



GRACE PARK, HALEWOOD

Design and Access Statement
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01

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

01 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This Design and Access Statement (DAS) has been prepared by WSP on behalf of Knowlsey Metropolitan Borough Council to support the consideration of a full planning application for the construction of a proposed design for Grace Park (hereby referred to as the 'Proposed Development'), located in Halewood.

Grace Park is a community space located off Leather's Lane and Wood Road in Halewood in Knowsley. The site is owned by KMBC and managed in part by Halewood Town Council and partly by Halewood Town Junior Football Club. Delivering improvements to Grace Park is an essential part of the Council's Halewood LUF Investment Programme.

Grace Park is an existing community space at the heart of Halewood. The site incorporates a number of functions and activities, including an existing children's play area, public park and playing fields. The site measures approximately 7.1ha in size.

This statement:

- Demonstrates the steps taken to appraise the context of the development and how the design of the development takes that context into account;
- Explain the design principles and concepts that have been applied to the proposed development taking into consideration the objectives of good design.

A Planning Statement is being submitted alongside this application and this sets out how the proposal complies with local and national planning policy.

The proposals are being brought forward following KMBC's successful bid in securing £15.356m LUF in January 2023. The LUF funding is designed to "level up" areas across the UK and support local growth. The funding proposal submitted by the Council includes an expansion of the local district centre, improvements to greenspace and leisure facilities, and funding improvements to walking and cycling connectivity to employment areas and throughout the district.

The funding aims to revitalise the district centre of Halewood, investing in local infrastructure that will improve the everyday lives of the local community. As well as meeting the needs of the growing population and complementing the housing developments in the East of Halewood, the Levelling Up bid was developed to address significant health inequalities and tackle the Climate Emergency, all of which are critical if KMBC are to truly 'level up' Halewood. The improvements contained within the proposals for Grace Park are an essential part of the Levelling Up proposals and associated investment.

Full details of the application proposals are included in the submitted Planning Statement and Design and Access Statement,

SuDS infrastructure will be integrated into the site with swales, retention basins and wetland planting areas providing functional and visually attractive amenity spaces.



02

THE BRIEF & VISION

2.1 Development Context & Brief
2.2 The Vision

02 THE BRIEF & VISION

2.1 Development Context and Brief

WSP has been instructed on behalf of KMBC to progress standalone planning applications in respect of development prospects for the proposed redevelopment of existing sites located directly to the west and east of Halewood Local Centre.

The proposals for Grace Park include:

- Improvements to Greengates Playing Fields. Replacing the existing pitches with higher quality All-Weather football pitches that can be used throughout the year, as well as being available for use by the wider community. One of the all-weather pitches will be full size, and the other will be a '5-a-side mini soccer' pitch.
- The proposals also include a clubhouse which will serve users of the new pitches and incorporate a community food and hot/cold beverage offering as well as a social area to encourage community integration.
- Improvements to recreational and landscape features of Grace Park. Cycle paths and associated cycle stands will be created, as well as a new children's play area, and a car park which will provide 47 bays, which includes 5 accessible parking bays and 10 electric vehicle charging bays, for those using the new football facilities and wider park;
- Visually attractive, low-level fencing is also proposed around the perimeter of the site with various entrance points proposed;
- Buffer planting is also proposed throughout the site, including an abundance of amenity lawn area alongside a biodiverse meadow which will link to the shared use pedestrian/cycle route which runs central to the site via a boardwalk;
- A flagship play area with a central feature play piece and play equipment grouped into age group abilities including inclusive and accessible play pieces;
- A flexible use Civic Plaza;
- Separate SuDS infrastructure has been identified within the development proposals which are strategically located to form an important feature of the site, with two swales being proposed along the shared-use active travel route and much larger SuDS area proposed to the north of the site. These areas have been sensitively designed to ensure that they can be viewed in the context of the wider site and appropriately drain the proposed development in a visually attractive manner.

2.2 The Vision

BLUE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The design will incorporate Sustainable Drainage measures with a series of planted swales running alongside the central route through the site, these elements help slow the flow of water and reduce flooding in the wider environment.

PROVIDE A JOURNEY

The design will encompass open views into the space from the arrival points with ornamental planting creating a thematic journey into the site.

IMPROVE LINKS TO SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL NETWORK

The design will support active and inclusive travel by tying into and development upon the existing network with a shared route for cyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users travelling through the site and connecting destinations east and west of it.

Vision

Provide a destination hub for the community, which will be revitalised to meet their needs going forward

SENSE OF PLACE

The design will re-envision the site to provide a destination which has a unique sense of place through distinctive and colourful planting, plaza areas, green space, trees and uniform street furniture.

GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLAY

The design will provide enhancement to the site to provide a safe environment for a variety of activities including walking, resting, running, cycling as well as outdoor gym exercise equipment.

DIVERSIFYING HABITAT

The design will enhance the site with planting that will be of wildlife benefit and also fulfilling sustainable drainage functions.

03

SITE CONTEXT

- 3.1 Site Description and Context
- 3.2 Wider Context Plan
- 3.3 Site Opportunities and Constraints Plan
- 3.4 Arboricultural Impact Assessment
- 3.5 Ecological Assessment
- 3.6 Flood Risk Assessment
- 3.7 Topography Assessment
- 3.8 Existing Drainage Assessment
- 3.9 Ground and Heritage Assessment
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- 3.12 Noise Impact Assessment
- 3.13 Lighting Assessment
- 3.14 Summary of Assessments
- 3.15 Summary - Opportunities and Constraints
- 3.16 Recommendations

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.1 Site Description and Context

The site lies in an urban area, surrounded by residential to the north, south and west. Retail development, (Halewood shopping centre) sits to the east of the site.

Leathers Lane is a busy main road which passes the site to the east, running north to south. The A562 runs to the south of the site. Halewood train station sits closely to the north of the site.

Grace Park (herein referred to as 'the site') is a community space located off Leather's Lane and Wood Road in Halewood in Knowsley. The site is owned by KMBC and managed in part by Halewood Town Council (Wood Road Fields) and partly by Halewood Town Junior Football Club (Greengates Playing Field).

Grace Park is an existing community space at the heart of Halewood. The site incorporates several functions and activities, including an existing children's play area, a public park and playing fields for Halewood Town Junior Football Club (a local junior football club), a Pond, Outdoor gym equipment, Boulders for natural play set within a mature landscape setting. The site measures approximately 7ha in size.

The Trans Pennine Trail and Permissive footpaths/bridleway sit to the north of the railway line.



FIGURE 1: SITE CONTEXT PLAN

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.2 Wider context plan

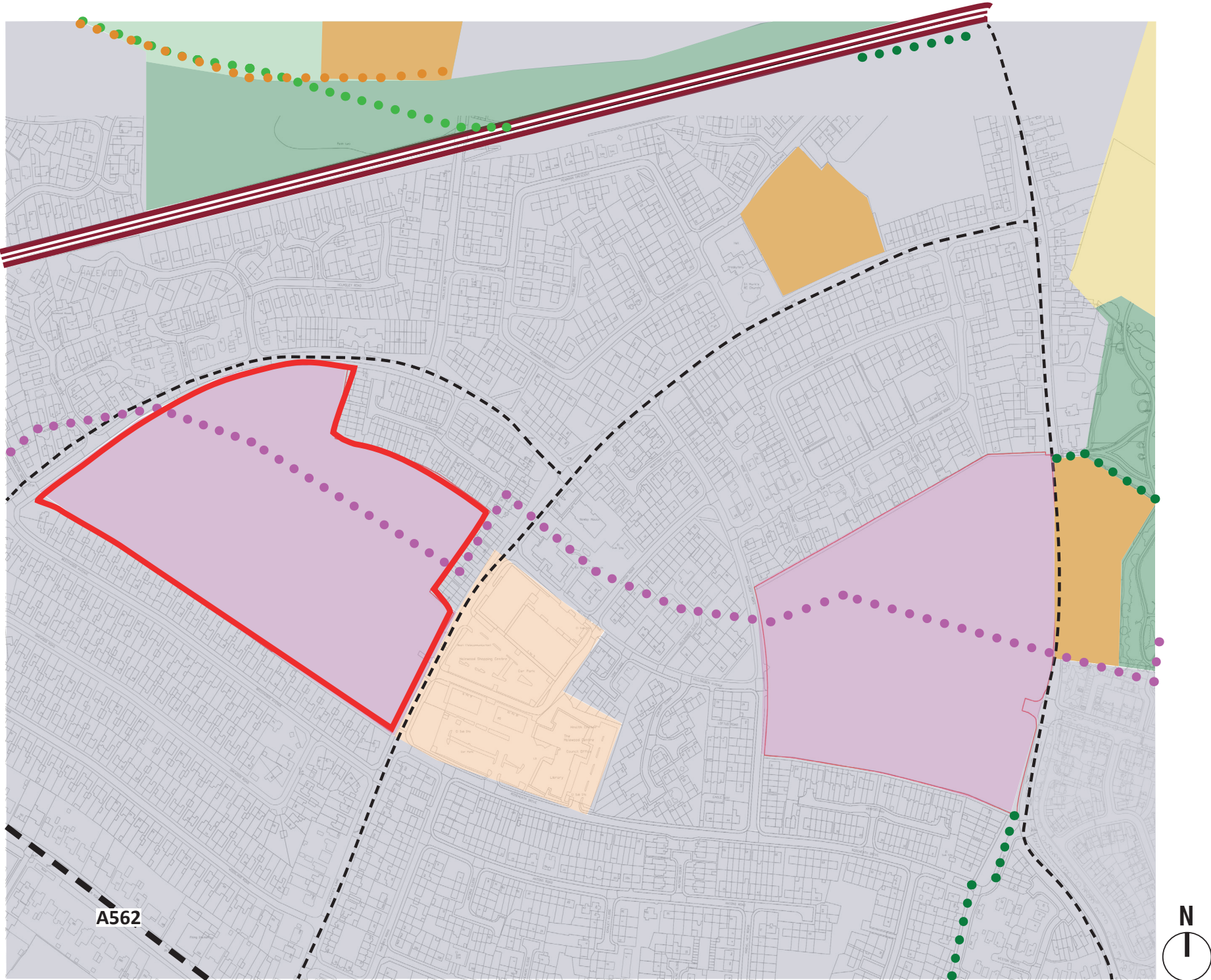
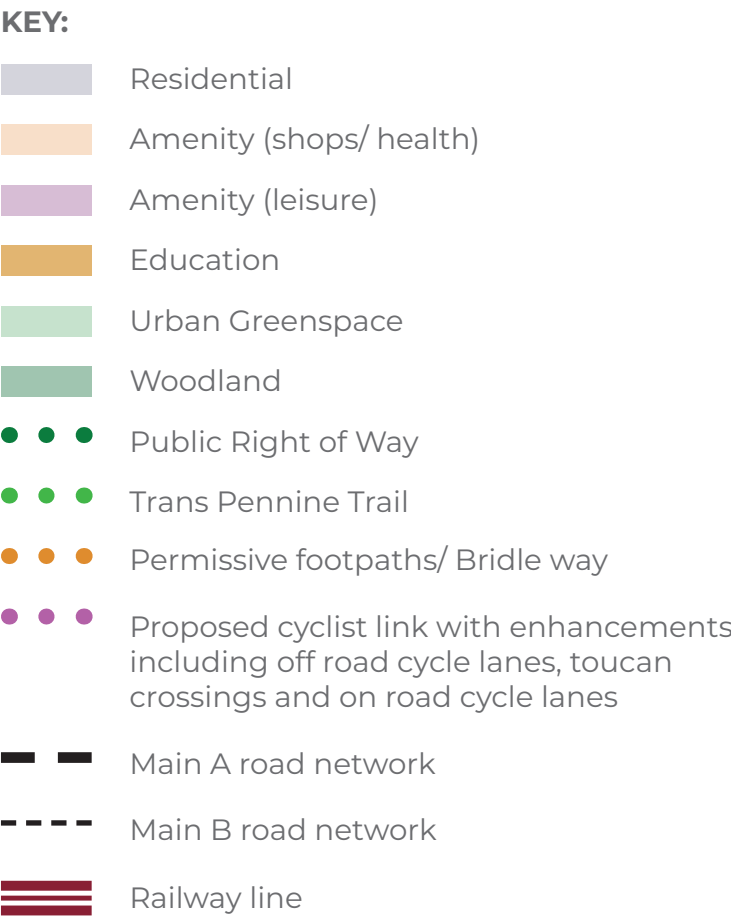


FIGURE 2: SITE ANALYSIS PLAN

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.3 Site Opportunities and Constraints Plan

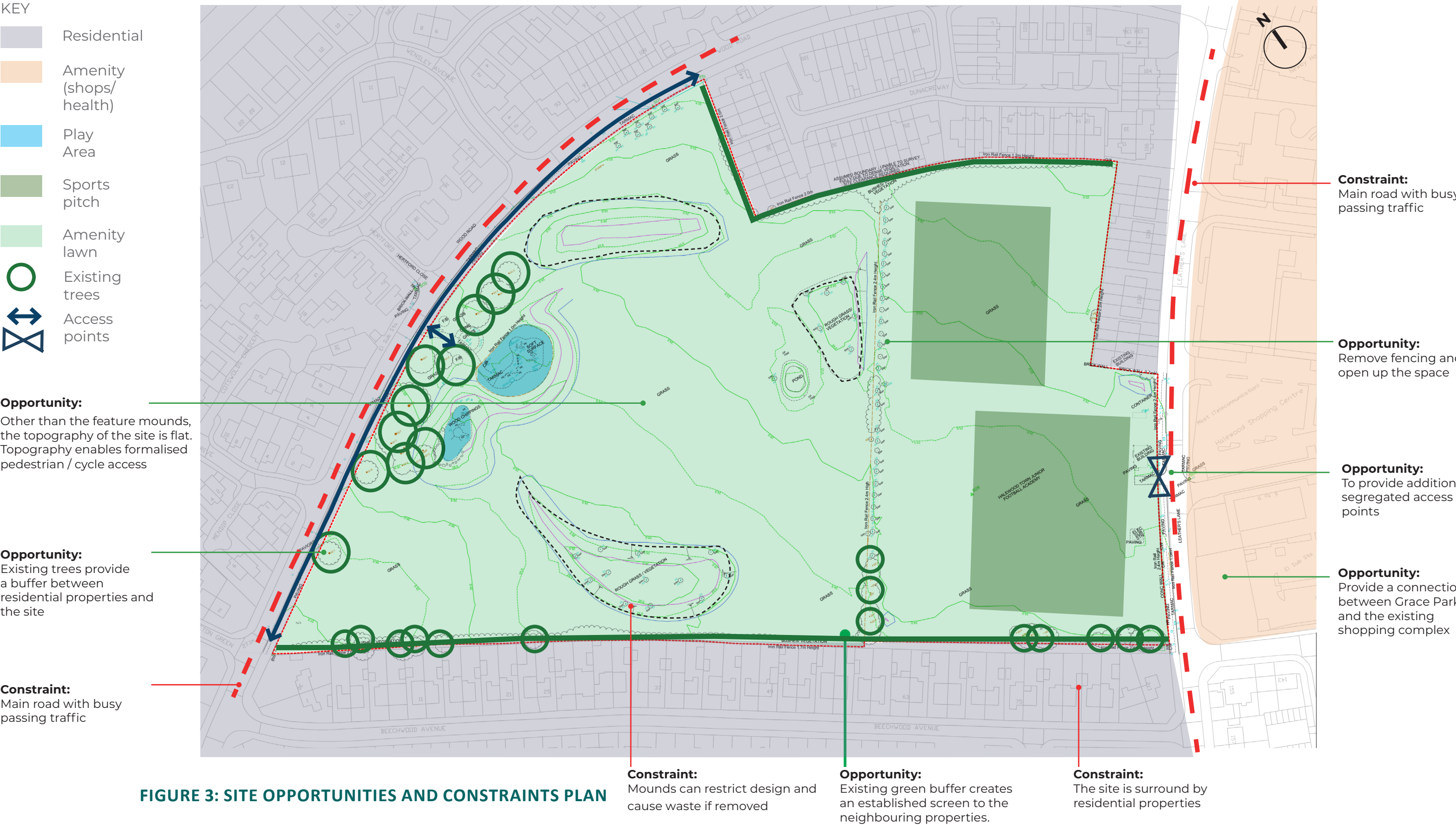


FIGURE 3: SITE OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS PLAN

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.4 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

An arboricultural walkover survey of the study area was undertaken on 29 September 2023. The arboricultural survey was undertaken in accordance with BS 5837 and arboricultural features were plotted using topographical survey information and aerial imagery.

The desk study found no record of TPOs, conservation areas, ancient/veteran trees, or ancient woodlands within the Study Area.

A total of 25 arboricultural features, consisting of 12 trees and 13 tree groups. One arboricultural feature is assessed to be high quality, nine features are moderate quality, 14 features are low quality, and one feature is very low quality.

The Proposed Development in relation to arboricultural features is shown in the Tree Removals and Retention Plan. The Proposed Development would result in the removal of three moderate quality groups (G8, G9, G10), one low quality Elder tree (T4) and low quality groups (G5, G11). Species are listed within the Arboricultural survey schedule of the AIA.

All other arboricultural features can be retained and protected through demolition and construction. Principles for tree protection are set out in an outline arboricultural Method Statement in Appendix D of the AIA which includes the need for arboricultural supervision, tree works, tree protection fencing, hand excavation, new permanent hard surfacing within Root Protection Areas, and additional precautions outside the construction exclusion zones.

For more information refer to full Arboricultural Impact Assessment document 70119719-ARB-GP-001.

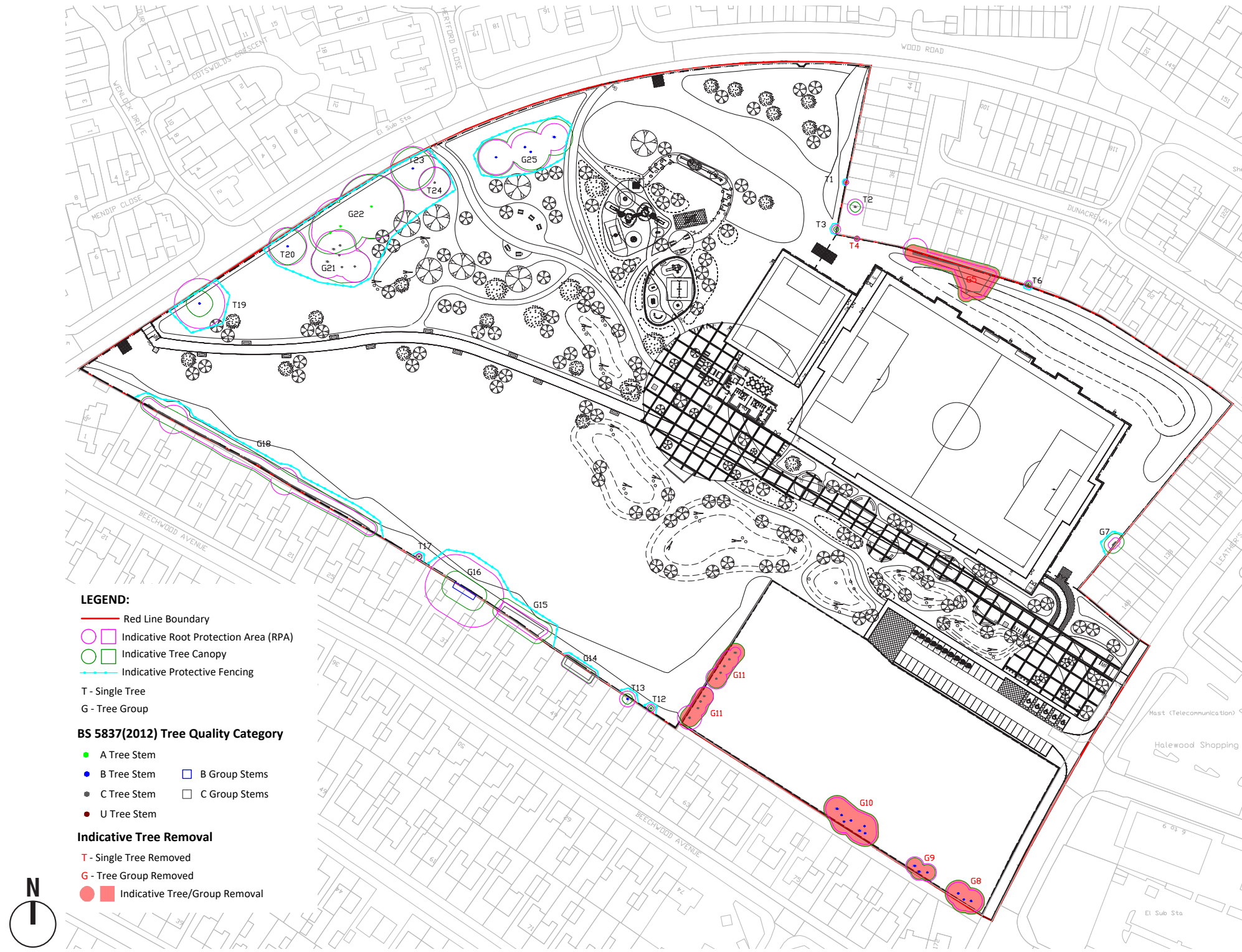


FIGURE 4: TREE REMOVALS AND RETENTION PLAN (TRRP)

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.5 Site Ecology Assessment

WSP UK Ltd. (WSP) was commissioned by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC (the Client)) in August 2023 to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PBRA) of areas of land (AOL) at Grace Park/Halewood Junior Football Academy, within the Halewood area of Knowsley borough, Merseyside. This assessment was superseded by a Preliminary Ecological Addendum Letter Report produced by Ascerta in September 2025.

The descriptions of each habitat type follows:

g3c – Other Neutral Grassland
This habitat is present mainly at localised areas at the centre of this AOL. Several smaller areas exist adjacent to the fenced areas around the perimeter and through the centre of the land. Condition assessment for this habitat is moderate due to species composition lacking characteristics of common types and less than 10 species present per metre squared.

g4 – Modified Grassland
Frequently mown modified grassland is present within the Site and is the dominant habitat within this AOL. This habitat is used as football pitches and recreation areas. The condition was assessed as moderate due to uniform sward height and low species diversity.

w1g6 – Line of trees
This habitat is present in several areas around the perimeter of this AOL and also adjacent to a fenced area running through the middle. Condition assessment for this habitat was moderate due to gaps in canopy and more than 70% of trees being non-native.

h3 – Dense scrub
This habitat is located within a small central area of the AOL adjacent to the northern boundary. A small area is also present on the southwestern boundary running into bramble scrub. Condition assessment for this habitat is poor

due to a lack of mixed ages of the shrubs, a lack of clearings and heavily managed habitat directly adjacent.

h3h – Bramble scrub
This habitat is present in several areas around the perimeter of this AOL and also adjacent to a fenced area running through the middle.

r1 – Standing open water and canals
This habitat was present as one pond (P1) within the centre of the AOL, towards the southern boundary of the park. Condition assessment for this habitat was moderate.

Ecological Enhancement Opportunities
The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF Dec 2024) states that at an overview level the 'planning system should contribute to and enhance the national and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures'.

To encourage compliance with planning policy the following measures are recommended for inclusion within the Proposed Development; where possible: The lighting of the Proposed Development should be designed considering nocturnal species, for example, barn owl and bats, and should include dark corridors along the Site boundaries. Lighting should use hoods, louvres or other luminaire design features to avoid light spill onto retained and newly created areas of vegetation likely to be used by foraging and commuting bats. In addition, narrow spectrum light sources should be used where possible to lower the range of species affected by lighting, specifically avoiding shorter wavelength blue light, using instead warm/neutral colour temperature <4,200 kelvin lighting (BCT, 2018).

Landscaping associated with the Proposed Development should aim to achieve a measurable gain in biodiversity, as informed by a BNG assessment. Examples of landscaping measures include the use of native species of local provenance and/or species with specific nature conservation benefits (for example invertebrate right and/or early/late flowering nectar-rich and fruit bearing species), e.g. green roofs, walls and climbers. Green walls and roofs can provide food and shelter for invertebrates, which in turn can provide food resources for bats and birds. Some green roofs can themselves provide suitable habitat for nesting birds.

Provision of bird boxes to replace trees and scrub lost to facilitate construction of the Proposed Development.

Conclusions
Three statutory sites of international importance were found within 10km of the Site. The Proposed development will be contained within the Site and although habitat will be lost during development, this will be predominantly modified grassland. This habitat does not act as functionally linked land and is unsuitable for the key species using the designated sites.

Eight non-statutory designated sites were found within 2km of the Site. Due to the distance from the Site, the lack of hydrological connectivity, and the small-scale nature of the Proposed Works, no negative effects are anticipated on these designated sites.

The Site was found to consist of a range of habitats, including modified grassland, other neutral grassland, scrub, lines of trees, sealed and unsealed developed land, six buildings and a pond.

Following the site walkover in September 2025 the habitats were assessed to remain the same as in 2023 and the trees were assessed to provide no potential for roosting bats, within no further surveys for bats recommended.

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.5 Ecological Assessment continued

Broad-leaved trees and sections of scrub within the Site have the potential to support nesting and breeding birds. It is therefore recommended that any vegetation clearance works associated with the construction of the Proposed Development are undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (March to August, inclusive). If this is unavoidable, it is recommended that an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) is present on-site to undertake pre-commencement checks of vegetation due to be cleared.

A PMWS has been produced to ensure works have due regard for and safeguard badger and bat species, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. This includes the implementation of biosecurity measures for INNS and environmental best practice measures to reduce direct impacts to ecological receptors.

The Site's baseline habitat conditions were assessed in line with the UK habitats guidance. Each habitat was assessed against the condition assessment guidance to assign the condition scoring to each area, a baseline habitats plan was produced and the baseline information was inputted to the BNG metric. The proposed areas, post-development were provided by the landscape team from their drawing. For Grace Park a +15.10% gain was achieved, through the retention and enhancements of the existing grassland, retaining existing trees along with proposing new tree and grassland planting, SUDs and ornamental planting.



FIGURE 5: BASELINE HABITAT ECOLOGY PLAN

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.6 Flood Risk Assessment

As shown by the EA's Flood Map (Figure 6.) for Planning , the entire Application Site falls within Flood Zone 1. Consequently, the risk of fluvial flooding is negligible and does not necessitate further mitigation.

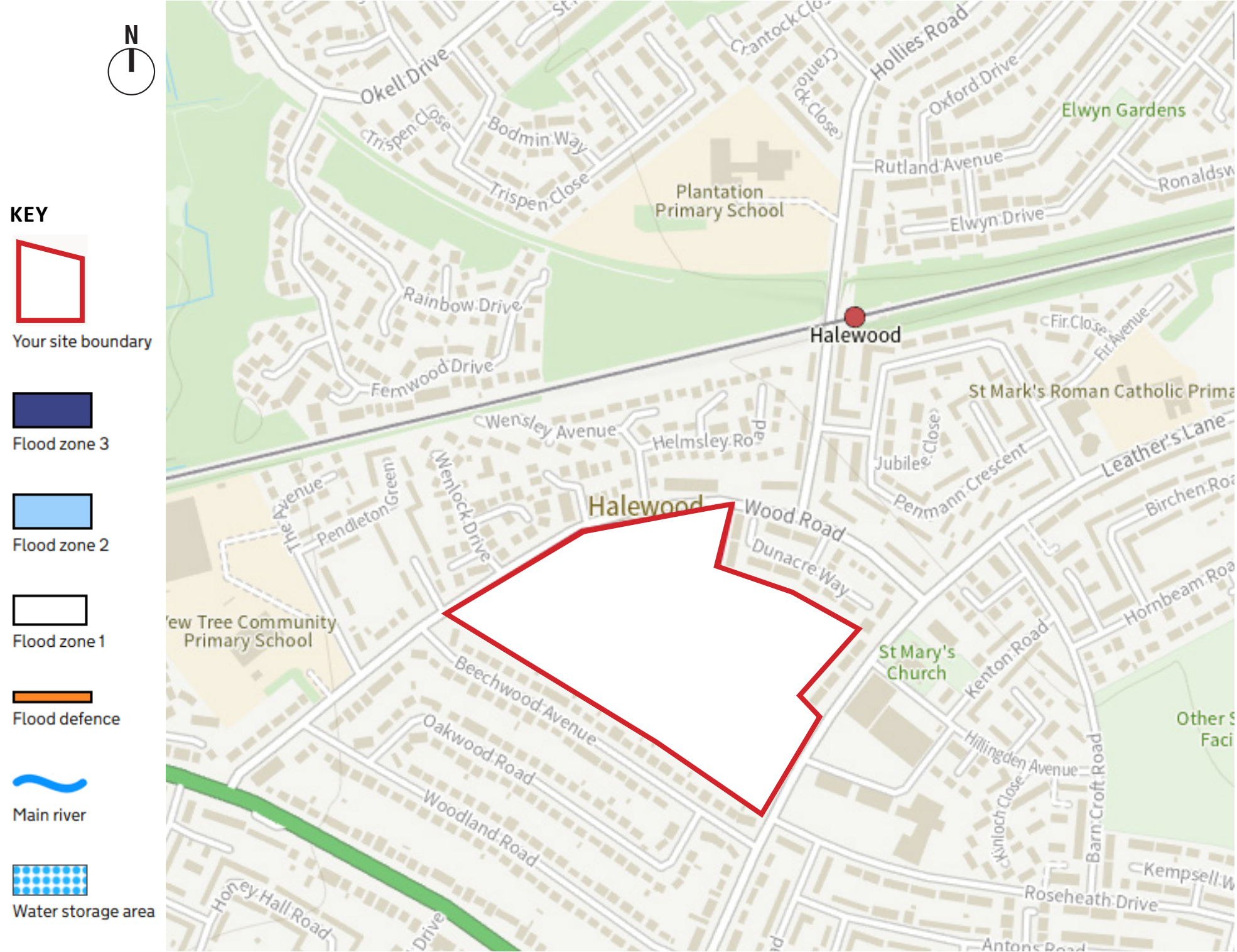


FIGURE 6: EA FLOOD MAP

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.7 Topography Assessment

The topography of the Grace Park site shows a gradual rise from approximately 24m OD in the south east to approximately 29m OD in the south west (topographic-map.com, 2023).



FIGURE 7: TOPOGRAPHY

3.8 Existing Drainage Assessment

As shown by the asset location plan (Figure 8 below) provided by United Utilities (see the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy), there is a sewer network immediately adjacent to the park boundary accounting for the drainage requirements of a large proportion of the surrounding residential area, but there is no indication of any formal drainage infrastructure within Grace Park Site.

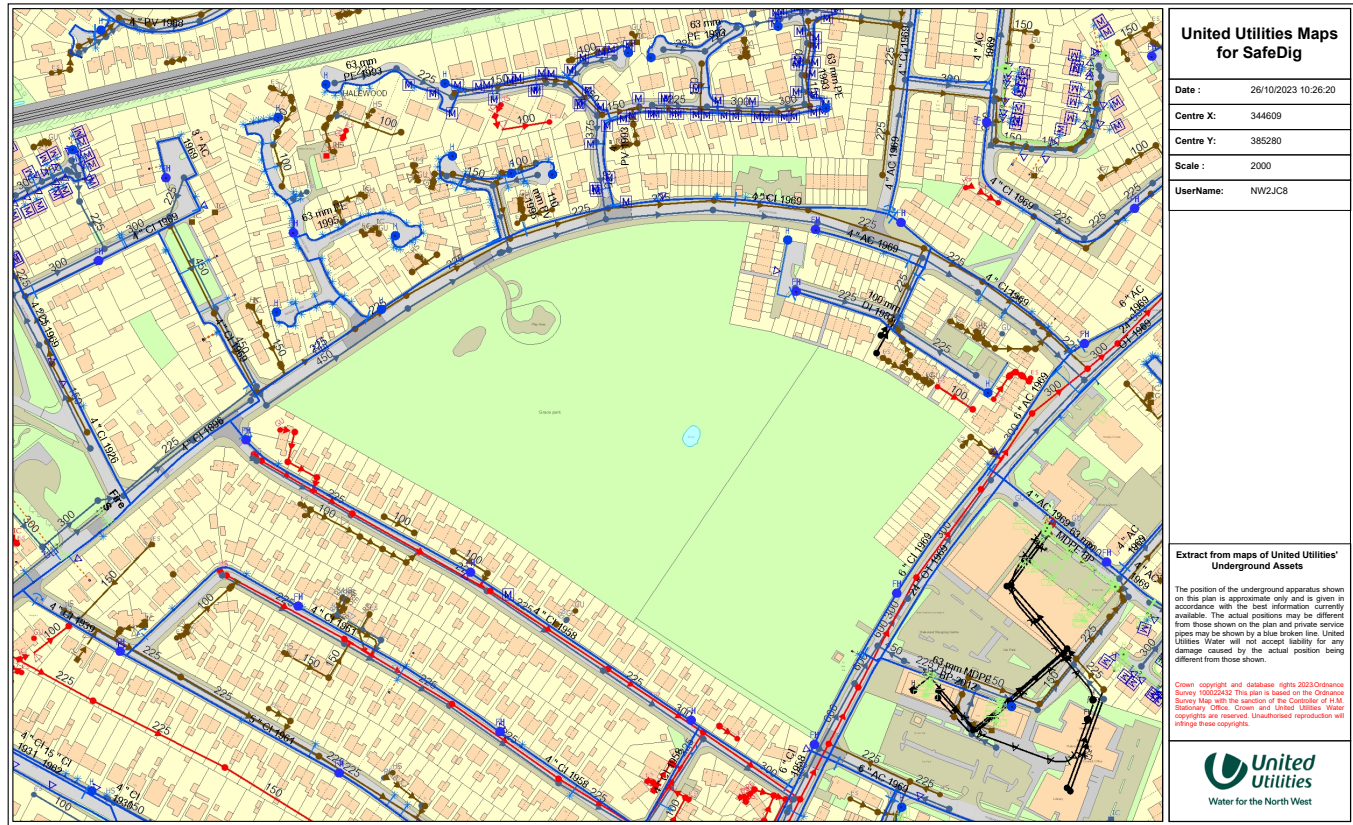


FIGURE 8: ASSET LOCATION PLAN

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.9 Ground and Heritage Assessment

A high level land appraisal has been prepared and is included within this application. Key findings are as follows (refer to report for in depth evaluation):

To determine the full historic environment potential of the sites, a 750m study area around the site has been examined.

OVERVIEW OF PAST INVESTIGATIONS

There have been no archaeological investigations within the sites. There have been a few archaeological investigations across the study area from the 1970s onwards. These comprise a mix of desk-based studies, non-intrusive investigations, and intrusive investigations. They have yielded results from periods dating from the Iron Age to the post-medieval. The results of these investigations have been integrated into the above baseline overview.

CONSTRAINTS

The constraints within the sites comprise:

- Possible stables to Halewood House;
- Possible remnants of 18th/19th century landscaped gardens and parkland belonging to Halewood House; and
- Site of a cottage on Baileys Lane, Halewood.

There is moderate potential for medieval remains with the site. There are several moated sites dating to the medieval period surrounding Halewood, the closest one being the site of a moat at Yew Tree House, Higher Road, 350m to the south west of the site. The value of any archaeological remains relating to the medieval period would be low as their potential to enhance knowledge of the development of the area during this time and the settlement and agricultural activity within the area is limited.

Halewood House was located immediately to the north west of the site with the landscaped gardens and parkland and an associated late 19th century stable block falling within the perimeter of the Grace Park site. The Grace Park site has moderate archaeological potential with a moderate survival potential for remains or deposits relating to the stables or parkland. The value of these archaeological remains would be low.

OPPORTUNITIES

The land in the east of Grace Park site contained now demolished school buildings and will have been disturbed during the construction and demolition of the buildings. The disturbance would have removed or heavily truncated any archaeological remains within this area.

CONCLUSIONS

There are no designated heritage assets within the sites.

There are three non-designated assets within the sites, a cottage off Baileys Lane which was identified through HER data, and identified on historic mapping: stables of Halewood House and the remnants of 18th/19th century landscaped gardens or parkland belonging to Halewood House. Remains of foundations or associated buried features could survive as archaeological remains.

There is also low to moderate potential for archaeological survival within the Grace Park site due to the site conditions and the land use across the medieval to modern periods. Surviving remains may include:

- Further unknown assets relating to the post-medieval Halewood House.
- Medieval to post-medieval field systems.

The proposed development therefore has potential to impact on below ground remains, of both known and previously unrecorded archaeological remains.

The settings of the listed buildings identified in the wider vicinity of the sites are unlikely to be impacted by future development.

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.10 Site Photographs



Opportunity to connect shopping centre to Grace Park



Opportunity for safe crossing



Dominating fencing separating the site



Opportunity to provide open views



Vast area of under utilised green space with low biodiverse value



Fencing stops movement through greenspace



Vast area of under utilised green space with low biodiverse value.



Mature hedge boundary providing screening for residential properties



Occasional mature tree providing character and biodiversity



Opportunity to provide a more formal legible and welcoming entrance

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.10 Site Photographs



Existing entry point could be improved by developing a character and branding for the space



Existing outdoor gym equipment



Existing fenced play area



Opportunity to provide character to the space



Opportunity to enhance planting design



Opportunity to give purpose to under utilised green space



Existing mature individual trees. Opportunity to enhance planting design

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.11 Utilities Assessment

The Utilities located on the site are shown on Figure 9. There are only minor encroachment of services into the site and are described as follows:

- Telecoms: Runs along the green buffer to the rear of properties 35-44 Dunacreway on the North Eastern corner of the site. A long spur enters the site off Leather's Lane and runs along the South Eastern boundary within the footway.
- Electric Power : Runs within the footway of Leather's Lane along the South Eastern boundary. A spur enters the site at locations along Leather's Lane, one connects to the sub-station and the other connects to the sports building.
- Gas : Runs within the carriageway of Leather's Lane and a short spur connects to the sub-station.
- Foul Sewer: Doesn't enter the site and runs just outside the site boundary
- Surface Water Sewer: Doesn't enter the site and runs just outside the site boundary

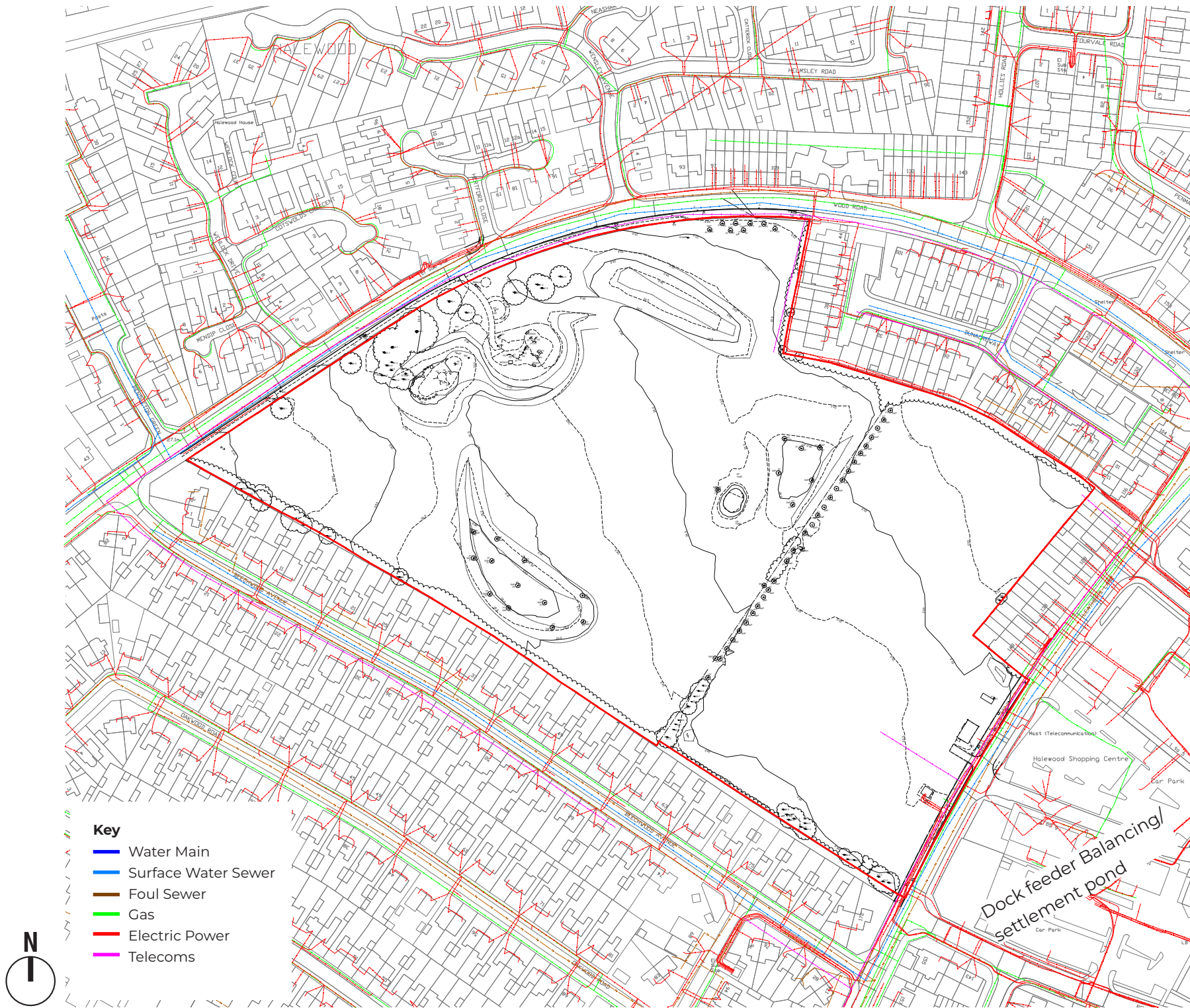


FIGURE 9: UTILITIES PLAN

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.12 Noise Impact Assessment

Wardell Armstrong LLP has carried out a noise assessment for the proposed redevelopment of Grace Park. The assessment has been carried out to consider the potential impact of the proposed noise sources on the existing receptors.

The noise assessment shows that the properties closest to the proposed Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) at Grace Park and the mini-AGP require without any mitigation would see a noise level change of up to +9dB and therefore recommend additional mitigation.

The location and extent of the fencing is shown in the Acoustic barrier location plan on Figure 10. With a 4m acoustic fence as mitigation in place the overall effect is at the No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL).

At this effect level noise can be heard, but does not cause any change in behaviour, attitude or other physiological response. Noise can slightly affect the acoustic character of the area but not such that there is a change in the quality of life.

MITIGATION
Mitigation is recommended to control noise levels from the AGPs

The noise assessment demonstrates that to reduce the noise impact on the nearest dwellings to within the relevant national guidelines, mitigation in the form of an acoustic barrier along the northern and eastern perimeter of the development is required.

With this mitigation in place, it is expected that the noise impact from the proposed development, at the worst case scenario, on the nearest dwellings will be within the Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL) category or below, in accordance with the NPPF.

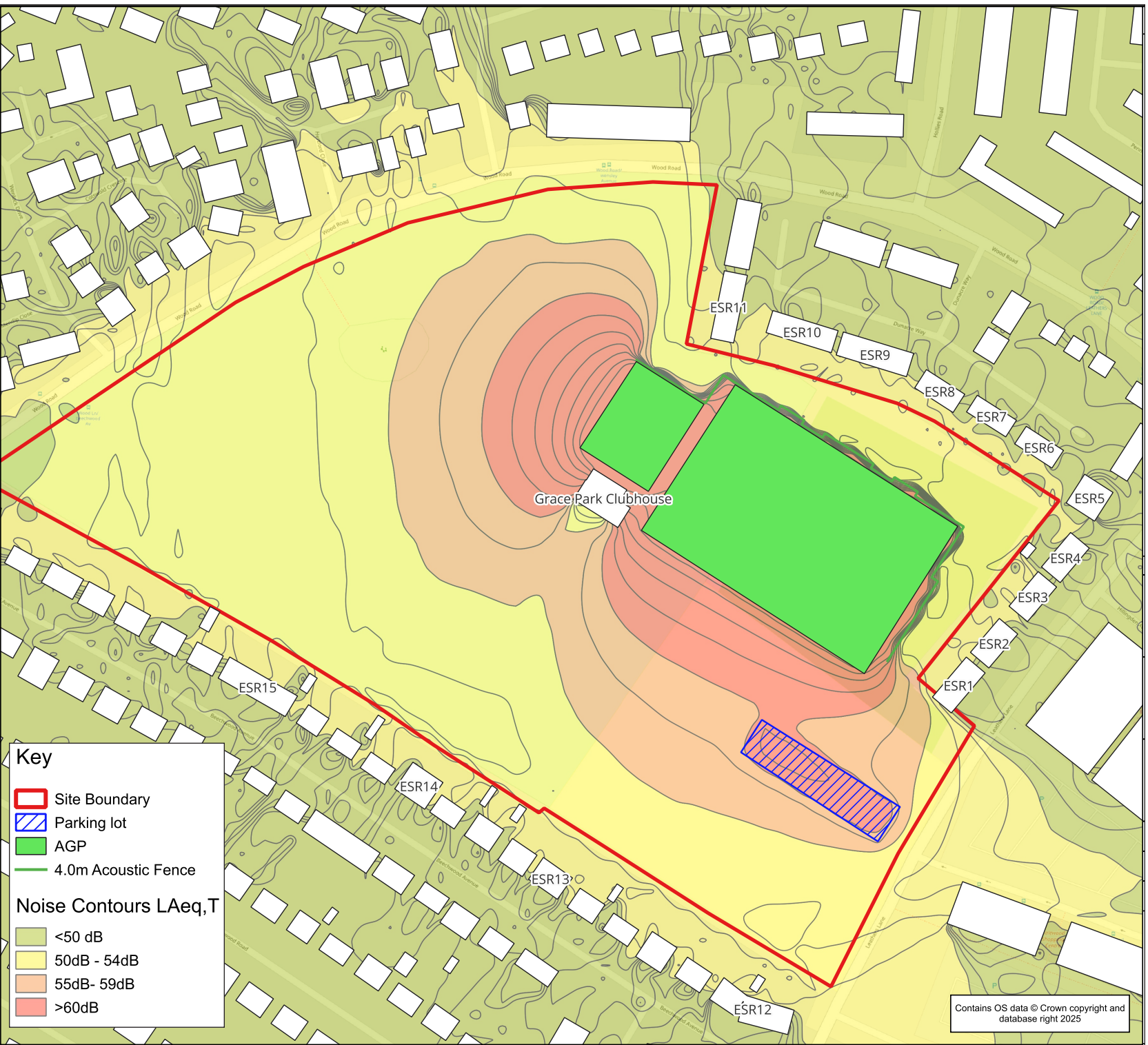


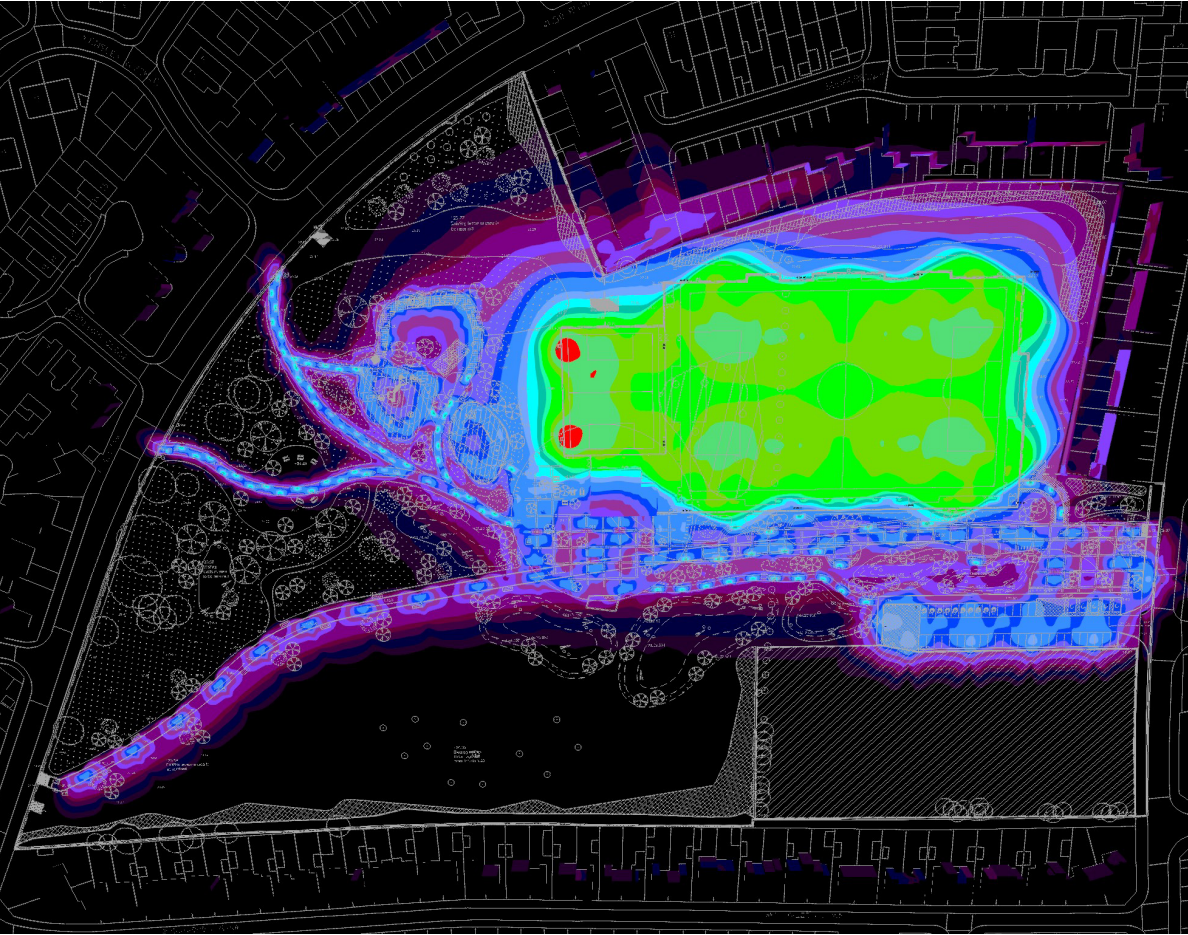
FIGURE 10: NOISE CONTOUR PLOT 4M ACOUSTIC BARRIER

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

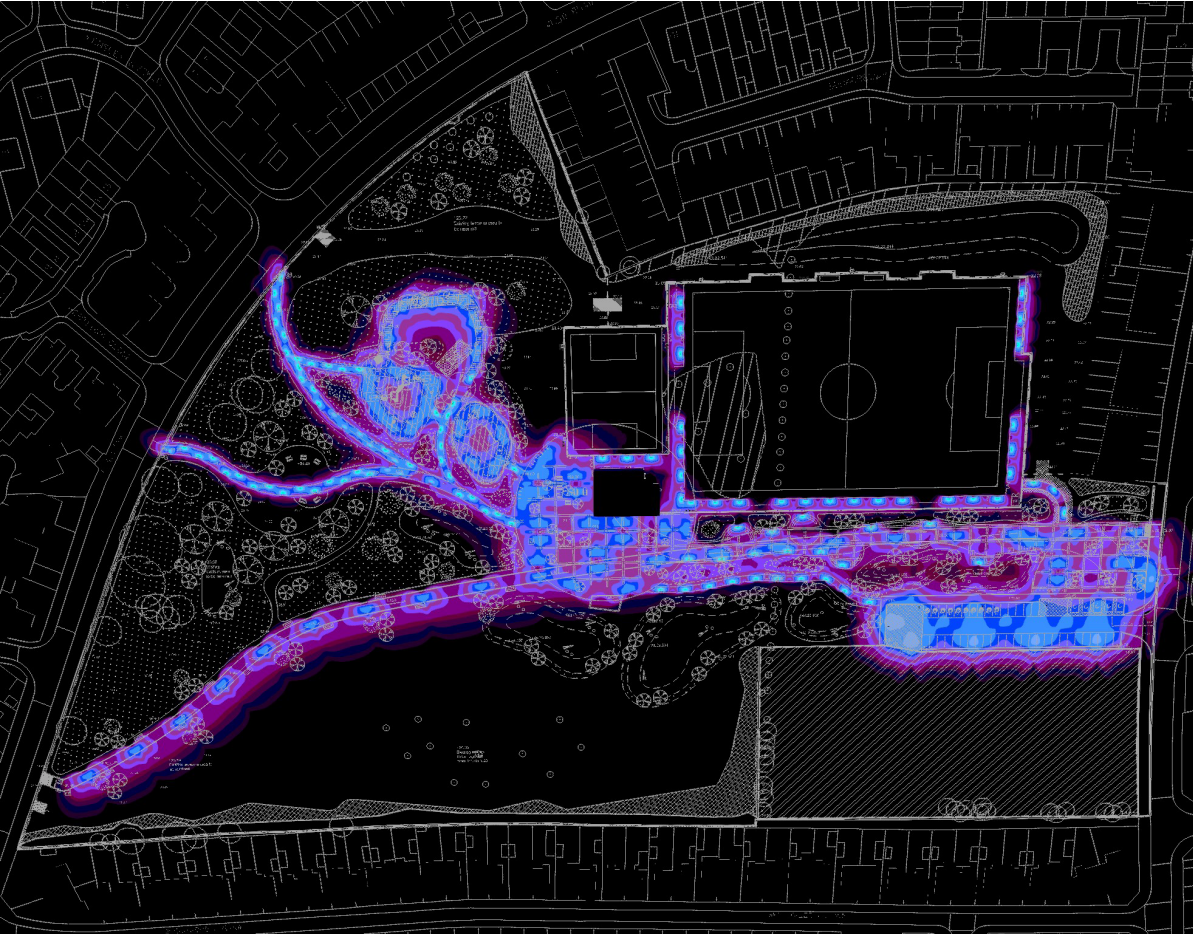
3.13 Lighting Assessment

WSP have produced a lighting impact assessment for Grace Park, Halewood. The report provides a technical lighting brief with proposed lighting design recommendations for managing and controlling the obtrusive effects of the exterior lighting and the impact that the lighting will have upon the nearby residential area and will support the planning application.

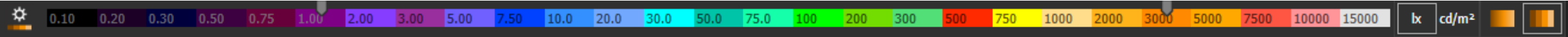
The technical aspect of the report outlines all relevant design standards applicable to controlling and managing the exterior lighting, as well as to recommend specific design criteria and design requirements which will be in keeping with the identified environmental zone. The indicative luminaire types are identified on Figure 11, for Further information please refer to the 'Lighting Impact Assessment' document. (HAL-WSP-XX-XX-RP-Y-0001)



False colour view from calculation model - pre-curfew



False colour view from calculation model - post-curfew



Lux level key from calculation model

FIGURE 11: OBTRUSIVE LIGHT ASSESSMENT

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.14 Summary of Site Assessments

1. Residential Proximity & Noise

The site is surrounded by residential properties, and new sports pitches will increase activity and noise. Noise mitigation (acoustic fencing) is essential to maintain community relations and meet planning requirements.

2. Ecological Value & Biodiversity Net Gain

The site currently has low biodiversity value, but development risks further loss. There is a statutory requirement for biodiversity net gain (BNG), and ecological enhancements must be prioritised.

3. Access & Connectivity

Busy roads and fencing currently limit access and connectivity. Safe, segregated pedestrian and cycle routes are needed to connect the park with the wider community and local amenities.

4. Drainage & Flood Risk

While the site is in Flood Zone 1 (low risk), there is no formal drainage infrastructure. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are critical for managing surface water and supporting biodiversity.

5. Heritage & Archaeology

There is low potential for archaeological remains and non-designated heritage assets. So further investigation and mitigation are not required.

Overall Site Context Summary

The assessments collectively highlight Grace Park's potential for regeneration, with key opportunities in connectivity, biodiversity, sustainable drainage, and community amenity. Constraints include proximity to residential areas, busy roads. The proposals address these issues through careful design, mitigation, and enhancement strategies, supporting both planning policy and community needs.

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.15 Summary - Opportunities and Constraints

Constraints

- 1 Mounds existing on site
- 2 Residential properties surround the site
- 3 Busy main road adjacent to site
- 4 Opportunity to provide a more user friendly car park with larger spaces (compliant with current day standards).

Opportunities

- 1 Topography: Other than mounds, the topography of the site is relatively flat
- 2 Cycle connection between Halewood Leisure Centre and Grace Park - There is an opportunity to provide better connections between sites.
- 3 Existing trees provide buffer between residential properties and the site
- 4 Formalise pedestrian and cycle access to site
- 5 Provide segregated access for pedestrians and vehicles on east of site
- 6 Remove fencing to open up site



FIGURE 12: SUMMARY OPS AND CONS DIAGRAM

03 SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.16 Recommendations

1. Residential Interface & Noise

- Implement recommended acoustic fencing (4m, 10–15kg/m²) around new pitches to minimise noise impact.
- Engage with local residents early and throughout construction to address concerns and foster support.
- Monitor noise levels post-completion to ensure compliance with NOAEL standards.

2. Ecology & Biodiversity

- Enhance site biodiversity by:
- Using native and wildlife-friendly planting.
- Installing bird and bat boxes to compensate for lost habitat.
- Creating dark corridors and using wildlife-sensitive lighting (warm/neutral colour temperature, <4,200K).
- Schedule vegetation clearance outside nesting season (March–August) or use an Ecological Clerk of Works if unavoidable.
- Conduct further surveys for bats and other protected species as recommended.

3. Access, Movement & Connectivity

- Formalise and segregate pedestrian/cycle access to improve safety and encourage sustainable travel.
- Remove unnecessary fencing to open up the site and improve permeability.
- Enhance connections to local amenities (shopping centre, leisure centre, public transport).

4. Drainage & Flood Management

- Implement SuDS (swales, ponds, rain gardens) as designed to manage surface water, reduce flood risk, and provide educational and biodiversity benefits.
- Coordinate with utility providers to avoid conflicts with existing services during SuDS installation.

5. Heritage & Archaeology

- Prepare mitigation strategies for any finds during construction.

6. Utilities & Infrastructure

- Map and protect existing utilities during construction to prevent service disruption.
- Plan for minimal encroachment and coordinate with utility companies as needed.

7. Lighting

- Design lighting to minimise obtrusive effects on residents and wildlife, following the technical lighting brief.
- Use directional, shielded luminaires and avoid blue-rich light.

04

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 Design Principles and Concept
- 4.2 Design Principles for Public Spaces
- 4.3 Design Principles - Precedent Images
- 4.4 Design Principles - Policy and Guidance
- 4.5 Design Principles for proposed shared route
- 4.6 Design Principles - Sustainable Drainage Systems

04 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Design Principles and Concept

The site is envisioned to become a vibrant community hub for the town of Halewood.

The landscape and urban design proposals support and enhance this brief by developing a concept that draws from the famous artist, William Morris. St Nicolas church in Halewood is home to a well-preserved example of Morris's work. Typical characteristics of Morris's work are that they are inspired by nature and vibrant in colour.

The landscape concept design for the site is therefore based on a grid formation. The grid will lead through the site to key gateways and or features within the site. In addition to the paved grid, there will be soft landscapes and various features of urban landscape design entwined within the grid, inspired by the arrk (shown top right). The planting scheme will encompass the vibrancy and boldness of Morris's work through the careful selection of plant colour, texture and height.

The landscape design approach is based on putting people first, providing sustainable transport, creating a sense of character for a community hub space and delivering a sustainable biodiverse escape within a predominantly urban environment. All of these will help meet flood risk, air pollution reductions, and biodiversity net gain.

Key features:

The design will encompass open views into the site with ornamental planting, creating an inviting entrance space and providing a uniform family of street furniture, including wayfinding to clearly direct pedestrians and cyclists through the site provide distinct features and spaces to provide a unique character and places to meet.



William Morris stained glass window St Nicholas' church in Halewood.



04 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

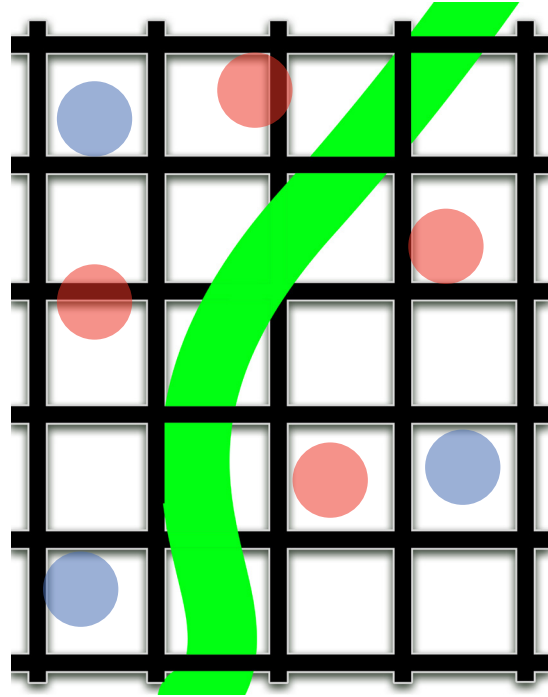
4.2 Design Principles for Public Spaces

The intention is to take inspiration from the William Morris pattern and integrate this into the landscape design.

- Core elements of the William Morris pattern:
- 1. Underlying grid structure.
 - 2. Organic element weaving through the grid
 - 3. Interspersed elements of colour and interest

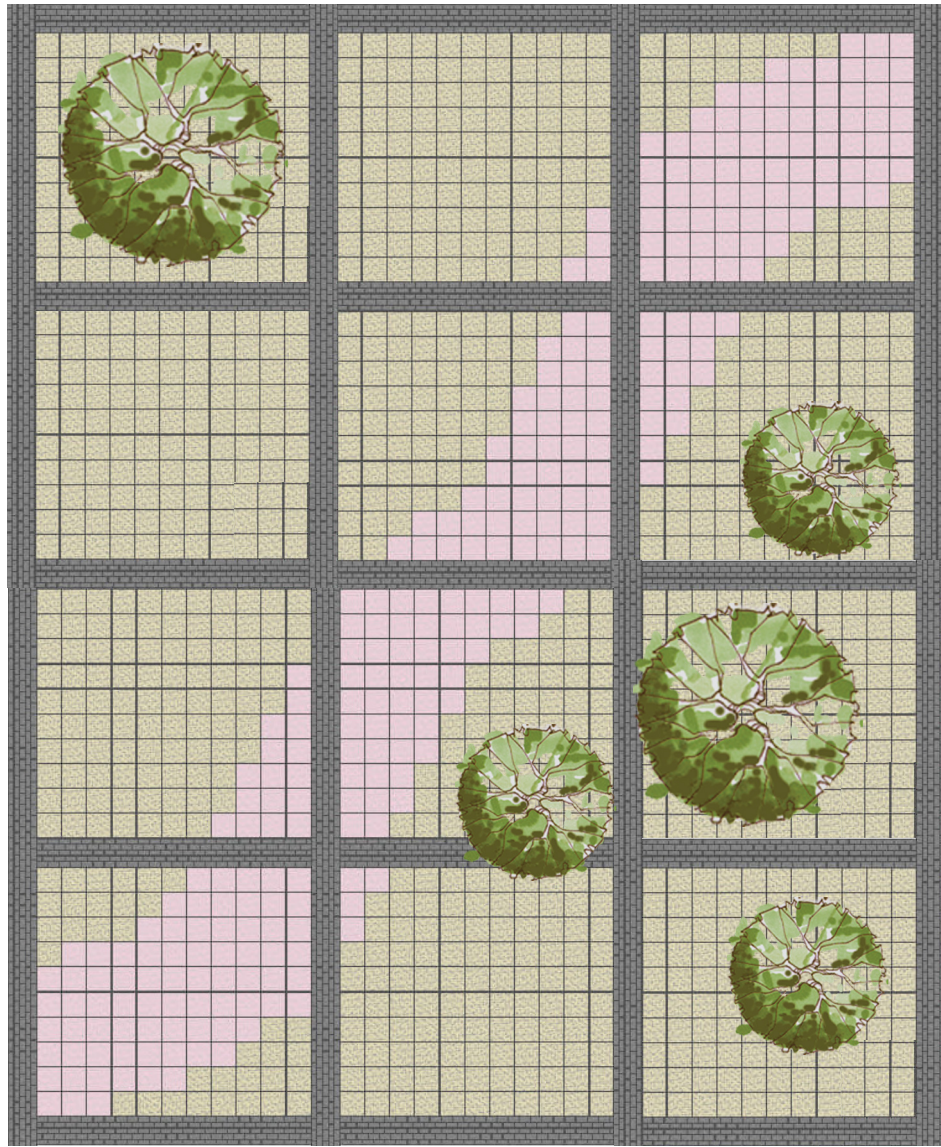


William Morris Pattern



- Core elements of the William Morris pattern:
- 1. Underlying grid structure.
 - 2. Organic element weaving through the grid
 - 3. Interspersed elements of colour and interest

FIGURE 13: EXAMPLE OF HOW DESIGN PRINCIPLES CAN BE ILLUSTRATED



Paving used to provided the underlying grid structure with ribbons of paving used to achieve an organic serpentine detail.

Areas of planting and leisure provide elements of colour and and interest.

04 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

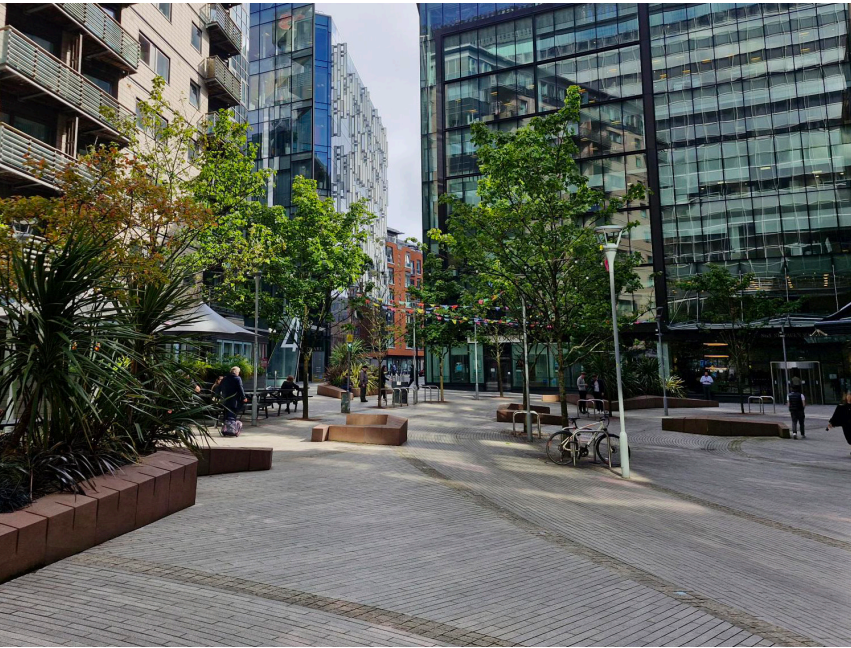
4.3 Design Principles - Precedent Images



Public realm space with grid formation paving.



A different feature/ activity per each space within grid.



Organic paving weaving through block pavers.



Soft landscape within a grid space.



Public realm space with grid formation paving.



Alliums offer a perennial vibrancy with visual interest spanning summer and winter.

04 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

4.4 Design Principles - Policy and Guidance

Integration of Sport England’s Active Design Principles and Halewood Active Town Centre Strategy

The design for Grace Park has been developed to incorporate Sport England’s Active Design Principles and align with the ambitions set out in the Halewood Active Town Centre Strategy, ensuring that the site promotes health, wellbeing, and inclusive access for all members of the community.

Sport England’s Active Design Principles

The proposals respond directly to Sport England’s guidance by creating an environment that encourages physical activity as part of everyday life. Key principles integrated into the design include:

- **Supporting Active Travel:** A central shared pedestrian and cycle route runs through the site, which forms part of a wider active travel network, connecting Grace Park to surrounding neighbourhoods and the wider Halewood area. Promoting sustainable travel and reducing reliance on private vehicles.
- **High-Quality Streets and Spaces:** The civic plaza and surrounding public realm have been designed as safe, attractive, and multifunctional spaces, encouraging social interaction and informal recreation.
- **Activity Infrastructure:** Provision of two all-weather playing pitches, a clubhouse with changing facilities, and outdoor gym equipment ensures opportunities for structured and unstructured physical activity.
- **Active Buildings Inside and Out:** The clubhouse design incorporates active frontage and flexible internal spaces to support community events and sports activities.

Alignment with Halewood Active Town Centre Strategy

The design reflects the strategic objectives of the Halewood Active Town Centre Strategy by:

- **Creating Inclusive, Connected Spaces:** The park improvements form part of a wider regeneration framework that prioritises accessibility, connectivity, and inclusivity, ensuring Grace Park serves as a central hub for community activity.
- **Embedding Physical Activity into Daily Life:** By integrating walking and cycling routes, play areas, and informal recreation spaces, the design encourages active lifestyles for all age groups.
- **Delivering Long-Term Value:** High-quality materials and adaptable spaces have been specified to ensure durability and flexibility, supporting the park’s role as a vibrant community asset for years to come.

These measures collectively contribute to the transformation of Grace Park into a multifunctional, health-promoting environment that supports Knowsley Council’s vision for a more active, sustainable, and socially connected Halewood.

For more information a separate document, ‘Halewood Active Town Centre Strategy’ has been produced to support the planning application, to demonstrate how the proposed development integrates Sport England’s Active Design Principles to support Halewood’s transformation into a healthier, more inclusive, and better-connected community. It serves as a strategic framework for embedding physical activity into everyday life, shaping public spaces, and improving long-term wellbeing outcomes for residents of all ages and abilities.

Please refer to this standalone document for further information. (UK0029006.2293-WSP-RP-001)

04 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

4.4 Design Principles - Policy and Guidance

Summary Table: Active Design Principles and Design Response

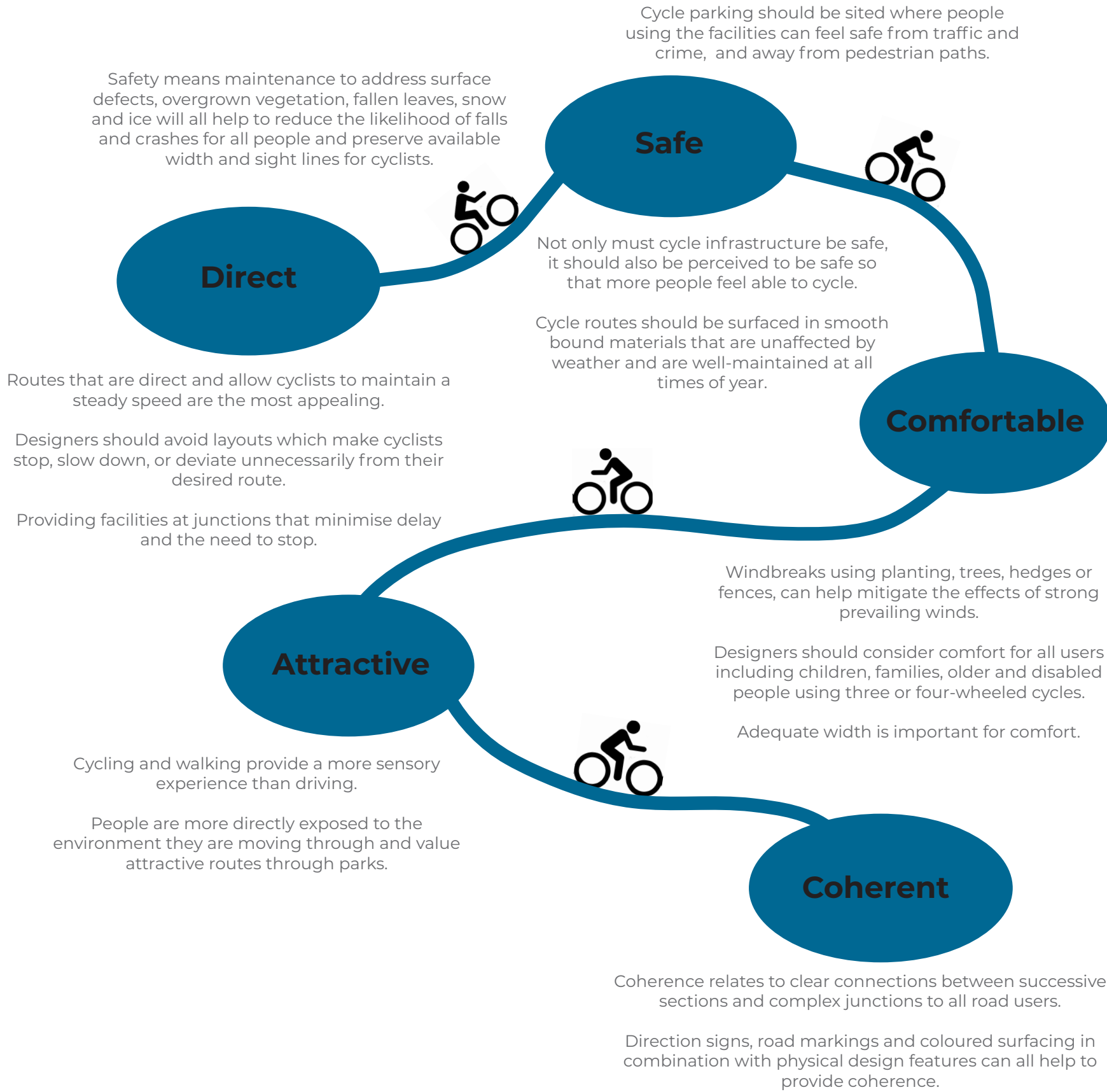
Sport England Active Design Principle	Design Response	Alignment with Halewood Active Town Strategy
1. Activity for All	Fully accessible play zones, sensory play features, level pathways, and multi-use games areas (MUGAs) designed for all ages and abilities.	Reinforces inclusivity by ensuring equitable access to physical activity for children, older adults, and those with mobility challenges.
2. Walkable Communities	Continuous, well-lit pedestrian routes with clear wayfinding, integrated seating, and shade to encourage walking as a primary mode of movement.	Supports the strategy’s aim to reduce car dependency and create a pedestrian-friendly town centre environment.
3. Connected Walking & Cycling Routes	Dedicated cycle lanes, shared-use paths, and links to regional greenways and Halewood’s active travel corridors.	Aligns with the goal of creating a seamless active travel network across Halewood, promoting sustainable transport.
4. Mixing Uses and Co-locating Facilities	Clubhouse combines sports amenities with flexible community spaces for events, meetings, and social activities.	Strengthens the town centre as a multifunctional hub for health, leisure, and community engagement.
5. Network of Multifunctional Open Space	Integration of formal sports pitches, informal recreation lawns, natural play areas, and biodiversity zones.	Enhances green infrastructure and supports the strategy’s commitment to multifunctional, adaptable public spaces.
6. High-Quality Streets & Spaces	Attractive public realm with planting, seating, lighting, and clear sightlines to ensure safety and encourage informal play and social interaction.	Contributes to creating a vibrant, welcoming environment that fosters community pride and active use.
7. Providing Activity Infrastructure	Provision of cycle parking, outdoor gym equipment, drinking fountains, and rest points throughout the park.	Complements investment in active travel infrastructure and supports everyday physical activity.
8. Active Buildings, Inside and Out	Clubhouse designed with active frontage, glazed elevations, and flexible internal layouts to encourage visibility and engagement.	Promotes integration of indoor and outdoor activity spaces, supporting year-round community use.
9. Maintaining High-Quality Flexible Spaces	Long-term stewardship plan with community involvement, regular inspections, and adaptive management strategies.	Ensures sustainability and ongoing community engagement, aligning with Halewood’s vision for resilient public spaces.
10. Activating Spaces	Clear signage, wayfinding, and programmed events such as walking groups, sports sessions, and seasonal activities.	Reinforces the strategy’s emphasis on promoting active lifestyles through communication and community programming.

04 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

4.5 Design Principles for proposed cycle route

The shared cycle route through the proposed development provides a central transport route linking the destination areas of Halewood together - Finch Wood, Halewood Leisure Centre, Halewood Shopping Centre, Grace Park to Liverpool City Centre beyond eastbound on the A562. The structure of the design is based on the LTN 1/20 Cycle Infrastructure Design Guidance and Sport England's Active Design Guidance.

The main principals are highlighted in the diagram on this page.



04 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

4.6 Design Principles - Sustainable drainage systems

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) offer a multifaceted approach to water management, with rain gardens emerging as a pivotal component.

Rain gardens play a crucial role in mitigating flooding and managing stormwater runoff effectively. By capturing and slowing the flow of rainwater, these gardens allow for natural infiltration into the soil, reducing the burden on traditional drainage systems and minimising the risk of surface water pollution.

Maintenance for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is generally not deemed expensive, especially when considering the cost savings achieved by reducing maintenance requirements for gullies.

SuDS are a key design feature appearing throughout the project at Halewood Leisure Centre. The aim of the SuDS is to help alleviate surface water run-off in a way that is attractive and enhances biodiversity. The SuDS design also aims to raise conversations and educate people about sustainability and wet habitat types by bringing people closer to them.

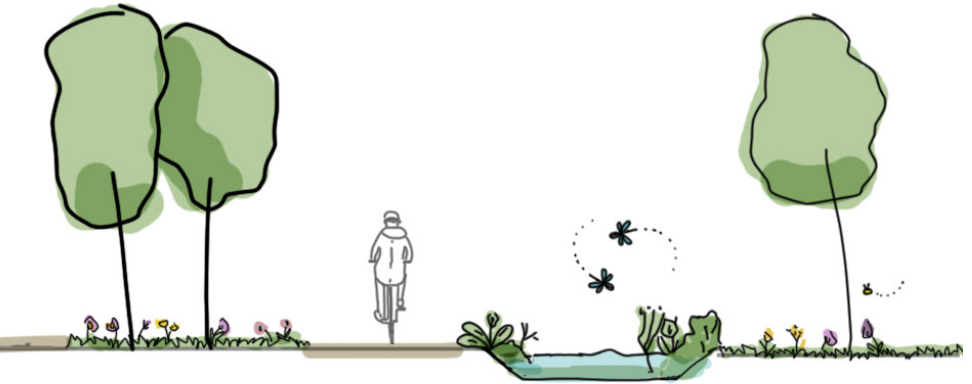


FIGURE 13: DRAINAGE STRATEGY CONCEPT DIAGRAM

- The key benefits of integrating SuDS systems into the site are;
- Improving amenity
 - Social cohesion
 - Flood risk management
 - Improving biodiversity & habitat creation
 - Educational opportunity on the benefit of SuD's systems and how they function
 - Community benefits - attractive well designed public open space
 - Water quality management

05

THE PROPOSAL

- 5.1 Landscape Masterplan
- 5.2 Movement & Access
- 5.3 Drainage Strategy
- 5.4 Signage/Wayfinding Strategy
- 5.5 Street Furniture
- 5.6 Boundary Treatments
- 5.7 Lighting Strategy
- 5.8 Hard Landscape Proposals
- 5.9 Materials Palette
- 5.10 Soft Landscape Proposals
- 5.11 Planting Palette
- 5.12 Summary

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.1 Landscape Masterplan

Legend

1. Main vehicular entrance from Leathers Lane proposed
2. Entrance plaza with ornamental planting and seating connecting to Halewood Shopping Centre
3. Shared-use active travel route
4. Main pedestrian and cyclist entrance from Wood Road
5. Secondary pedestrian entrances from Wood Road
6. Series of planted swales and attenuation ponds (SuDS)
7. Private Naturalised Area & SuDs feature fenced and maintained by Club Operators
8. Public meeting space 'Grace Gardens'
9. Flexible use plaza area with Pergola, electricity points and retention socket for outdoor events
10. Car park 47 total parking bays; with 32 standard bays, 5 accessible bays and 10 EV charging bays
11. Sports/ community pavilion to be designed by Architect
12. Artificial Grass Pitch with multi-pitch layout to Football Association (FA) guidelines 100x64m
13. Mini 5v5 football pitch to Football Association (FA) guidelines 40x30m
14. Picnic Area
15. Feature play area, fenced with inclusive play equipment
16. Existing mound re-graded to flexible amenity grassed area
17. Temporary Contractors Compound Hard Standing Area to be fenced from public access



FIGURE 14: LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.2 Movement & Access (Pedestrian and Vehicular Access/ Inclusive Access)

- Legend**
- Vehicle movement (public)
 - Pedestrian movement (Paths not exceeding 1:21)
 - Cycle movement (Shared-use route not exceeding 1:21)
 - Emergency access (fire/ambulance)
 - Deliveries access / Temporary market stall access - to be agreed and finalised with KMBC and Club Operators
 - Maintenance/Waste services access
 - Proposed Junior and Toddler Play Areas
 - Proposed public gathering areas
 - Proposed car park
 - Proposed AGP and Mini 5v5 pitches

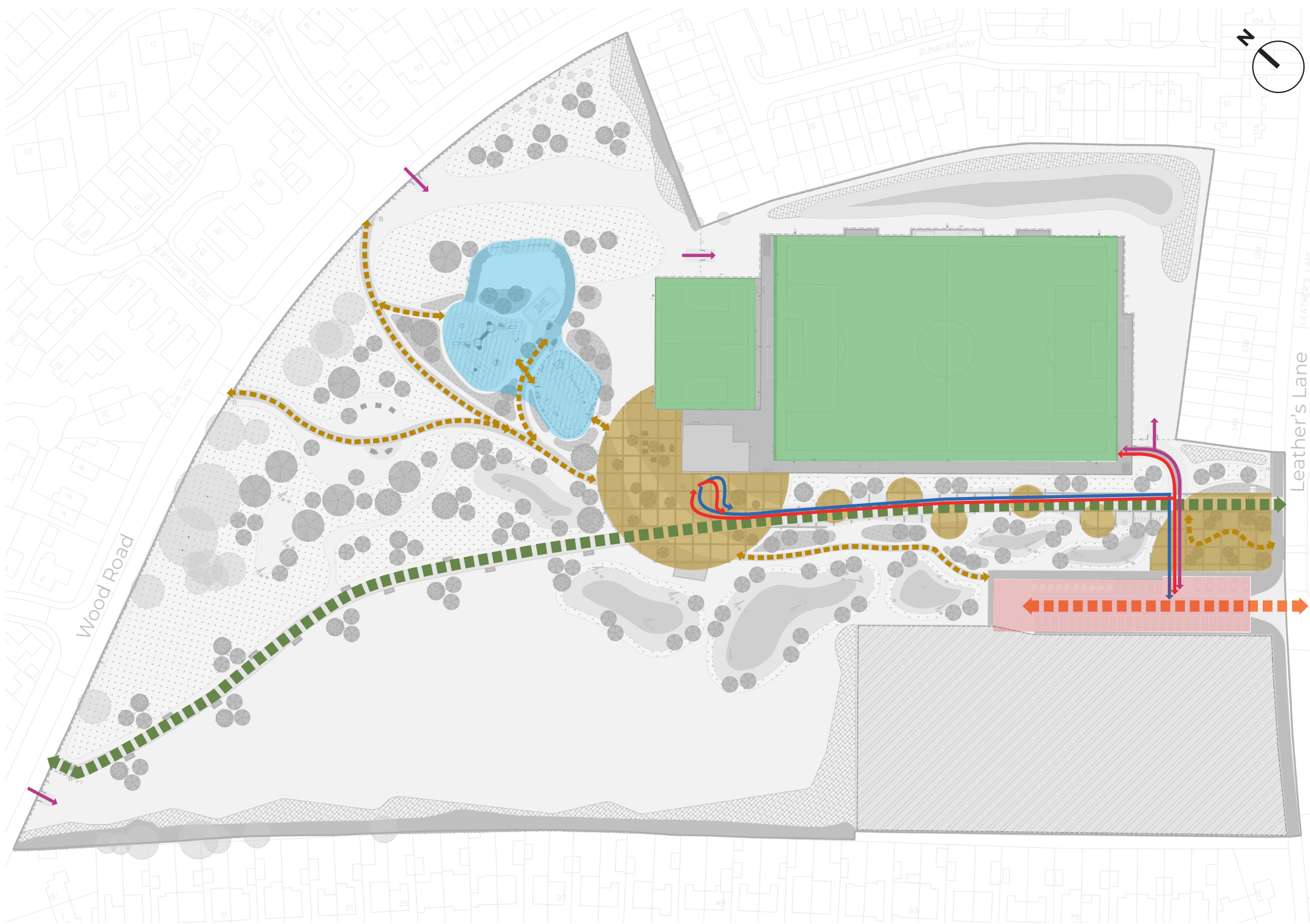


FIGURE 15: SITE MOVEMENT AND ACCESS STRATEGY DIAGRAM

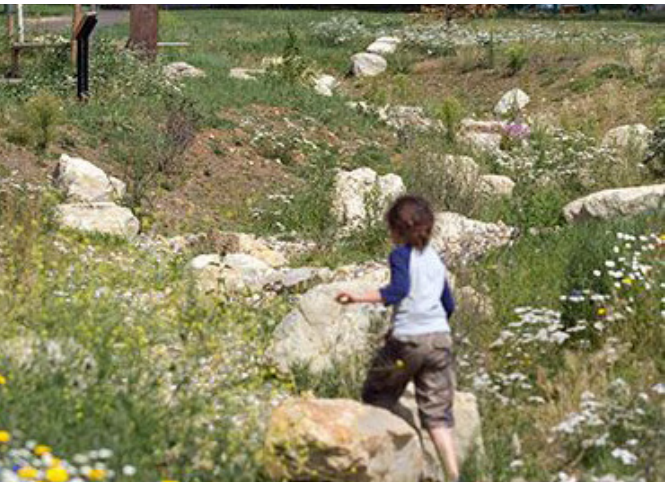
05 THE PROPOSAL

5.3 Drainage Strategy

- Legend**
- Wetland Pond
 - Swale Planting Additional storage capacity
 - Catchment
 - Underground Water Movement (SuDs) Associated connections i.e. headwall and pipe
 - Surface Water Movement through SuDs Associated connections i.e. headwall and pipe
 - Pipe Connection to existing drainage Associated inspection chambers and pipe



Pond edge planting



Planted swale

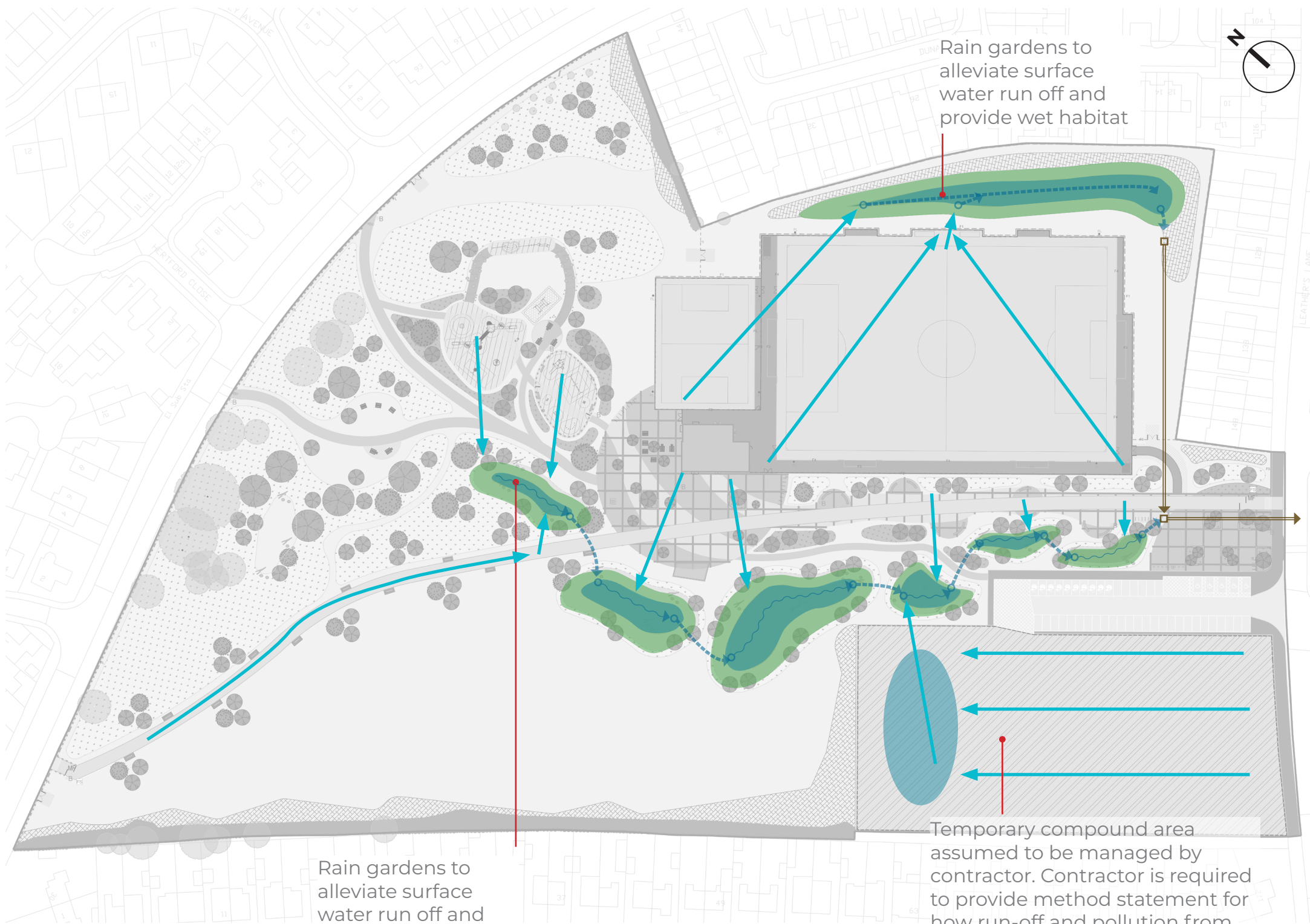


FIGURE 16: DRAINAGE STRATEGY DIAGRAM

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.4 Signage/Wayfinding Strategy

Legend

-  Bespoke panelled modal filters as primary welcome sign to provide a clear and bold design aesthetic
-  Information board to inform about the design including educating about SuDs and informing about the William Morris concept of the design
-  Finger post signage at areas of a change indicating local amenities i.e. Halewood Station, Halewood Shopping Centre and National Cycle Route

Precedent images can be found within section 6.10 Materials Palette



FIGURE 17: INDICATIVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING STRATEGY DIAGRAM

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.5 Street Furniture

Legend

-  Bench with backrest for those who may need to sit and rest
-  Bespoke raised planters with integrated seating
-  Picnic table for outdoor seating/ picnic opportunities, encouraging families to spend the day at the site
-  Steel frame timber slat seating to plaza and 'gardens' areas.
-  Bins conveniently positioned to encourage their use and avoid littering
-  Cycle racks
-  Modal filters
-  Bollard
-  Shipping Container for Club House use

Precedent images can be found within section 6.10 Material Palette

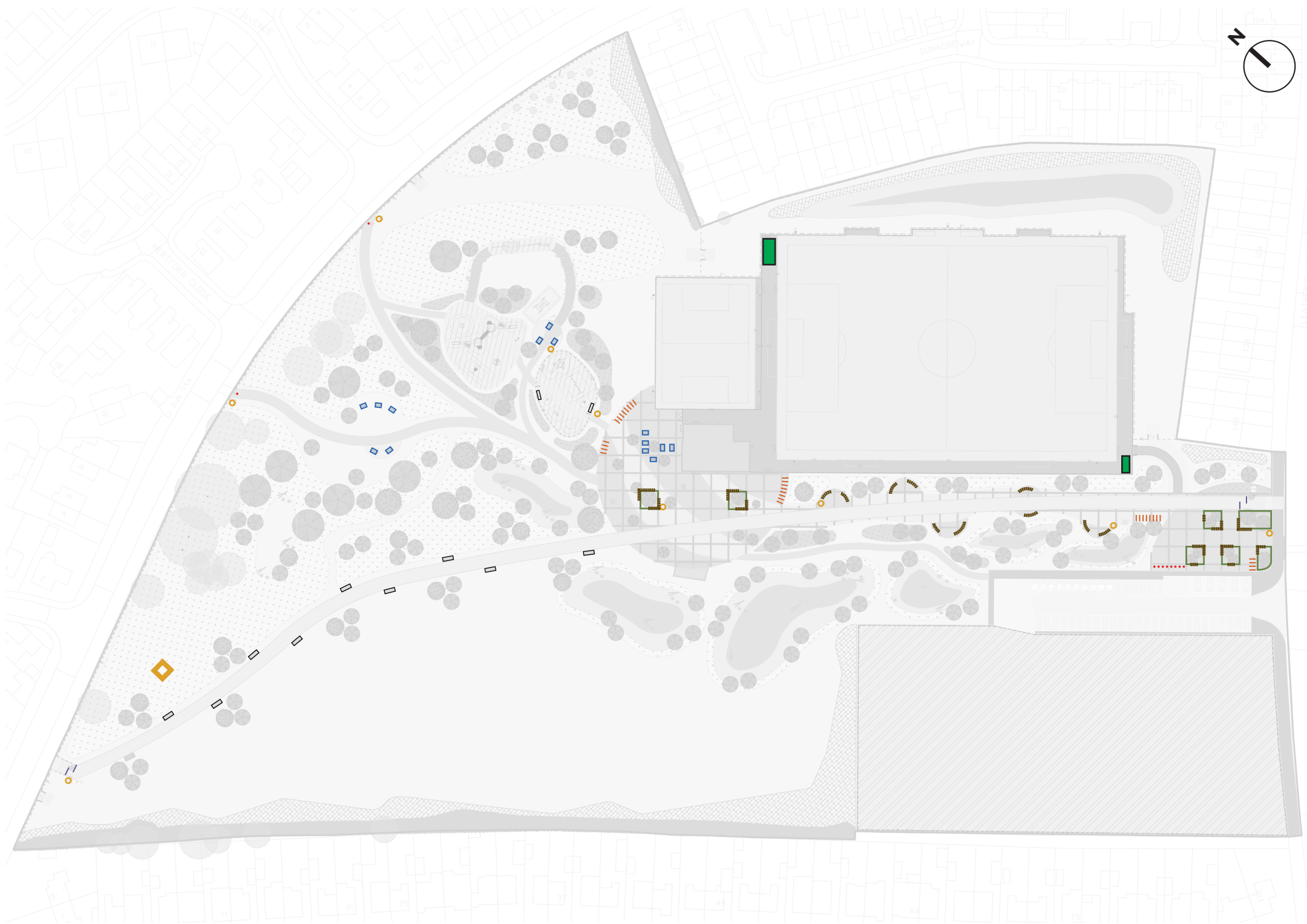


FIGURE 18: STREET FURNITURE DIAGRAM

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.6 Boundary Treatments

- Legend**
- Existing to be retained**
- Dense vegetation
 - Boundary fencing (2m)
To be retained and made good where required
- Existing to be removed**
- Existing fence (2.4m) to be removed to open up views of the site
- Proposed**
- Bow top iron railing boundary fencing (1.2m)
 - Iron railing boundary fencing (1.8m)
 - Double leaf gate to match adjacent fencing
 - Single leaf gate to match adjacent fencing
 - Weld mesh sports fencing (4.5m)
 - Acoustic fencing (4m)
 - Weld mesh sports fencing (2m)
 - Spectator rail fencing (1.1m)
Steel with infill and rubber inserts for noise reduction

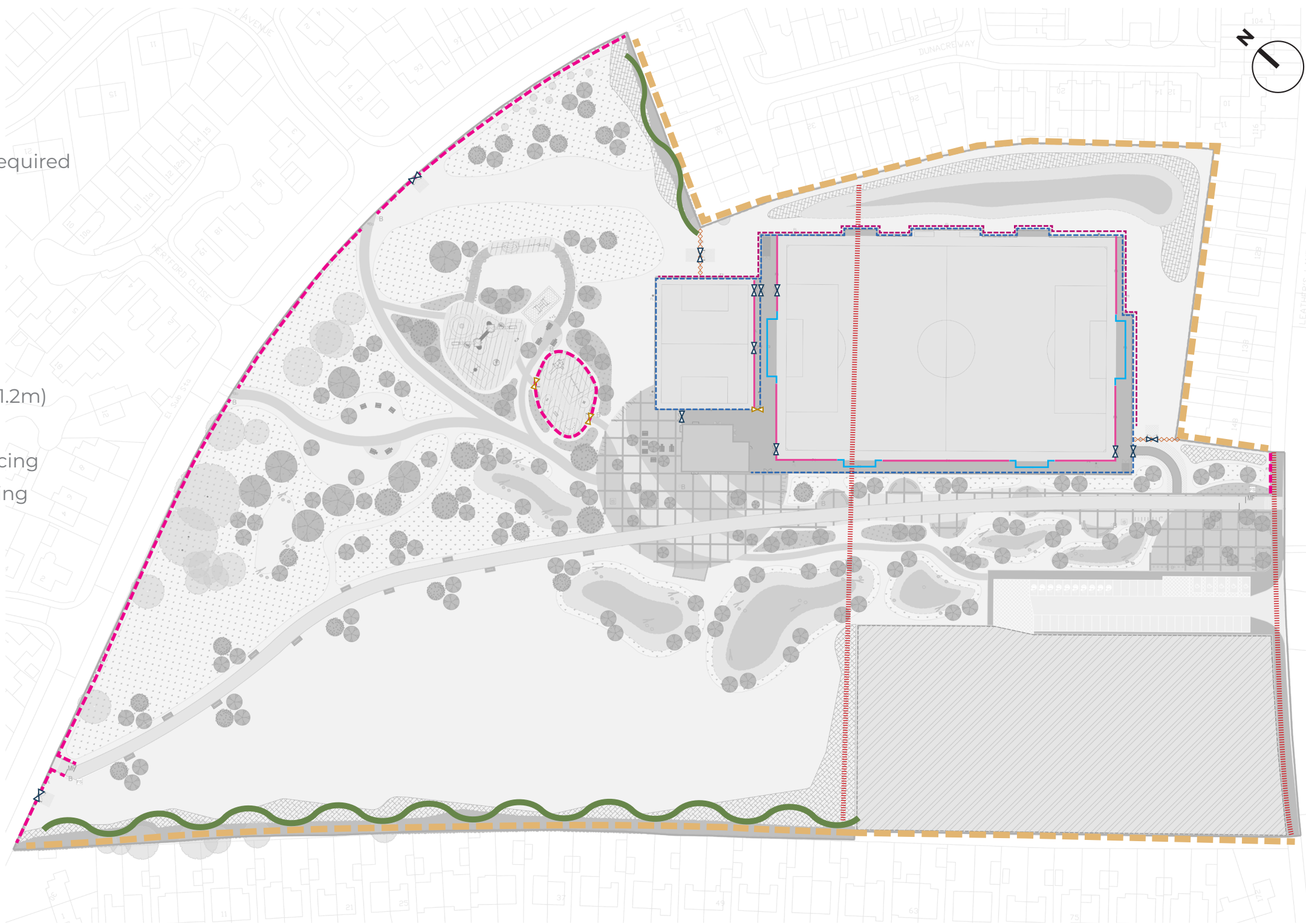


FIGURE 19: BOUNDARY TREATMENT STRATEGY DIAGRAM

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.7 Lighting Strategy

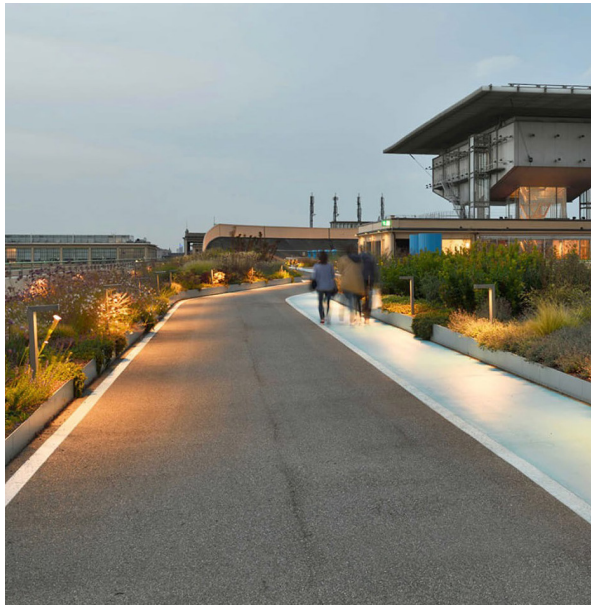
- Legend**
- All lighting shown indicatively and subject to detail design by lighting consultant.
- | | |
|---|--|
| Main pedestrian and cycling entrance -
Column lighting | Boardwalk -
Feature low level lighting |
| Secondary pedestrian entrance -
Low Level Bollard lighting | All weather pitch -
Column mounted floodlighting |
| Main vehicle entrance and car park -
Column lighting | Amenity lawn -
Low level feature lighting |
| Flexible space -
Mix of Bollard & Column lighting | Opportunity for feature lighting -
Low level feature lighting |
| Play area -
Mix of Bollard & Column lighting | Existing Pitch and Building N/A |



FIGURE 20: LIGHTING MASTERPLAN



Bollard Lighting



Column Lighting



Feature Low Level Lighting



05 THE PROPOSAL

5.8.1 Hard Landscape Proposals



FIGURE 21: HARD LANDSCAPE PLAN - DRAWING REF - 70119719_WSP_LUD_GRP_DR_LA_0005

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.8.2 Indicative Section A-A



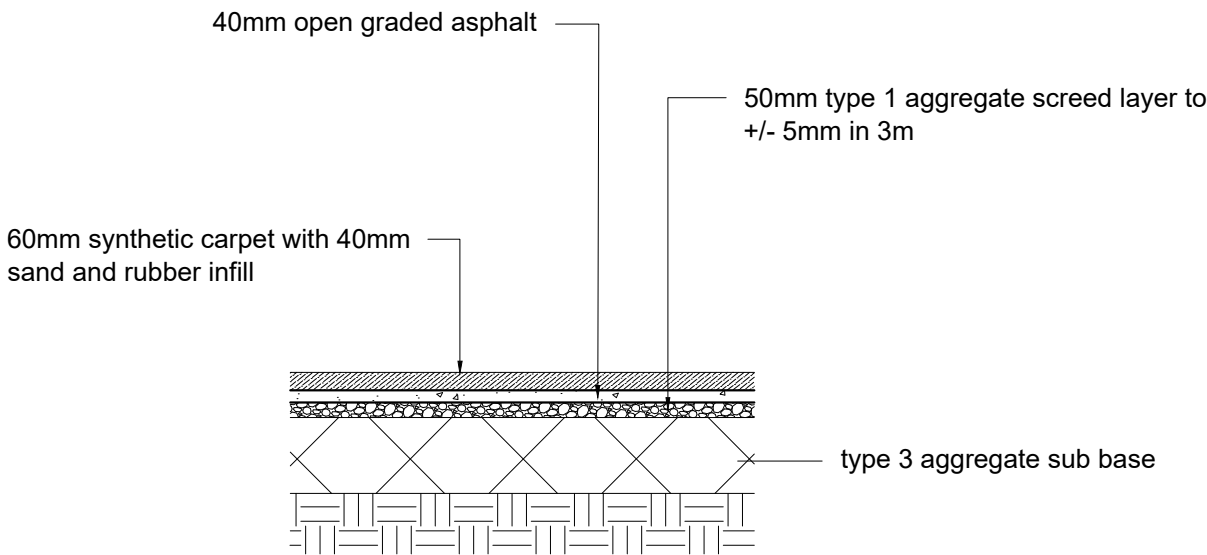
05 THE PROPOSAL

5.8.3 Artifical Grass Pitch - Typical Details

The design of the full size artifical grass pitch (100m x 64m)and mini 5 vs 5 pitch (37m x 27m) have been design to Football Association (FA) Guidance and Standards to incorporate a 3m runoff strip on each side.



01- Artificial Grass Pitch Plan View



02- Typical Artificial Grass Pitch Build Up

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.9 Materials Palette - Street Furniture



Clarendon Bench
www.streetmaster.co.uk
Steel powder coated (RAL 9005)
1800 x 491 x 465 mm



Oakland Picnic Set
www.streetmaster.co.uk
Steel powder coated (RAL 9005)
2000 x 1830 x 792 mm



Oxford Bin with Lid
www.streetmaster.co.uk
Steel powder coated (RAL 9005)
960 x 540 mm
110 litres capacity



Helston Straight & Curved Bench
www.Broxap.com
Steel powder coated (RAL 9005)



20ft Container for Club House Storage
Secure Pad Lock
Front Access
RAL 9005



Sheffield Cycle Stand
www.Broxap.com
Steel powder coated (RAL 9005)
750 x 750 x 50 mm



Bespoke steel coated modal filter



Finger post signage precedence
KMBC Tower Hill POS



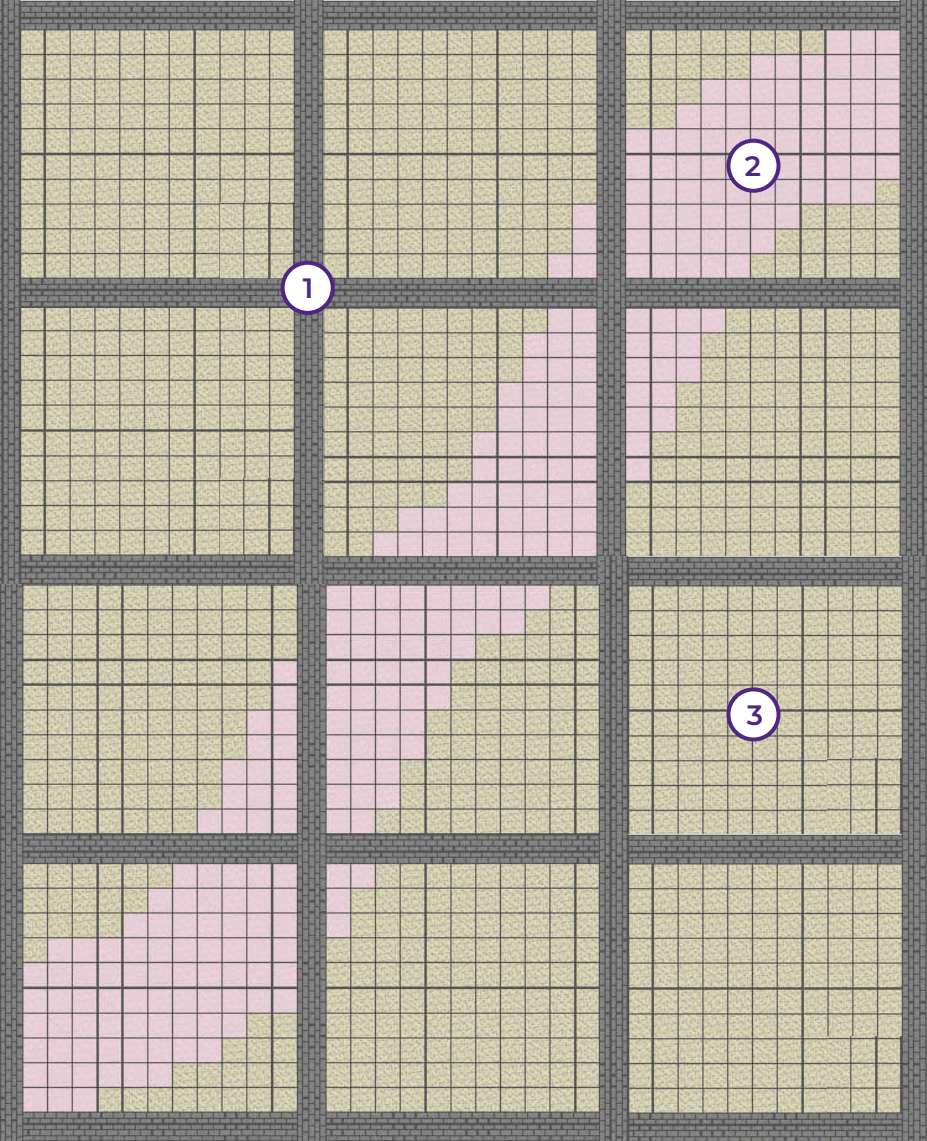
Stainless Steel Sheffield Bollard
www.Broxap.com
Steel powder coated (RAL 9005)
750 mm (h) 114 mm (dia)



10ft Container for Club House Bin Store
Secure Pad Lock
Front Access
RAL 9005

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.9 Materials Palette - Paving



1 Sett Banding



Hardscape - Inish (200x50mm)
Stacked Bond
Silver Granite (90%)
Charcoal (10%)

2 Feature Stem paving



Hardscape - Newgrange
(450x450mm)
Stacked Bond
STEM: Autumn Brown

3 Base Grid Paving



Hardscape - Newgrange
(450x450mm)
Stacked Bond
BASE: Silver Granite

Note. Images shows pavers not in layout proposed for Grace Park

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.9 Materials Palette - Surface Treatments



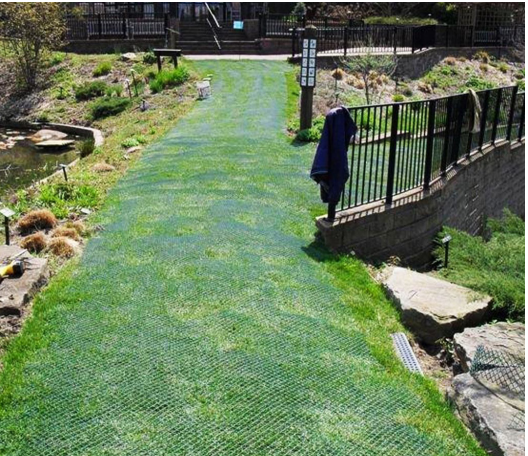
Bitmac surfacing to Shared Use route
with thermoplastic marking where
required for LTN 1:20



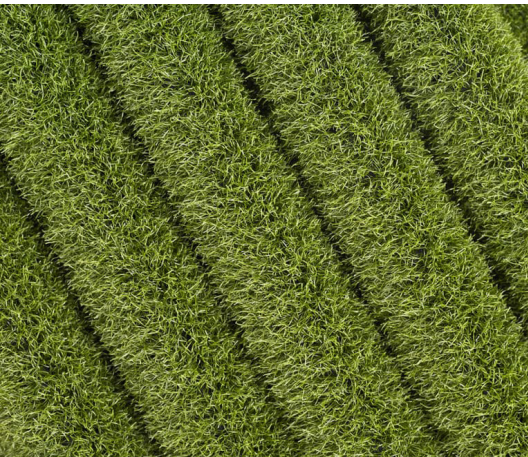
Resin bonded gravel surfacing to
secondary paths or similar approved



Bitmac surfacing to footways in car
park and sports pitch footway areas



Reinforced grass mesh or similar
approved. To maintenance vehicle
access areas



Sports Pitch Surfacing
LigaTurf RS+ R 3G system or similar
approved.
www.polytan.com



Play Area Surfacing
Wet pour mulch surfacing or similar
approved



Play Trail Surfacing
Loose fill bark mulch surfacing or
similar approved



Play Area Safety Grass Matting to
Swing play equipment or similar
approved

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.9 Materials Palette - Fencing and Boundary Treatments



Toddler Play Area Fencing
1.2m High Anti Trap Bow Top Fencing
Jackson Fencing or similar approved



Toddler Play Area Gates
1.2m High Anti Trap Bow Top Gate
Jackson Fencing or similar approved



Boundary Fencing
1.2m High Bow Top Fencing
Jackson Fencing or similar approved



Acoustic Fencing
PolySoundBlok - Gramm Barriers
Systems or similar approved



Sports Fencing
4.5m & 2m High EuroGuard Rebound
Fencing.
Jackson Fencing or similar approved



Sports Fencing Gates
Single and Double Leaf Gates
EuroGuard Rebound Gates.
Jackson Fencing or similar approved



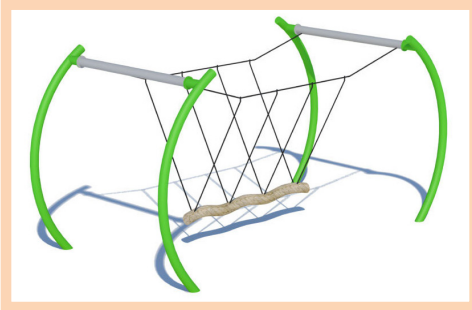
Sports Spectator Rail
IAE Sports Spectator Rail or similar
approved

05 THE PROPOSAL

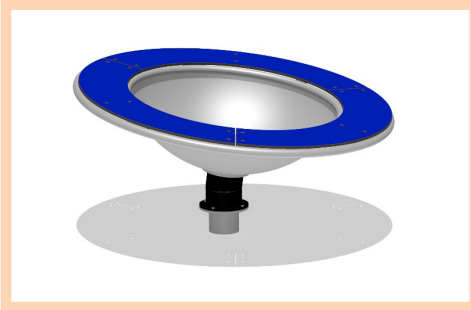
5.9 Materials Palette - Play Equipment



MAXX 2506



COBRA SWING



DISCUS



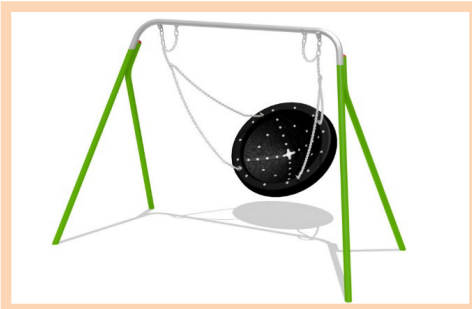
CITY SHUFFLE BARS



ANDES



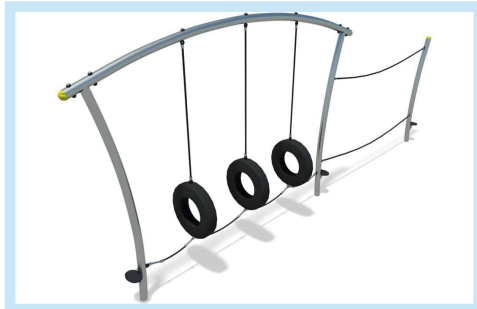
BUDDY BOARD SEE SAW



RUBBER NEST SWING



SWIRL INCLUSIVE ROUNABOUT



CITY COMBO 2



CITY WEB TRAVERSE

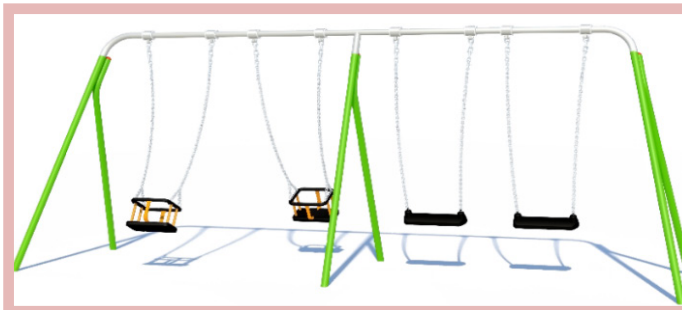
	Play Equipment	Supplier	Product Code
Juniors	Maxx 2506	Vinci Play	MAXX 2506
	Buddy Board See saw	Wicksteed	6060-111
	Swirl inclusive roundabout	Wicksteed	6020-090
	Discus	Sutcliffe	SWD950GRY
	Cobra Swing	Sutcliffe	COB001
Trim Trail	Rubber Nest Swing	Sutcliffe	SNS085Z
	City Shuffle Bars	Playdale	CSH
	Andes	Playdale	CLE/2
	City Combo 2 tyre walk	Playdale	CCMB2
	City web traverse	Playdale	CWTR
Toddler Play Area	Boat Climber	Sutcliffe	MTW007
	Dolphin Springer	Proludic	J822
	Pirate Ship	Sutcliffe	SSB050
	Bongos Panel	Wicksteed	6070-111
	Crazy Daisy	Kompan	M12870-01P
	4 Bay Combo Swings 1.8m high	Suttcliffe Play	SWB064Z



BOAT CLIMBER



CRAZY DAISY



4 BAY COMBO SWING



PIRATE SHIP



DOLPHIN SPRINGER



BONGOS PANEL

Note. Indicative Play Equipment List subject to agreement with KMBC and Detailed Design.

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.10 Soft Landscape Proposals

Legend

Softscape

- Existing tree
- Existing Vegetation
- Proposed tree
- Swale planting
- Native shrubs
- Amenity lawn
- Wildflower
- Ornamental planting

Precedent images and indicative planting list can be found within section 6.12 Planting Palette



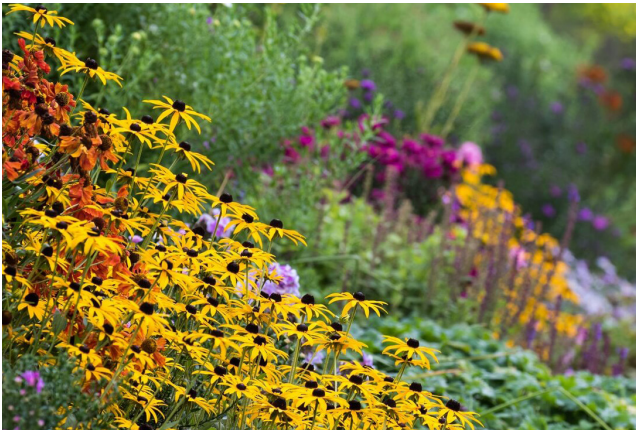
FIGURE 22: SOFT LANDSCAPE STRATEGY PLAN

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.11 Planting Palette



Wildflower meadow



Rudbeckia fulgida 'goldstrum' as part of ornamental planting mix



Sorbus aucuparia

Planting Types	Scientific Name	Common Name
Individual Trees - range from 8 -10cmg to 12 -14cmg	Acer campestre	Field maple
	Betula pendula	Birch
	Carpinus betulus	Hornbeam
	Liquidambar styracifua	Sweet Gum
	Pinus nigra	Austrian Pine
	Prunus avium plena	Double Gean
	Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer'	Flowering Pear 'Chanticleer'
	Quercus robur	English oak
	Sorbus aria	Whitebeam
	Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan
	Tilia cordata	Small-leaved Lime
	Ulmus 'New Horizon'	Elm 'New horizon'
Native Scrub Mix - Hedgerow seed mix base with Scrub species to be scattered and/or clustered to support open, mosaic habitat for biodiversity - Trees to planted as Whips with some at 6-8cm girth	Acer campestre	Field Maple
	Betulus pubescens	Downy Birch
	Cornus Sanguinea	Dogwood
	Corylus avellana	Hazel
	Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
	Euonymus europaeus	Spindle
	Rosa canina	Dog Rose
	Sambucus nigra	Elder
	Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan
	Viburnum lantana	Wayfaring tree
	Viburnum opulus	Guelder rose
	EH1 Hedgerow Mixture, Emorsgate Seeds - https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/complete-mixtures/special-habitat-mixtures/hedgerow-mixture/ or equivalent and approved	
Native Hedgerow - Hawthorne and to provide dominant species up to 70%	Acer campestre	Field maple
	Cornus Sanguinea	Common dogwood
	Corylus Avellana	Hazel
	Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
	Malus sylvestris	Wild crabapple
	Prunus padus	Bird cherry
	Viburnum opulus	Guelder rose
	Alchemilla mollis	Lady's mantle
	Acer campestre	Field maple (hedge format)
	Allium sphaerocephalon 'drumstick'	Round headed leek 'drumstick'
Ornamental Planting - Indicative list of feature planting entrance areas and plazas 2 to 5L pots	Astrantia major 'moulin rouge'	Great masterwort 'moulin rouge'
	Carex comans 'frosted curls'	Sedge 'Frosted curls'
	Centaurea nigra	Common knapweed
	Galium odoratum	Sweet woodruff
	Geranium pratense	Meadow cranesbill
	Hebe 'amy'	Shrubby veronica 'amy'
	Hedera helix	Common ivy
	Hyacinthoides nonscripta	English bluebell
	Ilex crenata	Japanese holly
	Pinus mugo 'mops'	Dwarf mountain pine 'mops'
	Primula vulgaris	Primrose
	Rudbeckia fulgida 'goldsturm'	Black-eyed susan 'goldsturm'
	Salvia nemorosa 'balkan clary'	Balkan clary
	Sarcococca	Sweet Box
	Stipa capitata 'lace veil'	Feather grass 'lace veil'
	Viburnum davidii	David Viburnum

Planting Types	Scientific Name	Common Name
Swale planting - 2- 5L pots planted in swathes within wetalnd meadow seed mix	Bouteloua gracilis	Blue grama
	Carex elata 'Aurea'	Bowles' golden sedge
	Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush
	Cornus sericea	Red osier dogwood
	Enchinacea purpurea	Purple coneflower
	Erica carnea	Heath
	Iris versicolor	Blue flag iris
	itea virginica	Sweetspire
	Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal flower
	Mertensia virginica	Virginia bluebells
	Monarda fistulosa	Bee balm
	Panicum virgatum	Switchgrass
	Phlox subulata	Creeping phlox
	Sambucus canadensis	Elderberry
	Schizachyrium scoparium	Little bluestem
	EM8 Meadow Mixture for Wetlands, Emorsgate Seeds - https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/complete-mixtures/meadow-mixtures-for-specific-soils/meadow-mixture-for-wetlands/ or equivalent and approved	

Grass Seed Mixes	
Wildflower Meadow Mix (20% wildflower 80% grasses)	EM3 Special General Purpose Meadow Mixture, Emorsgate Seeds - https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/complete-mixtures/general-purpose-meadow-mixtures/special-general-purpose-meadow-mixture/ or equivalent and approved
Amenity Lawn Grass areas (100% grasses)	EG22 Strong Lawn Grass Mixture, Emorsgate Seeds - https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/grass-only-mixtures/strong-lawn-grass-mixture/ or equivalent and approved

05 THE PROPOSAL

5.12 Summary - Key Improvements from the Grace Park Proposals

1. Enhanced Sports and Recreation Facilities

- Creation of high-quality, all-weather football pitches (full-size and mini 5-a-side) for year-round use.
- New clubhouse with changing facilities, café, and social area to support community integration.
- Upgraded children’s play areas, including inclusive and accessible equipment for all age groups.

2. Improved Accessibility and Connectivity

- Formalised, segregated pedestrian and cycle routes connecting Grace Park to local amenities (shopping centre, leisure centre, public transport).
- Removal of unnecessary fencing to open up the site and improve movement through green spaces.
- New car park with accessible bays and electric vehicle charging points.

3. Biodiversity and Landscape Enhancements

- Extensive new planting of native trees, shrubs, wildflower meadows, and ornamental species to boost biodiversity.
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), including swales, ponds, and rain gardens to manage surface water and create wetland habitats.
- Retention and protection of existing mature trees and enhancement of green buffers.

4. Community and Amenity Spaces

- Creation of flexible-use civic plaza and ‘Grace Gardens’ for public gatherings and events.
- Picnic areas, outdoor gym equipment, and improved street furniture (benches, bins, cycle racks) to encourage longer visits and active lifestyles.

5. Environmental and Climate Resilience

- Integration of SuDS and green infrastructure to address flood risk, improve water quality, and support climate adaptation.
- Planting and design strategies to support biodiversity net gain (+15.10% BNG achieved).

6. Noise and Lighting Mitigation

- Installation of acoustic fencing to minimise noise impact on nearby residents.
- Sensitive lighting design to reduce obtrusive effects and protect nocturnal wildlife.

7. Heritage and Archaeology Consideration

- Preservation of potential heritage assets and archaeological remains, with further assessment and mitigation planned.

In summary:

The proposals will transform Grace Park into a vibrant, accessible, and sustainable community hub, delivering significant improvements in sports provision, biodiversity, connectivity, and overall amenity for Halewood residents.

06

SUMMARY

6.1 Summary

06 SUMMARY

6.1 Summary

The proposal involves the creation of 'All-Weather' playing pitches with associated fencing and flood lighting, a clubhouse with changing facilities, café, and car parking, a flexible use civic plaza and amenity planting. Additional enhancements include a secure toddler play area and a more advanced play area, pedestrian/cycle circulation routes, acoustic fencing and SuDS.

The regeneration of the Grace Park will revitalise the district centre of Halewood, investment into local sports provision and amenity space will improve the everyday lives of the local community. As well as meeting the needs of the growing population and complementing housing developments in the East of Halewood. It will address significant health inequalities and tackle the Climate Emergency, which are critical if KMBC is to truly 'level up' Halewood. The improvements in the proposals for Grace Park are an essential part of the Levelling Up proposals and associated investment.

The proposed sports facilities have been designed to the latest Sport England guidance and will use high-quality materials in keeping with the surrounding land uses. The development has implemented sustainable urban drainage initiatives which control surface water at its source. The trees, shrubs and planting will enhance the park amenity and provide habitat and food sources for wildlife.

As demonstrated within this Design and Access Statement, the Proposed Development adheres to national and local planning policy whilst contributing to the overarching objective of sustainable development. It is therefore respectfully recommended that this application be granted planning permission.

