

4.0 LANDSCAPE



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4.1 Landscape Strategy & Masterplan

The proposed landscape for the development is as important as the built environment layout. It is considered a critical element of the sites overall success in delivering a great quality of place; informing its design and defining its character. Equally public consultation has shown concern over the loss of public open space, the open countryside, and the impacts on habitats, particularly Bluebell Beck and Mandale Meadow.

The site is predominantly agricultural land with no public access and relatively low levels of biodiversity. The design approach will deliver a net gain in biodiversity through the creation of a wide range of habitats across the site.

A number of key principles for the landscape strategy are:

- *Creation of an enveloping Country Park maintained and adopted by Middlesbrough Council*
- *Ensuring the Country Park permeates the development in terms of its character throughout the site*
- *Neighbourhood and Local Area Play and park elements through to formal recreational and sports pitches*
- *Consolidation and strengthening of existing habitats including Bluebell Beck*
- *Natural Management of surface water integrated into the wider setting of the development*
- *Creation of a network of sustainable transport routes, walking paths and circular routes for recreation.*
- *Landscape Buffers between existing housing, existing transport routes and specifically between existing habitats*
- *Housing densities across the site lower in relation to open countryside and Bluebell Beck to reduce impacts*
- *A community and commercial hub within a green setting*

The landscape strategy will include the following elements;

Country Park & Facilities, including the anticipated form and function of the Country Park

Connectivity & Green Fingers, including how areas will connect via green links to both the commercial and community hub and the country park

SuDs, including how water will be managed naturally to help prevent flooding, improve water quality and create wildlife habitats and improve biodiversity, where this will happen and how it will integrate into road and street structures

Recreation & Circular Routes, including short walking routes and general recreation areas

Art and how public art and legibility will be blended into the development

Trim Trail & Dog Walking, running and walking routes, including areas that promote physical activity in a green environment and access for all

Formal Sports Pitches & Play Areas including the rationale for the location for these and the hierarchy and location of neighbourhood to local play areas

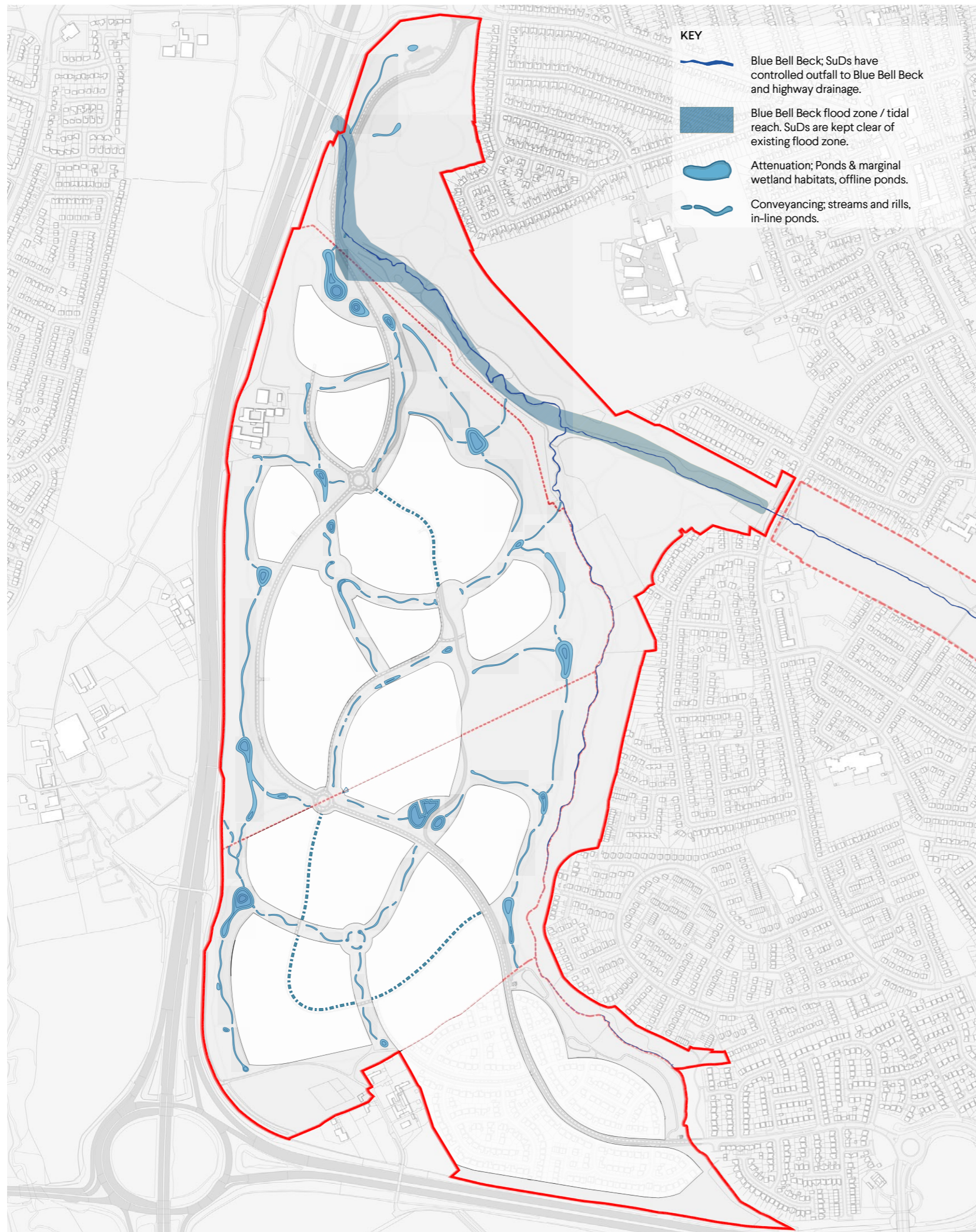
New Structural Woodland Habitat, the location and connectivity of this and how it is intended to create the setting for the development alongside other green infrastructure

A Green Commercial & Community Hub, and how this will relate to wider areas of green infrastructure and the setting that is envisaged.

Food growing, allotments and public orchards

Quiet Areas, areas for solitude and wildlife watching as well as for other fitness activities.





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4.2 SuDs & Natural Water Management

The management of surface water will be provided by a range of naturalistic SuDs elements; including ponds and wetlands for attenuation and treatment and water channels for conveyance.

Landform and topography have informed the indicative surface water drainage strategy for the site, in accordance with CIRIA SuDS manual best practice guidelines, and the form and location of the green wedges that thread through the development; helping to bring dynamic nature into the heart of the development.

The SuDS features, ponds, wetlands and streams provide valuable habitats and public amenity resources that thread through the site interacting with other elements of the design including woodland and meadow, play areas and art features.

SuDS help to deal with surface water on site, prior to discharge into the local sewer system of Blue Bell Beck, helping to prevent flooding and helping to improve water quality.

On secondary roads landscape build outs are to incorporate rain gardens as part of the Urban SuDs network.

KEY POLICY

SuDs (Water Management)

H21 Brookfield: The Council will require the development to deliver a high quality scheme that: maximises the use of SUDS, water efficiency measures and landscape buffers as appropriate to protect Saffwood and Blue Bell Beck from urban run-off and sedimentation;



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4.3 Habitats & Biodiversity

The Stainsby site offers an opportunity to strengthen and expand upon significant existing habitats such as Bluebell Beck and West Plantation and create a net gain in habitats and biodiversity by creating a wide range of new woodlands, wetlands and grasslands in the place of existing arable fields. The structure and variety of habitats will respond to site conditions and help to create a sense of place and variation, helping to make the landscape legible and guide people in and out of the Country Park and through residential areas.

The basis of the landscape design is the interaction of three primary habitats throughout the site, for the benefit of people and wildlife; native woodlands, wetlands (SuDS) and diverse areas of grassland meadow. The site design should encourage dynamic process such as the controlled erosion of water channels the superseding of grassland by scrub and wetland habitats by dry grassland and trees, to create a mosaic of ever-changing habitats.

The three habitats interact to create the backdrop for human activities including informal and formal recreation, vibrant meeting and gathering places and places for solitude and peace and retrospection. Woodland planting will define areas of enclosure and open space, frame views and screen eyesores; creating a range of places for people to explore and move through.

New Native Woodland; naturalistic native woodland planting will recreate the feel of regenerating and recolonising native woodland throughout the site, providing a contiguous and linked habitat throughout the site and seamless transition from 'green wedge' to the wider extent of the country park, facilitating the movement of wildlife throughout the site and providing the dominant character of the site. Ultimately the woodland will grow into a mature woodland for future generations, providing shade and climatic control and ecosystem services for the wider environment.

The woodland type will be configured to suite the varying conditions across the site, using native species appropriate to the site, from oak woodland to alder carr and scrub, planted in accordance with 'Creating New native Woodlands' Rodwell et al, with the purpose of creating a natural looking native woodland including understorey and ground cover species planting.

Naturalistic drainage features in the form of water channels, ponds and wetlands meander throughout the site, established with the appropriate native wetland species, interacting with woodland and meadows and providing focal points for public spaces and activities. At the Community/Commercial Hub a key water feature creates the setting for entering the 'living in the park' concept.

Diverse grassland areas will be managed as wildflower meadows with desire line paths and glade areas kept close mown for informal recreation.

Existing woodland is predominantly new mixed woodland along the steeper and wetter areas of the Blue Bell Beck but also includes the older woodland of West Plantation and Fox Covert; which through their maturity and stature create an area of different character and a local focal point.

The existing hedgerows will be retained where possible and allowed to grow out. In other places new hedgerows will be planted to break the monotony of the long sewer easements and provide a denser habitat and shelter for wildlife. The new model hedgerows will be planted wider than traditional farm hedgerows to help fulfil their new function.

Formal planting and tree avenues help to frame views, and line streets where space is limited, create a formal character, give direction to and from the Country Park, moderate climate and provide a vector for the movement of nature. Species can be used to create defined character areas and focal points.

Areas for food growing will be created, including orchards which will reflect the historical orchards that were once a feature of the landscape.

An area of formal parkland will be created around the sports pitches to enhance the areas, using native and ornamental tree species, widely spaced.

Additional native woodland planting down the Western boundary of the site will help to mitigate noise pollution along the A19 border, in combination with naturalistic earth mounding using the construction spoil.

Habitats and Biodiversity have been designed with a number of initiatives in mind including:

- *The National Pollinator Strategy: Implementation Plan*
- *Tees Valley Wild Green Spaces*
- *Urban Pollinators Project*



KEY POLICY

Habitat Creation

CS20 Green Infrastructure: Development will be required to contribute to the delivery and implementation of this network by, where appropriate, providing green infrastructure that: c) maintains and enhances bio-diversity to ensure that development and implementation results in a net gain of Bio-diversity Action Plan habitats; d) enhances existing, and creates new, woodlands; f) takes account of and integrates with natural processes and systems;



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4.3 Habitats & Biodiversity

KEY

- Existing Woodland, including West plantation and Fox Covert
- Hedgerows; new and existing hedgerows
- New Native Woodland including Alder Carr, Scrub appropriate to site conditions and area.
- Avenue Planting: Ornamental species in formal patterns to contrast with native planting, line paths & roads and reinforce the built form.
- Orchards / Fruit Trees
- Parkland; widely spaced native and ornamental tree planting around sports pitches.
- Amenity Grassland / Sports pitch
- Species rich grassland created in glades & swathes

The adjacent diagram illustrates the potential extends of Habitats and Biodiversity created throughout the site through different methodologies.

The following calculations have formed the basis of the indicative scheme to date and will be subject to a detailed design review through the subsequent development stages:

There is approximately 16ha of new native woodland creation. This would represent the planting of approximately 18,000-24,000 native trees and shrubs; planted at a variety of centres; from 2 to 4m and including open areas as 'glades' or to allow natural recolonisation from adjacent woodland (based on rodwell et al 'creating new native woodland').

There is approximately 1.6km of new species rich/ native hedgerow proposed, which represents 16,000 24,000 hedging plants, planted as a double staggered row as a traditional hedge and also in deeper formations to create wildlife refuges, and another 100+ hedgerow trees.

In addition there are the potential for over 800 ornamental street trees and parkland trees proposed, and over 300 fruit trees to be planted as part of public orchards.



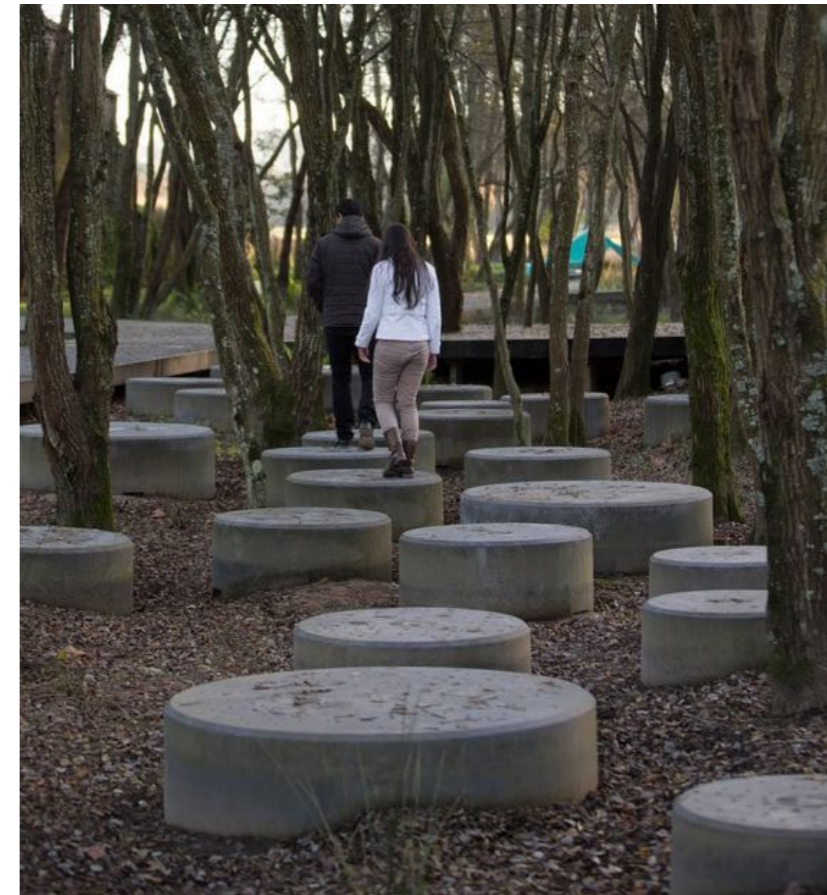
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4.4 Amenity, Movement & Play

Recreational amenity is a key design concept, intending to create recreation and amenity benefits across the site, for all users regardless of ability.

A hierarchy of local play facilities, from natural and creative play through equipped play areas to formal playing pitches has been developed for the site ensuring that all areas have an accessible play area, suitable for smaller children, such as door step spaces. Local landscaped areas have also been developed which could provide some equipment and further to this neighbourhood areas are shown which can provide a much more structured play area. The retention of formal sports pitches and user space ensures that high levels of play are included. This is supported by a Multi-Use Games Area.

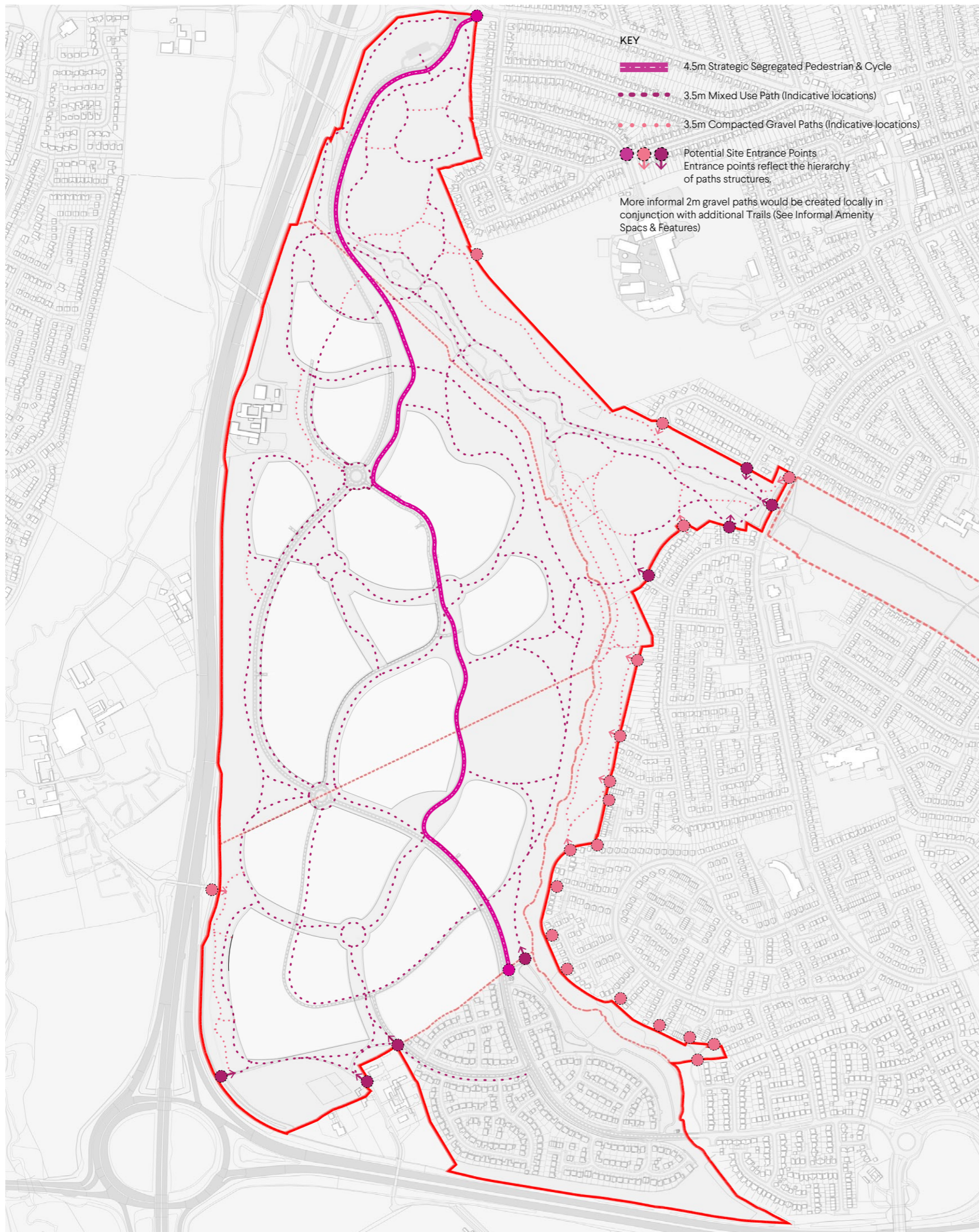
Further recreation is supported by a network of paths including waymarked circular walks around the community hub area and through the country park. The network of marked paths, and also informal cycle trails will ensure that everyone has access to a safe trail which priorities walking and crucially leads into the country park via a high-quality green space. Other opportunities for healthy activities in the country park will be provided by trim trails, event spaces for outdoor exercise and natural play areas.



KEY POLICY

Informal Amenity

Middlesbrough Open Space Needs Assessment 2018: Increase level of Amenity and Natural Green Space Aim to increase provision of amenity and natural greenspace by 1.5sqm per person



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4.5 Paths & Routes

A network of safe accessible routes and paths will be planned for Stainsby, to increase physical activity, promote sustainable and active travel and to support a friendly, sociable and cohesive community.

The strategy at Stainsby is simple. Everyone will be able to access paths and routes that take them where they want to be, whether this is to a neighbourhood play area, the commercial centre, the country park, or further afield and into Middlesbrough or the open countryside. The adjacent diagram shows an indicative proposal, subject to detailed design.

The hierarchy is such that a strategic segregated pedestrian and cycle route at 4.5m wide will be attached to the main roads providing a commuting 'superhighway' into Middlesbrough and surrounding areas.

The above path will be supported by a 3.5m wide mixed use tarmac path will provide a secondary route, permeating the residential areas. Further networks provided by compacted gravel paths, 3.5m wide, to be used as exploratory trails and particularly within the Country Park will provide amenity and recreation routes for walkers and cyclists.

Paths and Routes will be present at the Community Hub where circular routes will be used to define the space and provide easy to navigate 'healthy' trails accessible to all users, including office and retail workers.

Routes will be clearly signed and maps provided at key locations; including distance and path difficulty, gradients and terrain along with information on the landscape and habitats that they pass through.

See Section 4.14 Country Park paths for information on the unadopted path strategies. For details on the adopted path network see Urban Strategies section 6.4 Adopted Paths.

KEY POLICY

Paths & Routes

Middlesbrough Design Guide SPD: 3.16 When designing for pedestrians or cyclists, some requirements are common to both:- a) routes should form a coherent network, and be of an appropriate scale; b) in general, networks should allow people to go where they want, unrestricted by street furniture and other obstructions or barriers; c) routes need to be safe – this applies to both traffic safety and crime; and d) the environment should be attractive, interesting and free from graffiti and litter, etc.



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4.6 Country Park Paths

A clearly defined hierarchy of paths will be used to provide access to and circulation around the country park. The paths will link to the urban network of paths providing residents and visitors easy access to the country park.



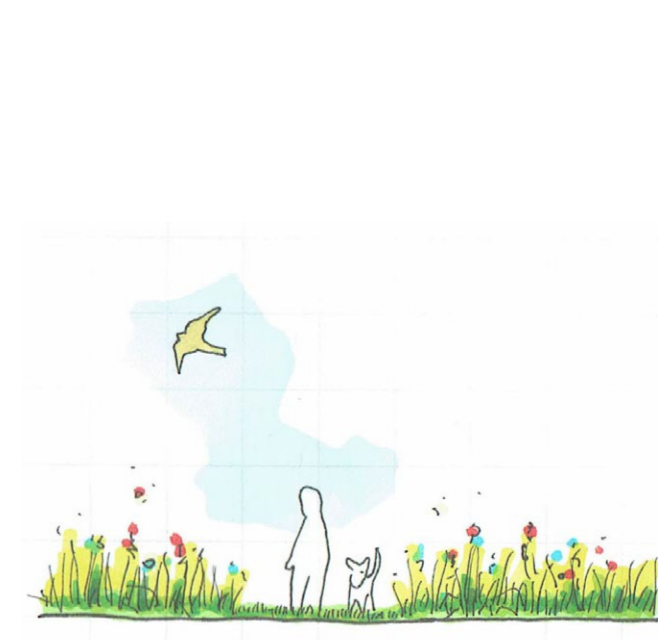
3.5m Multi-use Path

The multi-use path forms the backbone of the path network and will be defined by artwork and clearly signed as part of the artwork and wayfinding strategy, linking key areas and forming defined loops for circulation around the country park. Where possible the multi-use path will provide access for all. The edges of the path will be close mown for convenience, before blending in to the predominant habitat adjacent the path. The multi-use path will be formed from compacted gravel.



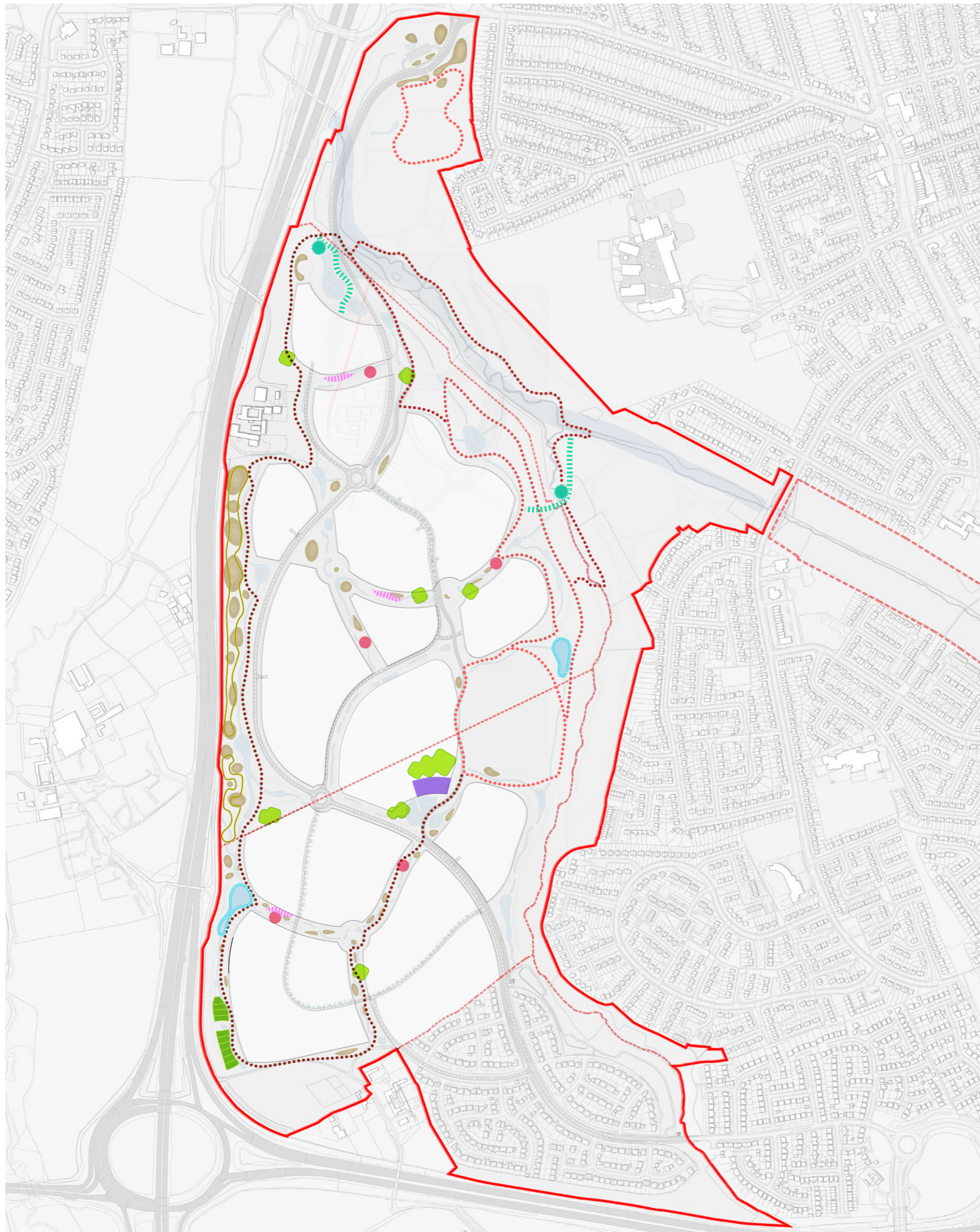
1.8-2.4m Informal Path

Informal paths will provide access to remoter and more wilder parts of the site. The paths will be clearly signed but, less frequently. Artwork will form focal points along the paths as part of the artwork and wayfinding strategy. The path will be formed from compacted gravel. Edges will be close mown.



1.2-1.8m Desire line Path

Desire line paths will be created by the visitor and formalised, often on a temporary basis, by close mowing. The paths will not be surfaced or signed and will informally be created through woodland and meadow as dictated by the users of the park.



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4.7 Informal Amenity Spaces & Features

The Stainsby development and the country park will be punctuated by a number of features and spaces that define character, designate space and create a feeling of quality. These features and areas are intended to enhance the general amenity of the site.

Specifically these include:

- Growing Areas and Food Production Spaces including Orchards
- Decks and Dipping areas specifically interacting with SuDs
- Wildlife Hides and Observation Decks
- Quiet Areas, Seating and ample bins and toilet facilities
- Trim Trails with Distances suitable for a Park run
- Wildlife and Nature Trails suitable for Outdoor Education
- Amenity Cut Grassland suitable for informal recreations & picnics
- Lighting and Fencing at appropriate points creating defensible yet open and safe spaces

Much of the above elements are often forgotten but combine to make a space usable and memorable as a Country Park. The adjacent diagram shows a depiction of how these could be integrated within the masterplan and will adapted to the final proposals.

KEY

-  Landforms created throughout the site to enhance the landscaping and development areas edge conditions and where applicable create separation between the A19 to disperse noise pollution.
-  Bike Tracks - Single / Pump
-  Walking/Running Routes - 0.5 / 1.5 / 2.5 / 3 miles
A variety of difficulties for all users and abilities including wheel chair friend routes. The longest loop also provides a potential future Park run circuit. (Lightest to Darkest colour path = Difficulty gradient from Easiest to Hardest). Further routes are available from the path network created.
-  Trim Trails - activity trails situated within the Green Corridors between developments
-  Wildlife Trails - informal paths linking nature trails with more formal paths
-  Wildlife Hides - positioned to view different habitats created throughout the site
-  Docking / Dipping Ponds
-  Allotments
-  Community Growing positioned throughout the site for local involvement
-  Seating and Bins cited around smaller orchard clusters
-  Community Centre with event space, cafe, public toilets, community growing gardens & composting



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4.8 Play and Sports Provision

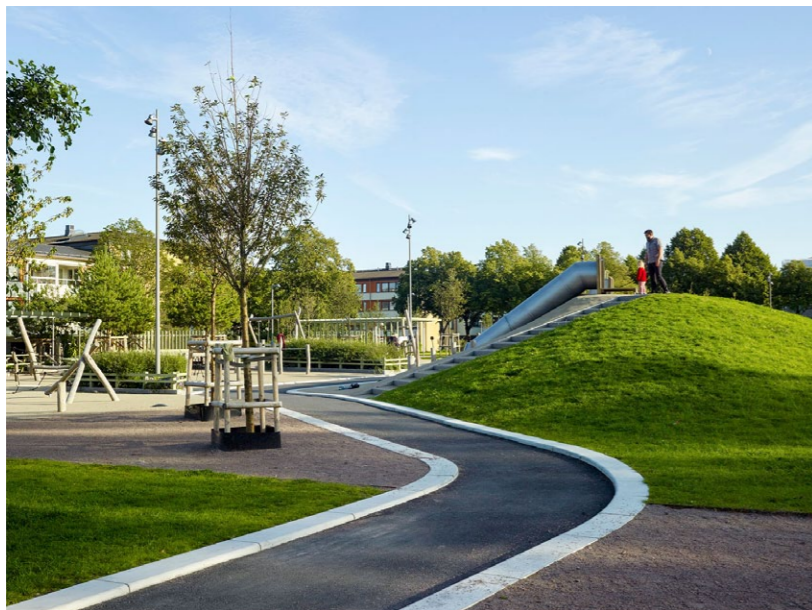
Play and Sports areas are to be provided to ensure the new and existing Stainsby population has access to facilities for healthy living from a young age through to late adulthood. The masterplan takes a Fields In Trust approach to providing play areas throughout the development including Local Play Areas (LAP), Local Equipped Play Areas (LEAP), Neighbourhood Play Areas (NEAP) as well as formal playing pitches and supporting pavilion development.

Where practical LAP's and LEAP's are to be accommodated within the green open space network whilst best serving the proposed development areas. The indicative adjacent diagram seeks to show how the proposed development is desired to be covered by proximity to the distributed hierarchy of play spaces provided.

KEY POLICY

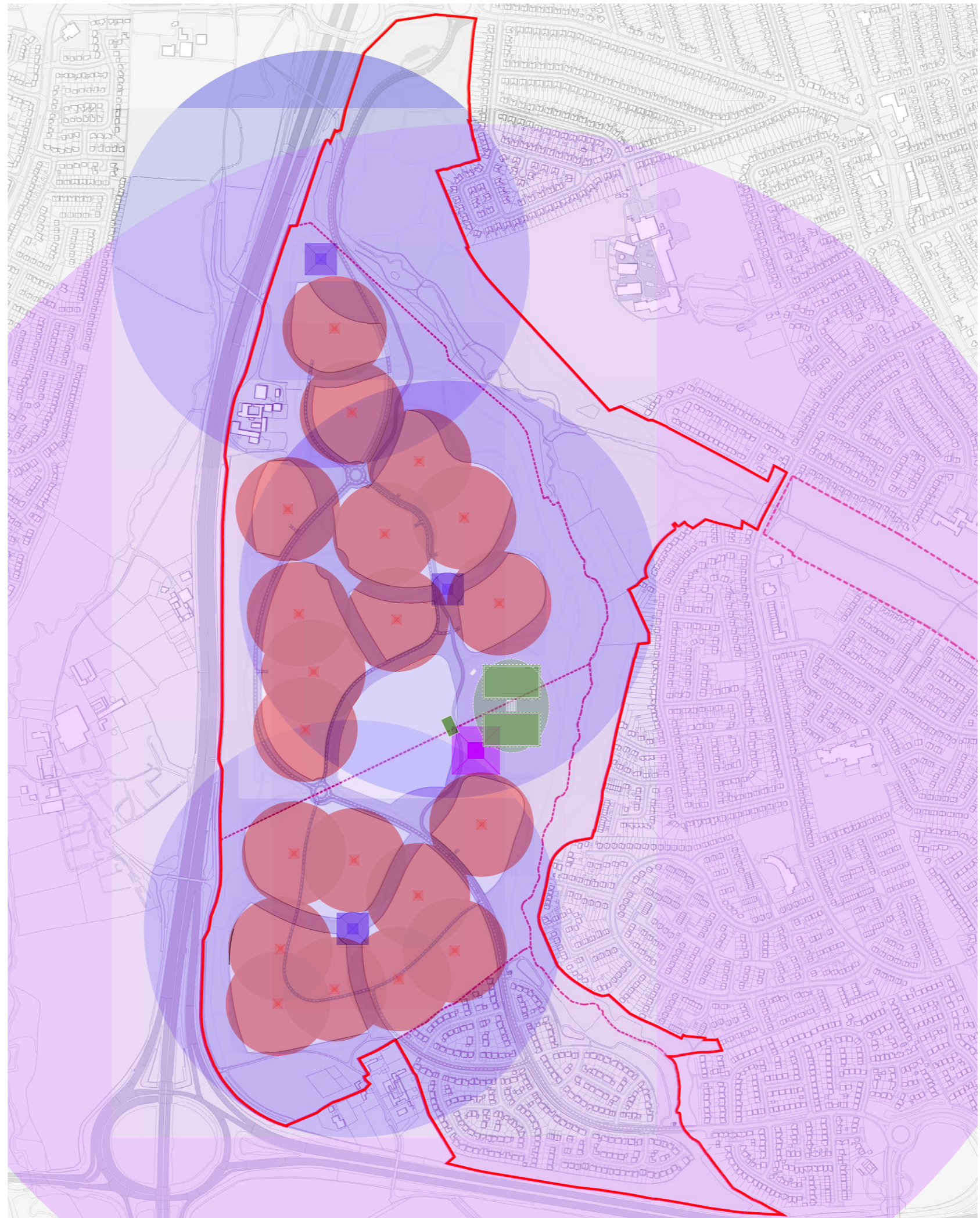
Play and Sports

CS20 : Green Infrastructure: Development will be required to contribute to the delivery and implementation of this network by, where appropriate, providing green infrastructure that: g) is managed and funded in urban areas to accommodate, and provide for sport and recreation;



KEY

-  Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play & Zone
-  Local Equipped Area for Play & Zone
-  Local Area for Play & Zone
-  Managed Formal Sports Pitches with associated Pavilion
-  Multi-Use Games Area / Tennis Courts



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4.9 Local Area for Play (LAP)

The LAP is a small area of open space specifically designated and primarily laid out for very young children to play close to where they live i.e. within 1 minute walking time. The LAP is a doorstep play area by any other name. LAPs are designed to allow for ease of informal observation and supervision and primarily function to encourage informal play and social interaction. The LAP requires no play equipment as such, relying more on demonstrative features indicating that play is positively encouraged.

The main characteristics of a LAP are:

- *It is intended primarily for children up to the age of 6, though it will be used by older children at different times of the day or evening*
- *It is within 1 minute walking time of the child's home*
- *It is best positioned beside a pedestrian route that is well used*
- *It occupies a well-drained, reasonably flat site surfaced with grass or a hard surface*
- *The recommended minimum activity zone is 100 m²*

LAPs form an integral part of the built environment and are regularly distributed throughout the development areas.



LOCAL AREA FOR PLAY (LAP) PRECEDENT



LOCAL EQUIPPED AREA FOR PLAY (LEAP) PRECEDENT

4.10 Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)

The LEAP is an area of open space specifically designated and laid out with features including equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently close to where they live, usually within 5 minutes walking time. Experience has indicated that to provide equipped LEAPs within 5 minutes walk of all houses in a new development can on occasion be impractical and difficult to achieve. An alternative to the LEAP is therefore to provide a Local Landscaped Area for Play.

Play features including equipment are an integral part of the LEAP and the attractiveness of such spaces, though it is also important that the space can be used for physical activity and games. LEAPs can be the place for boisterous activity and therefore it is important to give careful consideration to siting. In summary, if a LEAP is properly sited, equipped, overseen and maintained it can meet the needs of children without being a source of nuisance to other residents.

The main characteristics of a LEAP are:

- *It is intended primarily for children who are beginning to go out and play independently*
- *It is within 5 minutes walking time of the child's home*
- *It is best positioned beside a pedestrian route that is well used*
- *It occupies a well-drained, reasonably flat site surfaced with grass or a hard surface, together with impact absorbing surfaces beneath and around play equipment or structures as appropriate*
- *The recommended minimum activity zone is 400 m²*

Three such LEAPs are indicated on the masterplan, located to provide total coverage of the site, often at the intersections of the green wedges where additional space is provided to accommodate them.



NEIGHBOURHOOD EQUIPPED AREA FOR PLAY (NEAP) PRECEDENT

4.11 Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)

The NEAP is an area of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children but with play opportunities for younger children as well. Located within 15 minutes walk from home, the NEAP is sufficiently large to enable provision for play opportunities that cannot be provided within a LAP or LEAP. Play equipment is a particularly appropriate form of provision for younger children. As children grow older, towards the latter stages of primary school age, they are looking for different challenges and stimuli. They engage more in wheeled activities and informal ball games, sometimes taken up as formal sport. As they move towards their teenage years, young people increasingly seek out opportunities to meet friends away from home, looking for places to meet socially.

The NEAP can provide a greater variety of opportunity for both active and passive play. It can provide play equipment, and a hard surface area for ball games, or wheeled activities such as roller skating or cycling. It may provide other facilities such as a ramp for skateboarding, a rebound wall, and a shelter for meeting and socialising. The facilities are linked in the one site because children of different ages and abilities like to take part in a range of activities, as do their siblings. Careful consideration should be given to the location and interaction of the different facilities provided both on site and in relation to the local environment. Consultation is a key ingredient of successful design and community acceptance.

The main characteristics of a NEAP are:

- *It is intended primarily for use by older children of relative independence, who have the freedom to range further from home*
- *It is within 15 minutes' walking time of the child's home*
- *It is best positioned beside a pedestrian route that is well used*
- *It occupies a well-drained site, with both grass and hard surfaced areas, together with impact absorbing surfaces beneath and around play equipment or structures as appropriate*
- *The recommended minimum activity zone is 1000 m², comprising an area for play equipment and structures, and a hard-surfaced area of at least 465 m² (the minimum needed to play 5-a-side football)*

The NEAP is located centrally, at the heart of the development, and forms part of the HUB.



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4.12 Signage, Wayfinding and Public Arts

Legibility is a key consideration for the development, either through ensuring traffic is aware of the environment that they are entering, via guiding people on safe, well lit routes through the residential areas to the community hub, or ensuring the extensive country park can be navigated by all. Way markers and signs will provide time and distance to key features such as the community and commercial hub integrated into the proposed path network, with welcoming high quality entrances to the Country Park, clearly marked. Art features and signs will also provide information about the site helping to educate and inform in an interesting and engaging fashion.

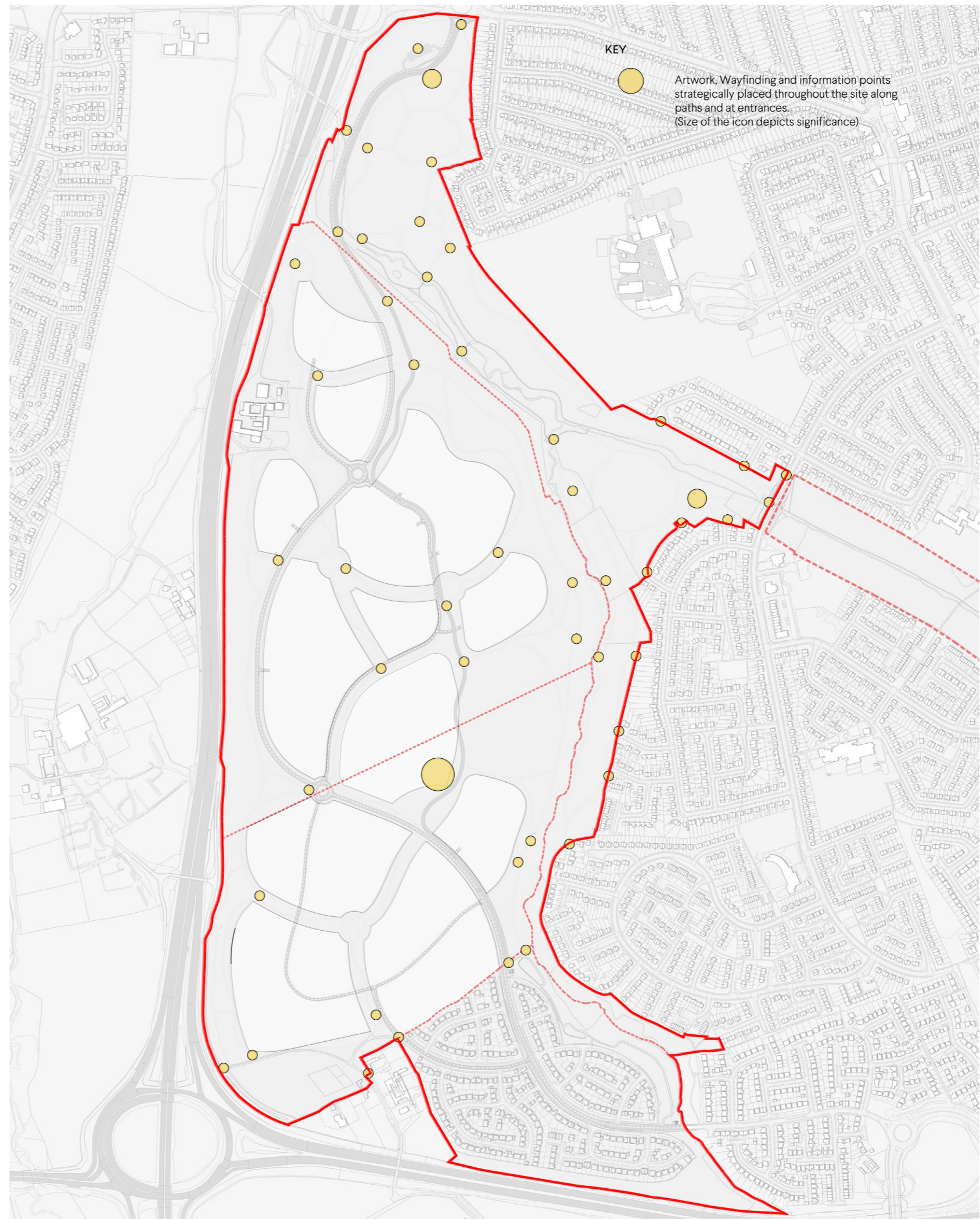
Public Art will interact with the site in a number of ways and at a number of locations and will ensure the Country Park has a distinct character. This will work with signage and provide focal points and art trails for communities and visitors alike; providing stimulation and excitement.

Specifically at the community hub public art will provide an inspirational brand image for the development and focal points for orientation outwards to the residential areas, community facilities and the park.

KEY POLICY

Art and Signage

Middlesbrough Design Guide SPD: Legibility, clear definition of public/private realm 3.11 h) incorporating memorable public art at landmark locations; i) reinforcing visual connections along routes with appropriate landscaping, lighting and signage;





Low Native Hedge

Low native hedges can be used when some surveillance is required or space is tight or a tall hedge would be oppressive. They can be kept neatly trimmed when a formal character is appropriate or used in combination with fences in urban areas. Low native hedges can be formed from native species and traditionally laid or from more ornamental species such as beech or holly.



Tall Native Hedge

Tall Native Hedges can be used where screening is required. The hedge can be formed from native species and planted wider and allowed to grow taller to create a wildlife refuge and used to link existing habitats across easements; or in other circumstances when tree planting isn't allowed. The tall hedge can be used to define transitional areas between informal and wild areas and formal and urban areas, or screen wildlife areas from busy play areas or roads.



Estate Fencing

Estate Fencing is 'stock proof' while allowing surveillance. An overhang can deter climbing or jumping. Metal estate fencing can be used in more formal areas.



Riven Oak Fencing

Riven Oak Fencing creates a strong natural or 'rural' feel and can be used as an alternative to metal estate fencing in more 'wild' locations.



Highway verges

The highway verge will be managed as diverse grassland/wildflower meadow, with the appropriate mowing regime and timing of cuts.

The verge directly adjacent the highway can be maintained at an appropriate height for convenience and safety; and to facilitate sight lines.

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4.13 Boundary Conditions to the Country park

The purpose of the boundary is to make the public open space safe for children and animals and create a barrier to urban areas and roads. Strong boundary treatment helps to define the public open space and create a sense of arrival into the country park. A range of boundaries can be used depending on whether screening or surveillance is required and whether a formal and urban character is required or a less formal and rural character is appropriate.



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4.14 Country Park

“The purpose of a country park is to provide a place that has a natural, rural atmosphere for visitors who do not necessarily want to go out into the wider countryside. Visitors can enjoy a public open space with an informal atmosphere, as opposed to a formal park as might be found in an urban area.”

“A country park usually has some more formal facilities, such as a car park, toilets, maybe a cafe or kiosk, paths and trails, and some information for visitors. Some have much more, with museums, visitor centres, educational facilities, historic buildings, farms, boating, fishing, and other attractions.”

“Many larger country parks organise entertainment for visitors, and are venues for firework displays, shows and fairs and other large, outdoor events.”

The proposed new Country Park is the jewel in the crown of the Stainsby Development and will provide the setting for new homes and is intended to be distinctive and dynamic, encouraging people to interact with it and have a positive influence upon it; and be positively influenced by it. Intertwined with existing habitat and providing new green infrastructure however, it is much more than just a setting and its features and functions have been further developed within the next stages of this masterplan.

Outcomes from public consultation were significant regards the Country Park and these included:

- *Concept of Country Park generally well received*
- *New roads should be kept away from the Country Park*
- *Concern over loss of habitats and green spaces including loss of views*
- *New walking and cycling routes were seen as crucial to the country parks offer*
- *Clarity over the status of and works near Bluebell Beck.*
- *Community Sports facilities well received*
- *Proposed access to green space was well received*
- *Concern over a detrimental impact on wildlife*

The above issues have been further addressed in the design of the Country park via this masterplan with positive elements enhanced and concerns over wildlife addressed via increased habitat areas for example.

Middlesbrough Council intend for the country park to be adopted and to achieve Natural England accredited Country Park Status. The below review intends to demonstrate where these essential elements can be achieved within the country park, as well as the potential integration of the desirable criteria considered within the masterplan.

Country Park Essential Criteria Design Check

- The Country Park is significantly over 10 ha in size with green space taking up around 53% of the allocated site.
- The park will be clearly defined and openly accessible via a number of routes and entrance points, free and easy to enter
- The park would comprise a number of habitats including woodland and community woodland, building on existing, amenity grassland, meadow and wetland habitats. These habitats will also extend into the development
- The country park would have natural legibility with trees and woodlands guiding people into the park as well as specific signage that confirms distances and times to country park features as well as the proposed visitor centre
- The park would be maintained by the local authority with facilities such as toilets at a new community hub, and opportunities for community involvement and events

Country Park Desirable Criteria Design Opportunities

- A new commercial but also community hub and visitor centre is designed into the masterplan, at a key location which will connect to the country park with a permanent staff and visitor facilities. This hub building is intended to be multi-functional with opportunities for a range of adaptable uses.
- The visitor centre is intended to form the backdrop and initial setting for the county park with the community hub blurring the lines between park and commercial activity, including food and drink opportunities as well as activity events, use of the water feature for outdoor events and continued community involvement and volunteering.
- The masterplan has integrated a number of multi use trails, some of which would be acceptable for horses as well as other users, all with a legibility that guides people into the country park via specific points of public art as well as signage showing times and distances for walks for all.
- The above points ensure that the park is working towards a Green Flag Status as a park. The below points guide developers as to how to achieve green flag status right from the off, providing a quality space from the point of development.



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4.15 Achieving Green Flag Status for Stainsby

The Country Park from its fruition should be ambitious in its function and form. It is intended via this masterplan that the park should from the beginning seek to achieve green flag status and be designed accordingly within formal planning applications.

The below details are taken from the Green Flag Guidance Manual and are relevant to the future design of the Country park within the development.

A Welcoming Place

- + *Well considered and innovative, yet practical, design features can really encourage people to enjoy using the site. Incorporate elements such as interesting planting, varied textures, and natural and built features that can be explored in play and used for relaxation*
- + *Presence of clear sightlines in and out, and welcoming entrances*
- + *Public transport links and whether they can be improved*
- + *Pedestrian routes – whether they are logical, useful and suitable for the whole range of users. Are cycle routes designed to be complimentary and minimise conflict?*
- + *Vehicles on site (including service vehicles), appropriate signage, control and safety measures, including how shared access between vehicles and pedestrians is managed*
- + *Car parking – if provided, appropriate provision for the quantity and range of visitors*
- + *Equality of access including disabled access – the site should adhere to relevant national legislation*
- + *Sites attracting visitors from a distance may benefit from installing signs from major routes; for others with mostly local and repeat visitors a sign at or near the entrance is enough; for some rural site*

Healthy, Safe and Secure

Healthy facilities and activities can include:

- + *Play and exercise equipment, trim trails, active volunteering programmes, health and fitness activities and suitable sporting facilities*
- + *Provision of seating – for contemplation, physical rest, solitude, and enjoyment of nature*

Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage

The overall country park and its elements should be designed in such a way to consider:

- + *Potential for sites to form part of a network for wildlife, as natural floodways or open spaces, to buffer and enhance*
- + *The presence of any ancient trees, or historic tree or plant collections and how they are identified, managed and promoted*
- + *Local historical or social links with types of biodiversity or particular habitats*
- + *Links to wider local and national strategies – including Local Nature Partnerships, National Pollinator Strategy, health and wellbeing and nature, natural play, forest schools, involving people in ‘growing their own’, green infrastructure and climate change adaptation*



4.0 LANDSCAPE

4.16 Summary of Landscape Strategy

All the elements of Landscape Strategy are devised to collectively meet the criteria for a Green Flag status Country Park, that surrounds and pervades the proposal and forms the heart of the development.

The adjacent diagram shows an indicative approach as to how the Landscape principles established could be integrated throughout the Stainsby site.

