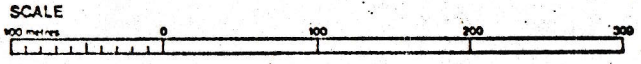


18 Dec 78 COSMESTON 941

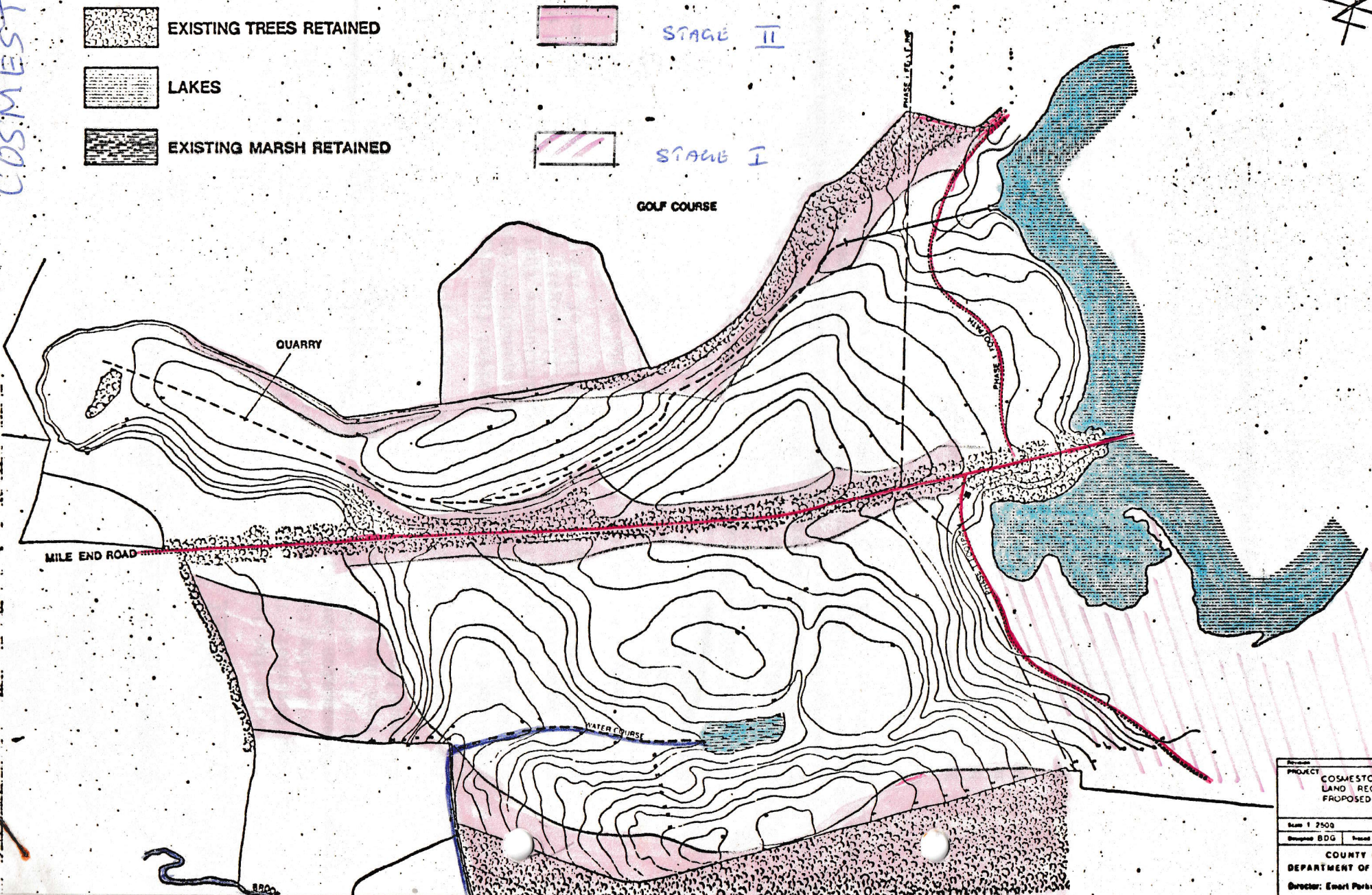


- EXISTING TREES RETAINED
- LAKES
- EXISTING MARSH RETAINED

NATURAL SITES

- STAGE II
- STAGE I

GOLF COURSE



PROJECT			
COSMESTON COUNTRY PARK			
LAND RECLAMATION			
PROPOSED CONTOURS			
Scale 1:2500			Sheet C
Prepared BDG	Drawn AS	Checked	Scale AL
COUNTY OF SOUTH GLAMORGAN			
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING			
Director: Ewart Parkinson			



CARDIFF NATURALISTS' SOCIETY - BOTANICAL SECTION

COSMESTON COUNTRY PARK - STAGE II RECLAMATION PROJECT

Tuberous Pea  
Pyramidal orchid  
Have been recorded at  
Cosmeston by Jimmy &  
Joan Lewis.

992

1. INVOLVEMENT

Following the letter to the Director of Environment and Planning, dated 29th November, 1978, in which the interests of the Section were declared, and following the subsequent meeting with the Joint Management Committee of Cosmeston Country Park during which strong representation was made concerning safeguards to the evolving plant distributions, plans have been received showing existing contours and the proposed contours for the Stage II Reclamation Project.

The covering letter is dated 18th December, 1978.

Since the funds allocated in the current financial year need to be committed by 31st March, 1979, the detail of expenditure obviously needs to be finalised at a much earlier date and so, any influence that the Section may wish to exert concerning the current plans will largely depend on the speed with which it can be brought to the attention of the Country Park management.

The Glamorgan Naturalists' Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are the other two bodies in contact with the Country Park Management - that is in addition to the Cardiff Naturalists' Society. The Ornithological Section have interests in the project as well as the Botanical Section and within the membership of the parent society there are individuals able to represent such bodies as the British Butterfly Society.

Undoubtedly there is a reasonable population of competent and interested persons available to provide expert advice over a wide range of important conservation matters. The Country Park Joint Management Committee clearly recognise this and welcome their involvement, particularly since the disastrous results of the Stage I development are on record.

2. OBJECTIVES

The views of the ordinary park user are probably well aired and are likely to be fully understood. Hence it is conceivable that the general objectives of a project of this kind might be resolved in terms of - the provision of a well-managed landscape with some organised amenities.

The conservationist on the other hand is really concerned with - maintaining the integrity of the natural environment - and already sees at Cosmeston the steps that constitute a transition to harmonise stable communities of naturalised plants and wildlife of all kinds.

Such an objective may not be readily understood without some study, and the putting into words of proposals for actions necessary to achieve and sustain it seems equally difficult. However, the report of Dr. M.E. Gillham, dated November 1976, expresses the philosophy of conservation of nature in Cosmeston Park with characteristic thoroughness and clarity and should be used for a general reference by all concerned in this project.



COSMESTON COUNTRY PARK - STAGE II RECLAMATION PROJECT (cont'd.)

3. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that certain areas of the site which is subject to the second stage of the reclamation project, be designated Natural Development Areas. Where appropriate these areas should be clearly identified by suitable signs indicating that environmental control is in progress. In this way the general public, having been properly informed, might reasonably be expected to respond with appropriate regard.

The Natural Development Areas will need to be managed and maintained in an entirely different way from the informal landscaped areas of the park. For example, the use of machinery must be totally circumscribed and vegetation clearance of any kind should only be carried out after detailed consultation with knowledgeable conservationists and then under their close supervision.

This might at first sight seem to be somewhat restrictive to anyone responsible for the day to day management of a variable work-force. But there are voluntary bodies capable and accustomed to working under these conditions and their services should, indeed must be organised to this end, if the park is to retain its varied and interesting plant and wildlife habitats.

The areas considered important are indicated by shading on the attached plan.

These areas in addition to the already established natural habitats in the Phase I sector of the park, will be visited on a monthly basis by members of the Section as already planned and it is reasonable to assume that a comprehensive record of the flora will arise fairly soon.

Details of maintenance may be planned with sufficient security only after the data has become available. But at this stage it is of prime importance that the Country Park Management is persuaded that the proposals are adopted thus precluding the further obliteration of rare and interesting specimens.

If the Botanical Section Management Committee is in agreement it is suggested that the Country Park Management is advised by copy of this report.

I.O. Penberthy  
22.1.79