



**A CASE STUDY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LANDSCAPING
AND HORTICULTURE
AT LINTON ZOO CONSERVATION PARK**



Overview

The newer lion enclosure at Linton Zoo Conservation Park built in 2006 to hold 1.1 and offspring. The enclosure itself consists of an outdoor enclosure approximately third of an acre in size. A caged holding area and a house with two indoor dens, a larger on show den and a slightly smaller off show den. The enclosure itself has won two BIAZA awards the most recent award being 'best landscaped enclosure in a small zoo'.

- The outdoor enclosure itself consists of several small mounds and a larger mound in the center. Fallen logs are placed around the enclosure and vegetation on and around the mounds are allowed to grow long, the result allows many different species of shrub and flower to grow.
- Leaves have been historically used from around the zoo grounds to increase the height of the mound and to provide warm material for the lions to rest on during the winter.





The pictures here show that the grass has been mown, giving the lions a variation in possible resting areas. The vegetation in the mounds also gives the lions privacy from the visitors and other lions within the enclosure. These pictures here and on the following pages also give examples of the different tree, flower and shrub species that can be seen.





Why is landscaping important?

- The mounds and vegetation break the enclosure up visually which allows the lions more privacy from the visitors but also the chance to get away from other lions when they wish to.
- The varied plant species encourage native species which creates a stimulating environment for the lions but also for native species too.
- The different plant species provide the lions with different smells and opportunities for enrichment, not all plant species will survive as the lions may chose to dig out and play with small shrubs.
- The different heights of the mounds around the enclosure give the lions different vantage points allowing them to view different areas of the zoo and other species which in turn provides further enrichment opportunities.
- Multiple resting areas and mounds to allow the lions different options if they choose not to rest together.

