

Car park and landscaping improvement – National Trust (Little Haldon)

The National Trust's Little Haldon property covers 17.40 ha (43 acres) of lowland heath approximately three miles to the north of Teignmouth in South Devon. Despite not being permitted, HGVs regularly used the car park for overnight parking and a large island in the middle of the car park screened much of the area from the road. Regular fly-tipping of both domestic and commercial waste occurred on the site, and on two occasions, a number of 50 gallon drums of unidentified chemicals were illegally dumped.

The Trust proposed a plan to reduce the car park size to allow for 20 to 30 vehicles, and to ensure that all vehicles and the whole of the car parking area could be seen from the road to discourage antisocial behaviour. Barriers would be installed to prevent HGVs and larger vehicles from entering the car park, as these are frequently the culprits for dumping commercial waste and damaging the surface.

The final scheme reduced the size of the car park by three quarters to approximately one third of an acre. A shrub bund separated the car park from the road but vehicles were still visible from the roadway. Pinch points were put in to narrow the entrance using earth bunds and two large boulders – still allowing access for cars but not larger vehicles. It was decided to reduce the entrance width rather than use a height barrier to minimise the impact on the landscape. The entire new parking area was resurfaced and bunded with a one metre earth bund. The bunds dividing off the old car park have had to be reconstructed using demolition waste and concrete with reinforcing rods which bind it all together, as access had been forced by literally digging through the bunds. The bunds have been given a layer of topsoil with enough depth to ensure the reinforcing rods do not protrude. The bunds were then vegetated.

The car park still suffers the odd incident, but the Trust is very pleased to report that both domestic and commercial fly-tipping have been dramatically reduced. The new narrow entrance has prevented any commercial tipping on the site. Anyone parking on the site is now visible from the road and the improved presentation of the site has reduced domestic tipping and the level of litter on the site by approximately 80%–90%. The total cost has been £2,900.