-use trail users:

- Improving public access to the wider estate and woodlands will enable more people to enjoy them all year round.
- The new trails will improve access for walkers, wheelchair users, cyclists and families with pushchairs.
- Opening up areas which were previously inaccessible to visitors.
- Attracting new audiences – introducing the beauty of our landscapes to those who may not have visited before.
- Any increase in visitors will generate income, which will be used to carry out essential conservation work across the estate.

## Q: What will the outdoor hub look like?

**A:** We want to leave as much open to co-creation with the community as possible. But we do know that any buildings will be designed to blend in with the surrounding landscape and provide a welcoming, exciting and interesting place to visit. The outdoor areas will make use of natural planting and materials in keeping with the local area.

## Q: Will you need to remove trees and woodlands?

**A:** Attingham Estate currently has 10% of its land forested with an ambition to increase this to 20% by 2035. The outdoor hub is a key part of this development with new areas of tree planting identified and opportunities to join up dispersed woodland. As part of the planning process we have carried out tree inspections to ensure the health of the plantations as well as factoring in safety considerations.



## Q: Why are you working with community groups?

**A:** We want the outdoor hub to be enjoyed by everyone in Shropshire. Young people, people with visible and invisible disabilities and people at risk of socio-economic exclusion are some of the groups most in need of accessible green space for both physical and mental health. These groups can often be excluded and their needs not met. The National Trust is for everyone and we want to put these groups at the forefront of planning so that we create a space together, that everyone can enjoy.

## Q: Will you be consulting with anyone else?

**A:** We will be consulting with as many people, groups and organisations as we can.

## Q: How can I feedback on the plans?

**A:** There will be a dedicated information panel at Attingham for you to feedback from early July 2022. You can also feedback by taking part in a short survey via the QR code below:



## Q: Who can I contact for more information?

**A:** Please feel free to contact us with any further questions or feedback via email at [Attingham.park@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Attingham.park@nationaltrust.org.uk) Don't forget to visit the website for regular updates on the progress of the outdoor hub. Important information will be posted online and our timeline will be kept up-to-date.

[Opening up the Attingham Estate | National Trust](#)