

Test Valley Borough Council

# Andover Western Avenue Riverside Park

Landscape Design and Access Statement



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**Project**  
Andover Western Avenue Riverside Park

**Client**  
Test Valley Borough Council

**LUC Project Number**  
12766

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## Introduction

### Executive Summary

This Landscape Report relates to the public amenity landscape for the proposed development to create a new riverside park adjacent to the river Anton and Western Avenue for Andover town centre. It includes all streetscape and open space at ground level.

This statement is divided into four main parts:

- The contextual analysis of the site (urban and local scales);
- The concept and design approach;
- The illustrative masterplan and detailed character area study; and
- The landscape strategies that demonstrate an integrated and holistic approach to the Masterplan.

### Background

The development of a new riverside park adjacent to Western Avenue and the river Anton is a key project in the delivery of the Andover Town Centre Masterplan and will build upon the success of the Town Mills Riverside Park. The masterplan sets out a series of proposals for the development and improvement of Andover Town Centre that will ensure it develops as a vibrant place that will be attractive and inviting for users and investors.

The masterplan was developed following extensive community engagement with Andoverians. A survey undertaken as part of this received over 3000 responses with a 97% positive support for the improvement plans.

The Riverside Park scheme would deliver several exceptional public realm improvements along with ecological enhancements and habitat restoration. The scheme would also secure significant highway improvements and encourage sustainable modes of travel. Those partners who are key in delivering these aspects (including Hampshire County Council and Southern Water) have already confirmed their continued support.

The development of the riverside park shows the Council's continued ambition to deliver on the Masterplan and would be a catalyst for future projects

To ensure that the regeneration delivers on what matters to local people, the Council has worked with partners to shape a place-brand and set of guiding values for the town. This not only celebrates the positive aspects of the town but helps to influence and guide actions in Andover, from the way the town is talked about to the events that are run and the decisions made on major projects, such as the implementation of the Masterplan. There are three core values that have been developed and are currently being activated:

1. Strength in connection
2. Everything on our doorstep
3. A breath of fresh air



View looking South at the Western Avenue northern bridge

# Introduction

## Executive Summary



### Project Objectives

The main aim of the project is to create a linear park alongside the river Anton and to create an attractive route for pedestrians and cyclists into the town centre whilst improving the ecological habitat around the river corridor. The project also aims to provide an improved area of public realm alongside the river Anton and provide a visual connection to the river.

This project objectives are:

- The removal of the eastern arm of the gyratory and the reconfiguration of the junctions with West Street and Waterloo Court. The initial masterplan showed buses and traffic from Lidl continuing to use the northern part of the eastern gyratory, however Hampshire County Council have improved this with the eastern arm of the gyratory being removed in its entirety and West Street improved and made two-way to cater for all traffic movements associated with Lidl and Stagecoach. Removing the eastern arm of the gyratory in its entirety is the preferred option taken forwards.
- The restoration and enhancement of the River Anton's ecological function, focusing on habitat creation and water quality improvements rather than significant realignment. The existing channel, currently artificial and devoid of natural features, will be revitalised through targeted interventions: reintroducing gravel substrates, marginal wetland planting, and riparian edge enhancements to support aquatic biodiversity. These measures will restore transitional habitats, improve flood resilience, and align with Southern Water's long-term goals for chalk stream recovery.



Artist's rendition of the Riverside Park



View looking North at River Anton

# Introduction

## Landscape Vision



### Project Outcomes

- The barrier between the town centre and the riverside is removed.
- Improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists through creation of dedicated routes.
- Modal shift to active forms of travel.
- Improved, more direct pedestrian and cycle flows, linked to wider strategic network.
- Simplified vehicle flow and minor reduction in journey times.
- Improved perception of place for both residents and visitors.
- Restored visual access to riverside and creation of new public space adjacent to the river.
- Ecological enhancements within and along the river corridor.
- Flood risk alleviation.
- Increased dwell time in the town centre.
- Improvement in air quality and contribution to net zero.
- Improved physical and mental health of residents.
- Improved safety through increased visibility/surveillance.
- Increased footfall between different areas of the town centre.

### Outline methodology

This report sets out the outcome of the Stage 3 design development process and provides a masterplan for the development of the site for dedicated and natural play areas, communal and residential gardens, green infrastructure, and biodiversity.

Proposals have been developed with the wider project and client team in several workshop sessions.

Previous site survey findings have been reviewed by the design team and additional surveys have been undertaken to inform the design process including topographic surveys and utilities research.

### Landscape vision

The proposed landscape concept has evolved from a desire to maximise the quantum of planting and greenery on site. The landscape design aims to illustrate the geometric historical past of the site, with a bold design and an ordered and rhythmic landscape, and the creation of high quality inspiring landscape for the surrounding residents and visitors.

This project will serve the recent and ongoing developments in Andover.

### Key aims of the landscape design

The principal aims behind the landscape design are summarised below;

#### Accessible Spaces

Create both public external spaces that not only contribute to the setting of the proposed masterplan, but add to the enjoyment of the community by providing engaging, innovative and accessible spaces for all.

#### Richness and Identity

Create a compelling identity for the scheme that references its setting and past uses within a contemporary design language.

#### Privacy and Diversity

Create a range of communal spaces which provide a diverse range of opportunities for the nearby residents and visitors.

#### Play and Productive

Provide play for all ages that comes in varied forms and shapes. Introduce a rich, diverse planting design to improve the micro-climate and help the existing remediation of the site.

#### Ecological and Biodiversity

Propose a sustainable landscape design with a series of closed loop systems - wild-flowers attracting bees which pollinate flowers and fruit, nitrogen fixing species to add to soil nutrients, and selection of species which promote biodiversity and habitat creation.



Landscape vision

## Urban Context

### Site Location

Andover is a town in the Test Valley district of Hampshire, England. The town is on the River Anton, a major tributary of the Test, and lies alongside the major A303 trunk road at the eastern end of Salisbury Plain, 29 km west of the town of Basingstoke. It is 23 km from Winchester, 56 km north of Southampton and 105 km from London.

Andover, as seen from the satellite image, presents a blend of urban and rural characteristics that highlight its structure and surroundings. The town's layout is marked by a densely built-up central area, where commercial, residential, and civic buildings form a grid-like pattern of streets. This urban core gradually transitions into suburban neighbourhoods, which feature a mix of detached and semi-detached houses, parks, and schools.

Andover Railway Station is located to the north-west of the town centre. Its tracks and platforms are clearly discernible from above.

St Mary's Church is an important and prominent landmark, as seen in the photo below.

The River Anton meanders through the town from north to south, bordered by green spaces such as the Anton Lakes Local Nature Reserve, providing a natural corridor through the urban landscape.

The site is located at the outskirts of Andover Town Centre, directly connected through the Chantry Centre and the Bus station.



View of St Mary's Church, looking North-West



Satellite image of Andover with the project's Red Line Boundary

## Urban Context

### Connections

Andover's circulation network, comprising roads and rail, plays a crucial role in its connectivity and accessibility, particularly around the town centre.

#### Roads

The A3057 runs north-south through Andover, linking the town to nearby locations such as Stockbridge and Romsey to the south. Within the town, the A3057 (known locally as Winchester Road) connects residential areas, the town centre, and commercial districts.

Within the town centre, a network of smaller roads and streets facilitate local traffic. Key roads include:

- Western Avenue: This forms part of a ring road around the town centre, providing a route for traffic to circulate around the commercial and retail core.
- East Street and Bridge Street: These roads run through the heart of the town centre, connecting various shops, businesses, and amenities.
- Marlborough Street: Another significant road within the town centre, providing access to local businesses and residential areas.

#### Train

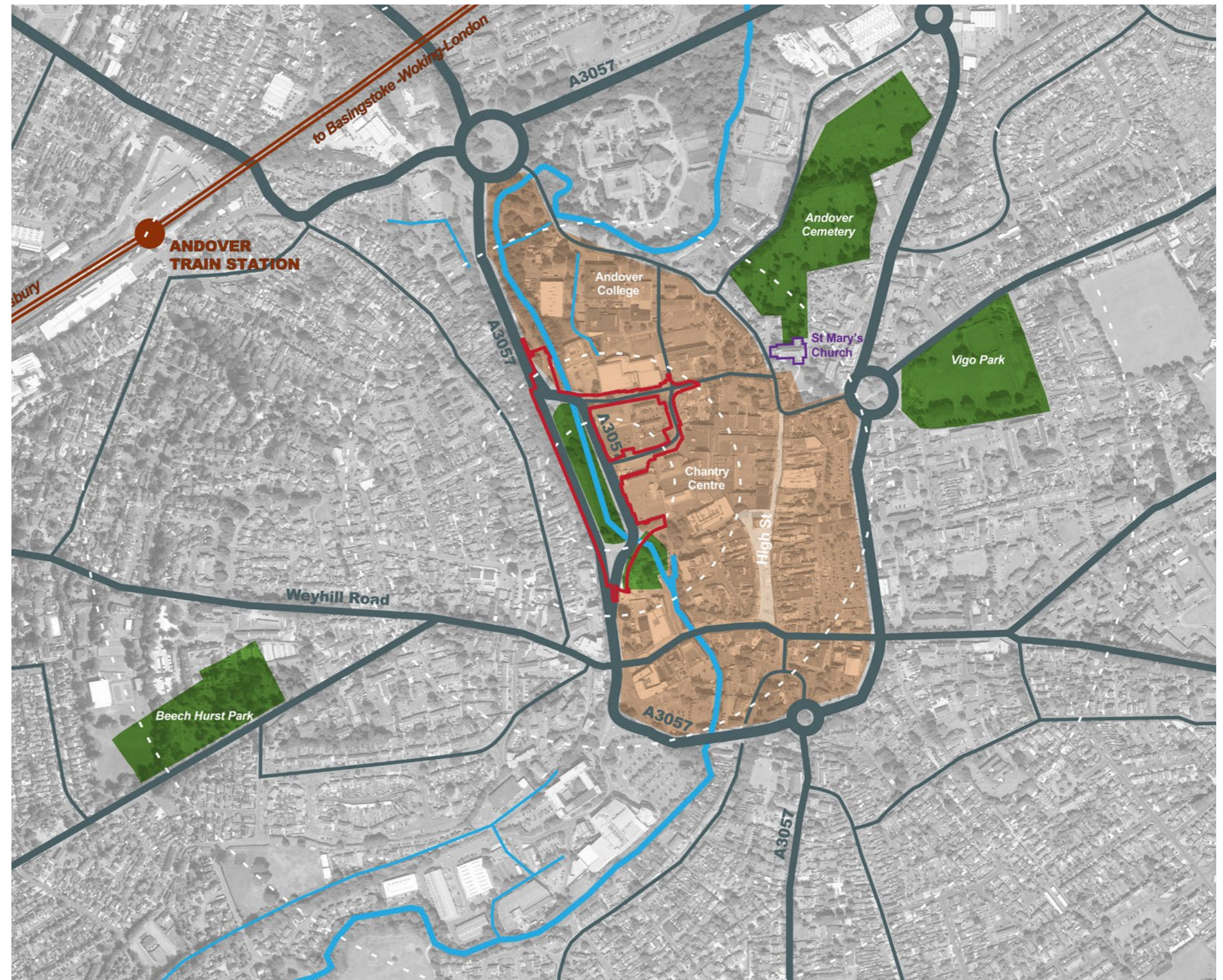
Andover Railway Station is situated to the south of the town centre. The station is on the West of England Main Line, which connects London Waterloo to Exeter. Regular train services run from Andover to major destinations including London Waterloo, Salisbury, and Exeter. These services are vital for commuters, providing efficient links to the capital and other major cities. The station is well-connected to the local road network, with easy access for buses and taxis.

#### Bus Services

In addition to the road and rail infrastructure, Andover is served by a network of bus routes that connect the town centre with surrounding residential areas and neighbouring towns and villages. Key bus routes provide services to locations such as Basingstoke, Winchester, and Salisbury. The bus station, connected to Chantry Centre and its car park, is included within the project boundary.

#### Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure

Within the town centre, there are dedicated pedestrian zones and pathways that promote walking - such as the High Street, 250 metres from the site. Cycle lanes and bike-friendly routes are also part of the local infrastructure, encouraging sustainable modes of transport.



Connected town

## Urban Context Green Infrastructure

Andover's green infrastructure, as detailed by Natural England, integrates various natural and recreational spaces within the urban environment. Key components include Vigo Park and Charlton Lakes, providing essential recreational spaces.

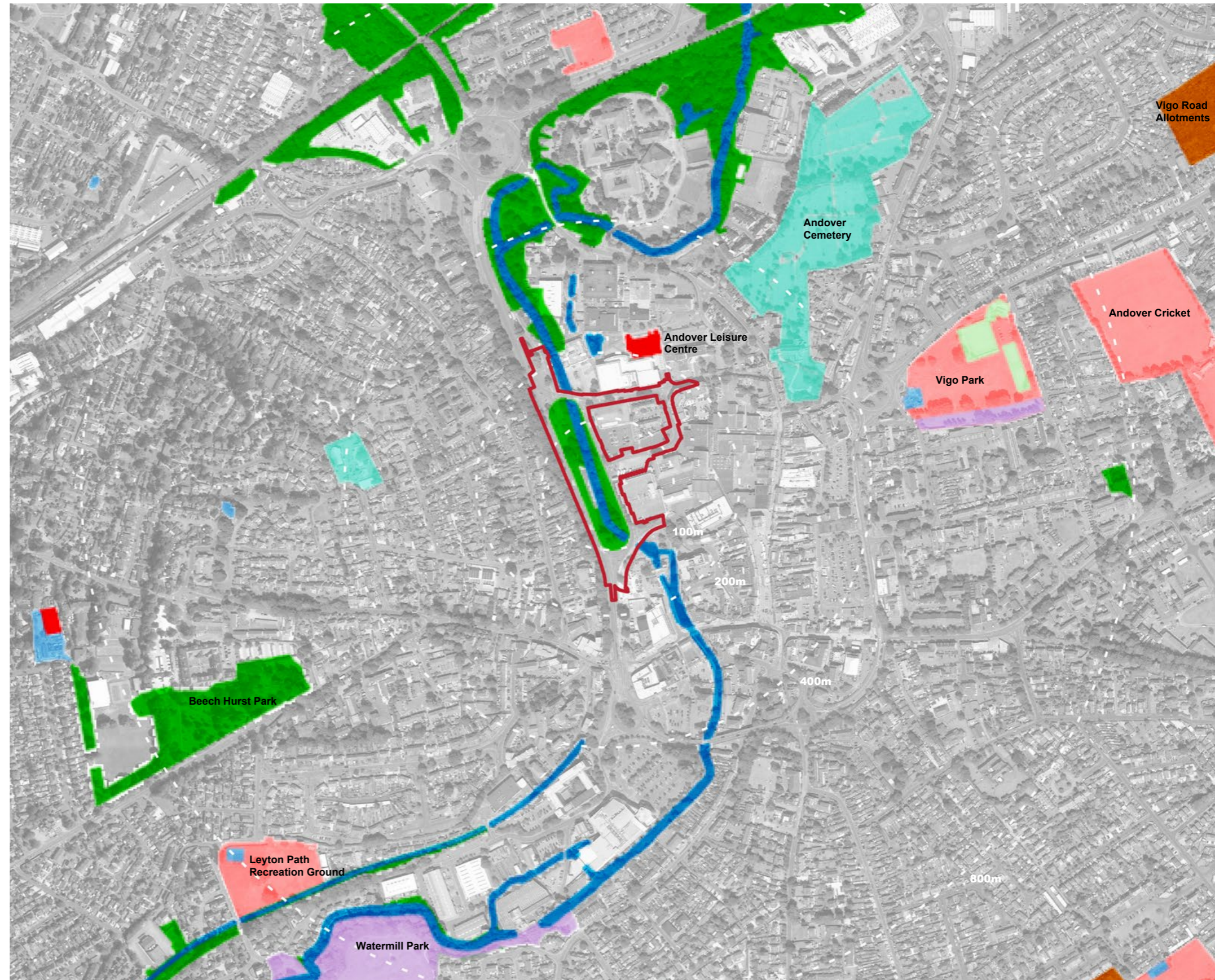
The River Anton enhances the town's blue infrastructure, offering flood mitigation and biodiversity support.

Accessibility is a priority, with green spaces designed to be within a 15-minute walk for most residents.

Andover's integration with the surrounding rural Test Valley enhances biodiversity and recreational opportunities.

The project site currently includes an area of trees along the River Anton but this is not accessible. The proposals aim to improve visual and physical access to these habitats.

Typology	
	Public Park - General
	Public Park - Country Park
	Millennium or Doorstep Green
	Local Nature Reserve
	National Nature Reserve
	Playing Fields
	Other Sports Facilities
	Access Land (CRoW)
	Woodland
	Water Courses and Surface Water Features
	Allotments and Community Growing Spaces
	Activity Spaces Provision
	Cemeteries and Religious Grounds
	Golf Courses
	Play Space Provision



Green infrastructure (satellite image overlaid with Natural England - <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Map.aspx>)

Key (extracted from Natural England Green Infrastructure website)

## Site History

### Historical Maps



1873

These maps are extracted from the Phase I Geo-Environmental Desk Study produced by MEC Consulting Group in May 2024.

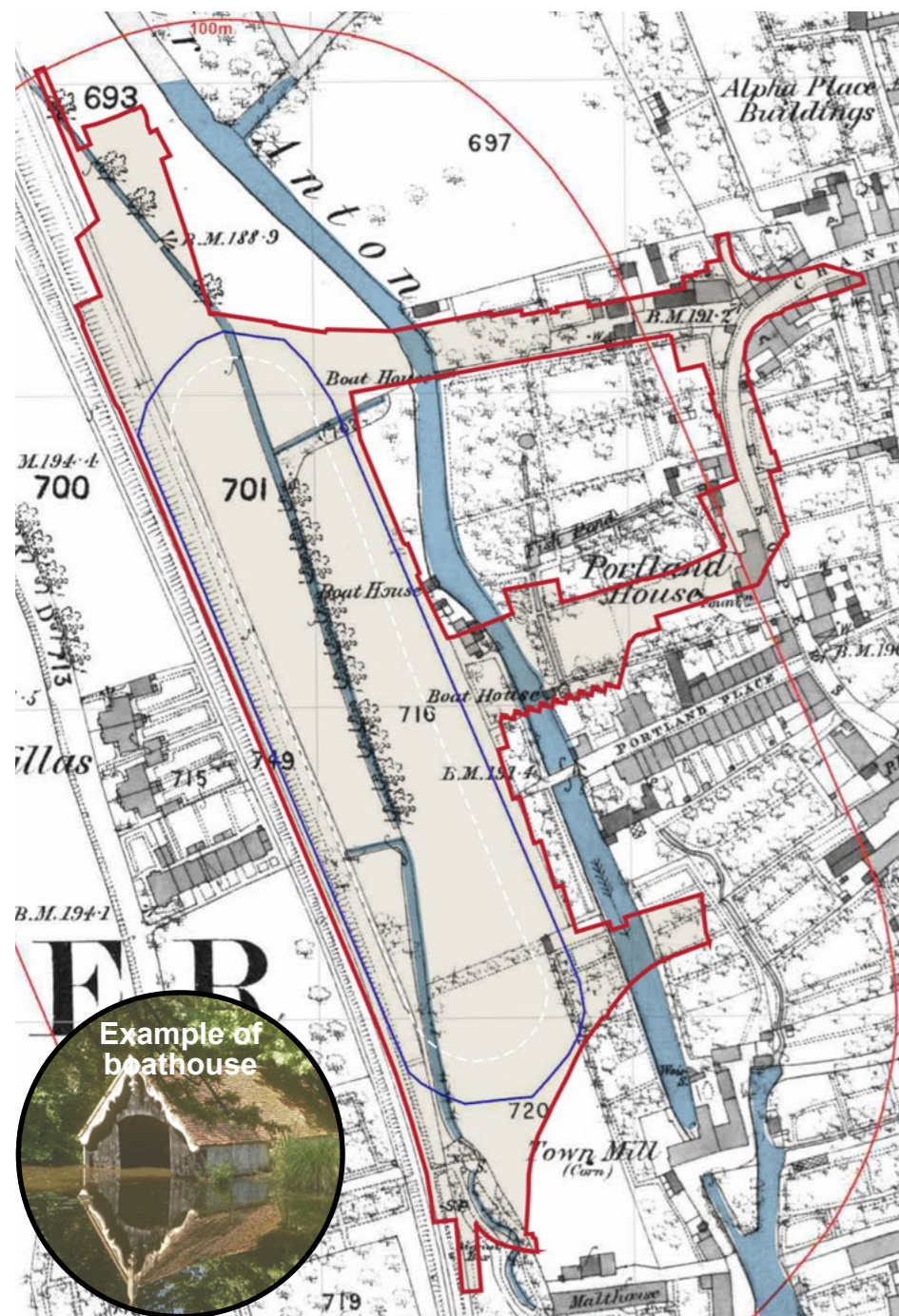
Boathouses are found to the edges of the site, directly sitting above the former River Anton. The Town Mill was already built on site. The River was running to the East and a channel ran in the middle of the site. The railway was located on the western edge of the site (North-South axis).

1896

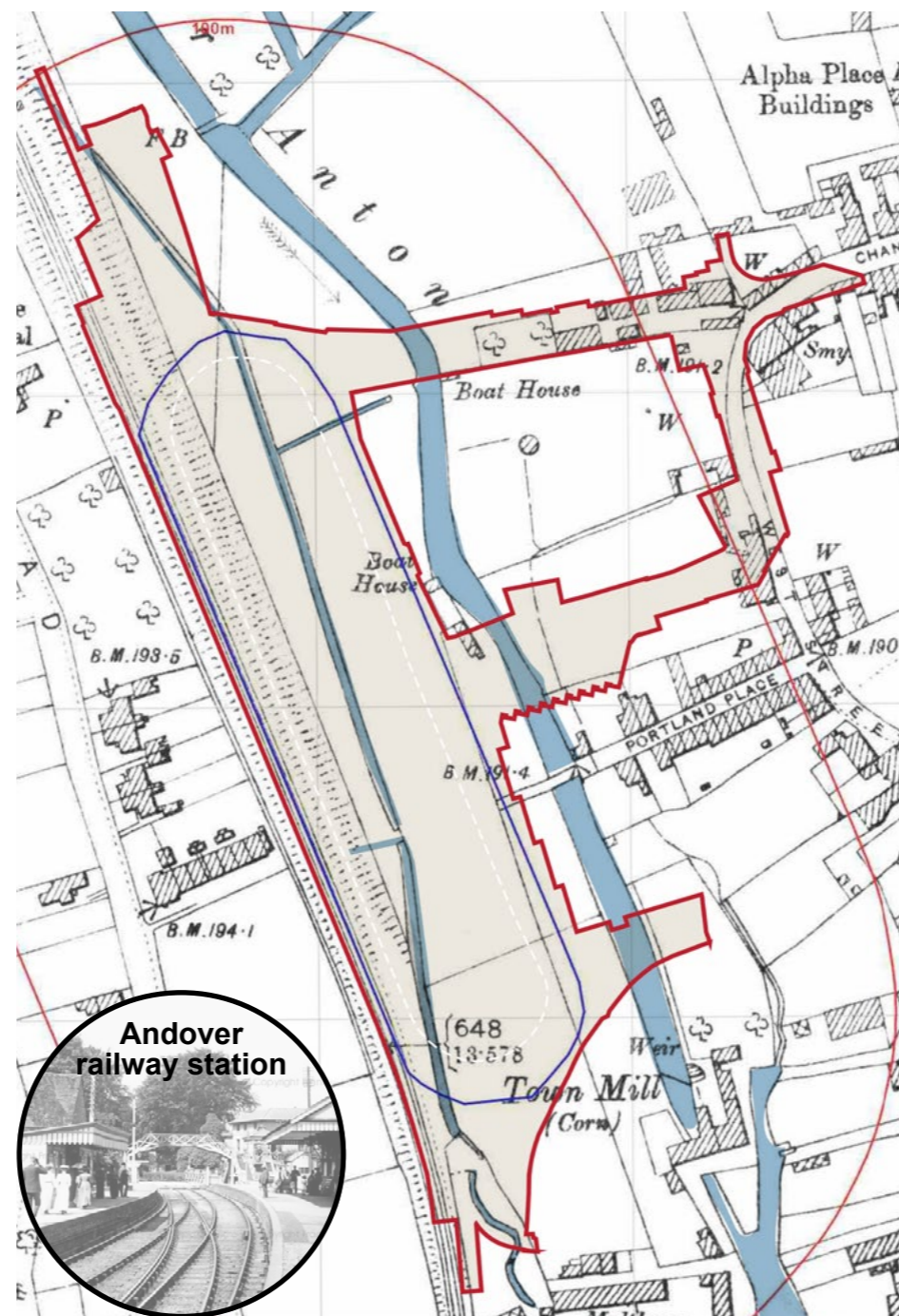
The site didn't change much; the same elements were present. The site was potentially used for agriculture due to the channel present there.

1910

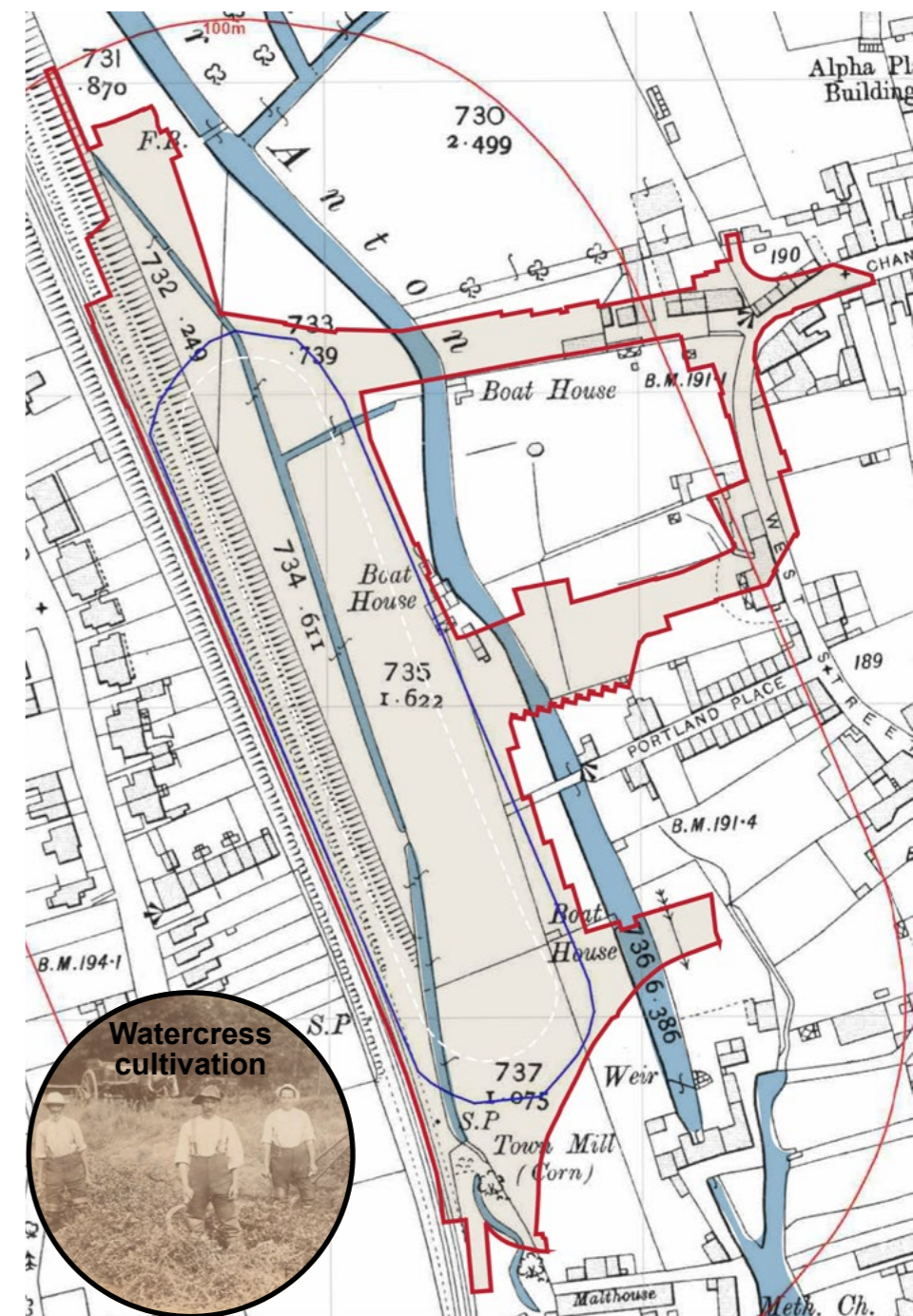
During the next 15 years further houses were built to the west of the site.



1873 County Series (Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 100035207)



1896 County Series (Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 100035207)



1910 County Series (Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 100035207)

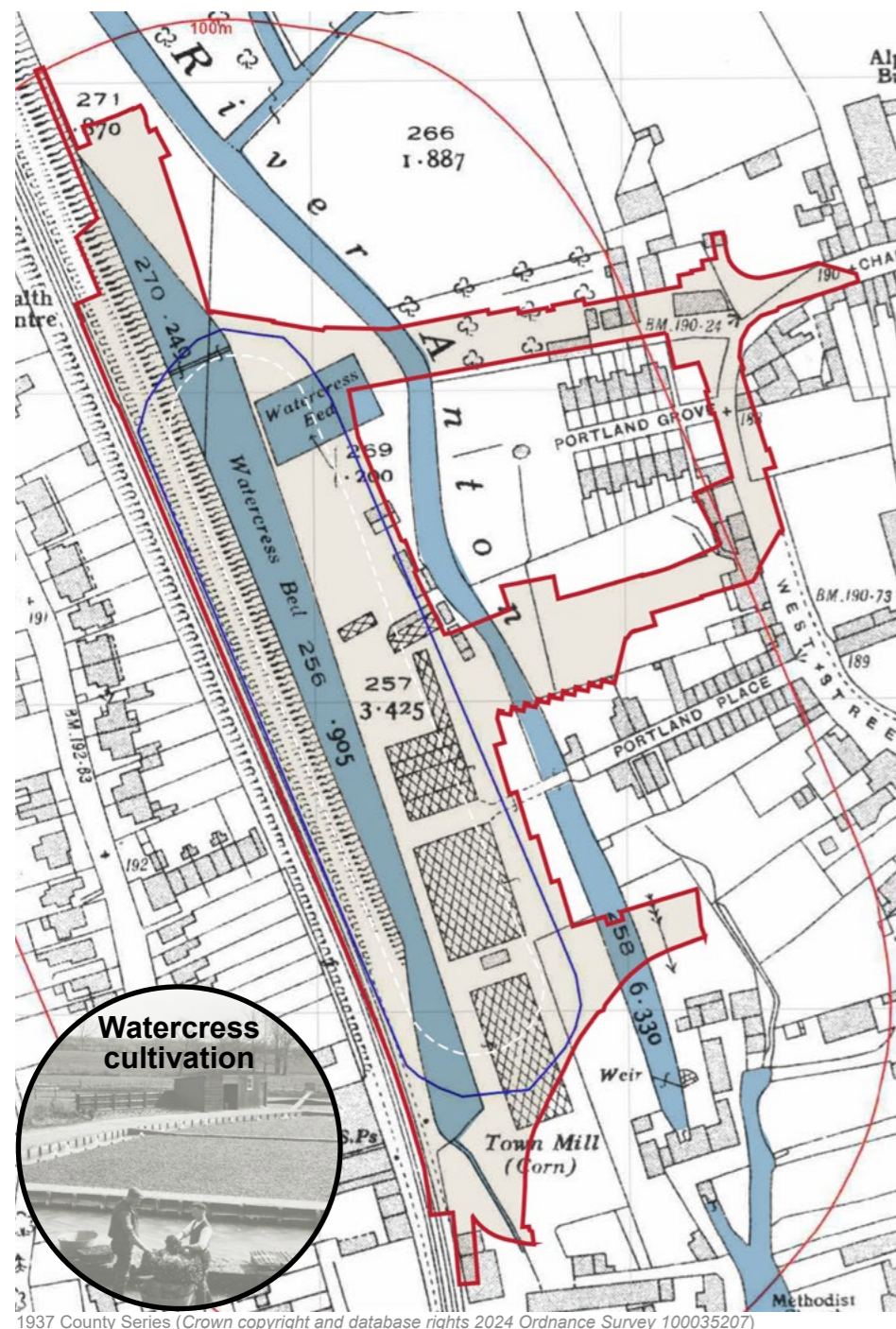
## Site History

### Historical Maps



1937

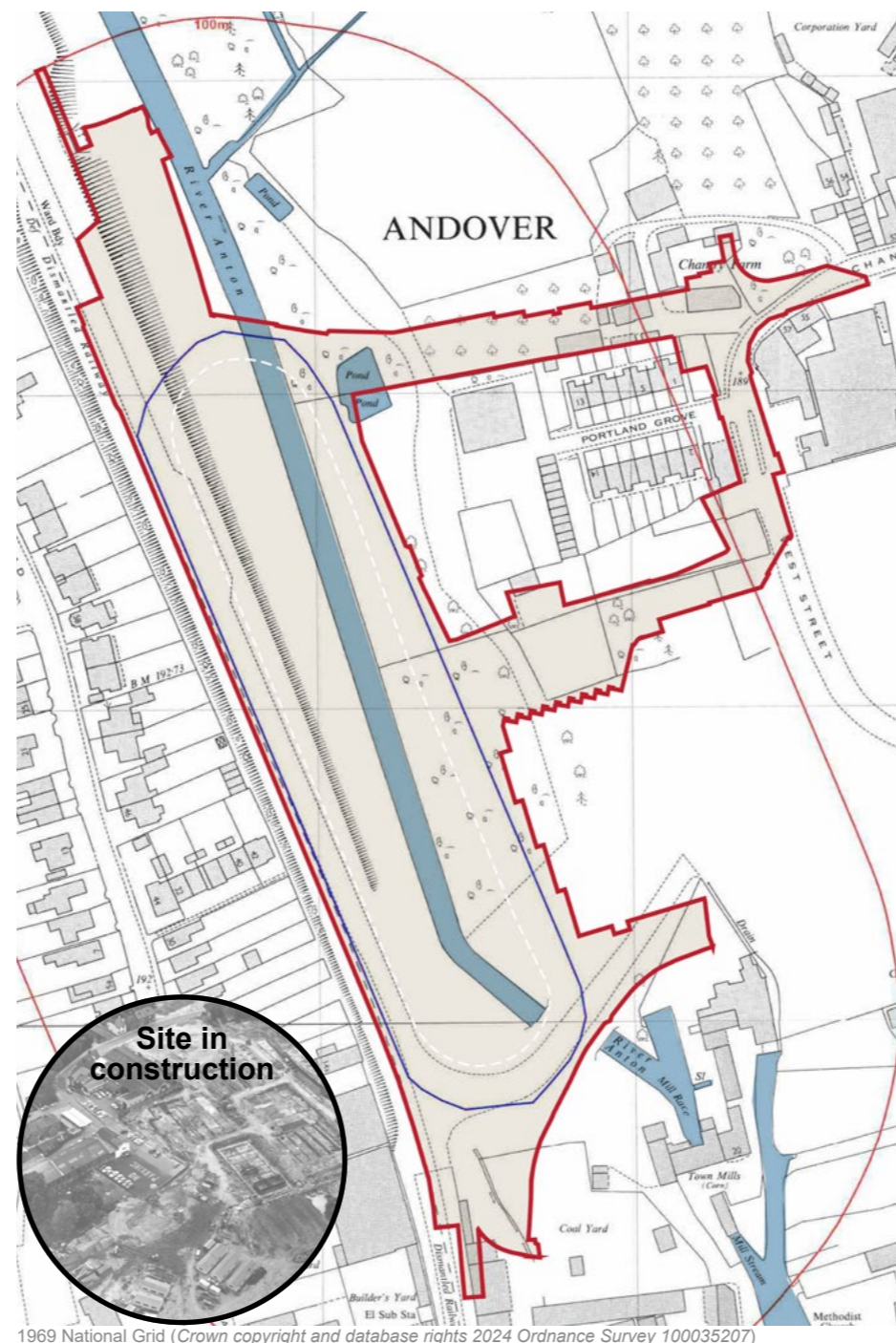
There was a fundamental change during the next 30 years; watercress cultivation was introduced to this area. Using the former canal, and creating large beds for the growth of watercress. It seems that the former boathouses were still present on site and potentially used to transport the goods along the River Anton. Portland Grove residential houses were built



1937 County Series (Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 100035207)

1969

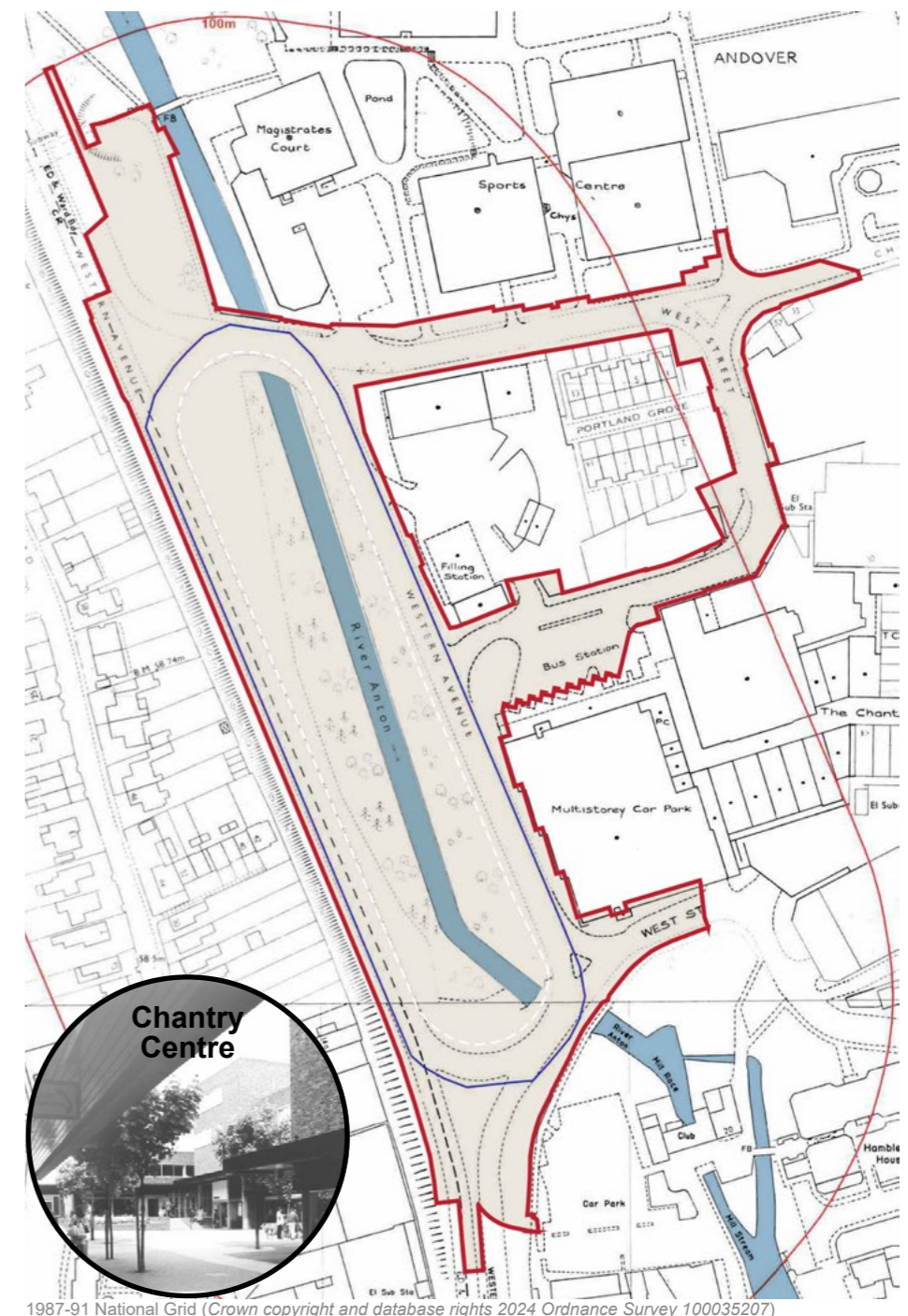
A lot of changes occurred during the 30 years period observed between the two adjacent maps. The River Anton was redirected, the channel was removed, and both were combined into one stream. This would have also removed most of the watercress beds. We can distinguish the former river alignment at the edge of the site boundary. The railway was also removed and replaced by a road that bridges the river in the South, giving access to the town centre.



1969 National Grid (Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 100035207)

1987

Finally, the Chantry Centre, the Bus Station and the multi-storey car park were built. The Western Avenue gyratory system was put in place, including an additional bridge over the river. This closed the central planted area to public access.



1987-91 National Grid (Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 100035207)

# Site History

## Existing Andover Heritage Trail

The Andover Heritage Trail is a self-guided walking tour that highlights the rich history of the town. This trail takes visitors through significant historical sites and landmarks, offering insights into Andover's past. Key locations include:

- **The Town Mills:** A reminder of Andover's milling heritage.
- **The Time Ring:** A modern installation representing historical events.
- **The Church of St. Mary:** With roots dating back to the 12th century.
- **Chantry Street:** includes listed buildings and Chantry Cottage.

Each stop is marked with information boards detailing the historical significance, providing a comprehensive understanding of Andover's development through the centuries.



The time Ring on High Street (image from <https://www.andover-heritage-trail.co.uk/>)



Town Mills on the River Anton



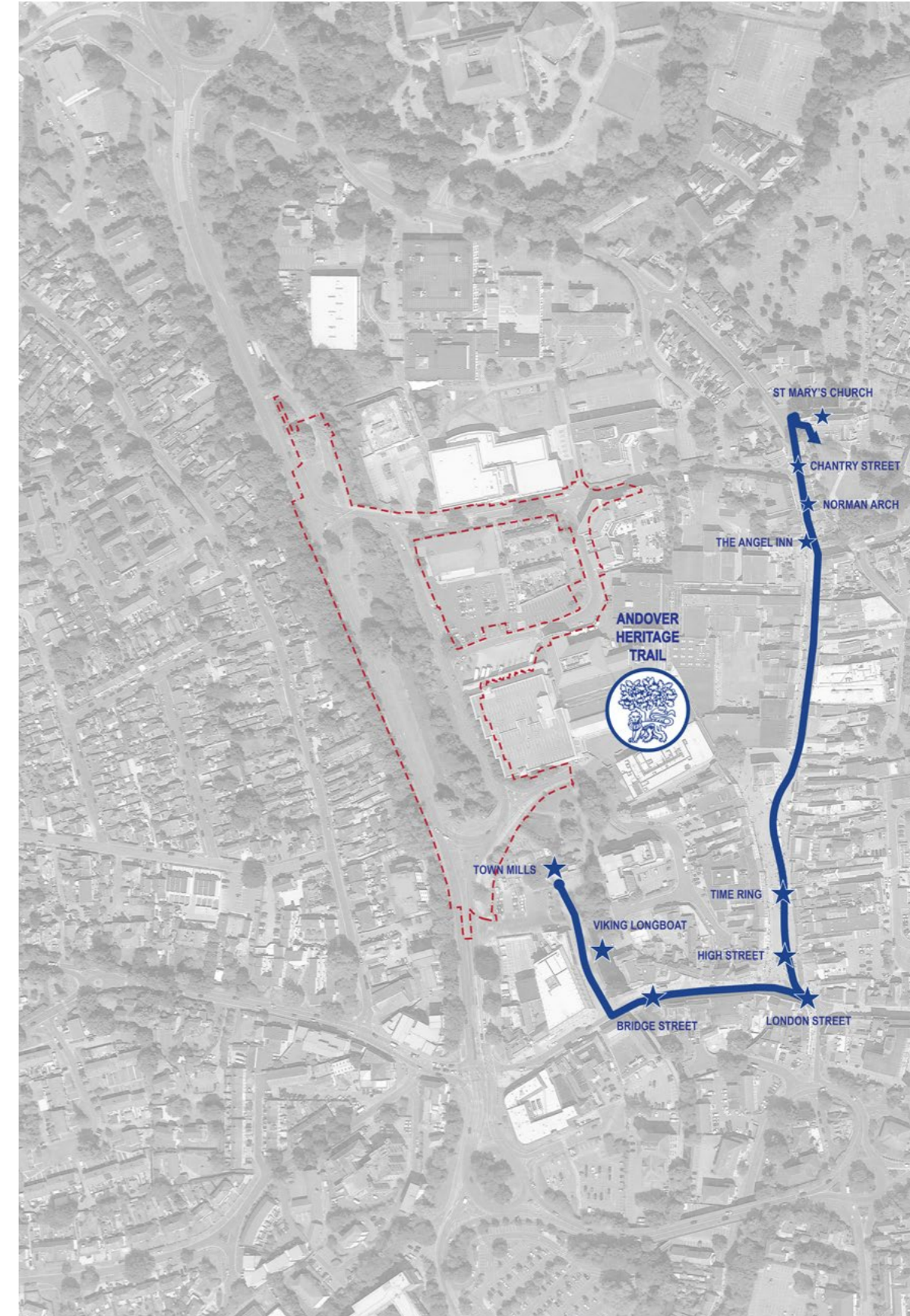
Viking Longboat



St Mary's Church



Existing plaque (image from <https://www.andover-heritage-trail.co.uk/>)



Andover Heritage Trail mapped over the satellite view

## Site History

### Andover Heritage Loop



To extend the Andover Heritage Trail along the River Anton and create a loop, it is suggested to add stops describing the past activities or buildings on the site, such as the boathouse and watercress cultivation. This extension would enhance the trail by highlighting Andover's natural and agricultural heritage, as well as its connection to the River Anton.

The boathouse offers insights into local recreational activities and river transport history. The watercress cultivation area would showcase traditional agricultural practices unique to the region. These additions not only diversify the trails historical narrative but also connect urban heritage with the natural landscape.

The new loop design allows the trail to be started from any point, offering flexibility and convenience for visitors. This means participants can tailor their journey according to their preferences and time constraints, ensuring a personalised and accessible exploration of Andover's history and natural beauty. Information boards and signage will be updated to reflect these changes, guiding visitors smoothly along the new path and enriching their understanding of Andover's multifaceted heritage.

Additionally, this extension can be related to the Poetry Trail, creating a unique blend of historical, natural, and cultural experiences, enriching visitors' engagement with Andover's diverse heritage through both historical narratives and poetic expressions.



The town hall and environs, Andover 1926 (from Britain From Above)



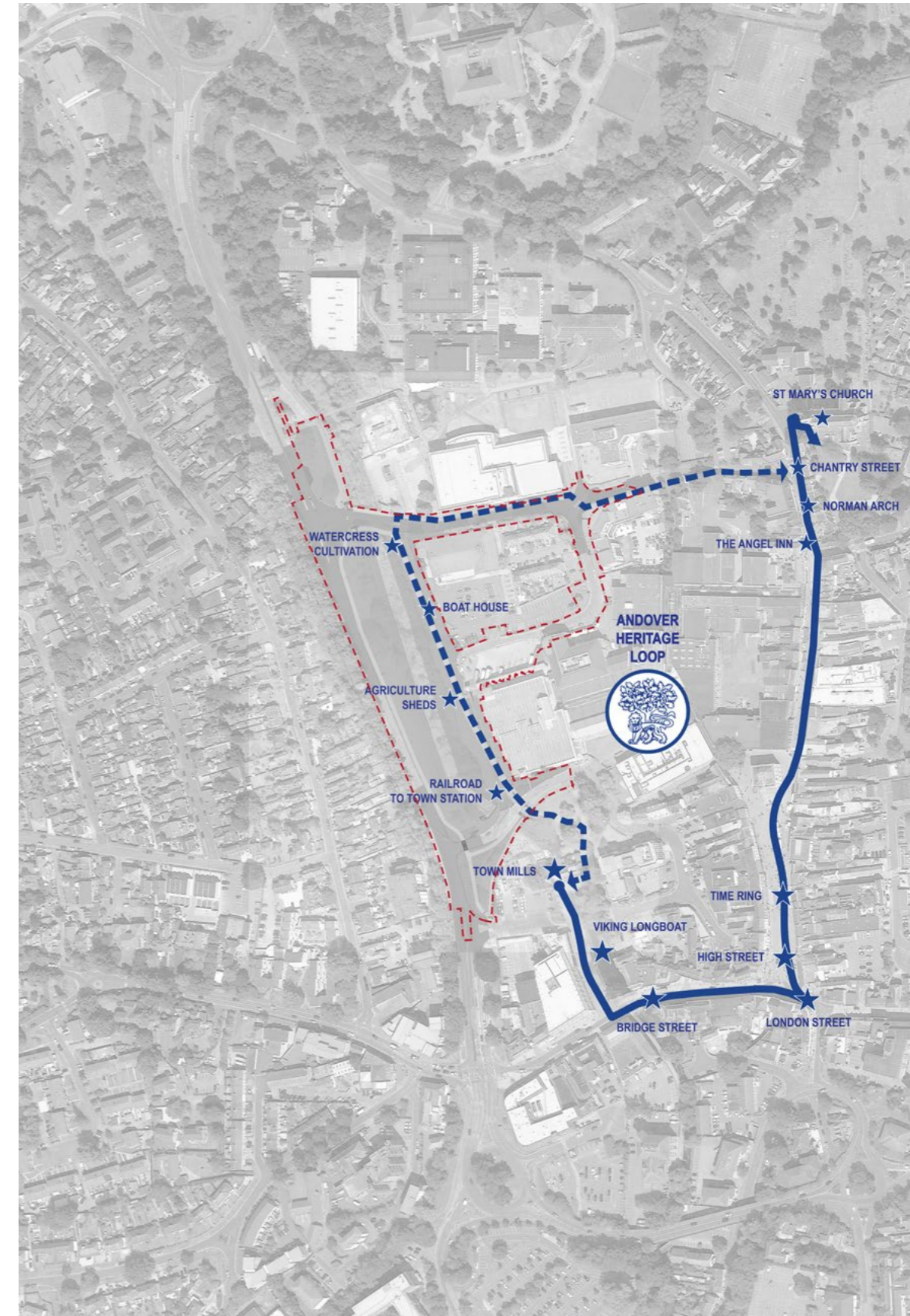
Gathering watercress at Charlton, c1900 (Image: Burton of Hoddesdon)



Example of boathouse (Philip Halling / Boathouse at Scotney Castle)



Andover, Town Station 1908 (extract from Andover Photographic Memories)



Proposed Heritage Loop running through the site



Continuation of the Poetry trail

# Site History

## Viewpoint

The project is strategically located to capitalise on the vistas offered by its surroundings. Situated adjacent to the picturesque Town Mills and looking at the iconic St. Mary's Church, our proposals will serve to frame and focus these views.

The design concept emphasises the integration of these natural and historical landmarks, ensuring that residents and visitors alike can fully appreciate the beauty and heritage of the area.

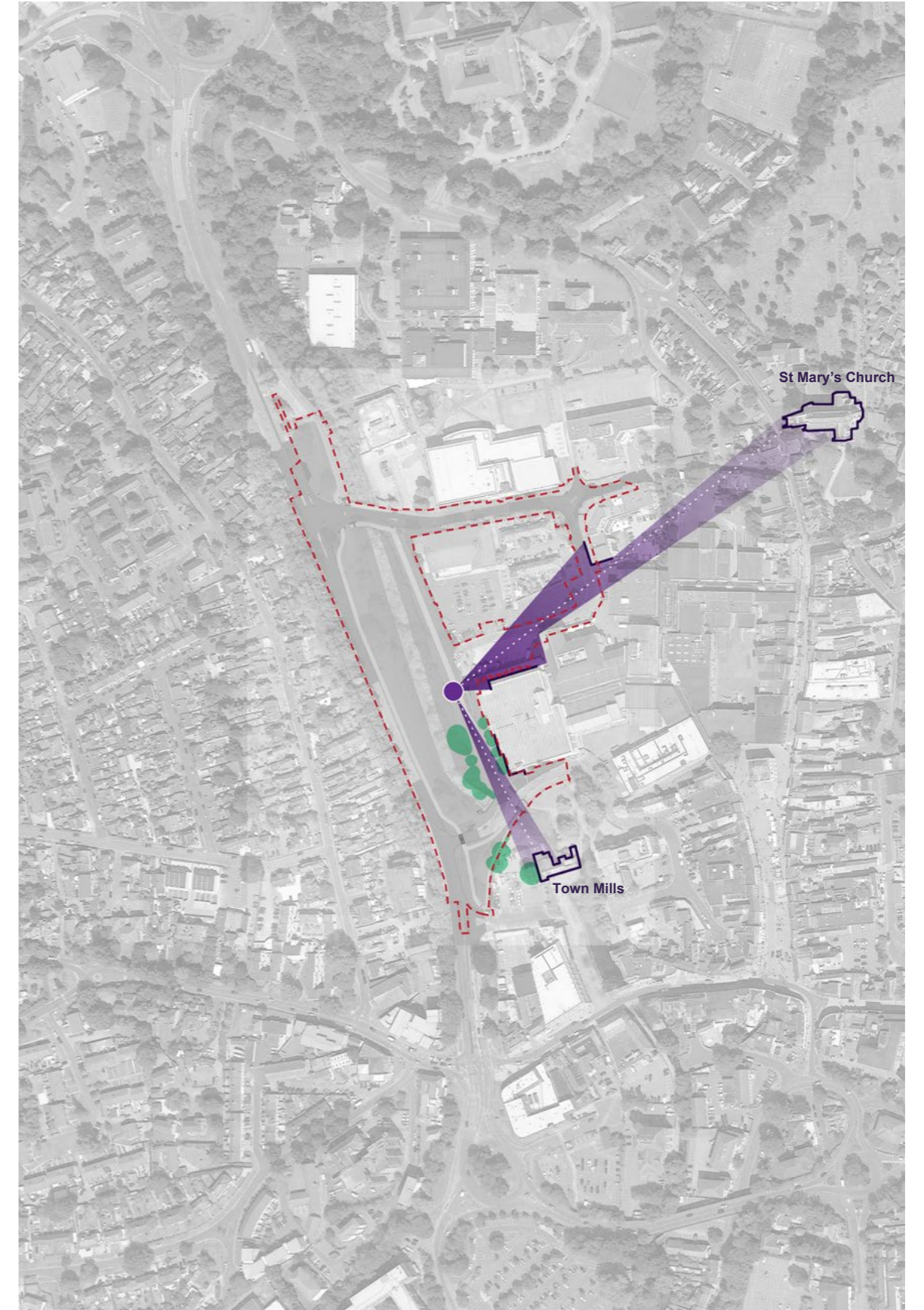
By highlighting these views at the centre of our project, we aim to create a sense of harmony between the built environment and the surrounding landscape, enhancing the overall experience for all who engage with the space.



Framed view to Town Mills



Framed view of St Mary's Church from the site



Long views to the surrounding

## Trees

### Existing Canopies

The site is surrounded by a variety of trees. These include towering oak trees and elegant birches, which contribute to the site's aesthetic appeal and provide natural barriers against noise and pollution.

In our landscape design, we prioritise retaining as many of these existing trees as possible. They not only enhance the beauty of the site but also offer practical benefits such as privacy and tranquillity. By carefully integrating pathways and green spaces around them, we aim to preserve their prominence and create inviting environments for residents and visitors.

Our commitment to retaining these trees underscores our dedication to sustainability and creating harmonious landscapes that blend seamlessly with the natural surroundings. Selected trees will be removed to open up views toward the river and provide essential light to other habitats.

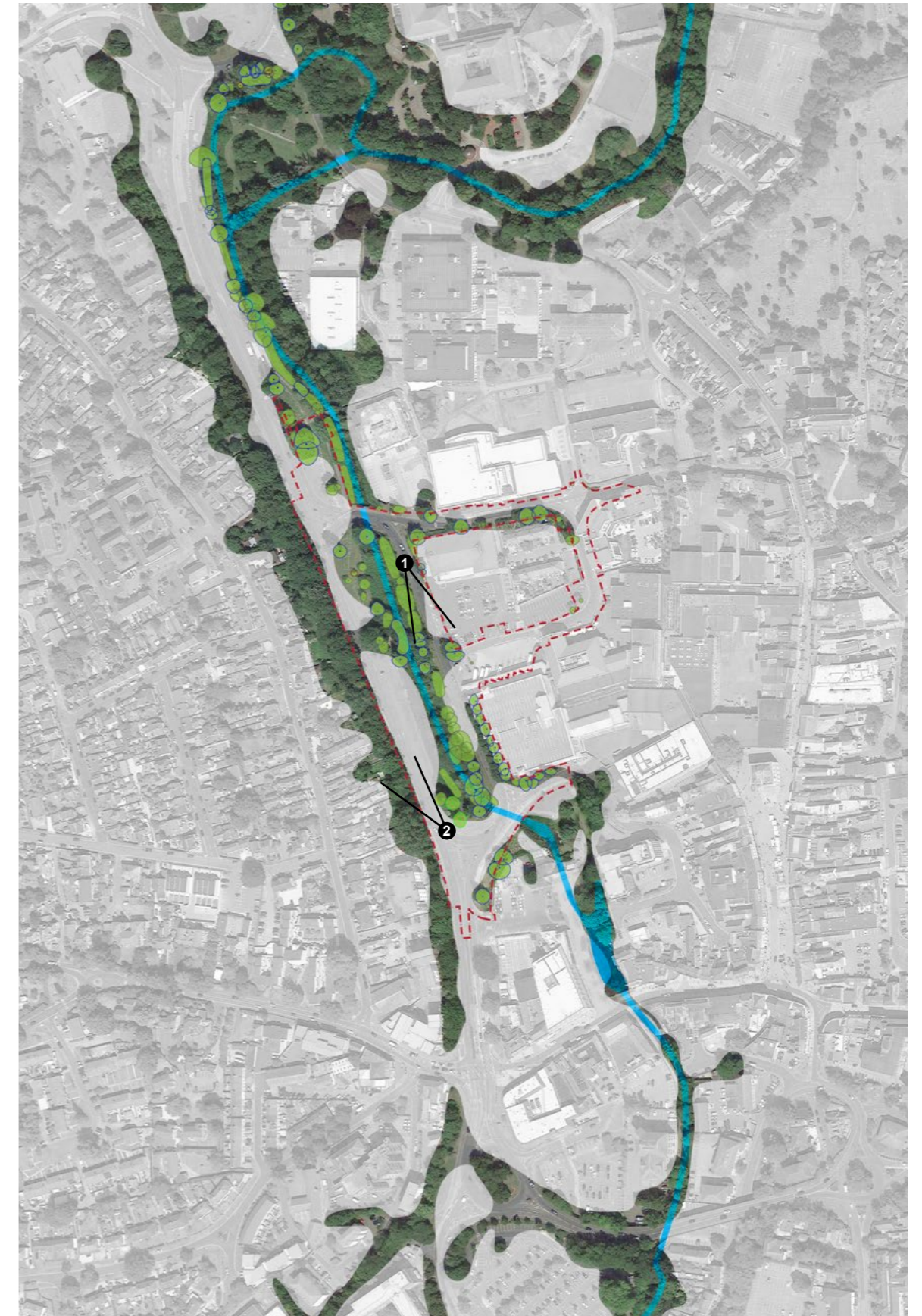
Further details on trees retained and removed are presented in the site analysis part of the document.



(1) Large trees and group of vegetation on the eastern edge of the road (looking South)



(2) Large trees on the western edge of the road (looking North)



Tree canopies and connected green spaces along the River Anton

# River Anton

## Anton Corridor

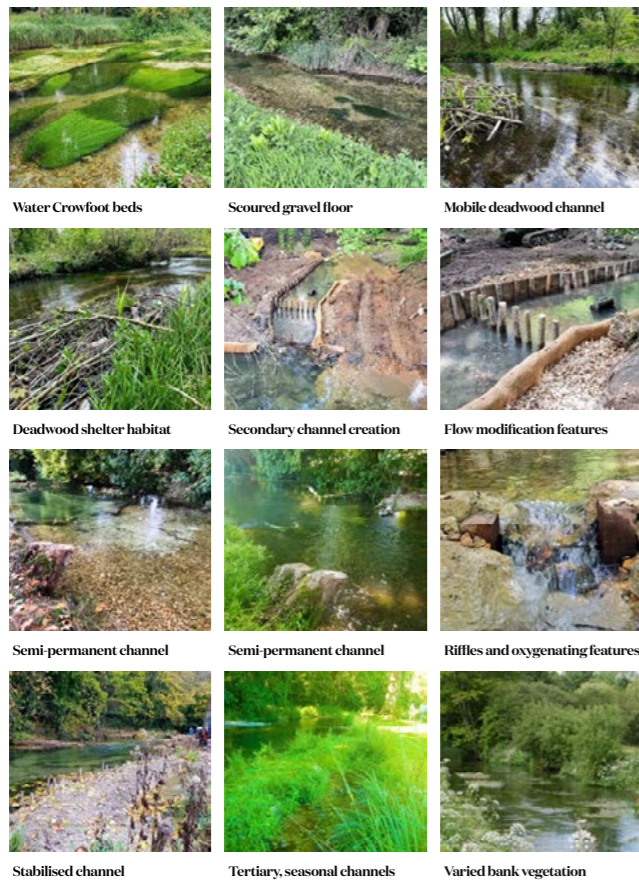


The Anton Corridor typically refers to a designated area along the River Anton, which runs through Andover. The River originates from the chalk hills of the Hampshire Downs, flowing southward through Andover. It is a tributary of the River Test, eventually joining it south of Andover.

This corridor often encompasses a stretch of land adjacent to the river, which may include walking paths, green spaces, and recreational areas. The corridor serves as a link between different parts of the town, providing both a natural habitat for wildlife and a pleasant environment for residents and visitors to enjoy leisure activities such as walking, cycling, or simply relaxing by the water. It may also be a focal point for urban development and revitalisation efforts aimed at enhancing the quality of life in the area.

The Anton Corridor, particularly where it runs adjacent to the Chantry Centre, offers a unique blend of urban vibrancy and natural tranquillity. As it winds its way through the heart of Andover, this corridor serves as a vital link between the commercial hub of the Chantry Centre and the beauty of the river.

Below is an extract from the *Andover Town Centre Public Realm Design Guide SPD*, that defines and expands on the Anton Corridor. This information will help to guide the landscape design for the Riverside Park.



The Anton Corridor next to the Riverside Park site

# River Anton

## Flood Risk

MEC has been commissioned by Test Valley Borough Council to undertake a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). This assessment has been undertaken to ascertain the constraints of the development to the site and to assess the impact of the design, with respect to flood risk. We summarise the main points below. The summary should be read in conjunction with the full FRA.

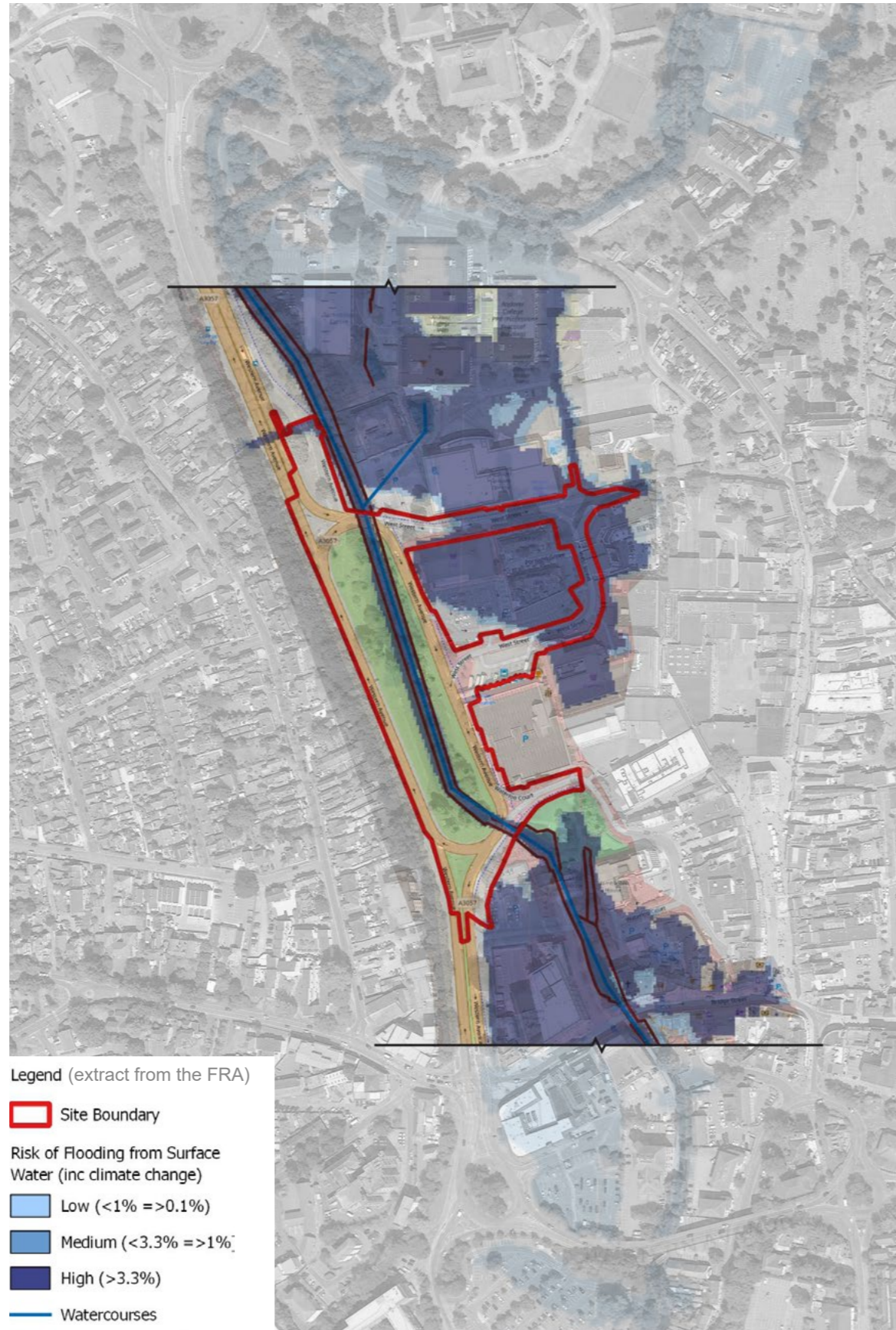
The Flood Map for Planning shows the majority of the site is located within Flood Zone 1. Areas within the eastern area of the site along West Street are mostly located within Flood Zone 3 with sections of Flood Zone 2. There is an area to the west surrounding the flow route of the River Anton which is located within Flood Zone 3.

The majority of the site is at low risk from surface water flooding. There is an area of low to high risk located along the eastern boundary within West Street. There are two small flow routes of low to high risk within the northern and southeastern corners of the site. The site is at high risk from groundwater flooding.

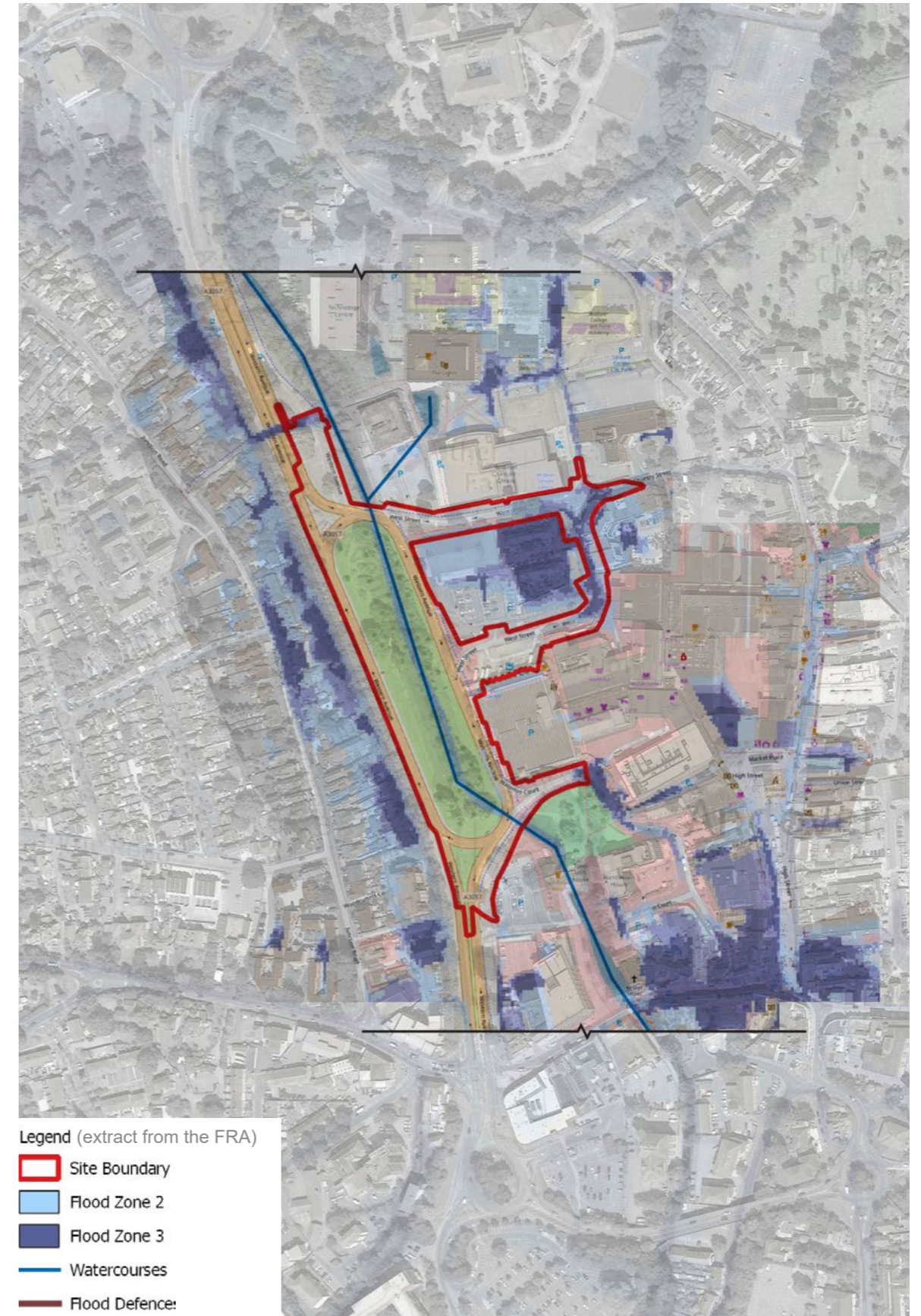
The proposed development reduces impermeable surfaces across the site, eliminating additional flood risk. In line with National SuDS Standards, surface water will be managed via existing drainage systems, discharging to the River Anton, highway networks, and Southern Water Systems, with only minor upgrades required:

- Removal of Western Avenue highway, replaced with permeable footways and parkland, discharging into the River Anton (as existing).
- West Street & Waterloo Court drainage will remain unchanged, connecting to Southern Water systems.

The net reduction in hardstanding and increase in greenspace ensures no decline in water quality. In fact, the shift from impermeable highway to soft landscaping will improve water quality runoff due to enhanced natural filtration.



Flood risk from river (overlay from Environment Agency's Flood Risk from Surface Water Map)



Flood risk from surface water (overlay from Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning)

# River Anton

## River Characters



A site analysis along the pathway reveals four distinct conditions shaping the River visibility and accessibility:

1. **Fully Obscured** – Dense planting or excessive setback from the path entirely conceals the river, offering no visual or physical connection.
2. **Filtered Glimpses** – Partial views are possible through intermittent vegetation, though the river remains distanced and fragmented in perception.
3. **Open but Buffered** – Clearer openings exist, but verge planting and elevation differences maintain a separation, limiting direct engagement.
4. **Immediate Proximity** – Rare zones (e.g., Town Mills pub terrace) align almost flush with the river, creating an intimate, unobstructed relationship.

This gradient, from total isolation to direct adjacency, highlights opportunities to strategically enhance connectivity while respecting ecological and spatial constraints. The Riverside Park has the opportunity to change the relationship with the River Anton.



Filtered glimpses



Open but buffered

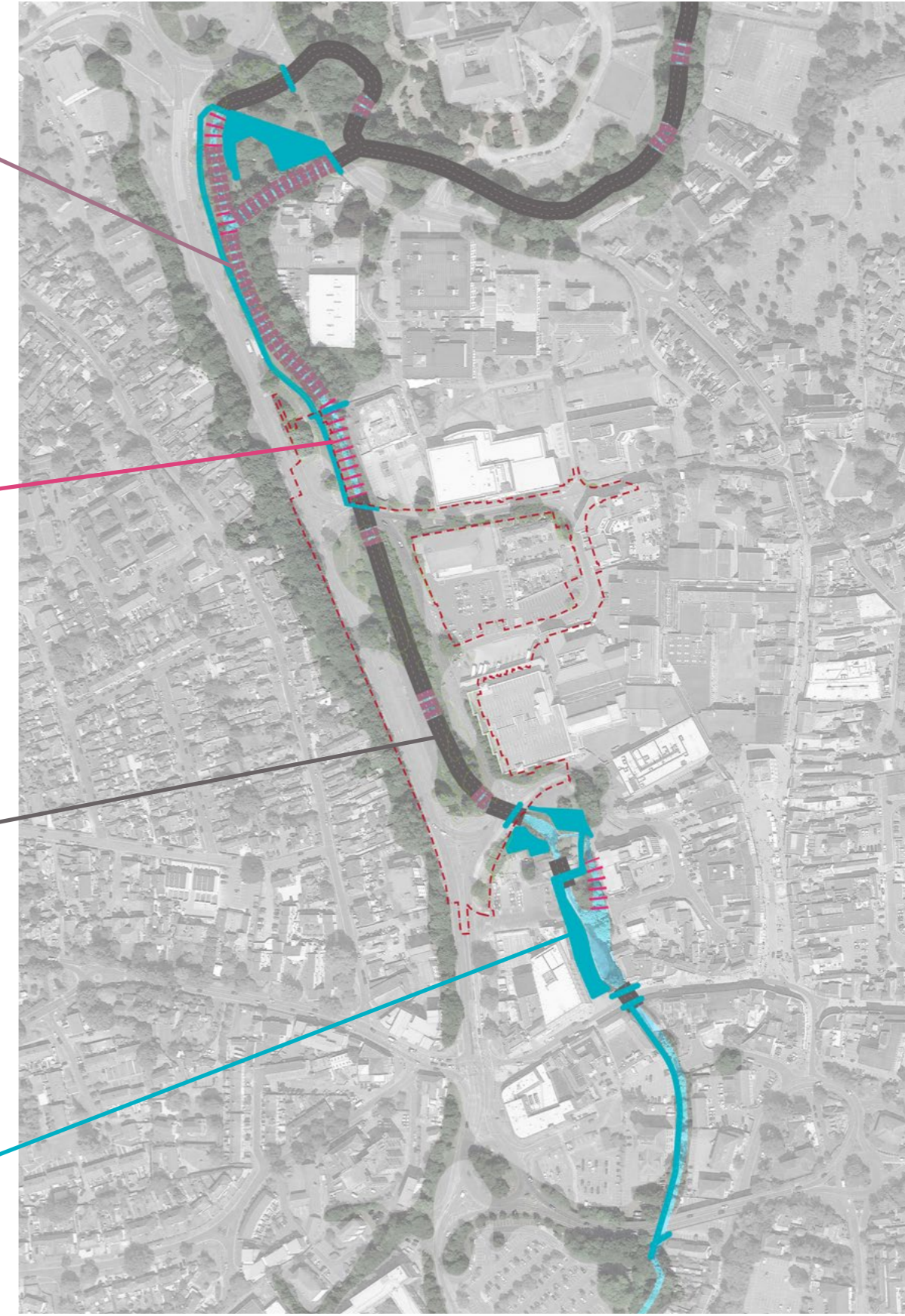


Fully obscured by planting



Pedestrian area closer to the River

- Fully obscured views
- Filtered glimpses
- Open but buffered
- Proximity to River Anton
- Path/bridge (closer to River)



Existing River Characters

# River Anton

## Cycleway & Riverside park








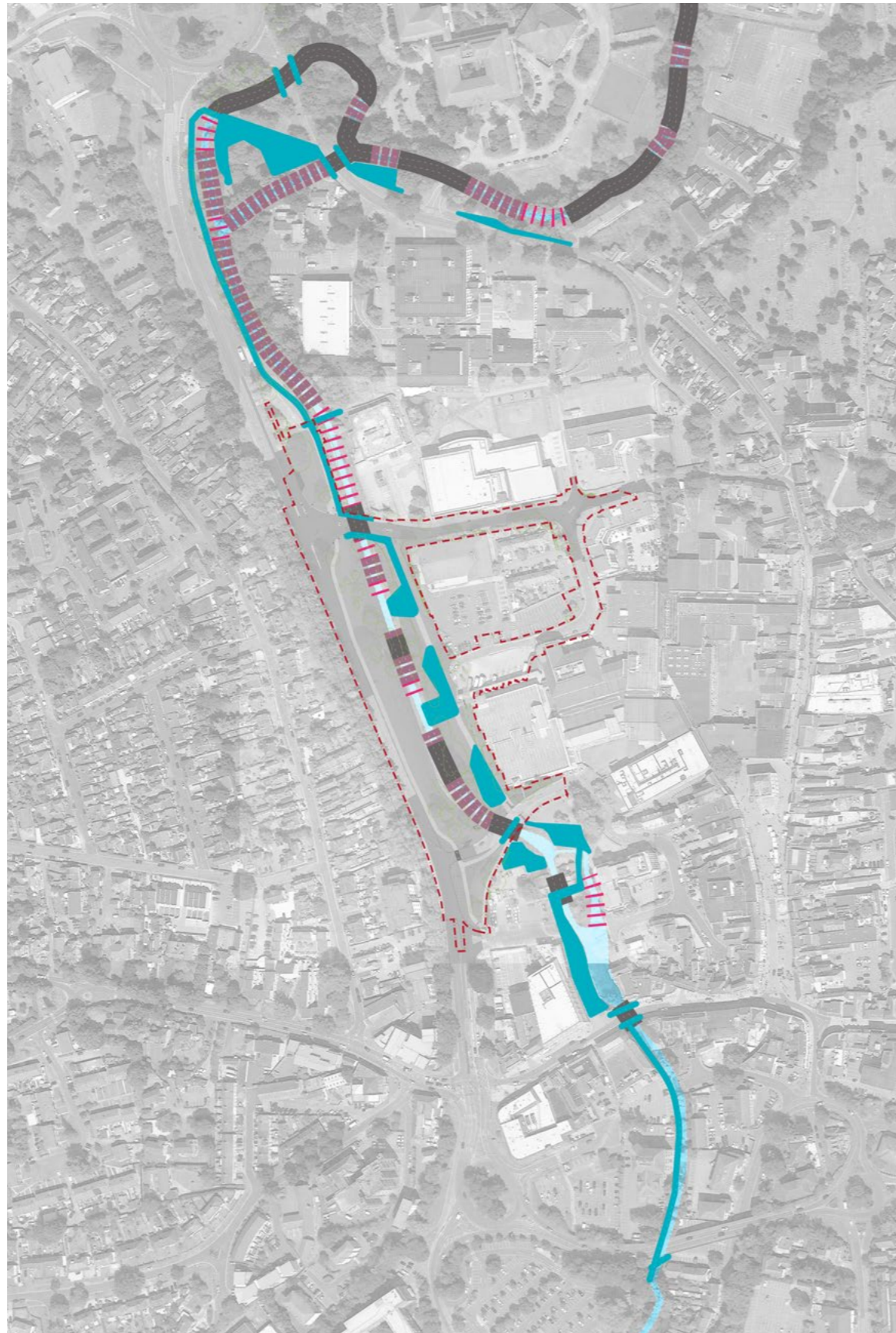
### Improved River Characters

The proposed Riverside Park enhances the river's character through a deliberate and sensitive approach. While full-length access to the River Anton was not feasible due to existing ecological and topographical constraints, a careful analysis of site conditions, including mature tree stands and natural landforms, informed strategic openings at two key locations. Selective tree pruning along the pathway further frame glimpses of the river, balancing visual connectivity with habitat preservation. This approach ensures the river remains a visible and inviting feature while respecting the site's inherent ecological and structural qualities.

### Community Benefits

The site establishes a critical pedestrian and cyclist connection between Andover Town Centre and its western neighbourhoods, reinforcing the North-South Axis with the integration of the new cycleway. A key feature is the proposed Riverside Park, designed to enhance biodiversity while fostering community engagement through carefully programmed green space. This intervention not only stitches into the existing park network but also aligns with adjacent development frameworks, creating a cohesive public realm. Strategically placed openings frame deliberate views and access points to the River Anton, heightening its presence as both an ecological corridor and a visual amenity.

-  Fully obscured views
-  Filtered glimpses
-  Open but buffered
-  Proximity to River Anton
-  Path/bridge (closer to River)



Improved River Characters



Enhancement areas

# River Anton

## River Anton Way



The River Anton Way is a scenic pathway that follows the course of the River Anton, offering a picturesque route for pedestrians and cyclists to enjoy the natural beauty of Andover. Integrating the project into the River Anton Way presents an opportunity to enhance connectivity, promote sustainable transportation, and create a vibrant public realm along the river.

Broadly speaking, the project can be integrated into the River Anton Way in several ways:

- Pathway Enhancement; The project can contribute to the enhancement of the River Anton Way by providing well-designed pathways that seamlessly connect with the existing route. This could involve extending or improving pedestrian and cycling infrastructure to ensure safe and convenient access for users of all abilities.
- Riverfront Activation; Integrating the project into the River Anton Way offers the opportunity to activate the riverfront and create inviting public spaces along the water's edge. This could include amenities such as seating areas, viewing platforms, and landscaped gardens that encourage people to linger and enjoy the scenic surroundings.
- Ecological Considerations; As the project intersects with the River Anton and its surrounding environment, it is important to consider ecological factors in the design process. This may involve incorporating green infrastructure, such as native planting and habitat restoration areas, to enhance biodiversity and improve the ecological resilience of the site.
- Community Engagement; Engaging with the local community and stakeholders is essential to ensure that the project aligns with the needs and aspirations of residents and users of the River Anton Way. Public consultation and participation can provide valuable insights and ideas for integrating the project into the surrounding landscape in a way that enhances its overall value and utility.
- Wayfinding and Interpretation; Integrating wayfinding signage and interpretive elements along the River Anton Way can enhance the user experience and provide information about local history, ecology, and points of interest. This can help create a sense of place and enrich the cultural significance of the route.

By thoughtfully integrating the project into the River Anton Way, it can become an integral part of the community fabric, fostering a sense of place, promoting active lifestyles, and celebrating the natural beauty of Andover's riverfront environment.



Signage (Image from River Anton Way booklet - TVBC)



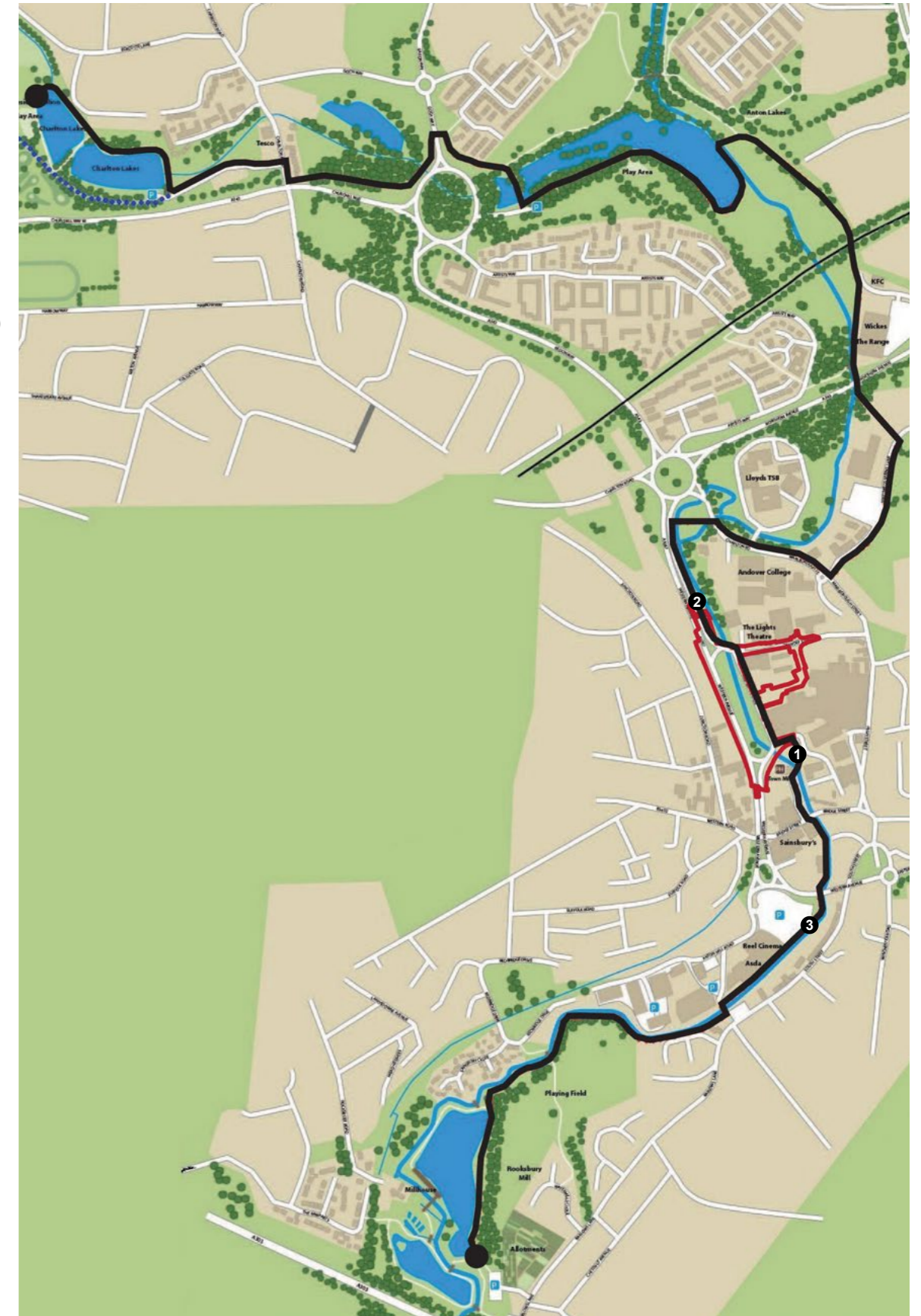
The Town Mills, its terrace and the adjacent riverside park



River Anton along Western Avenue



River Anton along the houses' gardens on South Street



River Anton Way (map extracted from River Anton Way leaflet - TVBC)

# River Anton

## River Anton Way

The River Anton Way is a guided route of approximately 10 miles between Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve and Chilbolton.

The route is described in a leaflet which includes the page below, covering the Andover Town section which provides an overview of the attractions and amenities available in this area of Andover. Andover Town serves as a gateway to exploring the town's rich history, vibrant culture, and natural beauty.

The project will create a new, greener and safer route from the River Anton Way to Andover Town Centre. The proposals will integrate this route and develop its vegetation and biodiversity, greatly enhancing the existing route.



### A WALKING GUIDE TO RIVER ANTON WAY

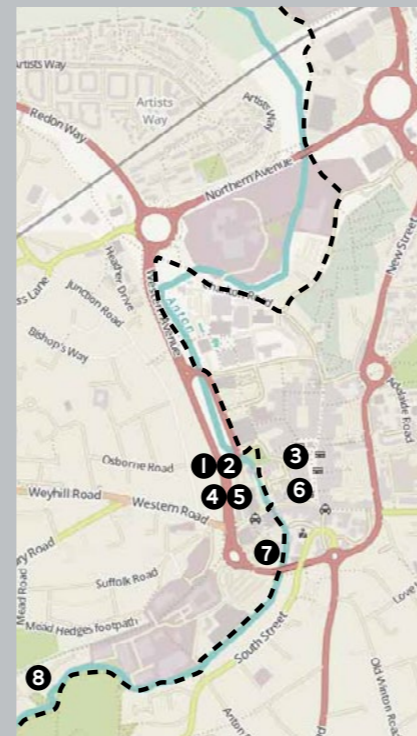


## ANDOVER TOWN

The path leaves Anton Lakes where it goes under the main railway line. It then follows the river until it goes under the A3057. After this point you walk along Shepherds Spring Lane and Charlton Road without seeing the River Anton, but soon it can be glimpsed from the bridges. The path follows the river through the centre of Andover and out past Asda into Watermills Park where it continues on to Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve.

### RAILWAY TO ANDOVER TOWN CENTRE

As the walk enters the town some important areas of habitat still remain. However, the river channel is generally too wide to support a good flow of water, resulting in important river gravels becoming smothered in fine sediments which affect the spawning patterns of fish and invertebrates. Historic structures such as weirs and sluices interrupt the flow of water and act as a barrier to the migration of fish and mammals such as the water vole. However, otters have been seen travelling through the town centre between Anton Lakes and Rooksbury



### TOWN CENTRE

As you enter the town centre the river becomes heavily constrained and little of the natural river channel still exists. However, recent development in this area has provided an opportunity to restore important wetland habitat areas adjacent to the river channel, encouraging species such as kingfishers back to the town.



Enhanced Andover Town stop

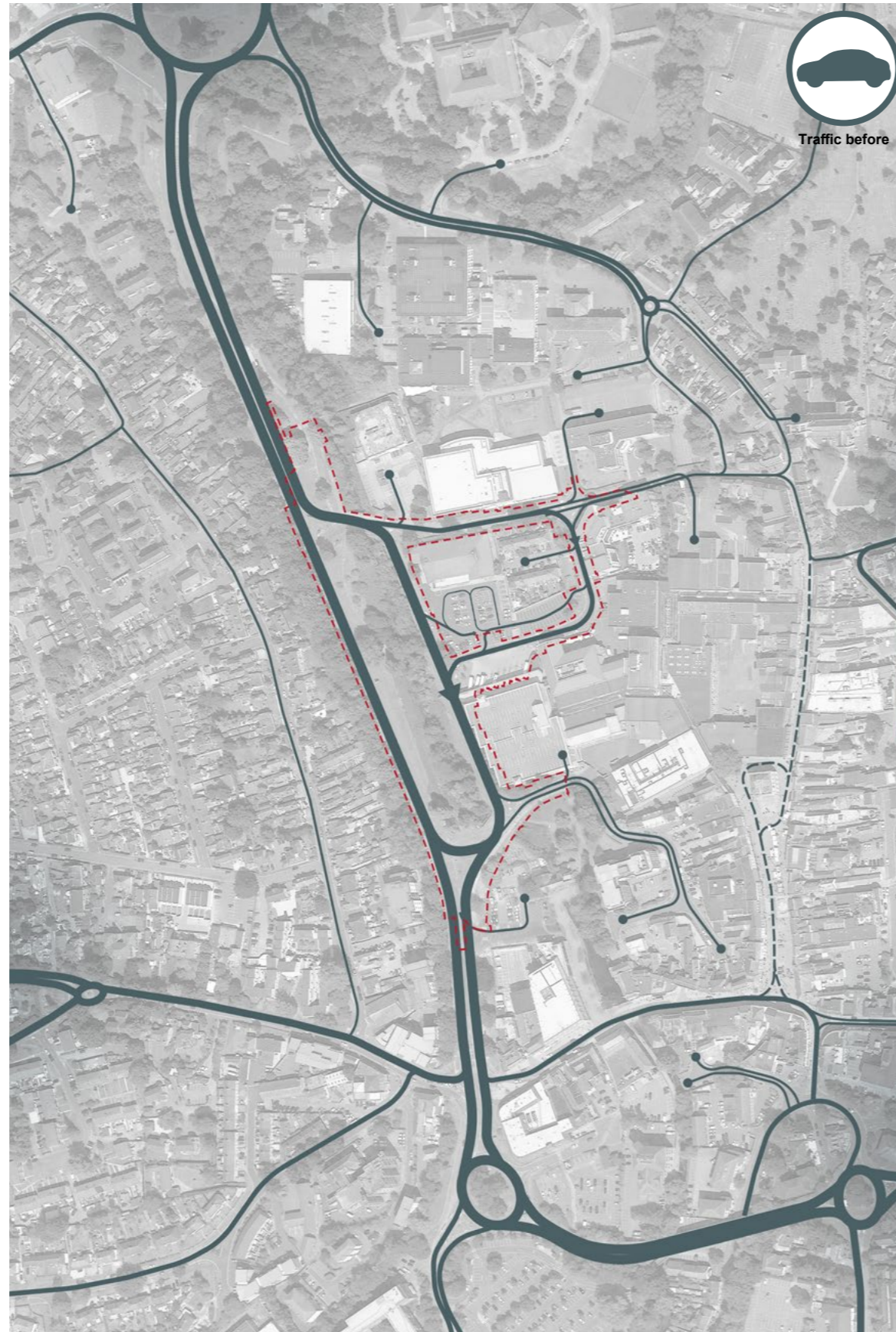
# Circulation

## Traffic

Highway design for this project is being led by Hampshire County Council with the changes summarised here.

The first diagram indicates the existing traffic pattern and the thickness of the lines are for illustrative purposes only to provide an indicative representation of the change in traffic, with the actual data included in the Transport Assessment.

The diagram on the right indicates the proposed layout and approximate traffic volume after the highways work and the Riverside Park. It clearly shows the improved space near the River Anton with the new road layout and bus station.



Existing conditions



Projected vehicular routes

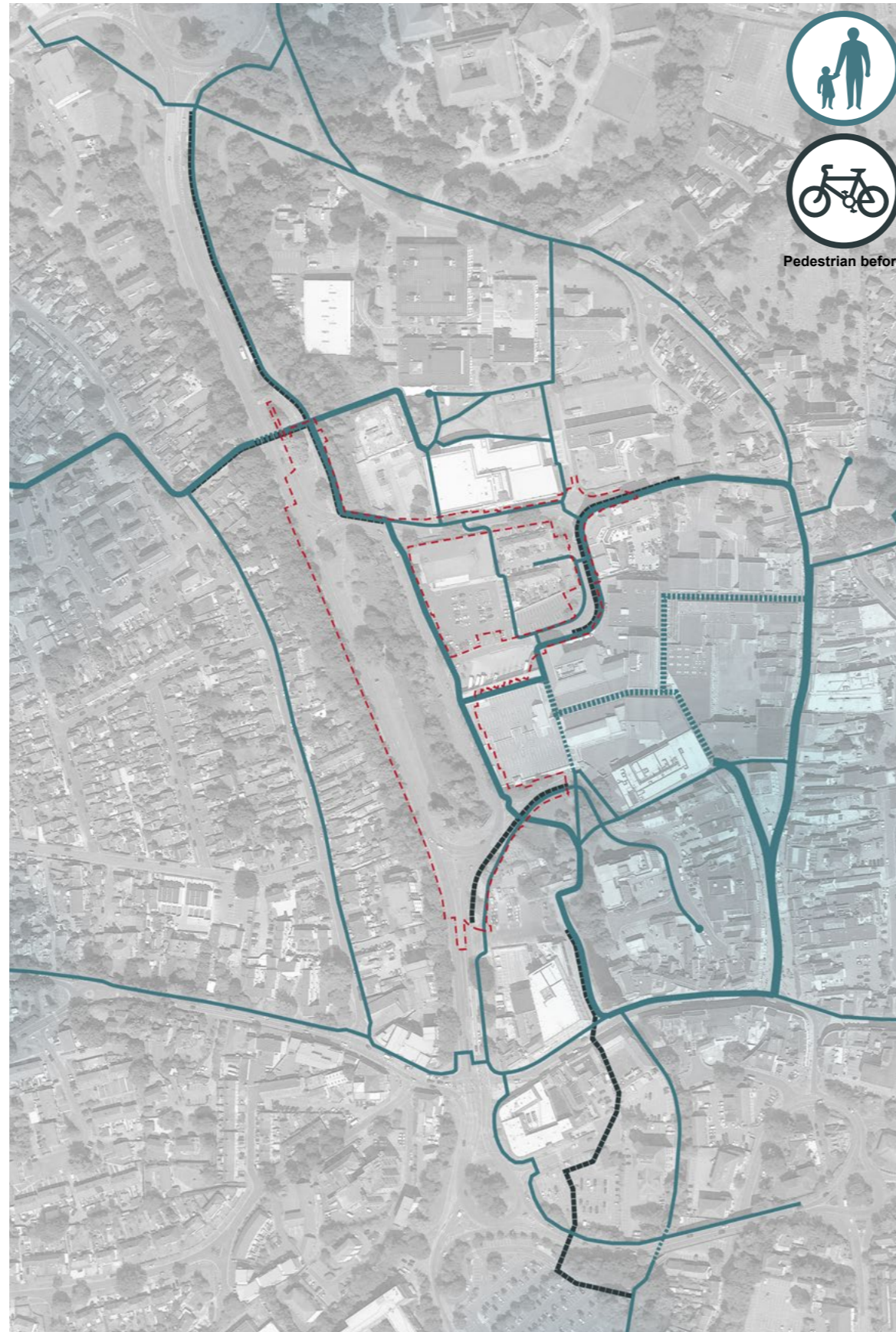
# Circulation

## Pedestrian

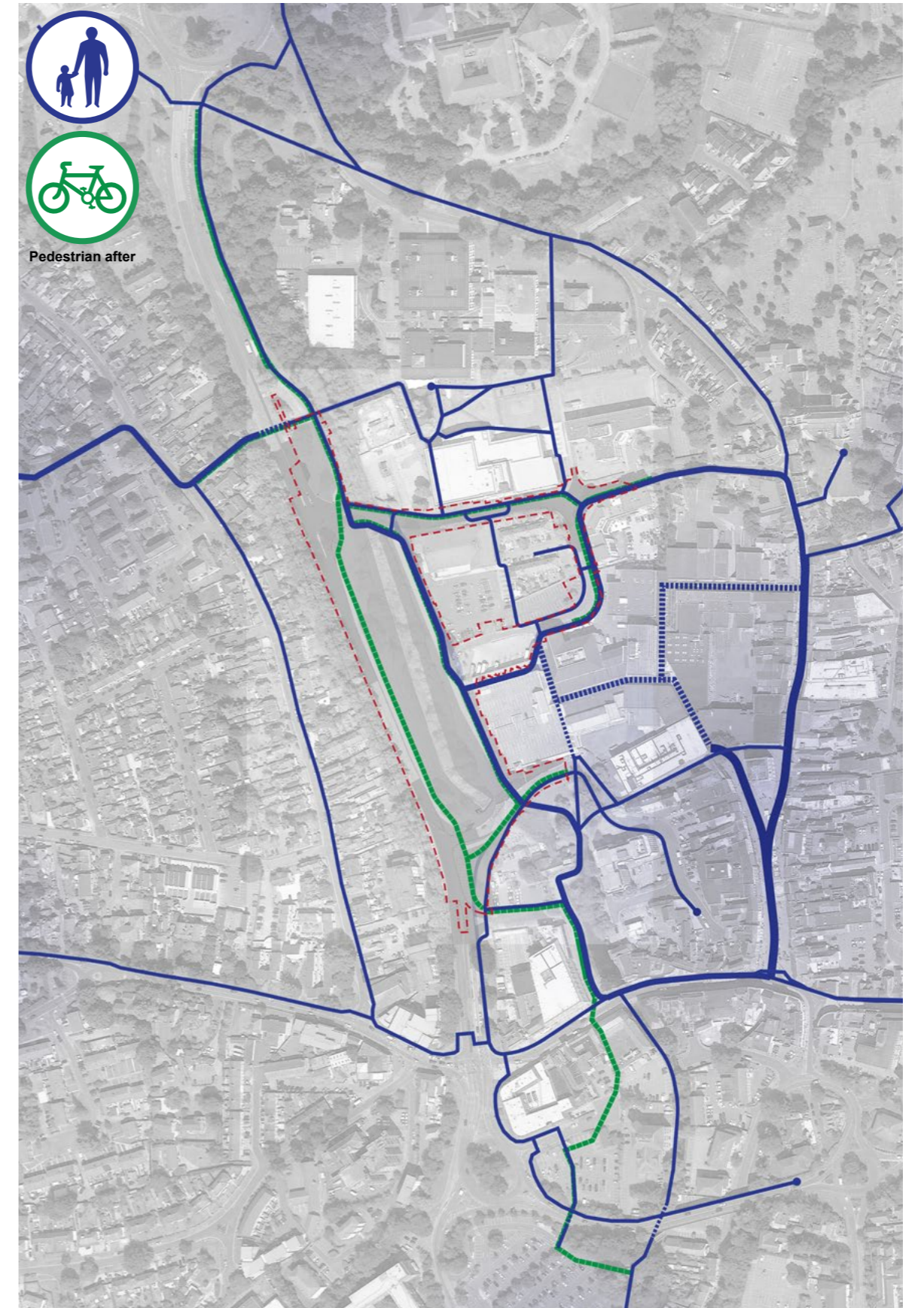
This project will also enhance pedestrian circulation. The first diagram identifies the existing pedestrian routes and connections.

The design should prioritise clear, well-marked pathways that facilitate easy navigation through the space, connecting key points such as the bus station entrances, adjacent streets, and nearby amenities.

The diagram on the right indicates the pedestrian connections after the highways work and the Riverside Park. The circulation remains similar; apart from the introduction of a cycle lane on the western edge of the River Anton.



Existing conditions



Projected pedestrian and cycle movement

## Think Andover

### Andover Town Centre Masterplan

This rendered plan is extracted from *Andover Town Centre Masterplan Report*. It is part of the larger vision for the Town and its historical centre. It marks the start of an interesting time for the town and establishes potential areas for development. One of them is the Riverside Park along the River Anton.

The main move is the removal of Western Avenue Gyratory allowing for river walk. This provides a new space with public access to the river.

TVBC is continuing to work with Hampshire County Council to help deliver a transformation of Western Avenue. Reducing the scale of this road is a prerequisite for improving connections to the railway station. It is key to improving walking and cycling connections into the town centre.

The main principle are:

- Reducing the scale of the Western Gyratory opens up the River Anton as a natural corridor for walking and cycling, linking to the enhanced public space at Town Mills.
- Close to the bus station, a new public space can provide public access to the river with the opportunity for 'pop-up' cafés and bars.

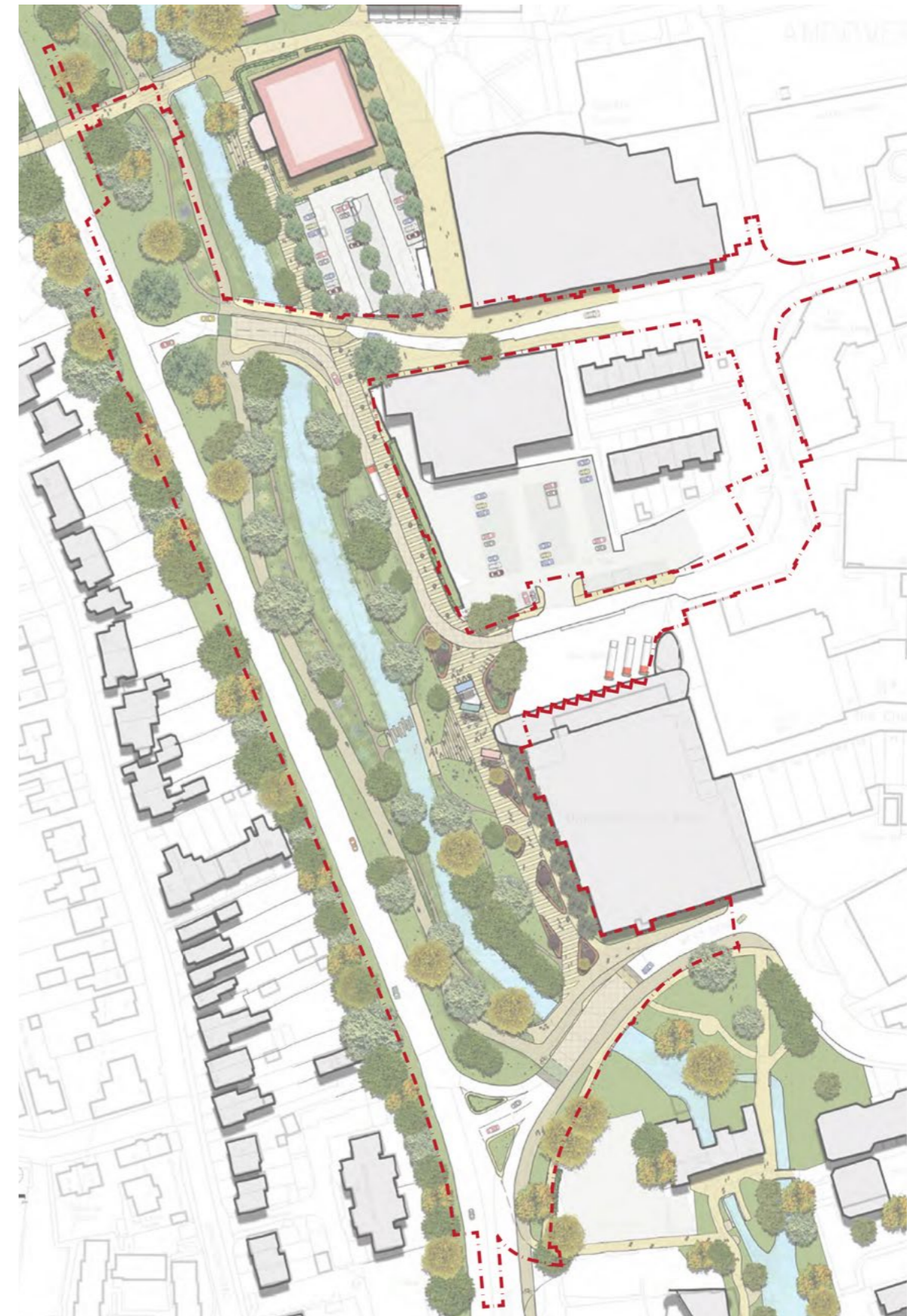
These changes are understood and will be integrated within the landscape design.

As this is a concept plan, some elements were expected to need more work:

- The road layout shows an access to the bus station through the north part of the gyratory, which cuts the site in two.
- The trees were not surveyed for this exercise and will impact some of the proposed opening and access to the river.
- The landscape design also proposes pedestrian access on the western bank which is now limited to the cyclists.
- Large crossing tables were located on the North and South entrances, which will be limited due to traffic analysis. This would refrain people to walk along the western edge of the site as well.



Opening up the River Anton as a natural corridor with footpaths and cycleways (view extracted from *Andover Town Centre Masterplan* by Hemingway Design and New masterplanning)



Andover Town Centre Regeneration Masterplan (adopted in September 2020) with the planning boundary overlaid

## Think Andover

### Andover Town Centre Masterplan

Before the appointment of LUC, another iteration of the masterplan was drawn when developing the masterplan concept further at RIBA Stage 2. This design resolved some of the points highlighted on the previous page. The main principles are similar and the whole length of the river is allocated to the Riverside Park.

As this is a concept plan, some elements clearly need more work:

- The cycle lane is located to the west bank, but another one is proposed to the eastern side. This will be challenging due to the limited width between the carpark and the river Anton.
- The trees remained non-surveyed for this exercise and will impact some of the proposed opening and access to the river.
- The river is quite sinuous, this will be tamed down to concentrate only on specific locations for improvement.
- Ramp and stairs to reach water level might also be challenging due to level difference. Further work will be needed to confirm the validity of this.



View of the proposal looking north showing the look and feel of the new riverside park (view extracted from *Concept Schemes* by Hemingway Design)



Concept plan proposals for Western Avenue Riverside Park preferred scheme with the planning boundary overlaid

# Think Andover

## Public Realm Design Guide



These pages are extracted from the Public Realm Design Guide. They show the material palette for Town & Park, and will be the base for the hard landscape materials and the furniture palette. The guide will be an important start for the selection of materials. As it was adopted in 2022, TVBC will bring their expertise and comments on how the chosen materials are being used in other built projects.

### Footways & hardstanding / TOWN (Highlights)

A locally appropriate natural stone flag paving is the preferred footway material for the inner town centre, selected to create a more unified setting and ground plane appropriate to Andover's historic context and commercial and cultural activities. The design process of any project should ensure that there isn't a blanket coverage of material, rather that materials support the existing heritage and character.

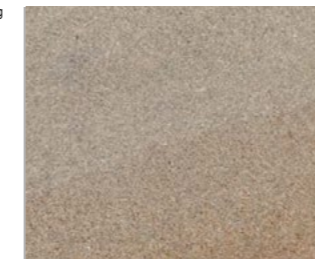


Footway / Natural Stone Flag Paving

Flag sizes can be selected appropriate to the scale of space, from a range of standard widths and random lengths which can be combined to create a varied floor pattern where desirable.

A locally appropriate natural stone flag and sett paving is the preferred material for parking and loading areas, selected for its high strength and performance. Flags and setts can be selected from a range of standard widths and random lengths. A warm grey mix with brown and beige tones is recommended to tone successfully.

All material depths and structural design to engineering specification subject to loading requirements in accordance with BS7533-101: 2021



Natural Stone flag / Flag paving, sawn edge, 400mm wide x random lengths.



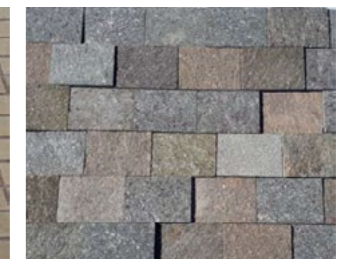
Footway detail / Matching natural stone detail highlighting thresholds.



Loading - Parking zones / Porphyry to footway flush vehicle accessible zones. Zones.



Natural Stone sett / Square setts, sawn edge, 100mm x 100mm.



Grey mix Porphyry setts / Rectangular setts, cleft edge, 100mm wide x random lengths.

### Footways & hardstanding / PARK (Typical)

The public realm immediately beyond the inner town centre is defined by a virtual ring of streets, roads and green spaces that interface with Andover's historic core, including Western and Eastern Avenue, Riverside Walk, and connections between the Health and Wellbeing Quarter towards Vigo Park. It is worth noting that the dominant existing paving material to footways in this area is asphalt. The overall intention within these areas is a move towards park streets and green spaces with paving materials that help reduce the urban heat island effect using lighter colours.

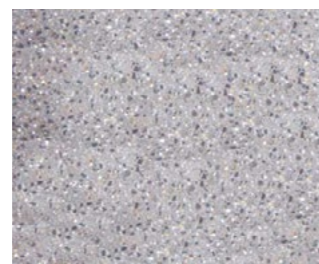
All material depths to engineering specification subject to loading requirements in accordance with BS753



Footway / Enhanced precast concrete flag paving as typical street paving material outside of the Conservation Area.

Precast concrete flag paving with coloured aggregate is the preferred typical material for footways in streets within these areas. Flags can be selected from a limited range of standard sizes and bedded on sand. Resin bonded gravel is the preferred alternative footway material to both concrete flag and asphalt paving as it can be relatively easily applied to both new and existing asphalt surfaces (in good condition) due to its minimal build up compared to resin bound gravel. Resin bonded gravel is a monolithic poured material. Resin polymer should be UV stable and used in conjunction with a locally sourced, light coloured gravel aggregate.

Resin bound gravel is the preferred typical pathway material for parks and green spaces. Resin bound gravel is a monolithic poured material. Construction should allow for permeability where conditions allow. Resin polymer should be UV stable and used in conjunction with a locally sourced, light coloured gravel aggregate. Tar spray and gravel is the preferred alternative to resin bound gravel for pathways to parks and green spaces. Again, a monolithic material with surface application of light gravel aggregate giving a more informal appearance.



Precast Concrete with Coloured Aggregate / 600mm wide x 750mm, or as proprietary.

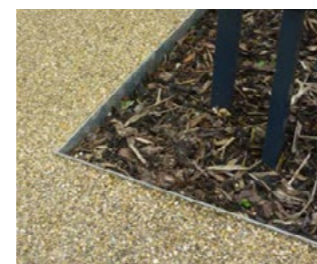


Pathway / Resin bound gravel appropriate to routes through green park spaces.



Cycleway / Dedicated and shared space cycle routes.

Coloured asphalt is the preferred typical cycleway material. Coloured asphalt is a monolithic poured material using a pigmented binder and stone aggregate. Lighter coloured pigments such as buff or muted red are preferred. Flags, setts, pavers asphalt and resin bound gravel can be installed as permeable paving with correct depths, joints and base layers where appropriate. Proprietary permeable paving products can also be considered for specific areas where desirable.



Beige Mix Resin Bound Gravel / Monolithic poured material.



Coloured Asphalt Cycleway and Clay Paver Footway / Monolithic poured material with clay pavers.

### Footways & hardstanding / PARK (Highlights)

Certain spaces will benefit from a distinct material surface finish that complements the more typical paving materials to highlight their role and significance within the outer zones of the town centre. These are anticipated to be relatively small areas that link the identity of the outer town centre areas with specific more central spaces.

Purbeck natural flag and sett stone paving is one of a range of preferred materials for signifying primary key highlight spaces, for example, in relation to special buildings or to define key thresholds. Suitable alternatives to Purbeck are porphyry flags and setts, clay pavers or concrete blocks and also recycled materials such as York stone or suitable bricks.

All material depths to engineering specification subject to loading requirements in accordance with BS7533.



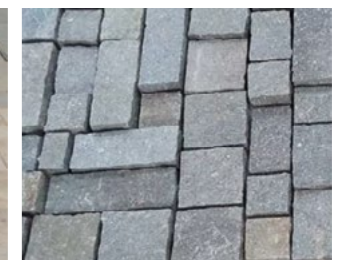
Public Space Feature / Limestone e.g. Purbeck as one of a range of high quality highlight material to key public space features, eg Pocket Square beside Bus Station.



Riverside Terrace / Porphyry to terraced edge spaces.



Purbeck Limestone / Flag paving, sawn edge, 400mm wide x random lengths.



Grey mix Porphyry setts / Rectangular setts, cleft edge setts 100mm wide x random lengths.

# Think Andover

## Public Realm Design Guide

Extracted from the same document as the materials palette, the planting has been developed in these pages.

The landscape design and the softworks will be based on the chalkland typology, related to the River Anton, and expanded to respond to the location, the biodiversity, and the future-proofing of the project, climate change and other challenges.



### SuDS design within the Anton Corridor

Development and public realm proposals within the Anton Corridor must seek to address and improve water quality by ensuring SuDS proposals are fully-functioning and that any run-off entering storm water drains, ground or water courses:

- Eliminates/minimises sources of particulate pollution - silt and clay discharges (silt traps, sedimentation ponds, filter beds as necessary)
- Eliminates hydro-carbon contamination from surface run-off through trapping (e.g. petrol interceptors as necessary)
- Eliminates run-off containing salt and other de-icing chemicals
- Eliminates chemical contamination from insecticides (from agricultural/horticultural pesticides and by preventing dogs entering the chalk stream)
- Reduces nutrient status (eliminates nitrified run-off from planted areas or topsoil ( using settlement and reed beds, and discouraging duck-feeding on the main water course)
- Eliminates construction impacts through implementation of a rigorous Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), and measures such as interceptors, silt-dams and desilting lagoons where appropriate.

### Proposals for the river channel

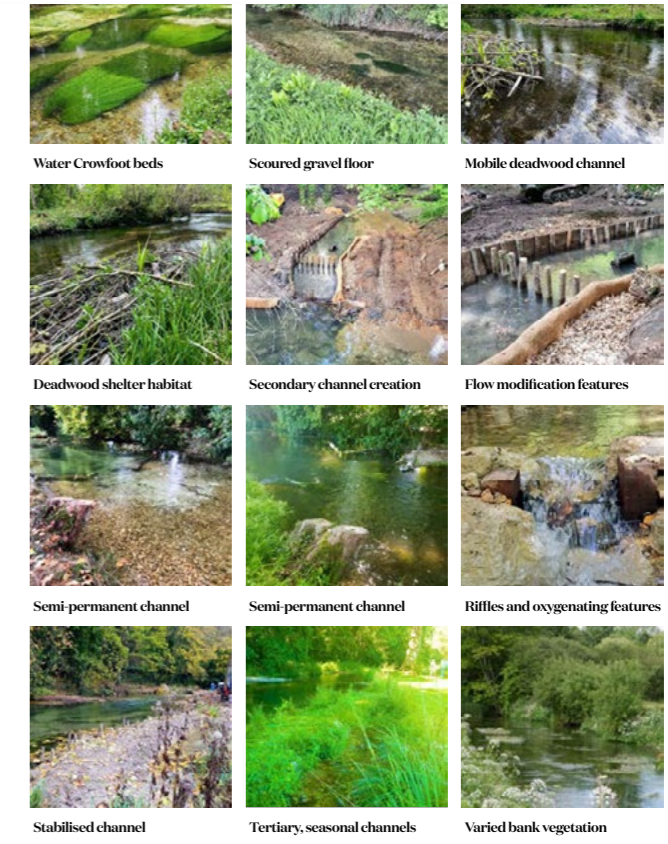
Where modification is proposed to the immediate river channel or connected flood plain, measures should aim to establish a more complex and fast flowing braided channel system, but must only be developed with the consent of the Environment Agency and as part of the wider Anton Enhancement Scheme (or its successor).

Proposals for the Anton's reach alongside Western Avenue will look to address flow speed and diversity, bed characteristics and bank conditions. Proposals are in development for in-channel features and removal of barriers in accordance with the Anton Enhancement Scheme aims. These measures are to be led and instigated with specialist engineering, ecological and hydrological input.

Channel treatments may include:

- Primary and secondary braided channels
- Fixed and mobile deadwood channel features
- Gravel bed reinstatement
- Riffles and oxygenating features
- Other flow modification features
- Tertiary seasonal channels

Bank vegetation management is also important to maintaining shade (for cool water temperatures) while preventing dense overgrowth from stifling biodiversity.



## Chalkland Townscape

Outside the Anton Corridor, Andover is built on alkaline, chalky soils and bedrock. The townscape still retains species and characteristics of the natural and agricultural landscape which preceded the town, in the trees, hedges, verges and wild areas.

Rural chalkland landscapes can be very broadly categorised as a series of three successional stages. These three planting types form the basis of recommended basic planting palettes for Andover, but can be adapted for use as the basis for planting for verges, hedges, screens, street trees, rain gardens and ornamental planting.

- Chalk Grassland: Characterised by an array of wildflowers, invertebrates and fungi which are unique to the shallow, low-nutrient and alkaline soil conditions of the highly porous chalk bedrock. Chalk grasslands are known for their rich biodiversity and unique ecological communities, especially the complex interactions between flora and invertebrates, and iconic plants including orchids and meadow annuals. It is sustained through regular grazing or cutting, which prevents scrub development.
- Chalk scrub and shrubland: Where grazing (or cutting) is reduced, or shrubs are promoted through topography or cultivation, grassland gives way to a rich mosaic of grassland and shrub species, also highly characteristic of the underlying geology and soils. These are host plants to many of the species of butterflies and other invertebrates, and provide cover for birds and small mammals.
- Chalk Woodland: Left to develop, shrublands provide cover for larger woodland tree species to establish. Chalk woodlands are often found on the slopes of chalkland valleys sides, where agriculture has been less viable due to gradients. These woods, often known as "hangers", cling to the sides of valleys and to the steep escarpments, and are found across the chalk landscapes of southern England.



### Vegetation Characteristics

The Anton corridor is dominated by alder, with willows and sallow, poplar and birch. The characteristic domed or conical crown, rounded leaves and cones of alder should remain a dominant and constant feature demarcating and differentiating the valley floor, from the valley sides.

Within the valley floor zone, alder is also suitable for use within streetscape and paved areas.

Multi-stem trees, coppices, pollards and hedges are all typical in the Anton Corridor, and maintaining a range of forms will contribute to the range of habitats and niches for invertebrates, birds and bats.

Clear stem trees are generally most appropriate for street tree planting.

Multi-stem trees, pollards and shrub forms should be used where space permits to diversify character within the valley floor.

Traditionally laid hedges should be used where a continuous barrier is required, and correct management can be enacted.

### Tree and shrub planting species selection

Planting design will depend upon the development and context, and should be designed for the specific conditions. Native species should form a substantial component of most planting schemes, and designers should address their approach to biodiversity and native planting within design statements.

Where feasible within the Corridor, native species with local provenance should be specified. This means a local source of seed-grown (or cloned) nursery material. However, it is understood that local sources may not be available.

Native species should be from the range found within the Anton and Test valley floor. Typical native species might include:

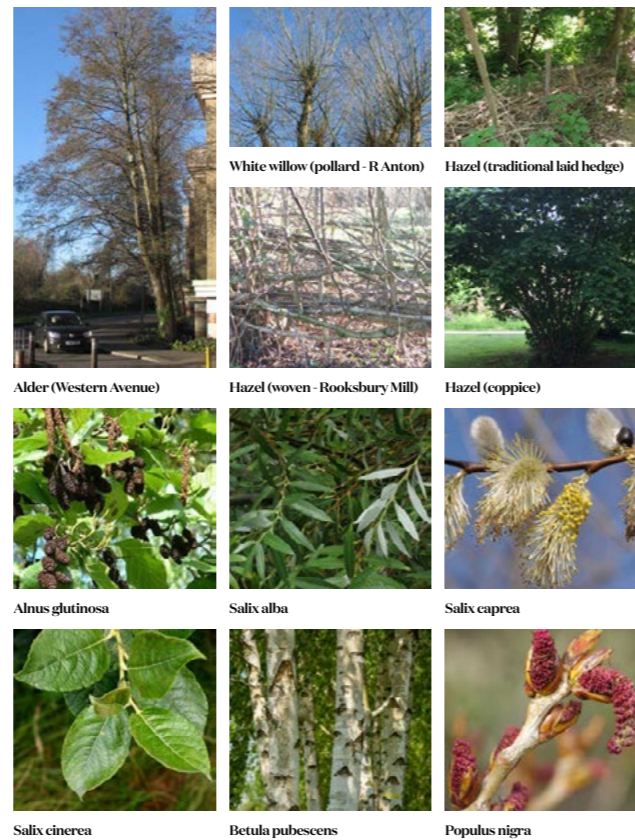
- Alnus glutinosa - alder (dominant species)
- Betula pubescens - downy birch
- Corylus avellana - hazel
- Frangula alnus - alder buckthorn
- Ilex aquifolium - holly
- Populus nigra - black poplar
- Populus tremula - aspen
- Prunus avium - wild cherry
- Prunus padus - bird cherry
- Quercus
- Salix alba - white willow
- Salix caprea - sallow
- Salix cinerea - grey willow
- Salix fragilis - crack willow
- Sambucus nigra - elder

For ornamental and non-native planting in high-use and special areas, appropriate exotic trees and shrubs are acceptable.

Examples of potential non-native species (or varieties) tolerant of wetter valley floor areas might include:

- Alnus glutinosa Imperialis - cut-leaved alder
- Cornus florida - Florida dogwood
- Taxodium distichum - swamp cypress
- Corylus avellana Purpurea - purple hazel

Care must be taken to prevent introduction or spread of invasive (especially non-native invasive) species within the Corridor. These include plants which reproduce either through seed or vegetative means.



## Existing Conditions

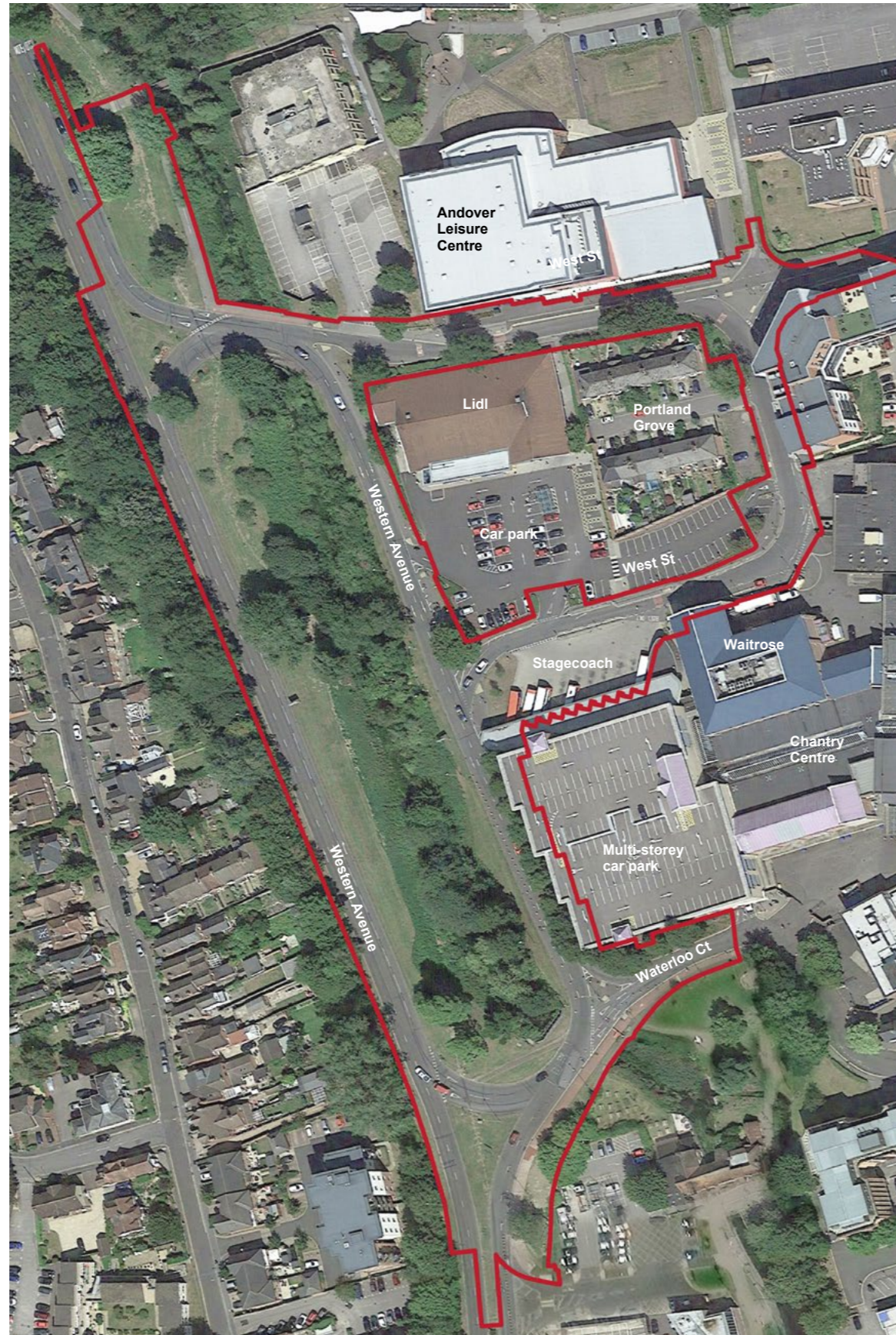
### Satellite View

The satellite image depicts a section of Andover, with the Riverside Park project boundary clearly marked by a red dashed line. This area encompasses a mix of urban and green infrastructure, including roads, buildings, car parks, and vegetation.

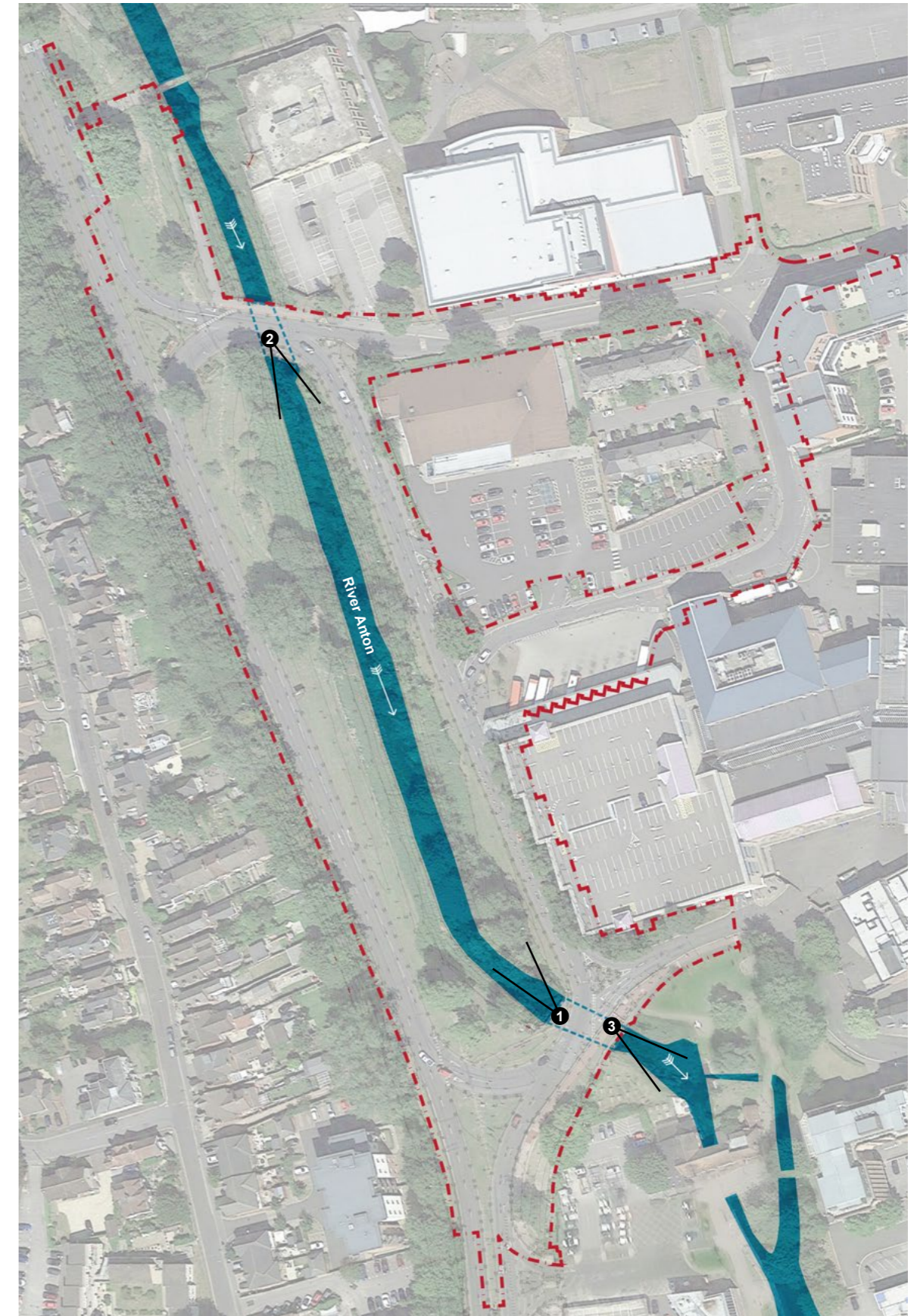
Adjacent to the gyratory, the bus station and the multi-storey car park are visible on the image's right-hand side, situated on the eastern edge of the Red Line Boundary. Multiple car parks cluster around larger structures, signalling zones of high vehicular activity.

Beyond the red boundary (to the left), residential neighbourhoods feature tightly spaced housing and modest green spaces, contrasting with the central study area. Significant vegetation is evident, particularly along the gyratory periphery and to the west, where mature trees and shrubs enhance both visual and ecological value.

The River Anton meanders through the heart of the site, intersecting the gyratory green space and forming a natural corridor that links urban, parkland, and residential zones—an asset for biodiversity and scenic quality within the proposed scheme.



Satellite image



River Anton characteristics

# Existing Conditions

## Site Photos



(1) River Anton - South view



Southern entrance to site



Central space of the site



Bus station - Eastern entrance



(2) River Anton - North view



Northern bridge above River Anton



Group of trees and vegetation along the River - Eastern edge



Traffic road - Western edge of the site



(3) River Anton & Town Mills



Along the roundabout - Next to Lidl Plot



Trees along the carpark



Chantry street to Town Centre

# Existing Conditions

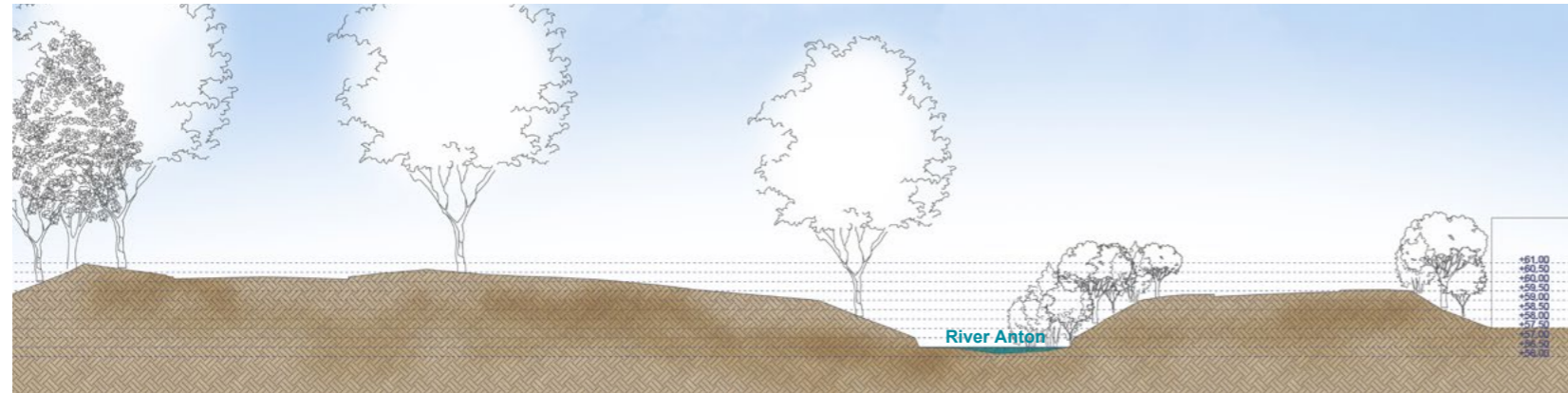
## Topography & Levels

Andover, located in the county of Hampshire, presents a varied topography that plays a significant role in its landscape and urban planning. The town is situated in a valley formed by the River Anton, with gentle slopes rising from the riverbanks, creating a predominantly undulating terrain.

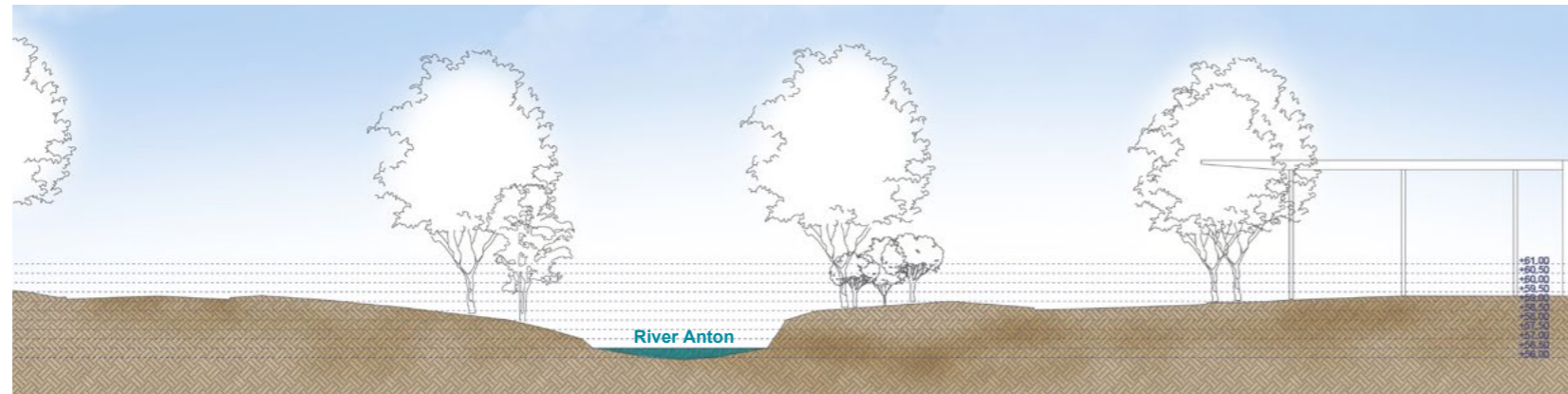
The elevation within the site boundary ranges from around +57.50 meters above sea level near the Town Mills to higher grounds reaching approximately +61.00 meters next to the West Street bridge, to the North.

This gradual rise in elevation will help to ensure the landscape is accessible and will contribute to the town's picturesque views and offers natural drainage advantages. This topography not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of Andover but also supports a variety of flora and fauna, making it a unique blend of urban and natural environments.

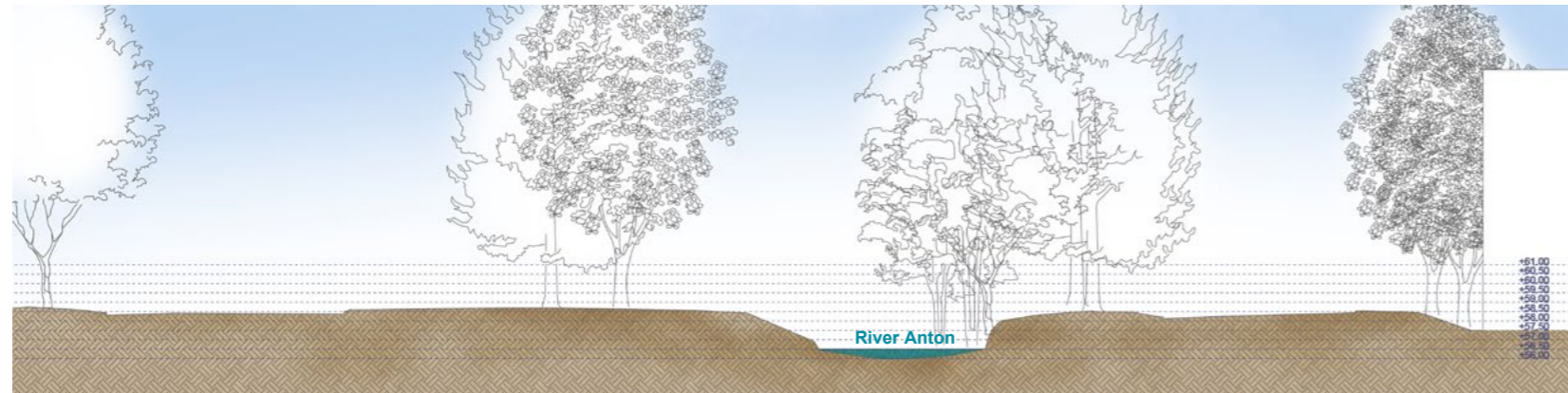
The River Anton sits at 56.5 metres above sea level, lying approximately 2 to 3 metres below the surrounding ground level. Careful grading, terracing, and strategic viewpoints will be essential to harmonise human engagement with the river's inherent topographic and hydrological conditions.



Topographical section 1 - northern part



Topographical section 2 - central part



Topographical section 3 - southern part



Levels diagram

# Existing Conditions

## Tree Survey

The tree survey is overlaid with the satellite image. The project is looking at opportunities to open the views and access to the river will involve removing selected trees.

The scheme has focussed on avoiding removal of any high quality trees and aims to retain as many trees as possible whilst meeting the scheme objectives. Trees that are removed will be compensated for within the site through additional planting and suitable species will be agreed with the landscape and tree officers.

Further information are available in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, prepared by LUC.



Large tree around the Waterloo Court/Western Avenue bridge



Trees along the eastern side of Western Avenue gyratory



Tree survey diagram

- Tree category A
- Tree category B
- Tree category C
- Tree category U
- Existing tree (non-surveyed off-site)

	Category A	Category B	Category C	Category U
Within site boundary	2 trees	34 trees, 1 group	28 trees, 11 groups, 1 hedge	1 tree
Outside of the site boundary	-	6 trees	9 trees, 5 groups, 5 hedges	

Categorisation of trees surveyed

## Site Analysis

### Scope of Works & Planning application

The red line boundary encompasses both the Riverside Park and associated highway and river works, ensuring integrated delivery of these elements. While this scheme forms part of a larger southern development, the critical focus remains on harmonising the park's design with the road realignment and river enhancements.

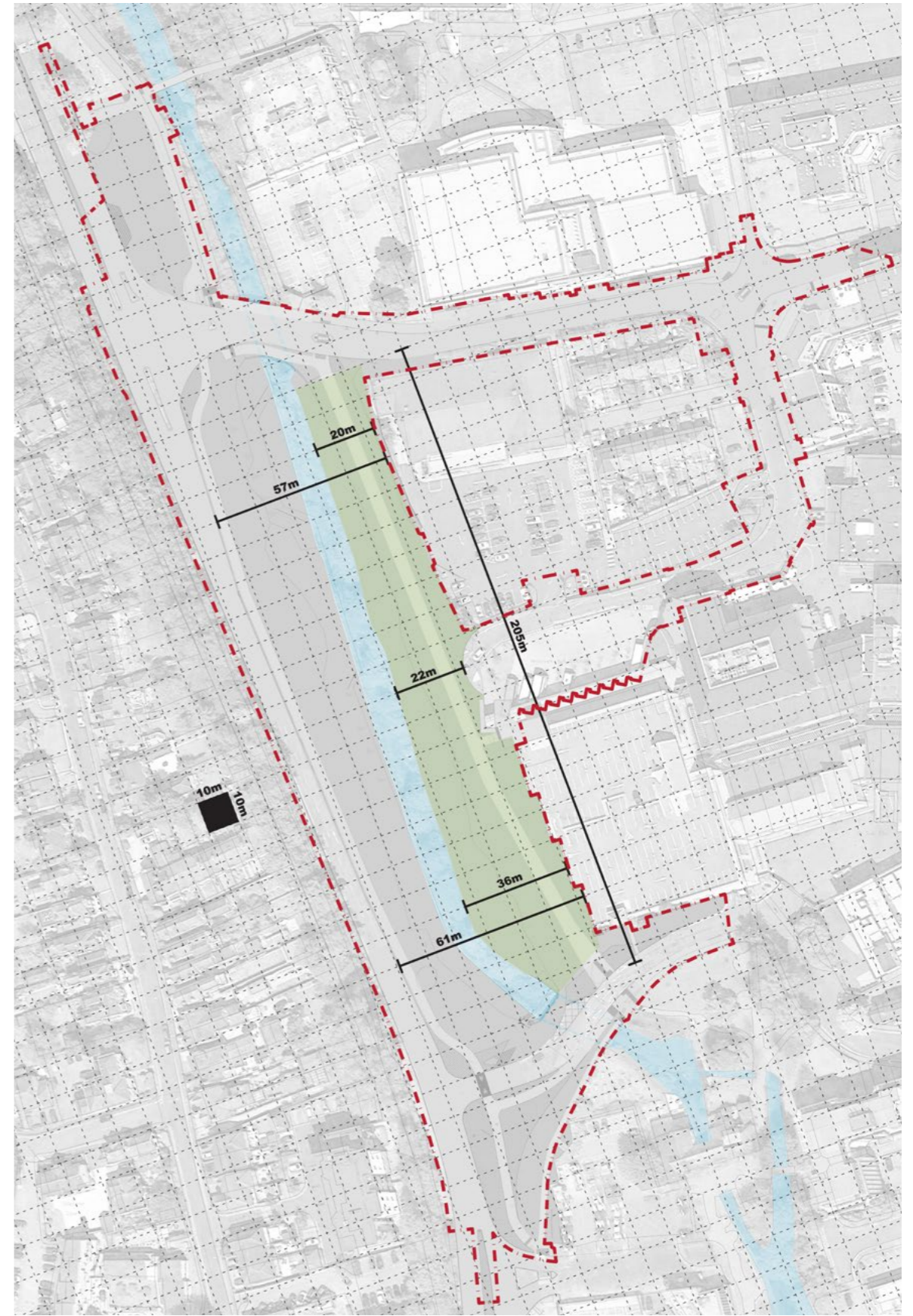
It should be noted that the river enhancement works to be undertaken by Southern Water have been confirmed to be permitted development (application reference 24/01337/CLPN).

Key interventions include the removal of the Western Avenue gyratory through kerb realignment, a new riverside cycle lane, and strategic landscaping to unify the park with the River Anton's ecological and visual character. Close coordination between landscape, highway, and river teams will be essential to achieve a cohesive outcome.

The Riverside Park extends approximately 200 metres in length, mirroring the stretch of High Street between the Guildhall and Bridge Street, with a variable width of 15–25 metres. This linear form aligns with the town centre's grain, creating a green counterpart to the historic retail frontages. The park's proportions (similar in footprint to key urban blocks) ensure it feels integral to the town's structure, while the narrower width prioritises intimacy with the river.



Ownership diagram



Dimensions diagram

- Planning application for Riverside Park
- Riverside Park extent

## Site Analysis

### Highways & Water coordination

The project is a joint process, combining landscape design from LUC for Test Valley Borough Council, with Highways from Hampshire County Council & the River works from Southern water.

There is a new cycle lane connecting to an existing lane in the North. The dedicated lane runs on the Western edge of the River Anton. Other works involve the redesign of the bus station and its circulation. The gyratory is removed and the Western Avenue is converted into a single lane dual carriageway.

The River works will be confined to the existing channel, focusing on subtle interventions to improve ecological function and connectivity. With careful interventions, the proposed river habitat works seek to reinstate a greater variety of priority chalk stream habitats within the channel, and support the sustainability of this habitat and species ensuring resilience into the future. This will be done by carefully modifying the shape of the channel bed and lower banks to create more variation in water depth and velocity, helping support the establishment and maintenance of these natural chalk stream habitat forms.

All these works create a large public space and a cohesive transition between engineered and naturalised part of the site, in lieu of the Western Avenue gyratory.



Joint project diagram

#### Riverside Park landscape design



#### Highway works



#### River Anton enhancement



- Project boundary
- River - Southern Water
- Highways - Hampshire CC
- Landscape - Test Valley BC
- Landscape intervention within highway works

# Site Analysis

## Traffic Areas

The diagram highlights the trafficked area and the potential noise and visual nuisance from the surrounding roads. However, the new road layout, which removes the Western Avenue gyratory, creates a naturally quieter zone where the park will be situated.

To further enhance tranquillity, additional measures will be implemented in line with the 'For quieter and greener cities' guidance. Landscape and topographic elements, such as dense planting and subtle level changes, will act as natural barriers to reduce traffic noise and visual intrusion. These interventions will not only shield the park but also reinforce its ecological and sensory qualities, fostering a more peaceful retreat within the urban environment.



1) Northern bridge on Western Avenue / West Street



2) Waterloo Court / Western Avenue



3) Lidl carpark and Bus station

- Project boundary
- Trafficked road
- Crossing point
- Existing tree
- Noise



Traffic area and constraints

## Site Analysis

### Urban Grain

Andover presents an interesting study in urban grain, particularly when comparing the residential areas in the west to the Chantry Centre and town centre in the east.

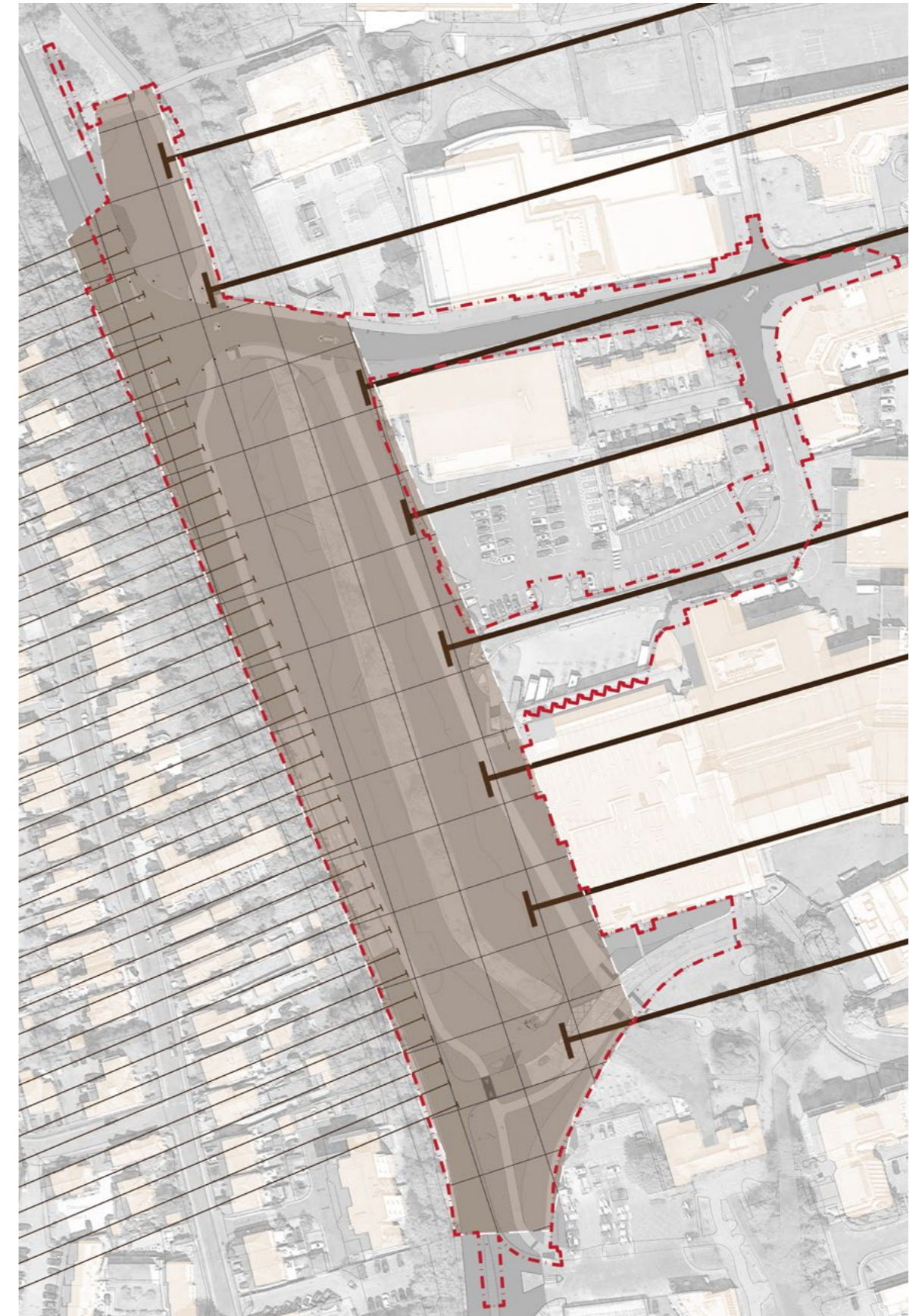
The urban grain of Andover's residential zones is fine-grained, characterised by small to medium-sized houses, often one to two storeys high and closely spaced. This layout fosters an intimate, community-oriented atmosphere, with narrow, winding streets that create a quieter, more private living environment. The design of these areas follows a suburban pattern, featuring curvilinear streets and cul-de-sacs to enhance tranquillity and seclusion. Green spaces and parks are woven into these neighbourhoods, offering recreational areas for residents and strengthening the sense of community.

In stark contrast, the Chantry Centre reflects a coarser urban grain, with larger buildings designed for commercial use. Structures here are multi-storey and occupy a significantly larger footprint than residential properties. The layout is more grid-based, simplifying navigation and access for pedestrians and vehicles—a necessity for a bustling commercial hub. Open spaces are utilitarian, prioritising paved plazas and pedestrian routes that serve as gathering points for shoppers and visitors.

Understanding these contrasts is vital for the site's landscape design and urban planning. The proposals will act as a threshold between the two, ensuring seamless transitions and connections across the town. This approach will harmonise the urban experience for residents and visitors alike.



Building footprints



Grids and transition

## Site Analysis

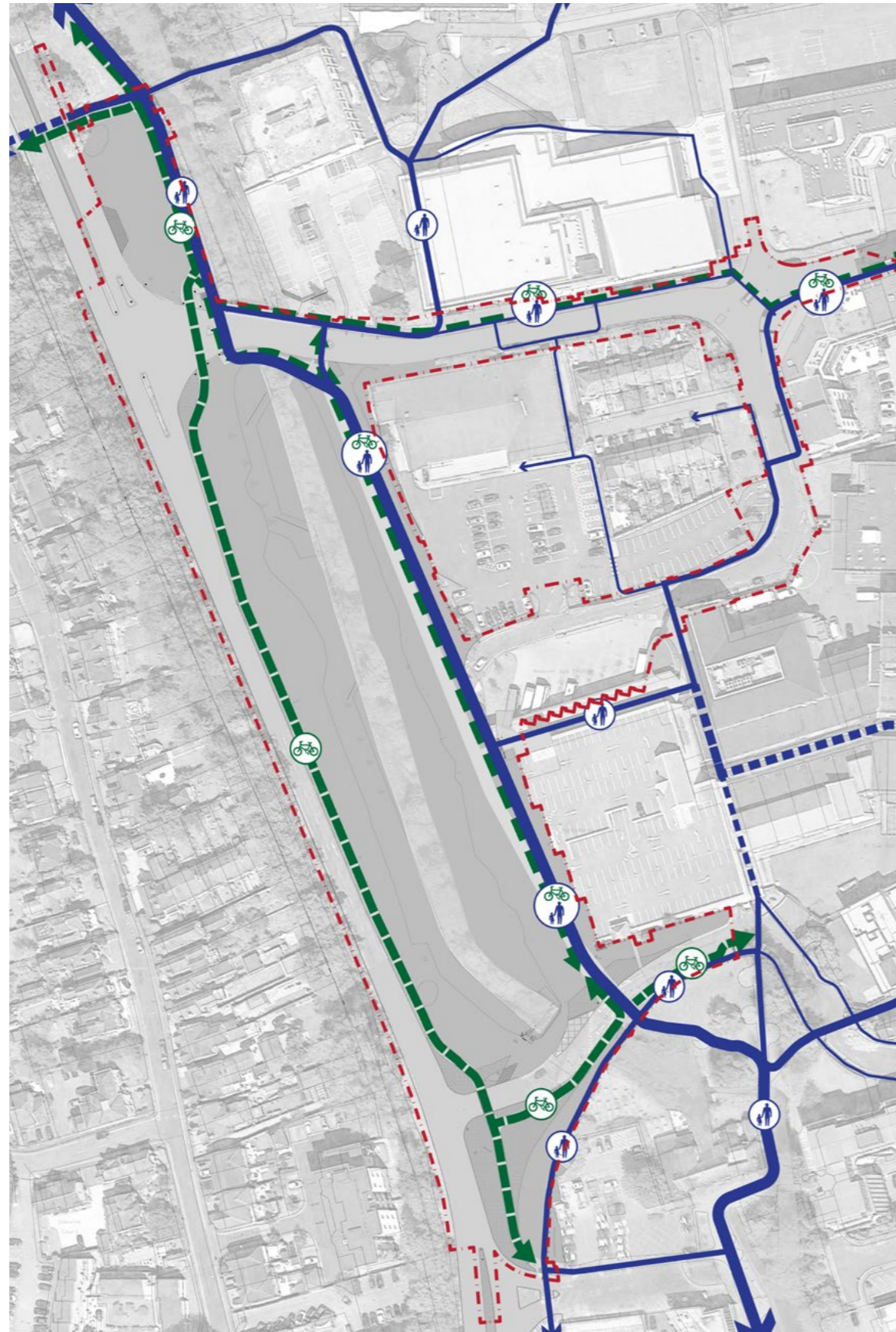
### Access & Movement

Proposed pedestrian and cyclist circulation routes are delineated in the diagram on the right.

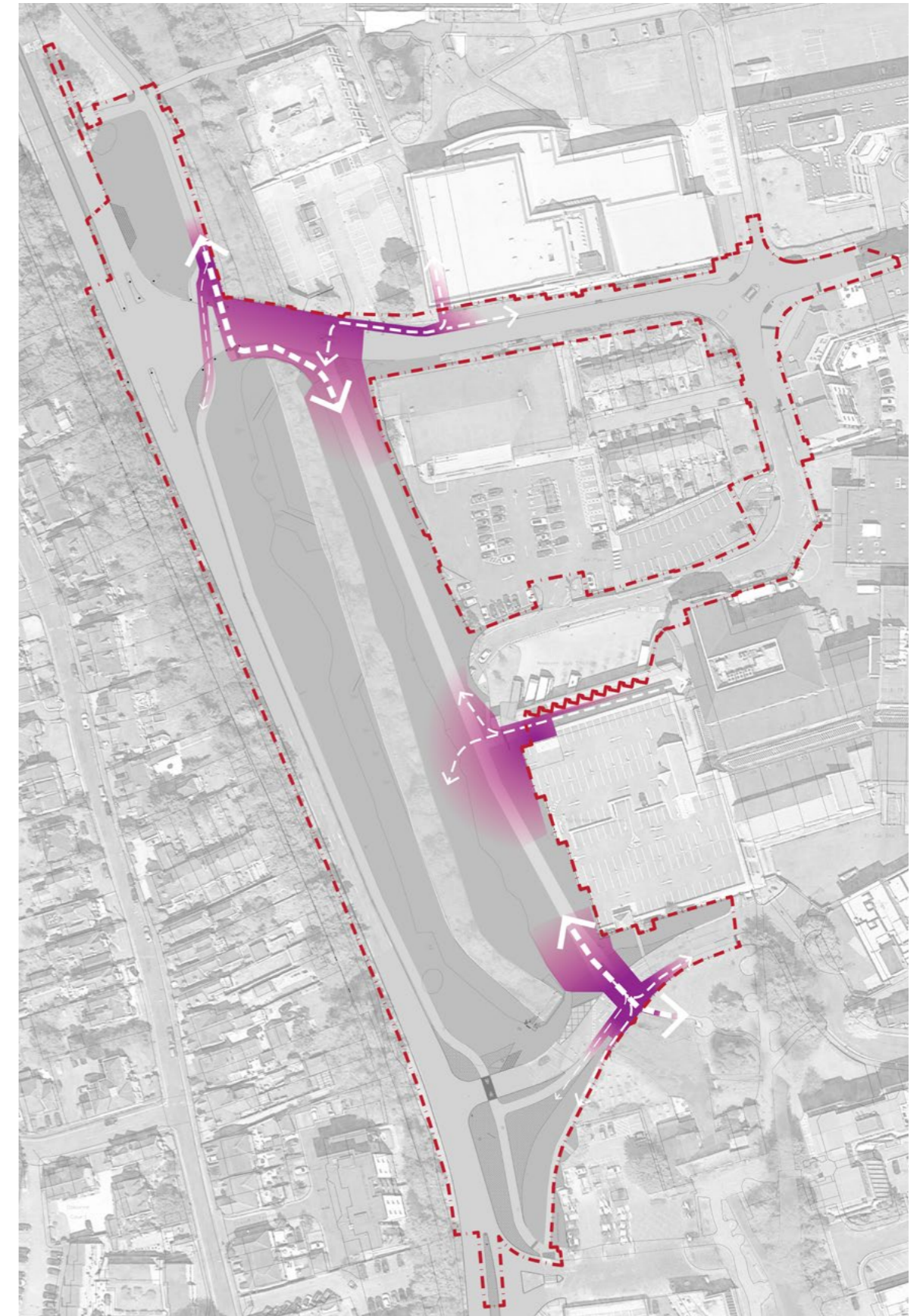
A new cycle lane is proposed along the western bank of the river, offering a direct route, connecting to existing cycle routes.

Additionally, there is potential for establishing a covered access point through the multi-storey car park, establishing a connection between the Chantry Centre and the project site.

The site features three entrances, with landscape enhancements primarily concentrated on the northern and southern access points. The central entrance will also see proposed improvements, albeit as a secondary focus, with plans for an expanded waiting area adjacent to the bus station.



Pedestrian movement



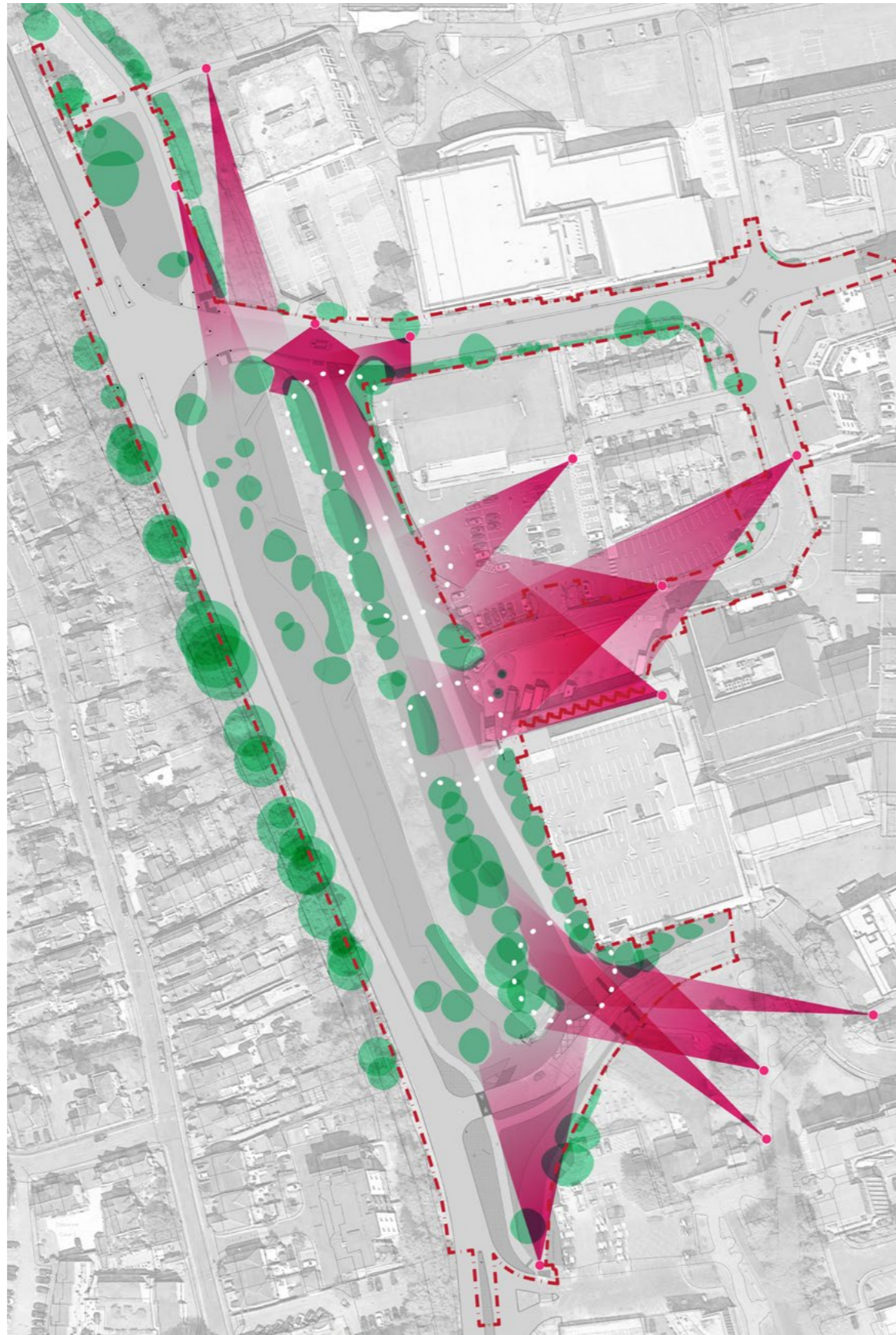
Access & entrances

## Site Analysis

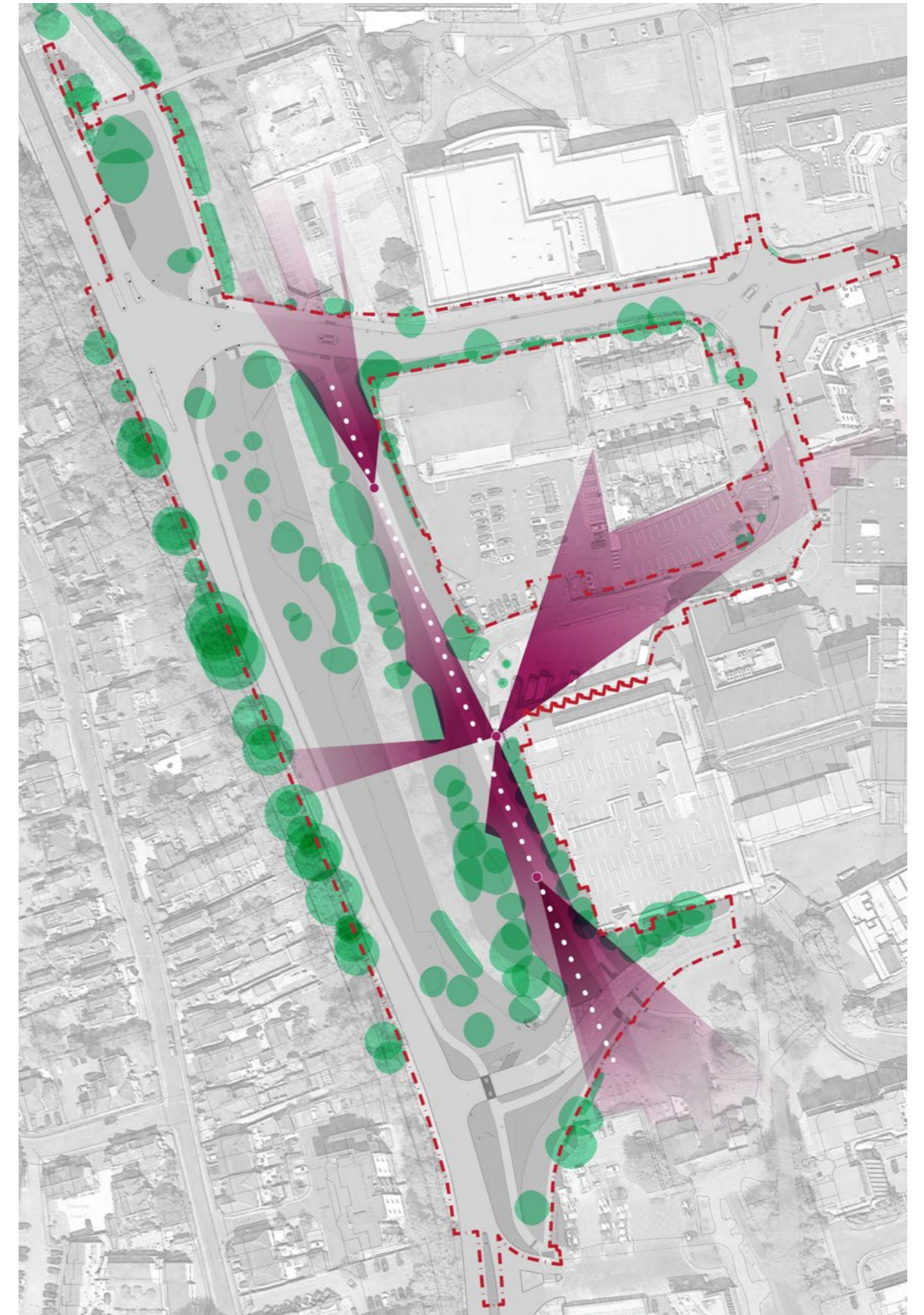
### View Corridors

Within the site, inward views frequently hone in on particular elements, highlighting the unique features that shape the site's character. The presence of existing trees and buildings strategically direct attention towards the entrances and over the expansive car park located between the bus station and Lidl.

Outward perspectives from the site are notably constrained, emphasising the dominance of the North-South axis. Only select locations afford broader vistas, such as the viewpoint towards St. Mary's Church, as discussed in the previous section.



Inward views



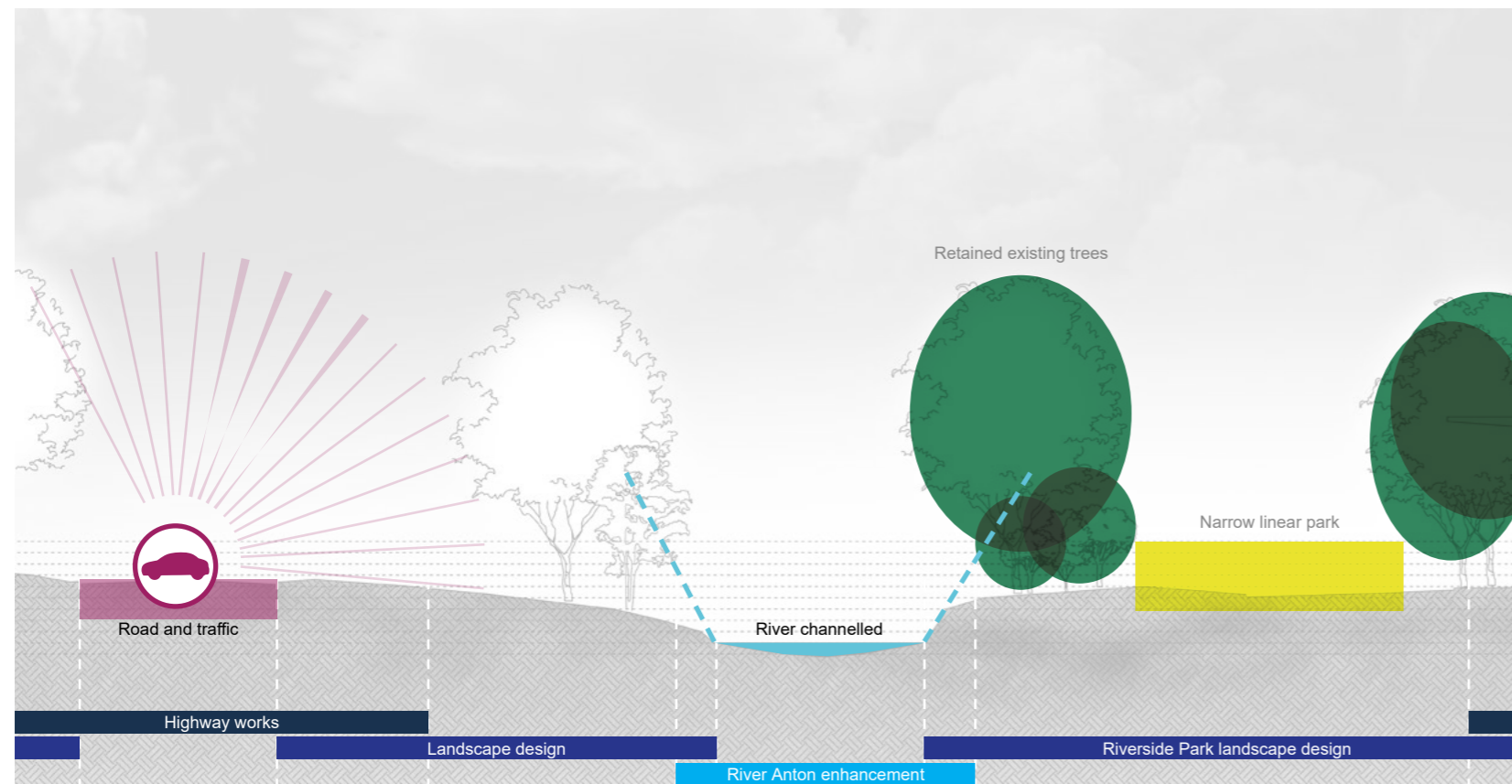
Outward views

## Site Analysis

### Site constraints

The site presents several key constraints that inform the design approach.

- The River Anton, currently confined within steep, channelised banks, offers limited opportunities for naturalisation but allows targeted interventions to soften edges and enhance ecological value.
- Along the eastern boundary, mature trees, a defining feature of the site, must be retained, requiring careful integration of new planting and selective pruning to balance preservation with visual permeability.
- Proximity to Western Avenue introduces a potential noise source for the park. This can be reduced through a landscape-led approach. The noise assessment however shows that the road adjustment would produce a betterment to the ambient sound levels within the proposed area of greenspace and that no specific mitigation is required.
- The park's linear, narrow configuration demands efficient spatial planning to accommodate multifunctional uses while maintaining connectivity.
- Successful delivery hinges on close coordination between landscape, highway, and river engineering teams to align priorities such as cycle path integration, water management, and habitat creation.
- Existing topography and tree cover restrict views, prompting strategically framed vistas to the river and landmarks.



Topographical section - central part



Site constraints diagram

## Site Analysis

### Opportunities for the Riverside park

The landscape design transforms site constraints into opportunities through green, inclusive solutions.

- While the River Anton steep and channelised banks remain largely unchanged, two strategic locations will bring walkways closer to the water's edge, creating intimate moments of connection where topography allows.
- The retained mature trees will define key spaces, such as the entrance and central squares, blending existing ecological value with new social hubs.
- A continuous, inclusive route will follow the linear park's length, featuring frequent seating (designed for all abilities) and focal points like heritage-inspired installations or gathering spaces, transforming the corridor into a dynamic journey.
- By enhancing links to the river's eastern bank and integrating historical references into features, the design will root the park into Andover's identity.

This approach demonstrates how subtle, context-sensitive interventions, prioritising accessibility, ecology, and local narratives, can unlock a constrained site's potential.



Lobby squares



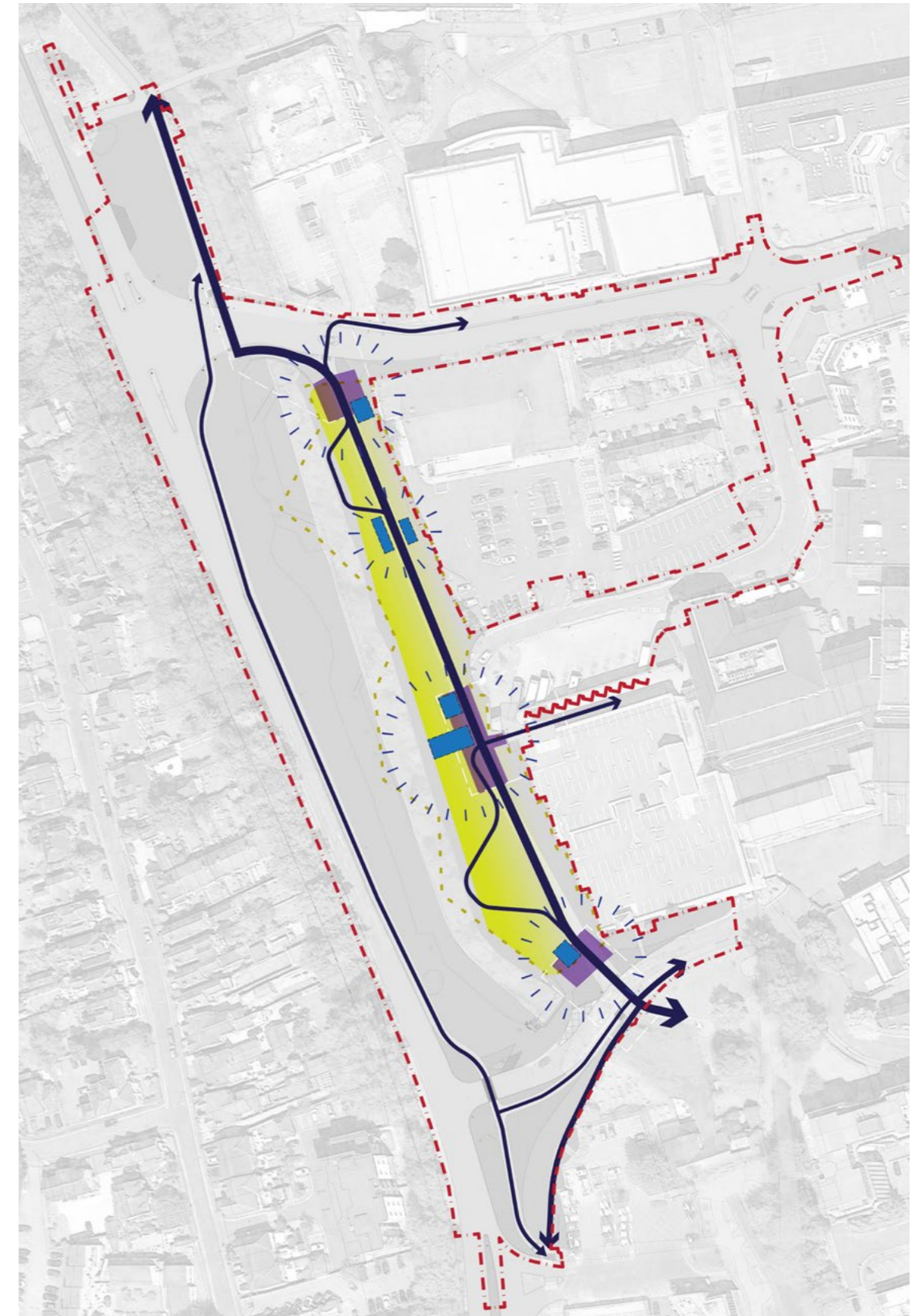
Transit lines



Lingering spaces



Focus points



Opportunity diagram

# Design Development

## Landscape Vision

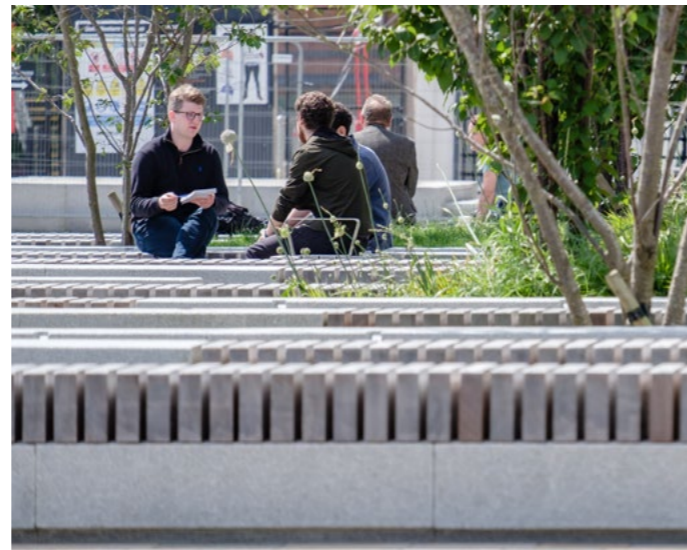


### A place that is relevant to its local community

The park is designed to feature a central space that serves as a vibrant hub for events and gatherings, fostering community interaction and celebration. It offers a variety of uses to cater to visitors of all ages, ensuring that every corner of the park provides opportunities for recreation and enjoyment. Accessible routes connect all areas, making the park navigable and inclusive for everyone. Comfortable seating is thoughtfully placed along these pathways, encouraging relaxation and rest throughout the journey. Additionally, a covered space has been incorporated to provide shelter, ensuring that the park remains functional and welcoming in various weather conditions.



Gathering space



Seating and rest area



Play area



Landscape vision



Social and inclusive

## Design Development

### Landscape Vision

#### A place that promotes local arts and supports the evening economy

The park is organised around three main areas: two welcoming entrances and a vibrant central square. Open views towards the river and the town enhance the sense of connection to Andover's natural and urban surroundings. The entrance square serves as a visual focal point, drawing visitors into the park and setting the tone for their experience. At the heart of the design, the central square plays a vital role as a gathering space, hosting events and annual activities that bring the Andover community together. Additionally, innovative play elements are seamlessly integrated throughout the park, providing engaging opportunities for recreation and discovery.



Entrance



Creative and Exchange space



Learning



Landscape vision



Creative and enterprising

## Design Development

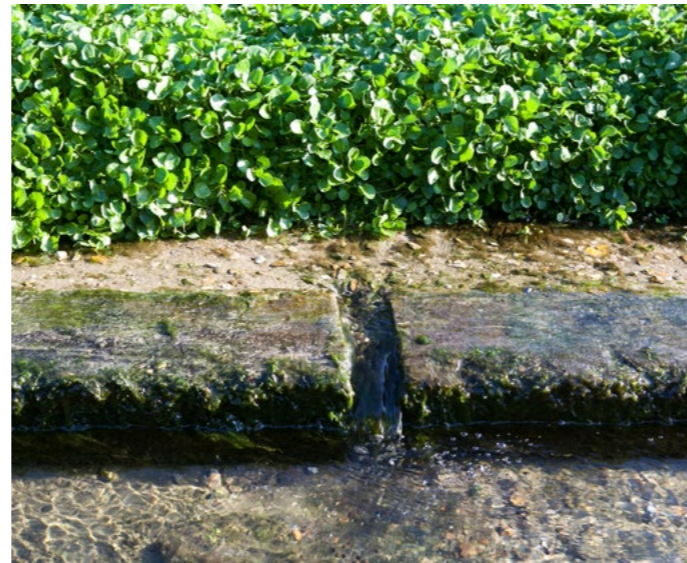
### Landscape Vision

A place that values its heritage assets, it is important to revitalise the historic core with culture at its heart.

The park's design draws inspiration from the past, creating unique and engaging spaces that honour Andover's history. It is divided into four distinct areas: the Watercress Beds and Pond, the Boathouse, the Bridge and Bunching Sheds, and the Railway Station. Each space reflects its historical theme through carefully selected materials and a cohesive design language, creating a meaningful connection to the town's heritage. These spaces are organised to follow the sequence of watercress cultivation, from production to hydro-cooling, bunching, and transport, ensuring that the park tells a story while offering a variety of experiences for visitors.



Landscape vision



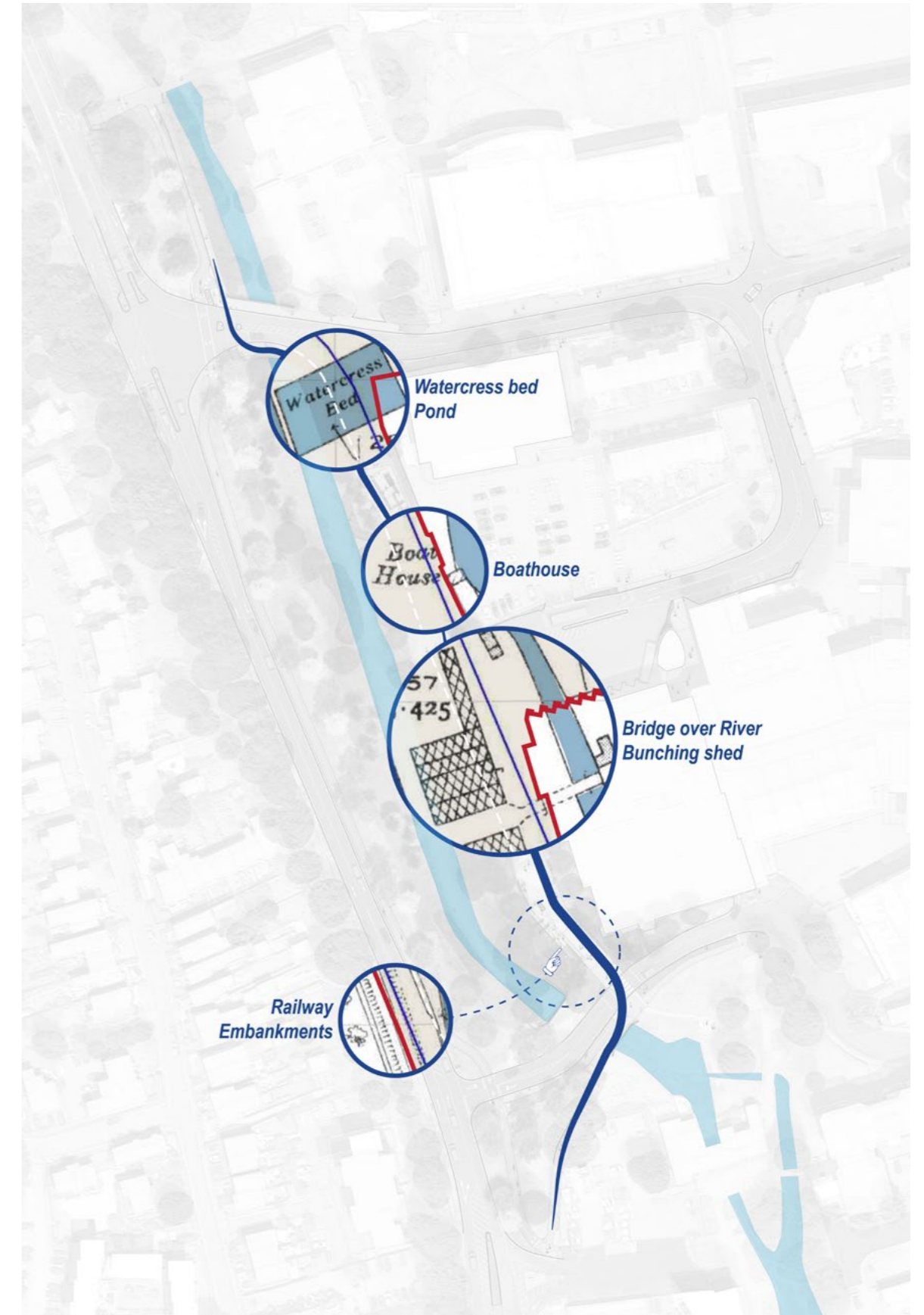
Watercress in beds (from [watercress.co.uk](http://watercress.co.uk))



Staff packing watercress in a bunching shed (from [thewatercresscompany.com](http://thewatercresscompany.com))



Fleet of vehicles with rail tracks (from [thewatercresscompany.com](http://thewatercresscompany.com))



Unique and independent

## Design Development Landscape Vision

**A place that addresses the climate emergency, helping to increase its biodiversity and eliminate its carbon footprint.**

The River Anton will be enhanced to become a more prominent and vibrant feature of the park. Southern Water, as part of their Chalk Stream Resilience Fund, are undertaking significant improvements to the river Anton that will enhance the chalk stream habitat of the river. The River works will modify the channel bed to create more variation in light and shade, water depth and velocity, helping support new marginal planting and enhance its habitat. While preserving as much of the existing planting as possible, the design introduces vibrant new vegetation to enhance the park's natural beauty.



River enhancement (image from Cain Bio Engineering, Southern Water's contractor)



Vibrant planting along new pathway



Existing planting preservation



Landscape vision



Green and ethical

## Design Development Planting Concept

Planting areas based on the *Public Realm Design Guide (2022)*. The planting and soft landscape aim to emphasise both the existing river character and the urban characteristics of Andover.

We will use the recommended planting palette based on Andover's Chalkland Landscape, especially the Anton corridor and the Chalkland Townscape as a base with additional species to provide increased ecological and visual interest.

Each planting type is also associated with an activity of the site.



### Marginal planting

Transitional habitats around the River Anton, soften the bank to introduce more planting.



### Active bed

Grass meadow mown, support for activities and gathering.



### Passive glade

Wildflower meadow, actor of biodiversity, that is left alone, mostly transition between marginal planting and active planting. Low maintenance but lots of plants.



### Protective holt

Scrub and woodland that creates protection and threshold to the site, mostly located at the main entrances (Northern and southern access, as well as the central part).

Images extracted from *Public Realm Design Guide (2022)*



Planting concept

## Design Development

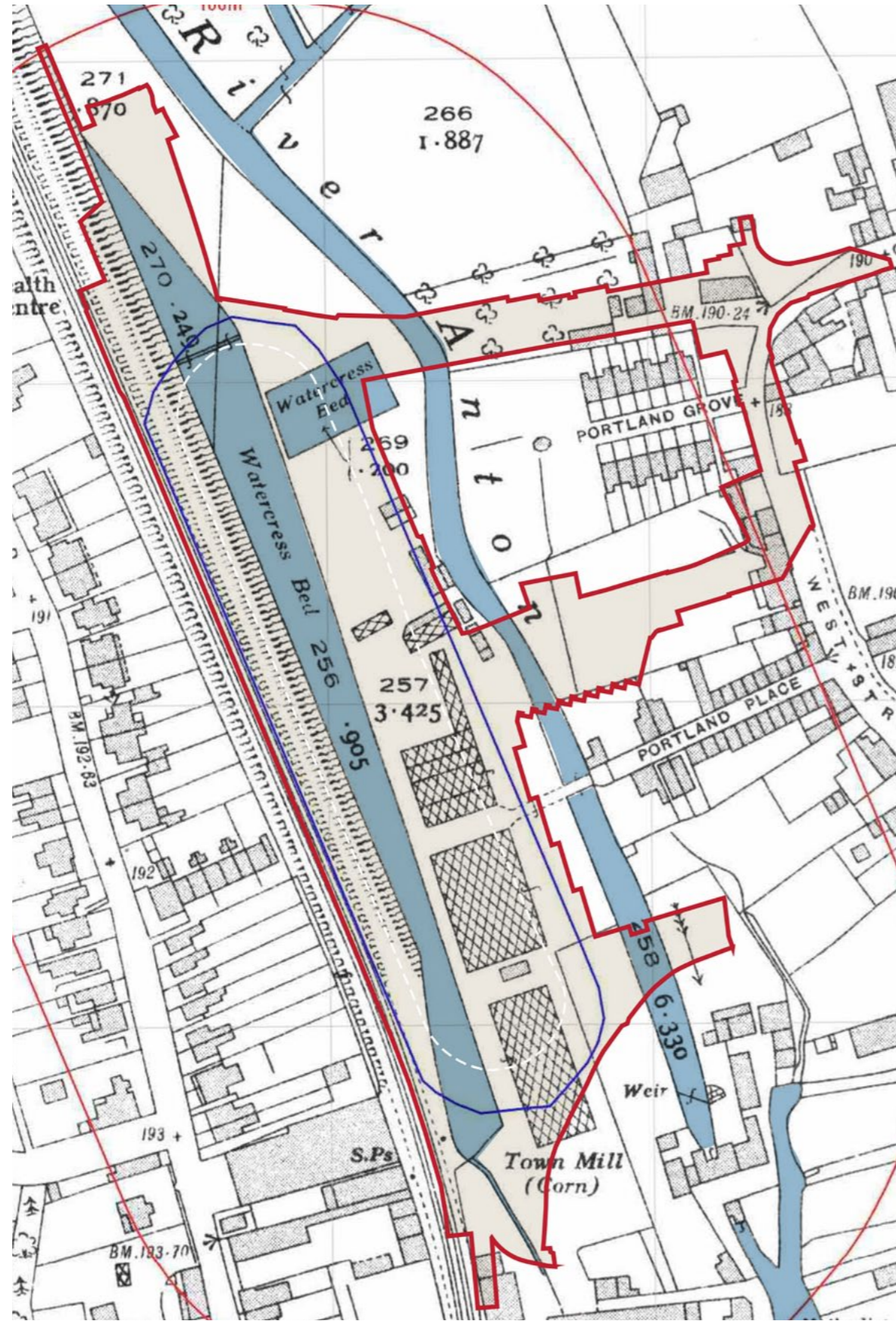
### Historical Traces

The landscape design will reference certain elements from the past to build a strong design and to recall previous site features.

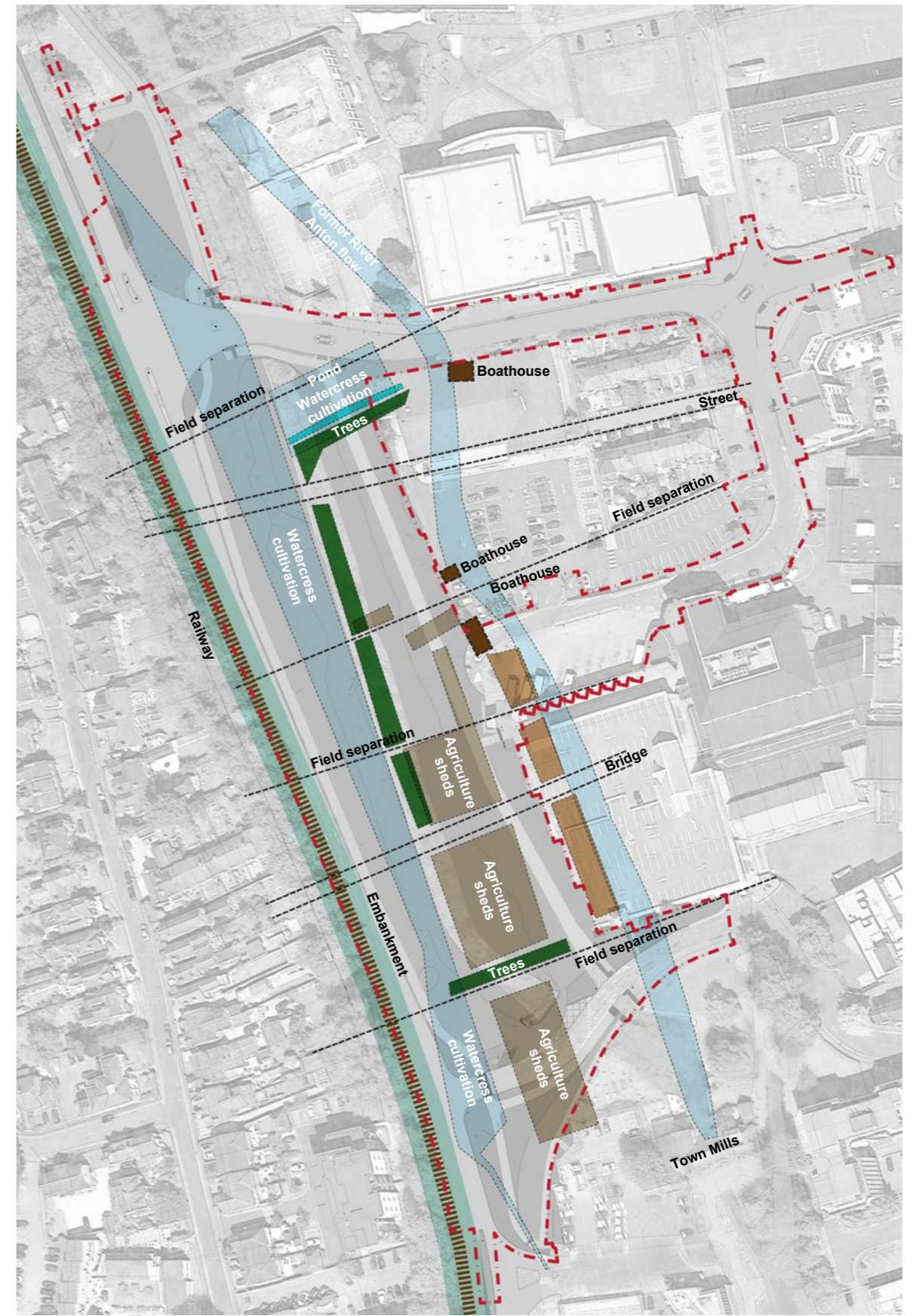
Some of the main components of the design that would be referenced into the landscape layout are:

- Boathouses
- Watercress beds
- Agriculture sheds
- Field separation
- Woodland strips
- Railway and its embankment

The fields and beds layout will inspire the design to split the site in parts.



1937 County Series (Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 100035207)



Historical marks interpreted on site

# Design Development

## Fundamentals



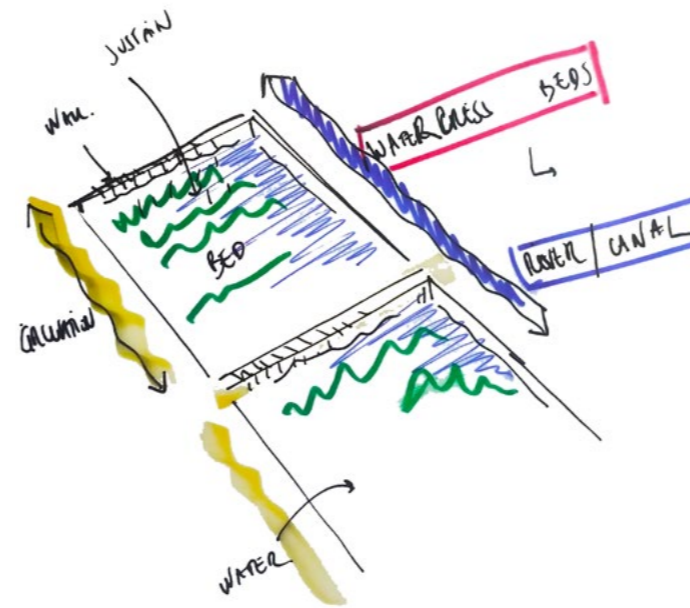
### Rooted in History, Growing with Vision

The park's design actively reinterprets Andover's watercress industry across its entire life cycle (from flooded production beds to railway transportation), transforming historical processes into contemporary landscape features:

1. Production: The watercress beds' aquatic ecology inspires rain gardens and moisture-loving planting (social spaces where people gather like workers once did).
2. Processing: Bunching sheds' communal work informs the central square's pavilion (a creative enterprise space for markets/events).
3. Transport: The railway's linear path becomes an inclusive walkway (with 'station' seating areas celebrating independent local stories).
4. Hydrology: The pre-channelised river's curves shape meandering paths (green corridors that ethically manage water runoff)



Watercress beds - Symbol of Andover & Hampshire



Watercress process: from production to transportation

### Organisational structure

The design of the Riverside Park is sculpted by history, and has integrated most of the former activities that have happened within the site boundary in some way. By making history experiential, not just visual, the park becomes both a tribute to resilience and a blueprint for sustainable placemaking.

### Growing watercress

Watercress has been grown since the 1850s. Several of their farms are in Hampshire – an area that has always had a strong association with watercress, because it is situated in a chalk basin that provides a supply of crystal-clear spring water containing the essential minerals required by the plant.

The chalk spring water emerges at a constant temperature of around 11 degrees, all year. This helps to protect the crop during the winter and cool it in the heat of the summer.



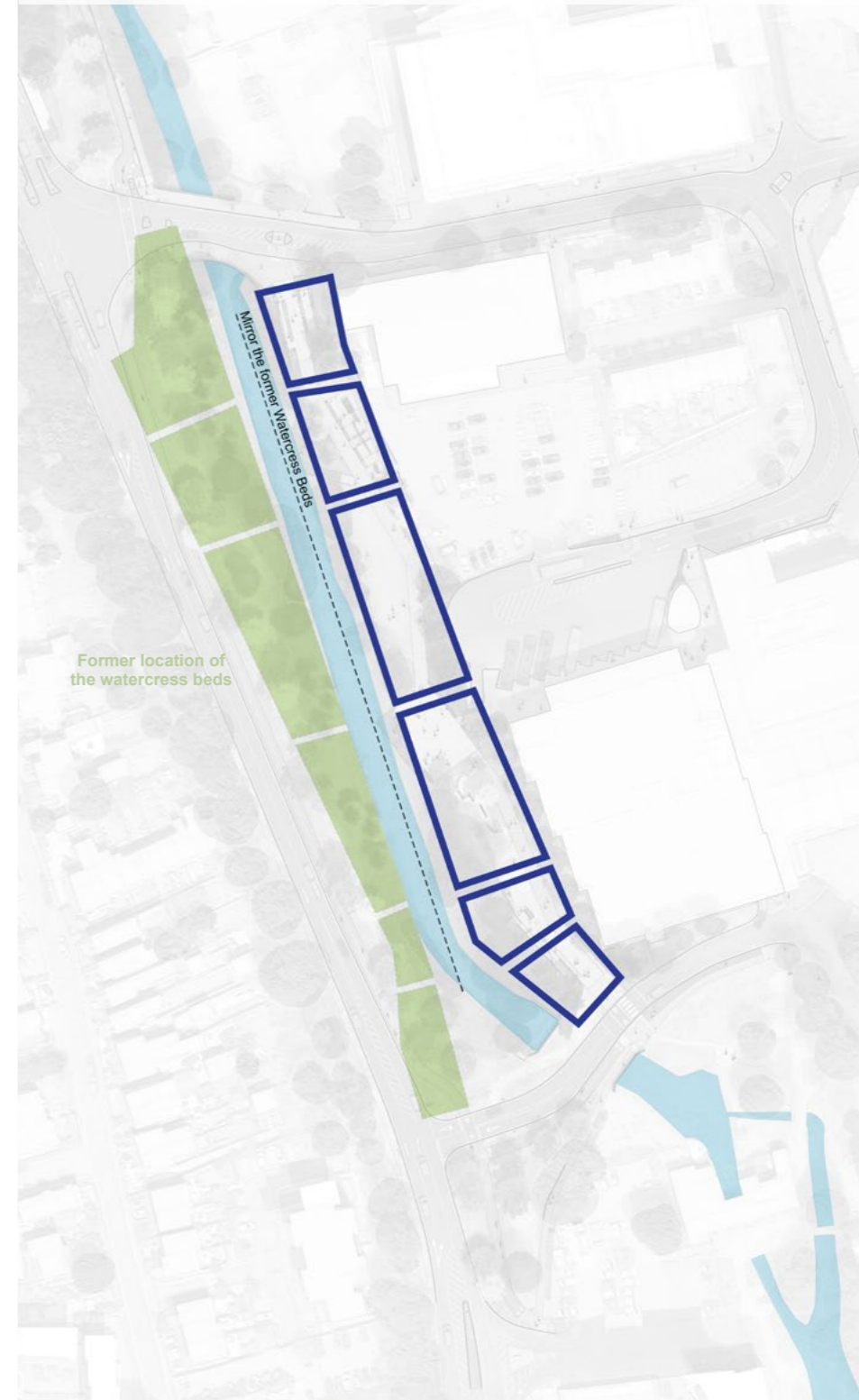
The site, Andover 1926 (from Britain From Above)



Vitacress Ltd - Remaining watercress beds around Andover

### Watercress Cultivation

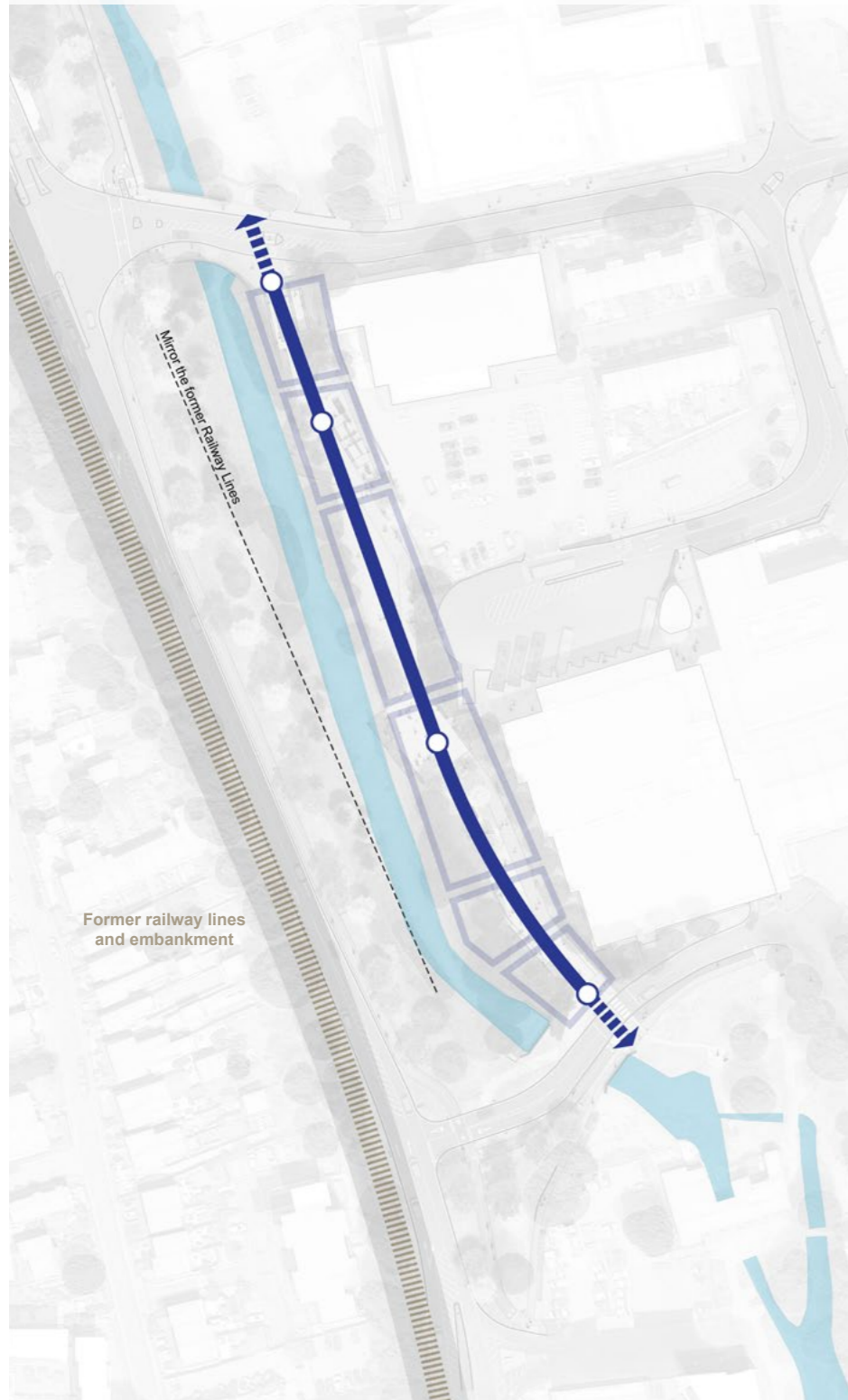
The former beds (semi-aquatic plots separated by raised access walls) inspire the park's 'landscape rooms' as a series of planted spaces.



Step 1 - Mirror the former Watercress beds

**Railway Legacy**

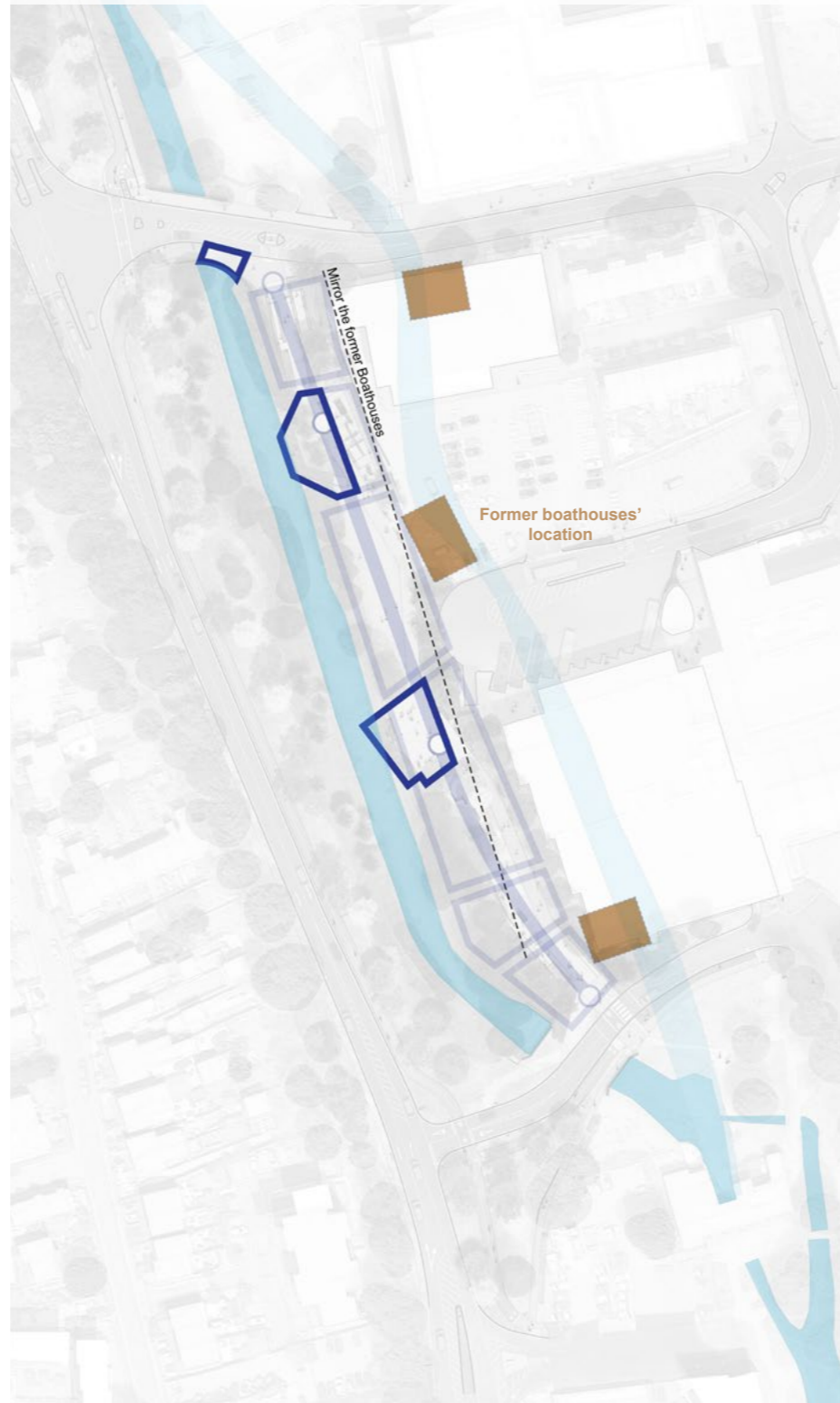
The connective path mirrors the historic railway's linearity (once transporting goods and people), with 'stop' points, within the defined beds, forming seating areas or interpretation nodes along the route.



Step 2 - Mirror the former Railway lines

**Boathouses**

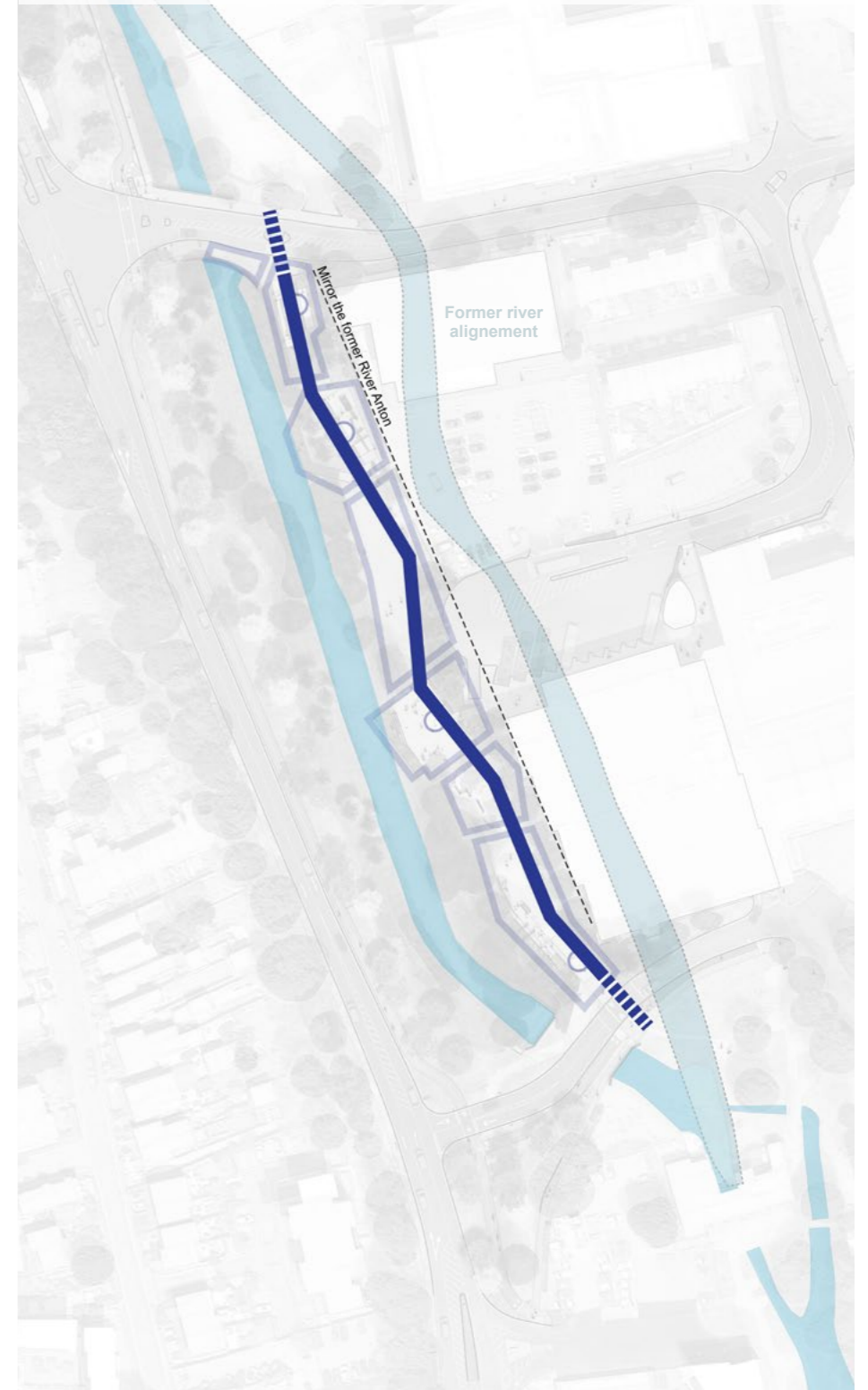
These river structures inform the design of the walkway over the River Anton (its piers evoking boat moorings) and the play area's water pumps.



Step 3 - Mirror the former Boathouses

**Pre-Channelised River**

The winding path traces the River Anton's original course (prior to its steep-banked confinement), restoring a sense of natural movement and sculpting the areas.



Step 4 - Mirror the former River Anton

# Design Development

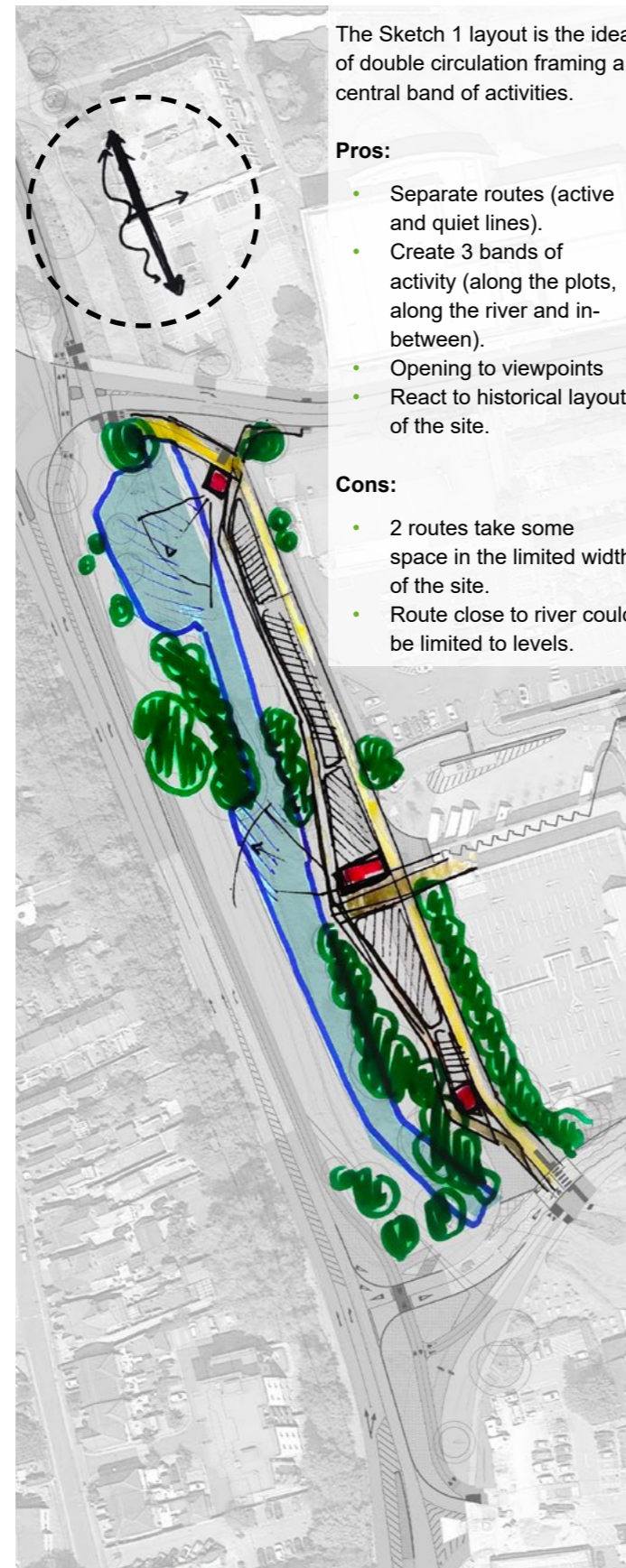
## Early sketches

As seen in the previous pages, the landscape design process started with a detailed site analysis, examining physical features (such as topography and existing trees) and contextual factors (including the river's condition and surrounding infrastructure).

Based on this, three initial concept sketches were developed and presented to the project manager and stakeholders.

These early discussions helped clarify key parameters, constraints, and shared priorities.

Establishing core themes at this stage, such as reconnecting people to the river, improving biodiversity, and creating an inclusive space rooted in local history, was critical to guiding the design's direction.



The Sketch 1 layout is the idea of double circulation framing a central band of activities.

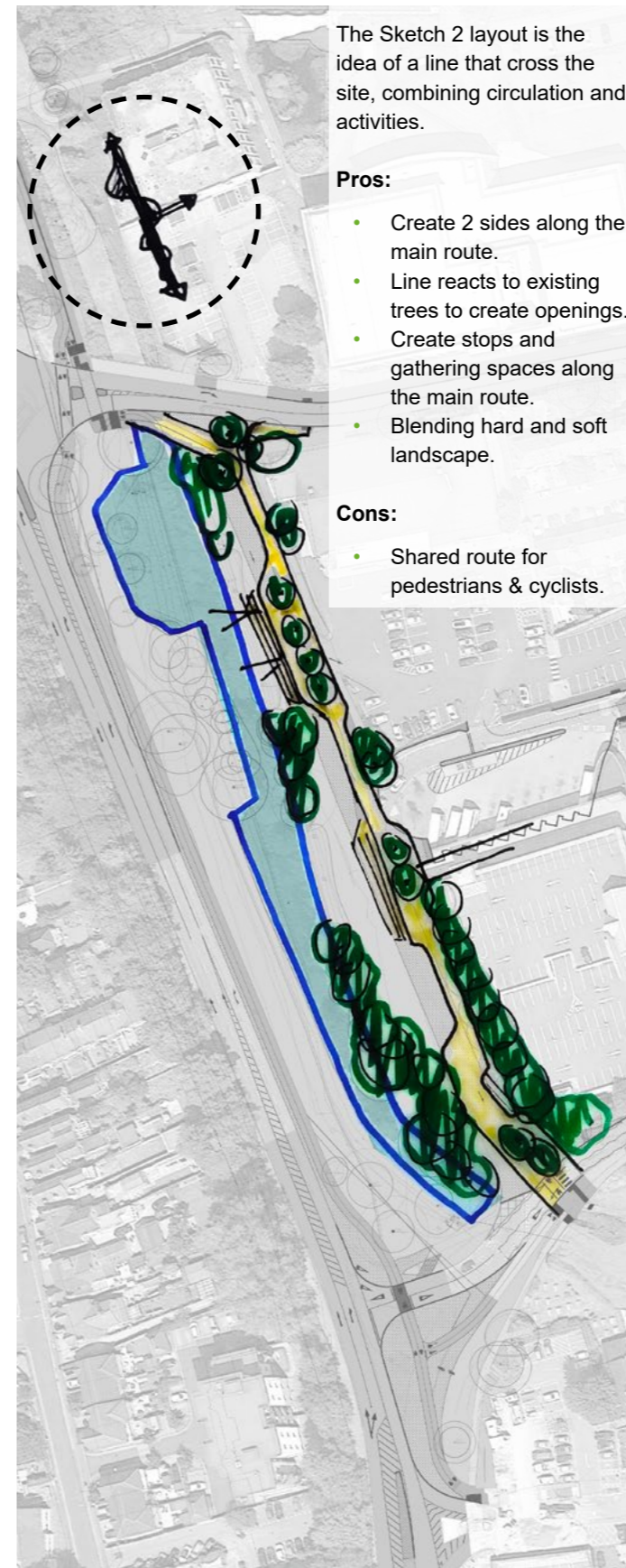
**Pros:**

- Separate routes (active and quiet lines).
- Create 3 bands of activity (along the plots, along the river and in-between).
- Opening to viewpoints
- React to historical layout of the site.

**Cons:**

- 2 routes take some space in the limited width of the site.
- Route close to river could be limited to levels.

Sketch 1



The Sketch 2 layout is the idea of a line that cross the site, combining circulation and activities.

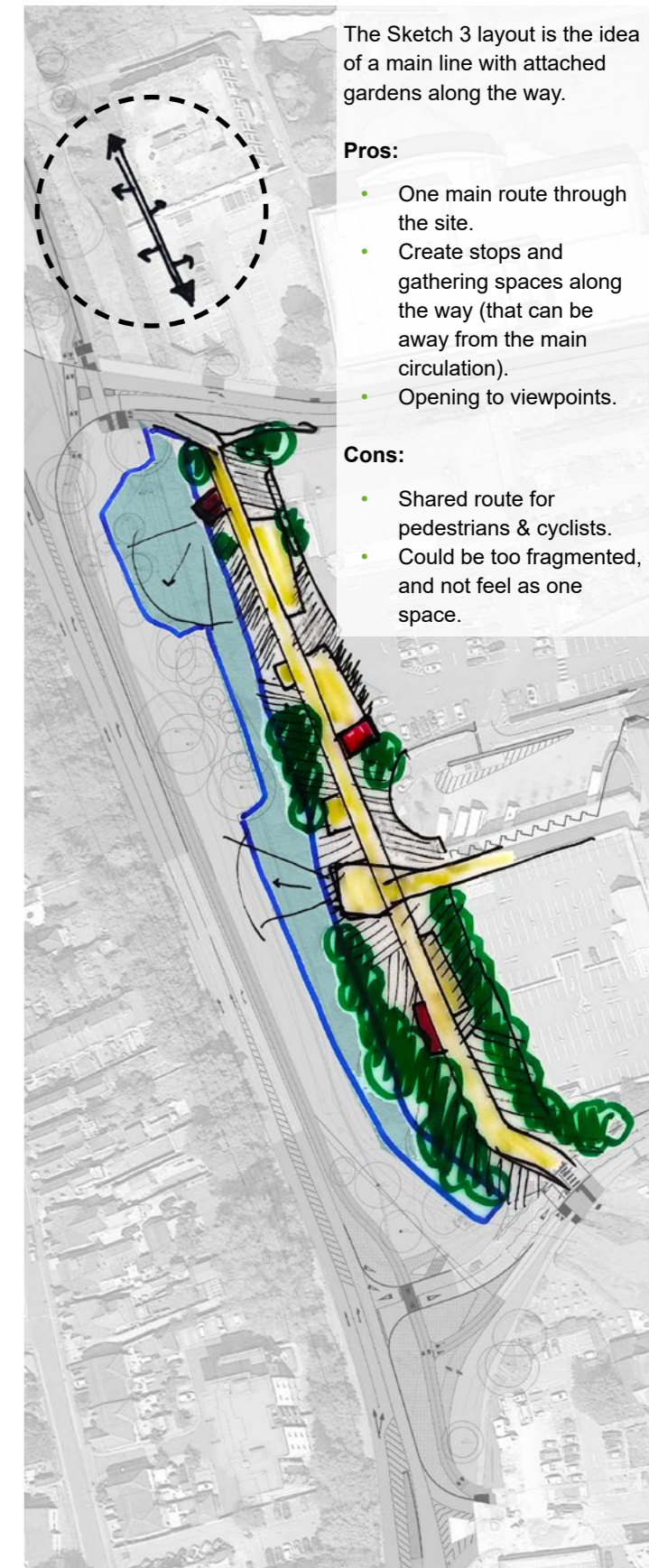
**Pros:**

- Create 2 sides along the main route.
- Line reacts to existing trees to create openings.
- Create stops and gathering spaces along the main route.
- Blending hard and soft landscape.

**Cons:**

- Shared route for pedestrians & cyclists.

Sketch 2



The Sketch 3 layout is the idea of a main line with attached gardens along the way.

**Pros:**

- One main route through the site.
- Create stops and gathering spaces along the way (that can be away from the main circulation).
- Opening to viewpoints.

**Cons:**

- Shared route for pedestrians & cyclists.
- Could be too fragmented, and not feel as one space.

Sketch 3

## Design Development

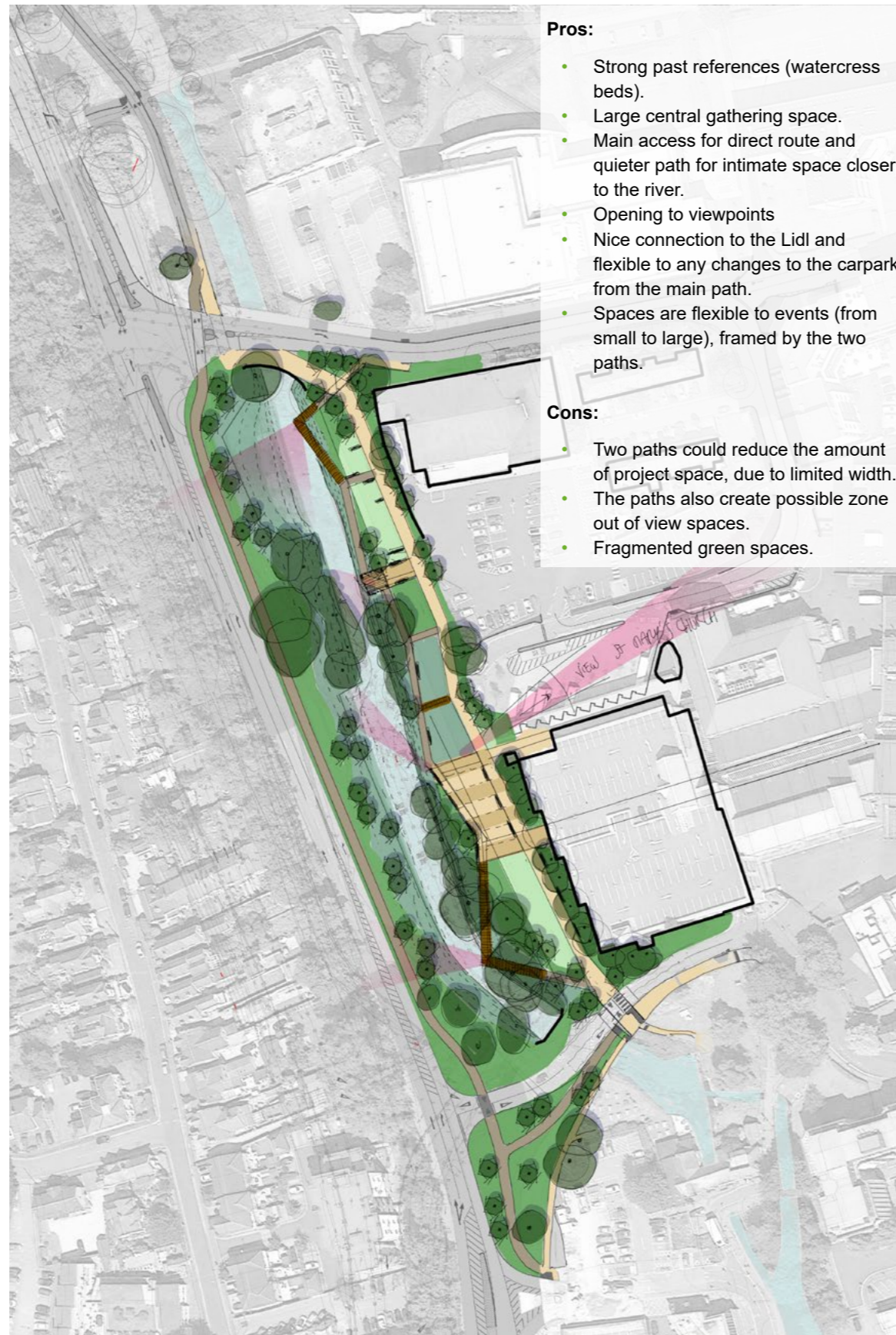
### Developing Options

Following the initial analysis and stakeholder feedback, we developed two refined design options based on the early concept sketches (Sketch 1 and Sketch 3), which are presented in detail on the following pages.

These options explore distinct spatial layouts while remaining grounded in the shared historical theme of Andover's watercress beds. At this stage, the focus was on translating the conceptual 'watercress beds' idea into tangible design elements, such as the arrangement of pathways, gathering spaces, and strategic locations for new tree planting.

The layouts also considered how to integrate these features with the existing river corridor and retained mature trees, ensuring a cohesive blend of heritage, ecology, and functionality.

This phase was critical for testing how the historical narrative could shape the park's identity while addressing practical constraints like accessibility and circulation.



**Pros:**

- Strong past references (watercress beds).
- Large central gathering space.
- Main access for direct route and quieter path for intimate space closer to the river.
- Opening to viewpoints
- Nice connection to the Lidl and flexible to any changes to the carpark from the main path.
- Spaces are flexible to events (from small to large), framed by the two paths.

**Cons:**

- Two paths could reduce the amount of project space, due to limited width.
- The paths also create possible zone out of view spaces.
- Fragmented green spaces.

Option 1



**Pros:**

- Extension from the watercress concept.
- One main route through the site.
- Create stops and gathering spaces along the way (that can be away from the main circulation).
- Opening to viewpoints.
- Access into the Lidl carpark easily possible with the design.
- Safer environment with single path, surrounding spaces visible from everyone along the route.

**Cons:**

- The main path could fragment the space in two, and not feel as one space.
- Limited event space without impacting the main circulation.

Option 2

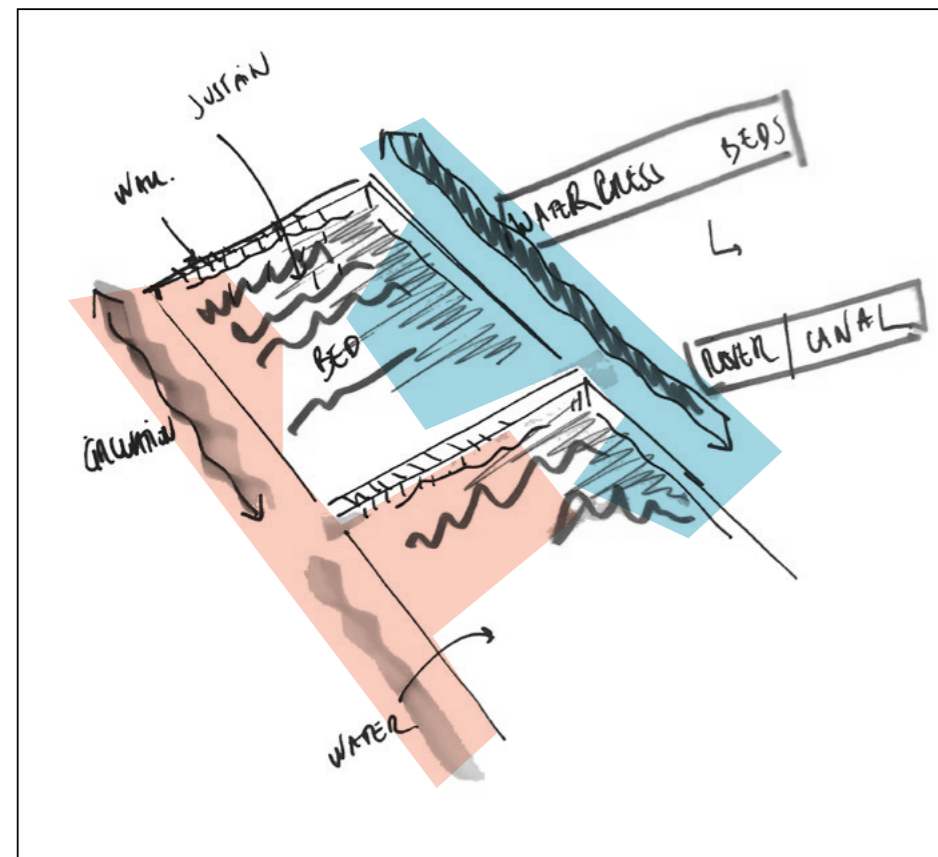
## Design Development

### Preferred Option - Channelled Beds

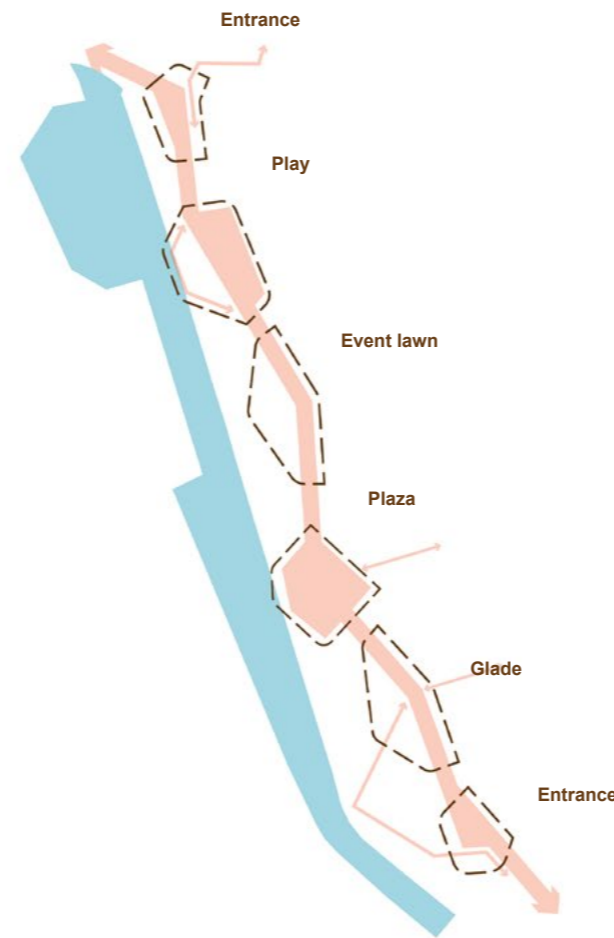
After review with stakeholders and the design team, Option 2 was selected as the preferred design (detailed in the following pages).

This scheme advances the watercress beds concept introduced earlier, abstractly interpreting the circulation of water that once fed the beds. The layout centres on a single path linking discrete 'beds' (or landscape rooms), creating a cohesive yet varied experience.

This approach balances historical homage with functional clarity, providing a strong foundation for the final design stage (including material specifications, planting plans, and accessibility details).



Conceptual vision: Watercress channels



Concept



Landscape layout

## Design Development

### Shaping the Spaces with History

The final design stage introduced a layer of unique historical references, deepening the park's connection to Andover's past.

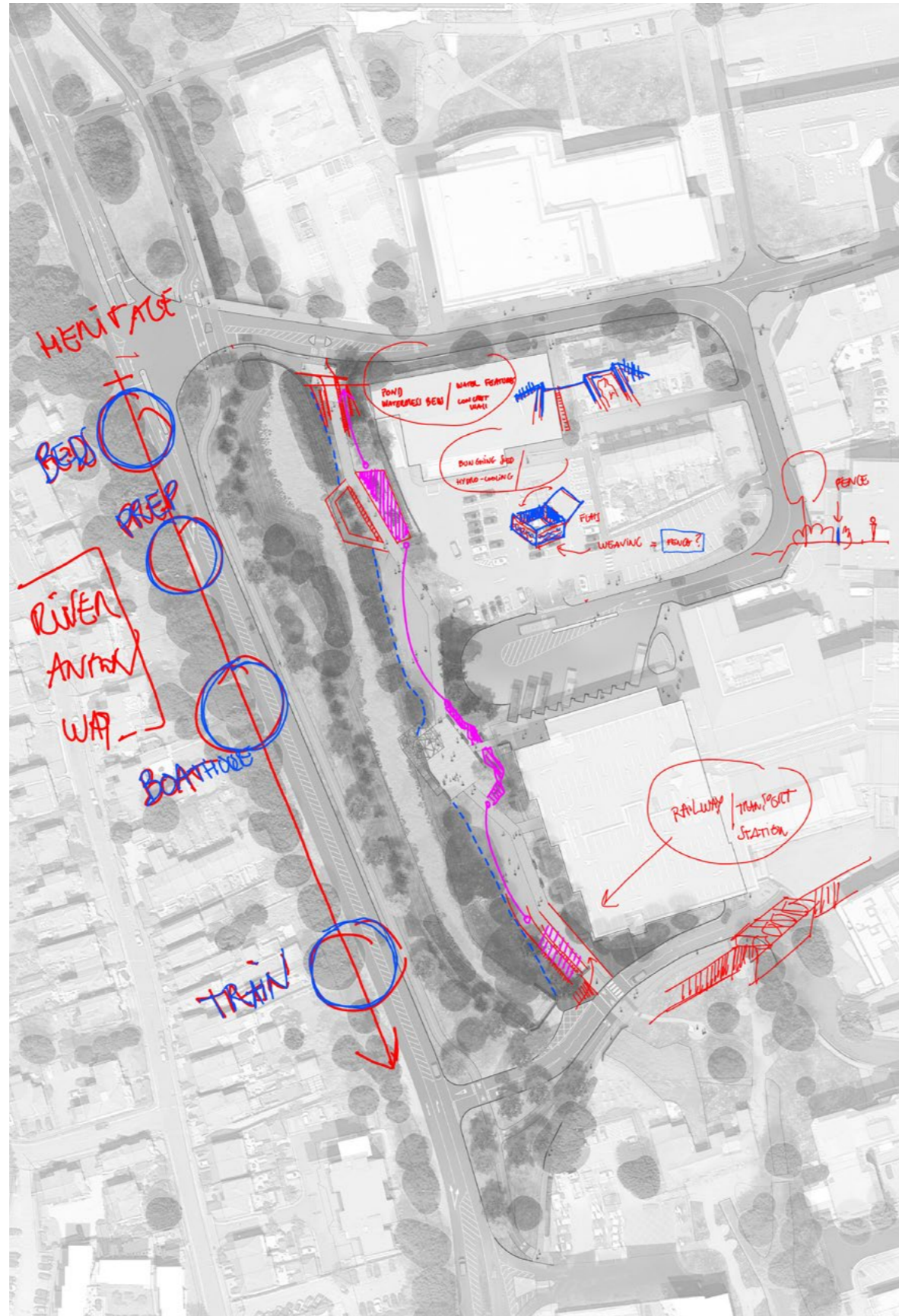
Key elements like the former railway embankments, the boathouses (a defining feature of the River Anton), and the watercress cultivation process (from water channels to bunching sheds and transport) were woven into the scheme.

These narratives manifest both conceptually (through spatial organisation) and materially (in details like fencing and pavilions).

The main changes focus on:

- **Northern Entrance:** A focal point referencing watercress beds, with vibrant planting and seating.
- **Play Area:** Innovative play equipment inspired by the boathouses, complemented by benches and a river promenade.
- **Central Square:** A gathering space evoking the bunching sheds (via a pavilion), paired with river access and seating walls.
- **Southern Entrance:** A focal point nodding to the railway embankment, framed by seating and bold planting.

This approach ensures the park resonates as a living archive of local heritage, while meeting contemporary needs



Working sketch



Evolution of the landscape design based on historical elements

# Public Engagement

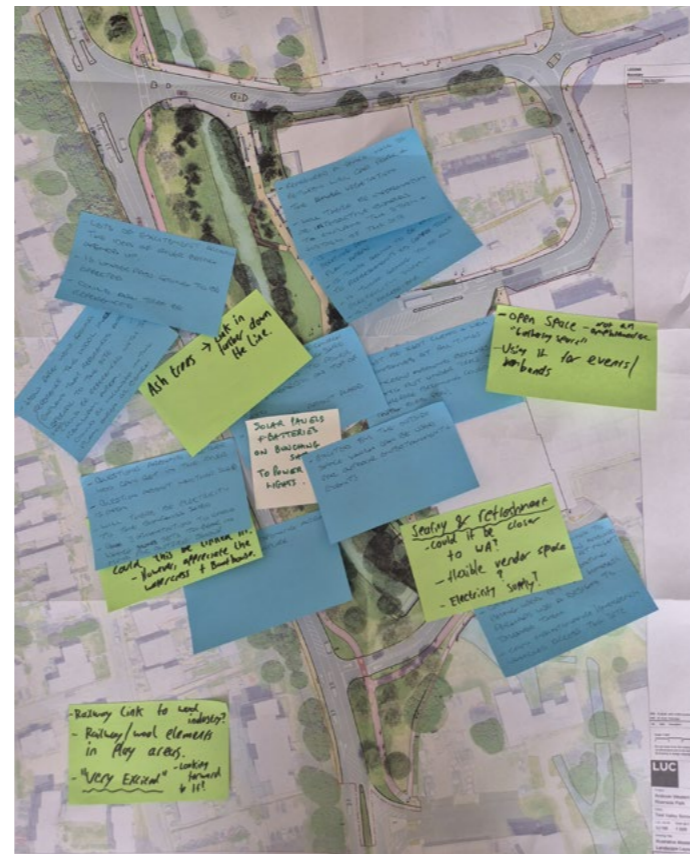
## Active participation



### Andover Vision Stakeholder

The Andover Vision Stakeholder workshop generated strong community enthusiasm, particularly for the historical themes (watercress heritage and boathouses) and new green spaces. Attendees welcomed the gyratory removal and highlighted the central square and bunching sheds as key event spaces. Key suggestions included adding solar panels to power lighting, providing ample seating (with maintenance considered) and flexible vendor options like coffee trucks. Safety concerns focused on improved riverside lighting and seating design to deter anti-social use.

Participants requested expanded heritage references (Andover's wool industry and town name origins) and better river access (where topography permits). Community involvement ideas included school planting workshops and educational features. The interactive format allowed residents to examine plans and discuss directly with designers, creating meaningful dialogue about balancing history, functionality and safety in the final design. Overall response was overwhelmingly positive, with clear local support for the project's progression.



Comments and queries on the Landscape layout



Andover Vision event at the Andover Community Church

### New Theatre Engagement Boards

The Riverside Park proposals was presented alongside the Theatre at the New Theatre public engagement event, as both projects form part of the same government Levelling Up Fund allocation.

A dedicated page showcased the park's design, emphasising its connections to the theatre site through shared heritage themes (notably the River Anton's boathouses) and improved pedestrian links.

### Proposals for Andover's New Theatre



Since adopting the Andover town centre masterplan, Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) has been progressing plans to deliver the aspirations of the community and build a brand-new theatre for the town.

We have been working with a team of industry specialists to develop a vision for the multi-purpose venue, which will be located at the entrance to the Chantry Centre.

The theatre is set to become a new home for The Lights, which has outgrown capacity in its current location, and will offer a range of modern facilities which you can see in these design proposals.

Some aspects are still in development at this stage, so we will not be able to show you the new Chantry Centre entrance or confirm which shows will be coming to the new venue just yet, but you can visit our website to keep up to date with our plans as they progress.

[www.thinkandovertowncentre.co.uk](http://www.thinkandovertowncentre.co.uk)

And please send us your comments via email to: [thinkandovertowncentre@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:thinkandovertowncentre@testvalley.gov.uk)

The project team working with Test Valley Borough Council and The Lights includes:

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The theatre is part of a wider programme of regeneration that includes the creation of a riverside park adjacent to the river Anton. There will be public engagement on the proposals for this project in March 2025. The emerging design is shown adjacent to illustrate the project in the context of the site for the new theatre.

The park will feature a series of interconnected spaces with views across the river, each offering unique experiences that cater to a diverse range of activities. At the heart of the park lies the central square, a dynamic

hub that connects the bus station to the river and the town centre, serving as a focal point for community gatherings and events. Surrounding this square, generous seating and a pavilion foster a welcoming atmosphere, while the nearby playground and elevated promenade offer spaces for both energetic play and tranquil reflection.

The riverside park project involves the removal of the existing gyratory at Western Avenue. This significant shift will not only liberate valuable space but also allow for the re-imagining of the area as a vibrant green

corridor that prioritises public places for the community to enjoy and ecological sustainability. This initiative will foster a seamless connection between the town and the river, setting the stage for a diverse array of recreational and social opportunities. The river itself will transform and will feature areas of ecological enhancement beneficial to the nature and quality of the chalk stream.

**Thank you for coming to this exhibition, for more information please visit: [thinkandovertowncentre.co.uk](http://thinkandovertowncentre.co.uk)**  
**Please send us your comments via email to: [thinkandovertowncentre@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:thinkandovertowncentre@testvalley.gov.uk)**

# Public Engagement

## Meeting With The Andoverians



### Western Avenue Public Engagement

The two-day event allowed residents to explore the scheme through detailed display boards while discussing proposals with the full project team (including designers, council officers, and county representatives).

This direct access to decision-makers demonstrated the project's commitment to genuine community listening, with all feedback documented for integration into either:

1. Immediate refinements (visible in the following pages)
2. Later stages (tender specifications and construction details)

Attendees engaged particularly with visual materials showing the park's historical references and accessibility features, while practical questions about maintenance and safety were addressed collaboratively.

The presence of multidisciplinary actors reinforced confidence in the scheme's delivery, turning consultation into a productive dialogue about Andover's future.

Further information and the list of engagement can be found in the *Statement of Community Involvement*.



Boards installed at the Cantry Centre



Andoverians reviewing the boards

## Proposals for a new riverside park for Andover town centre



Since adopting the Andover town centre masterplan, Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) has been progressing plans to deliver the aspirations of the community to provide more green space in the town centre and open up views to the River Anton.

We have been working with a team of landscape, highway and ecological specialists, alongside a broad range of other technical consultants, to develop the plans for a new park adjacent to the river which will be created through the removal of the gyratory at Western Avenue.

By replacing the noise and congestion of the road with inviting landscapes and accessible pathways, this initiative will foster a seamless connection between the western side of the town, the river, Town Mills park and the new theatre. The riverside park will bring health benefits, ecological benefits and encourage active travel through the provision of new pedestrian and cycle connections.

Please keep up to date with our plans as they progress:

[www.thinkandovertowncentre.co.uk](http://www.thinkandovertowncentre.co.uk)



View looking north of the new central square and river viewing platform within the park

## Landscape design



The removal of the existing gyratory road was a transformative decision that paved the way for the creation of a new riverside park for the town.

The park features a series of interconnected spaces, each offering unique experiences that cater to a diverse range of activities. Significant improvements to the River Anton will also enhance its chalk stream habitat.

At the heart of the park lies the central square, a dynamic hub that connects the bus station to the river and the town centre, serving as a focal point for community gatherings and events. Surrounding this square, generous seating and the 'bunching shed' pavilion foster a welcoming atmosphere, while the nearby playground and elevated promenade, inspired from the 'boathouse', offer spaces for both energetic play and tranquil reflection.

At either end of the park, the entrance squares provide welcoming gateways that transition visitors from the urban landscape into the park's beautiful environment. These squares seamlessly connect to vibrant meadow areas on the riverside, designed for active, impromptu play and community picnics.

- 1 Central square
- 2 Pavilion
- 3 River viewing platform
- 4 Play area
- 5 Grass area
- 6 Entrance square
- 7 River enhancement
- 8 Cycle lane
- 9 New Theatre



# Landscape Proposals

## Landscape Design

The removal of the existing gyratory road represented a transformative decision that enabled the creation of Andover's Riverside Park. This fundamental change liberated valuable urban space while allowing the area to be reimagined as an ecological green corridor prioritising community engagement and environmental sustainability. By replacing traffic congestion with accessible pathways and inviting landscapes, the scheme has forged stronger connections between town and river, creating diverse opportunities for recreation and social interaction. The park stands as testament to progressive urban planning, demonstrating how green infrastructure can enhance quality of life while protecting natural habitats.

The Riverside Park presents a carefully considered landscape that balances ecological value with community needs, offering an engaging space for all visitors. Stretching from the bustling town centre to the peaceful riverbank, the park comprises interconnected 'beds', each providing distinctive experiences. The central square forms the heart of the scheme - a vibrant hub linking bus station, river and town centre, designed to host community events. Generous seating and the 'bunching shed' pavilion create welcoming social spaces, while the boathouse-inspired play area and elevated walkway cater to both active recreation and quiet contemplation.

At each terminus, entrance squares provide graceful transitions from urban to natural environments, connecting to riverside meadows perfect for informal play and picnics. Ecological planting throughout enhances biodiversity and creates valuable wildlife habitats. A dedicated cycle route runs along the western edge, ensuring safe north-south movement while maintaining the riverbank's peaceful character. Additional landscaping will complete the western side of the River, to complement the chalk stream environment.

Through this thoughtful integration of spaces, the Riverside Park elevates both ecological and social value, establishing itself as a cherished community asset.

- 1 Central square
- 2 Pavilion
- 3 River walkway
- 4 Play area
- 5 Grass area
- 6 Entrance square
- 7 River enhancement
- 8 Cycle lane
- 9 Ecological enhancement



# Landscape Proposals

## Character Areas

The Riverside Park layout takes inspiration from watercress cultivation, with distinct 'beds' arranged sequentially along the eastern riverbank, connected by a weaving central path.

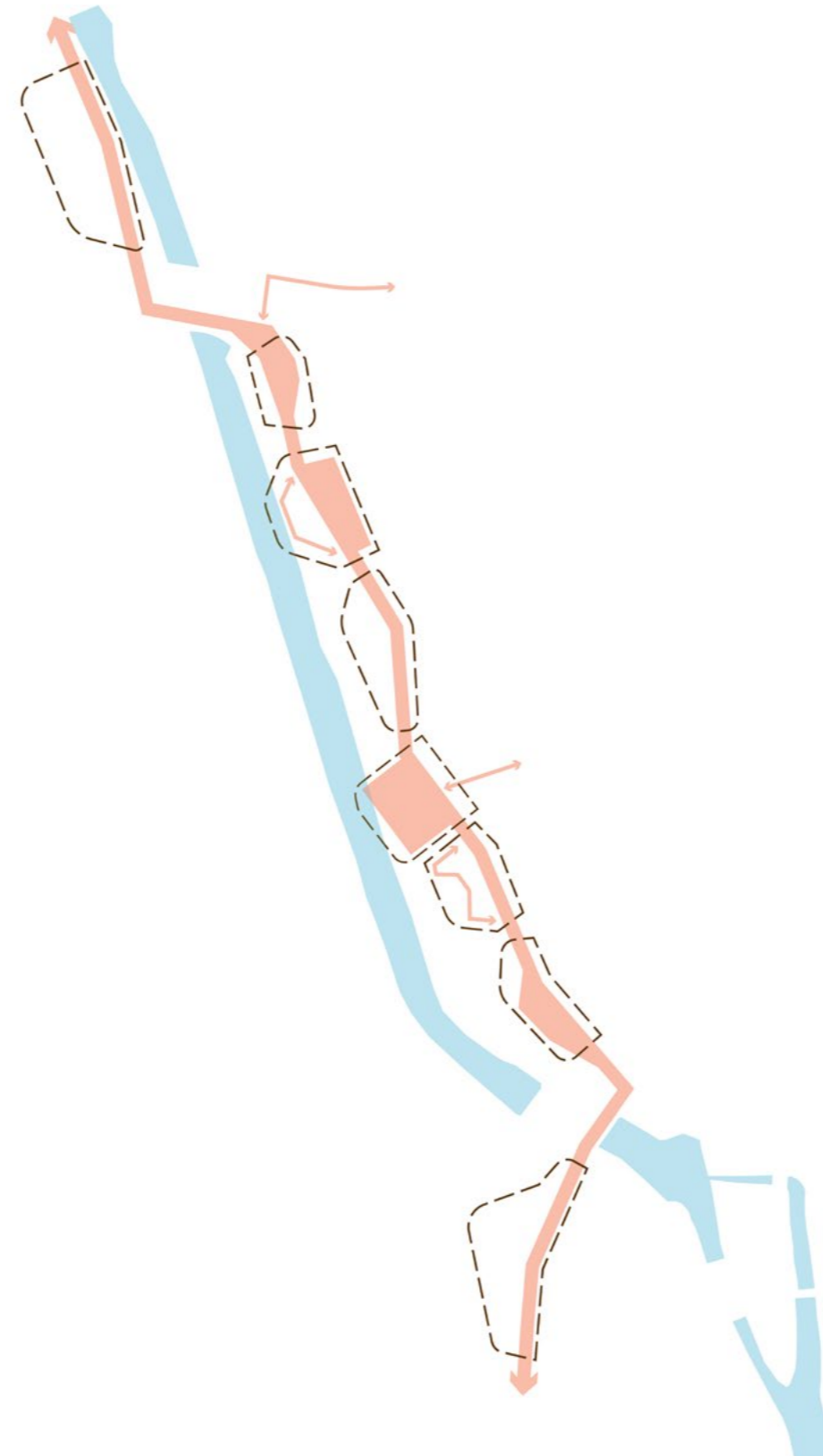
Primary access occurs at the northern (West Street) and southern (Waterloo Court) entrances, with a secondary link to the bus station waiting area.

Progressing from north to south, the spaces unfold as follows:

1. The Northern Entrance,
2. The play area featuring boathouse-inspired elements,
3. A large meadow (the first active recreation zone),
4. The Central Square, the social heart with its pavilion and seating, adjacent to the bus station,
5. The Forest, a compact natural trail among trees, and
6. The Southern Entrance Square.

The western bank (7), while minimally designed in terms of hard surface, emphasises planting (existing and proposed), and serves as the ecological spine, combining river edge enhancements (bank shallowing and riparian planting) with the dedicated cycle lane along Western Avenue.

- Main path
- Northern entrance square
- Southern entrance square
- Central square
- Playground
- Active meadow area
- Active forest area
- River and ecological enhancement



Extended concept diagram - 'Channelled Beds'



Character areas diagram

## Character Areas

### Northern Entrance Square - 'The Watercress Beds'

#### 'The Watercress Beds / Pond' area

The entrance square, positioned at the northern end of the park just beyond the pedestrian crossing, serves as a welcoming gateway that transitions visitors from West Street into the calm of the park. This square is designed as an open, inviting space with ample seating and clear sightlines, encouraging people to gather, pause and orient themselves before entering the main park area.

A water feature will be introduced in the form of a long rill, symbolising the flow of water drainage and adding a dynamic element to the park's design. Concrete walls will be strategically placed to create rhythm throughout the space, doubling as seating areas and incorporating signage to mark the park's entrance. Paved with textured materials that subtly distinguish it from the surrounding footpaths, the plaza also features focal elements such as low planting beds and feature lighting, which soften the urban edges while creating a sense of arrival.

To emphasise the entrance, varied topography will be crafted, complemented by colourful perennial planting for a lively and welcoming atmosphere. Additionally, the riparian planting will be carefully pruned to open up views toward the river and the western bank, enhancing the visual connection to the surrounding landscape.



Welcoming place, away from the road



Terraced concrete walls and vibrant planting



Seating walls for the gathering spaces



Render plan of the Northern entrance



Section

# Character Areas

## Northern Entrance Square - 'The Watercress Beds'

Andover Western Avenue Riverside Park  
Test Valley Borough Council  
Landscape Design and Access Statement  
April 2025



The Northern entrance and its water feature - Artist rendition (This artistic impression illustrates design intent only. Foliage, materials and lighting may vary in the final scheme)

## Character Areas

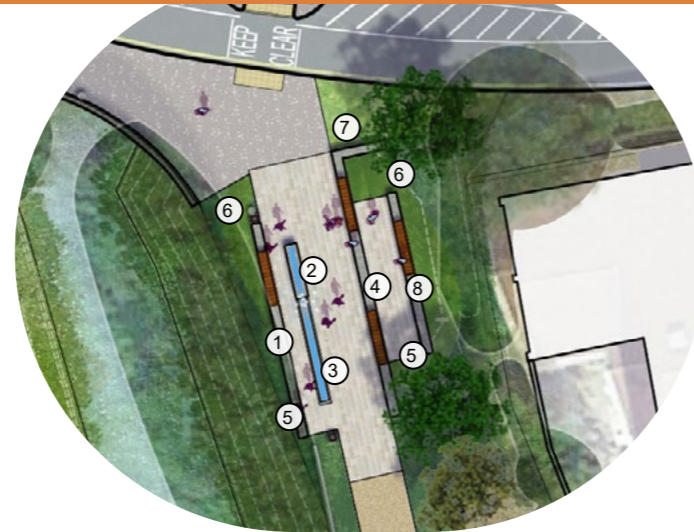
### Northern Entrance Square - 'The Watercress Beds'

The Northern Square draws on the watercress heritage through sculptural concrete walls etched with farming motifs and interactive water features recreating historic irrigation channels.

A cascading rill invites playful engagement, while integrated seating provides resting spots.

The proposed planting blends with the existing trees, creating a seamless transition between built and natural elements.

This space serves as both a welcoming threshold and an interpretive introduction to the site's history, using abstract references rather than literal recreations to connect visitors to Andover's past.



1) Wall etching



2) Water feature - Rill within raised concrete wall



3) Water feature - Rill flushed with paving



4) Jumping wall



5) Learning



6) Sensory garden



7) Entrance signage integrated to the wall



8) Terraced concrete wall and planting

# Character Areas

## Southern Entrance Square - 'The Embankment'



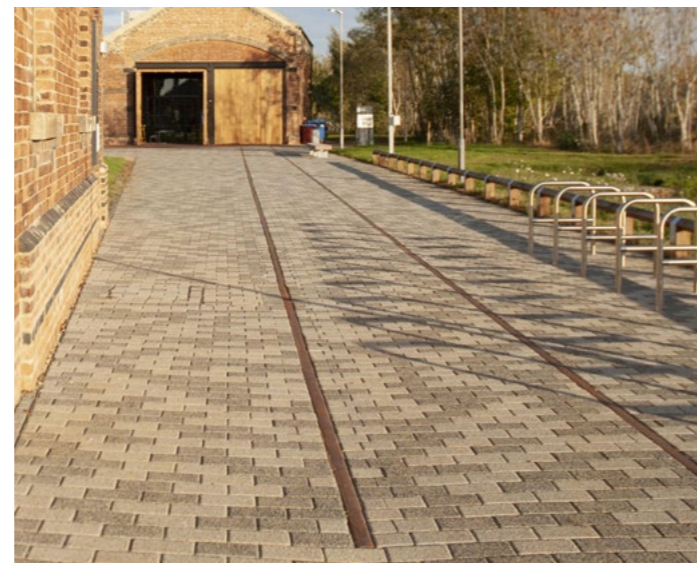
### 'The Railway / Embankment' area

Positioned at the park's southern boundary, this entrance forms a historical counterpoint to the northern square, employing shared materials for cohesion while celebrating the site's railway legacy. Weathered steel edging and low walls, their surfaces textured with rivet-like details, recall the tracks that once transported watercress from Andover. These elements double as seating, inviting visitors to linger amidst the narrative. The paving scheme extends this theme, with metal inlays tracing the alignment of former rail lines, gently elevated by planted banks that echo the gentle slopes of railway embankments.

A subtle linear drainage channel runs parallel to these features, mirroring the culverts that once bordered the tracks while symbolically linking to the park's central water features and the River Anton beyond. This careful layering of references creates a tangible connection between the town's industrial past and its green future. The design ensures functionality matches commemoration: generous seating clusters accommodate pause points, while clear sightlines maintain intuitive pedestrian movement toward Waterloo Court.



Welcoming place, away from the road



Northern bridge above River Anton



Seating opportunity for the gathering spaces



Render plan of the Southern entrance



Section

# Character Areas

## Southern Entrance Square - 'The Embankment'



The Southern entrance, a mix between hard and soft landscape - Artist rendition (This artistic impression illustrates design intent only. Foliage, materials and lighting may vary in the final scheme)

## Character Areas

### Southern Entrance Square - 'The Embankment'

This entrance square creatively interprets Andover's railway history through interactive play features and functional art.

Metal walls with etched railway motifs serve dual purposes as both artistic displays and supports for play equipment like monkey bars, their riveted designs echoing vintage ironwork. Flush metal trail inlays trace former track layouts while low mounds, reminiscent of rail embankments, provide incidental play opportunities.

The design balances heritage and recreation - railway sleeper-inspired timber beams create balance trails, and signal-post-themed spinning features encourage cooperative play.

These elements combine to form an engaging space where children explore abstracted industrial forms while subtle historical references connect visitors to the site's past.



1) Learning etching



2) Metal wall - support for seating and play equipment



3) Playable wall and entrance signage



4) Carving - History within the ground



5) Jumping steps (Paul Upward Photography)



6) Sensory garden - opening views towards the river's edge



7) Learning - Views to planting and river



8) Mounding - Reference to railway embankment

## Character Areas

### Central Square - 'The Bunching Shed'

#### 'The Bridge / Bunching Shed' area

The central square stands as the heart of the park, acting as a dynamic connective platform between key elements of the urban fabric. Stretching east to west, it links the bus station to the river, while its north-south axis connects the station to the town centre, making it a crucial crossroads for both pedestrians and community life.

At its core, a pavilion, inspired by the form of the agricultural sheds, serves as a symbolic anchor, paying homage to the area's riverside heritage. Surrounding the square is generous seating, offering ample opportunities for rest, socialising, or simply taking in the surroundings.

The open design of the square provides flexibility, creating the perfect setting for markets, festivals, and various community events, allowing it to transform throughout the seasons. This central hub not only enhances connectivity but also fosters a vibrant, multifunctional space for both locals and visitors to gather.



Seating next to the river



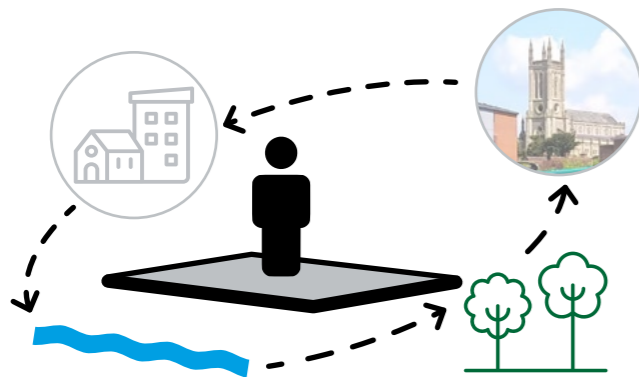
Pavilion, sheltered and gathering space - reference to the agricultural sheds



Render plan of the Central square

#### Connections

Central space linking from Town to River, from Town centre to Residential neighbourhoods, from building to planted areas.



Gathering space with seating and lighting



Section

## Character Areas

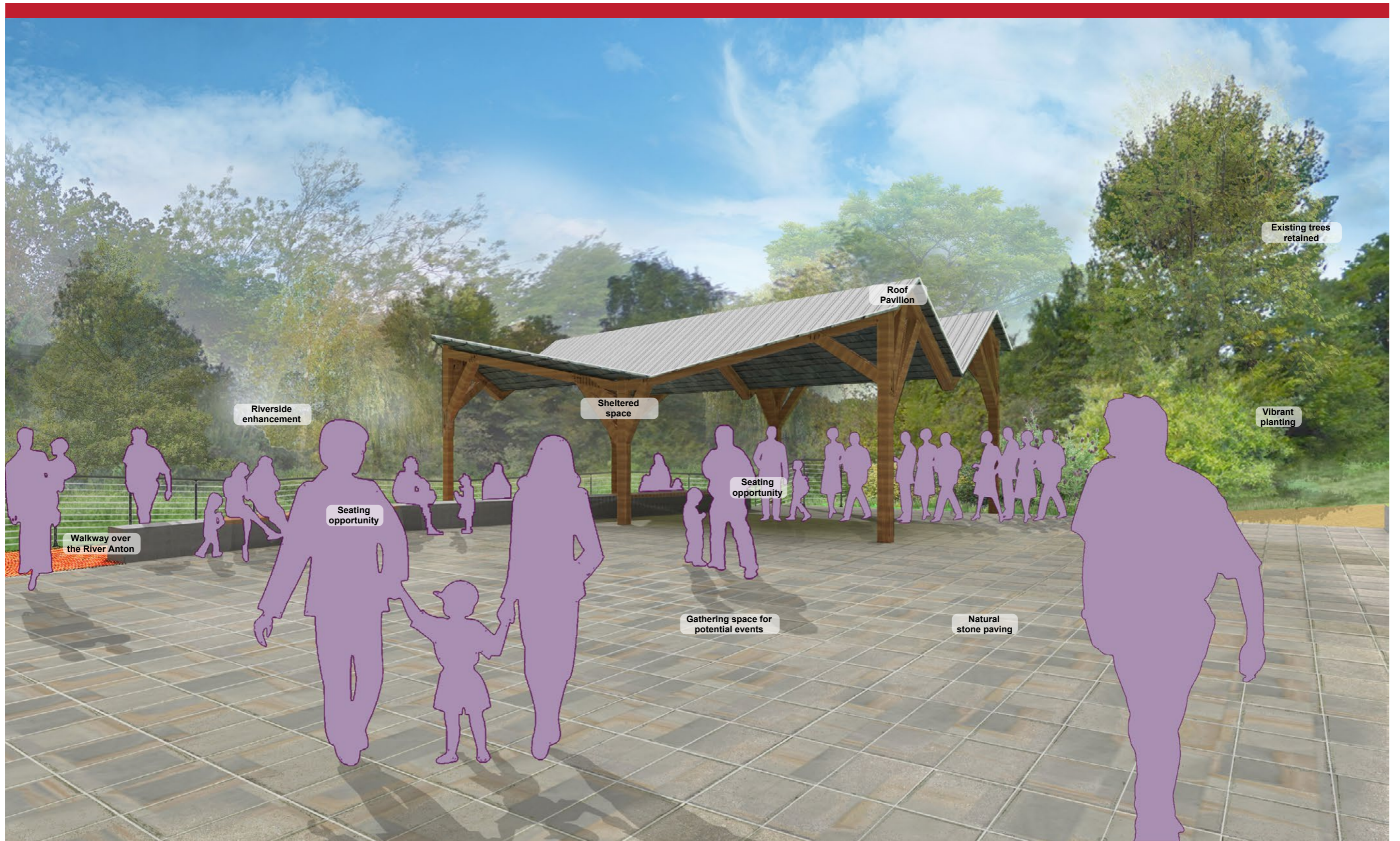
### Central Square - 'The Bunching Shed'

Andover Western Avenue Riverside Park

Test Valley Borough Council

Landscape Design and Access Statement

April 2025



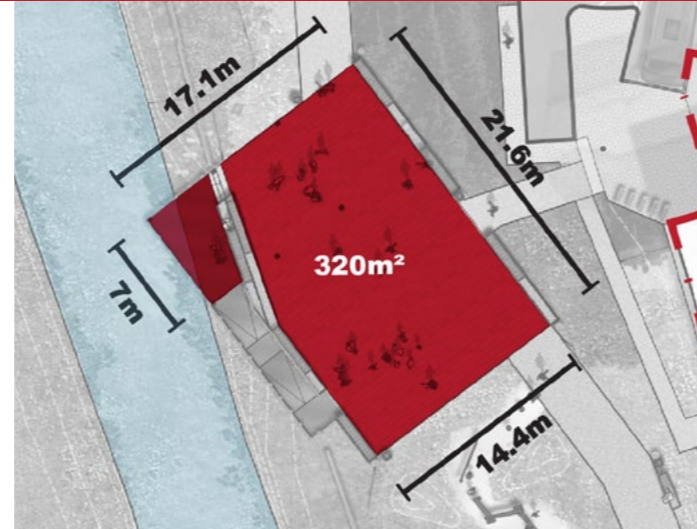
The main square and its pavilion - Artist rendition (This artistic impression illustrates design intent only. Foliage, materials and lighting may vary in the final scheme)

## Character Areas

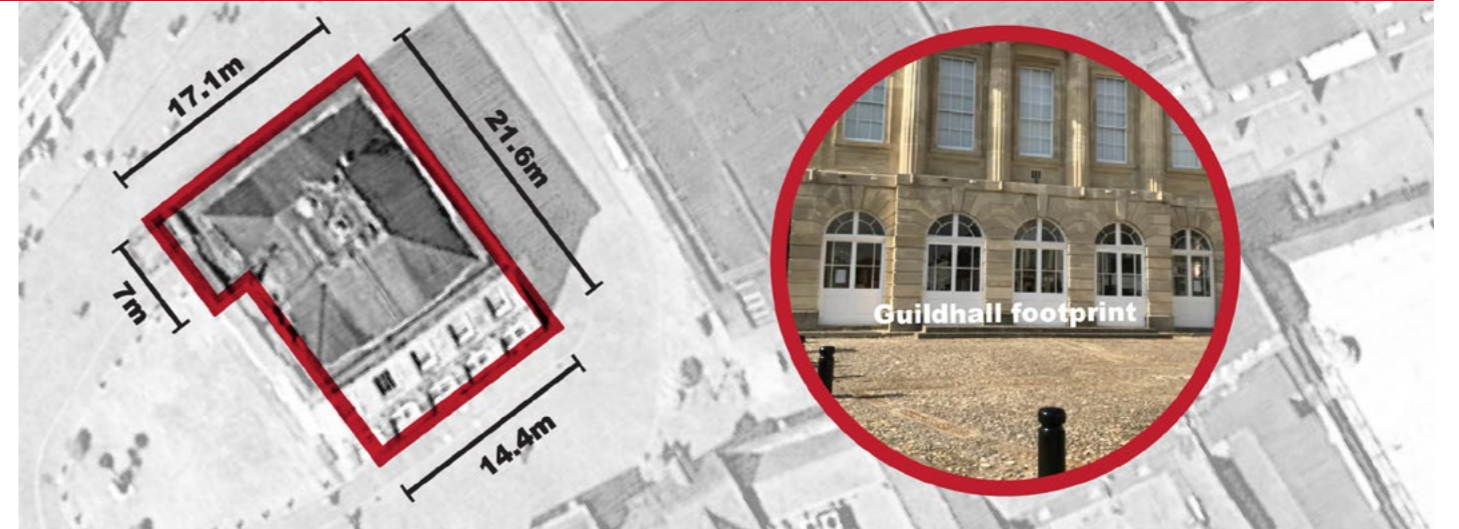
### Central Square - 'The Bunching Shed'

The central square forms a significant focal point within the linear park, its scale consciously echoing civic spaces along the High Street, particularly the area adjacent to the Time Ring and the footprint of the Guildhall (as shown in the comparison diagrams on the right).

This intentional parity in size allows the square to host similar community events and gatherings, creating a democratic counterpart to the town centre's historic meeting places while serving the park's contemporary social needs.



Dimensions of the Central Square



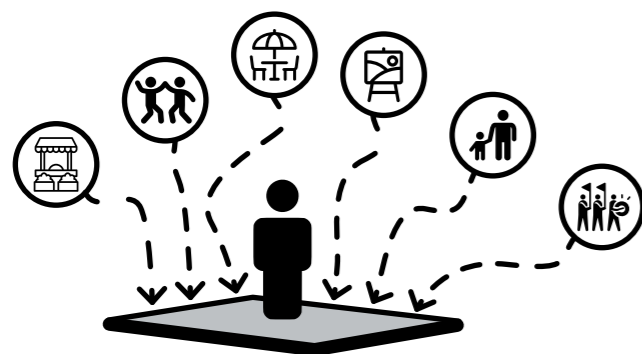
Comparison with the Guildhall building



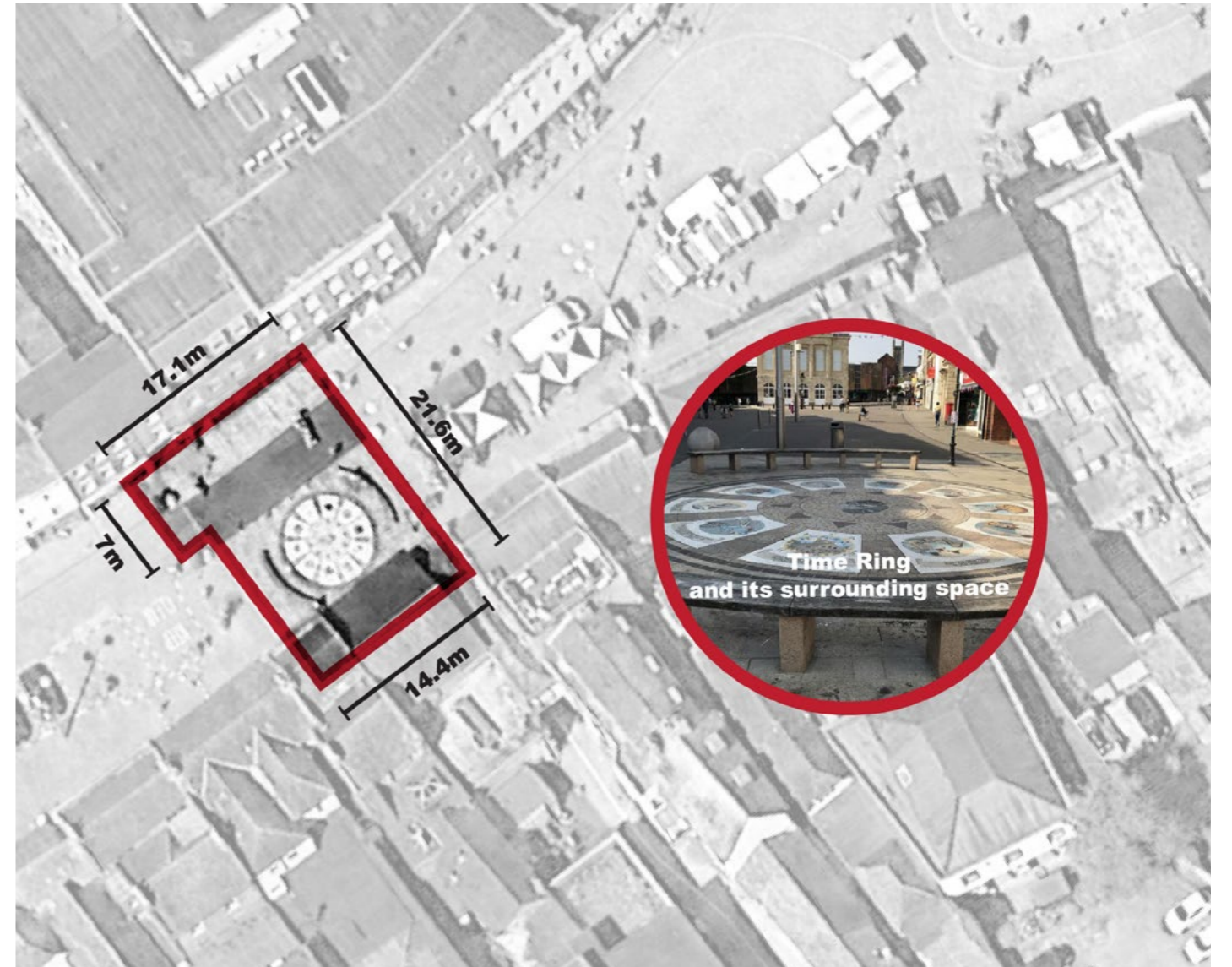
Space for events

#### Flexible space

Multi-purpose central square prone for community event, gathering space and also resting spot in the Riverside park.



Seating provided around event square



Comparison with the area around the Time Ring, on High Street

# Character Areas

## Central Square - 'The Bunching Shed'



The central space is designed to cater to all ages, fostering incidental play through elements woven into the landscape. History is embedded in the paving, walls, and pavilion, offering subtle nods to the site's heritage.

The pavilion acts as a dynamic feature, serving as a stage for art or lighting installations that can transform the space during events or evenings.

Its proximity to the river enhances the experience, providing opportunities for learning about the natural and cultural significance of the waterway while deepening the connection between visitors and the site.



1) Walkway and river views



2) Paving markings - learning

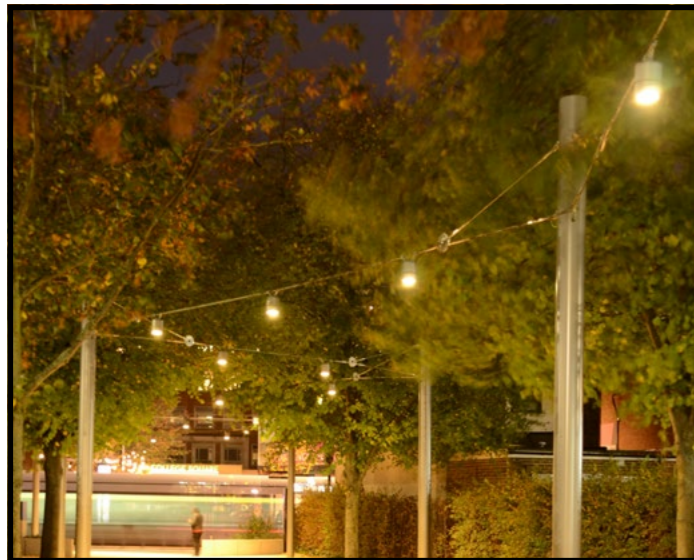


3) Wall etching

9) Learning within paving area



4) Pavilion - gathering and learning



5) Lighting to pavilion



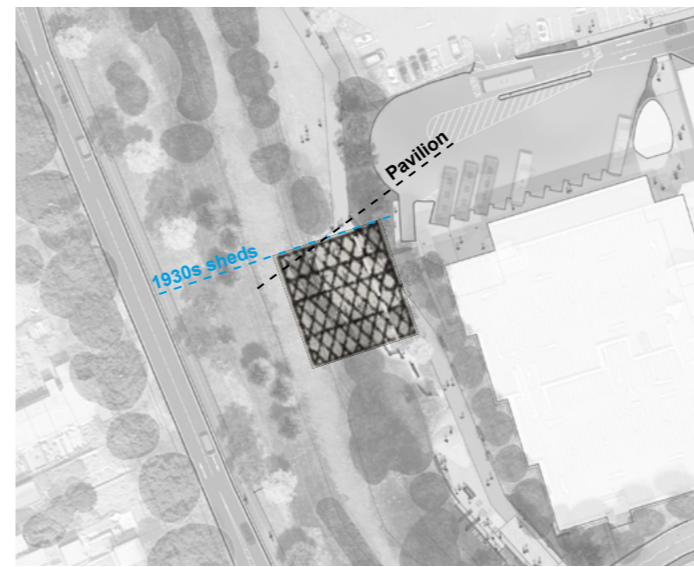
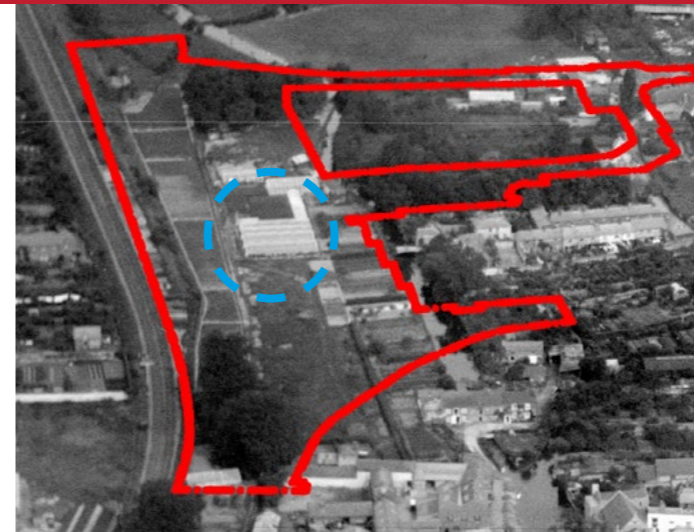
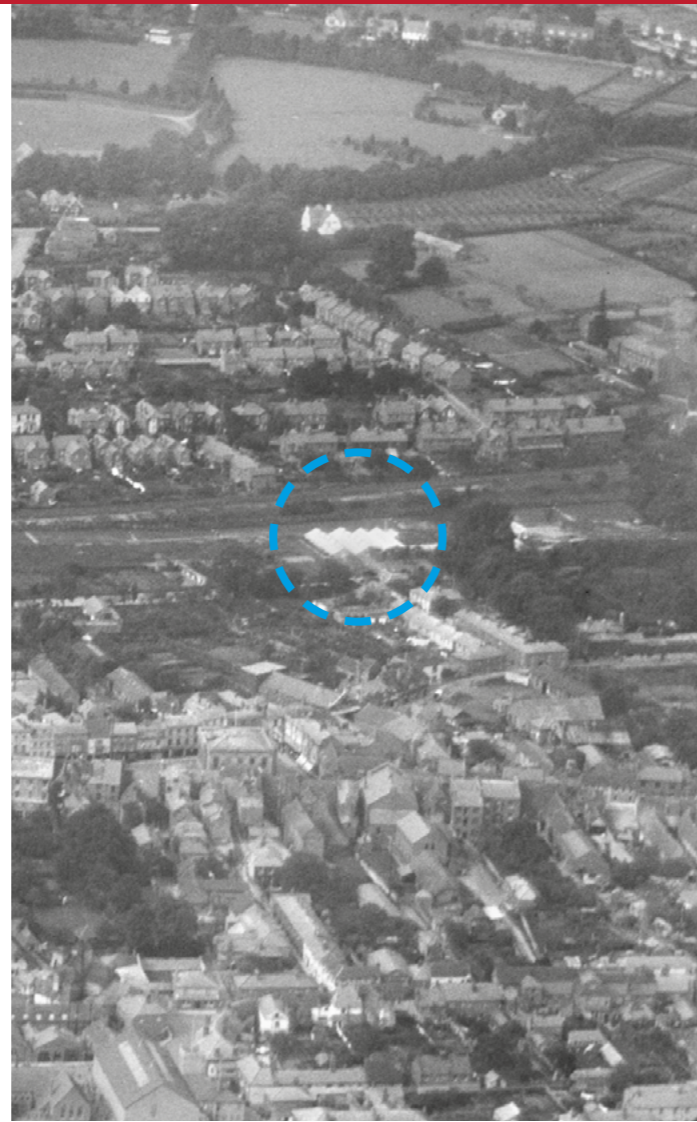
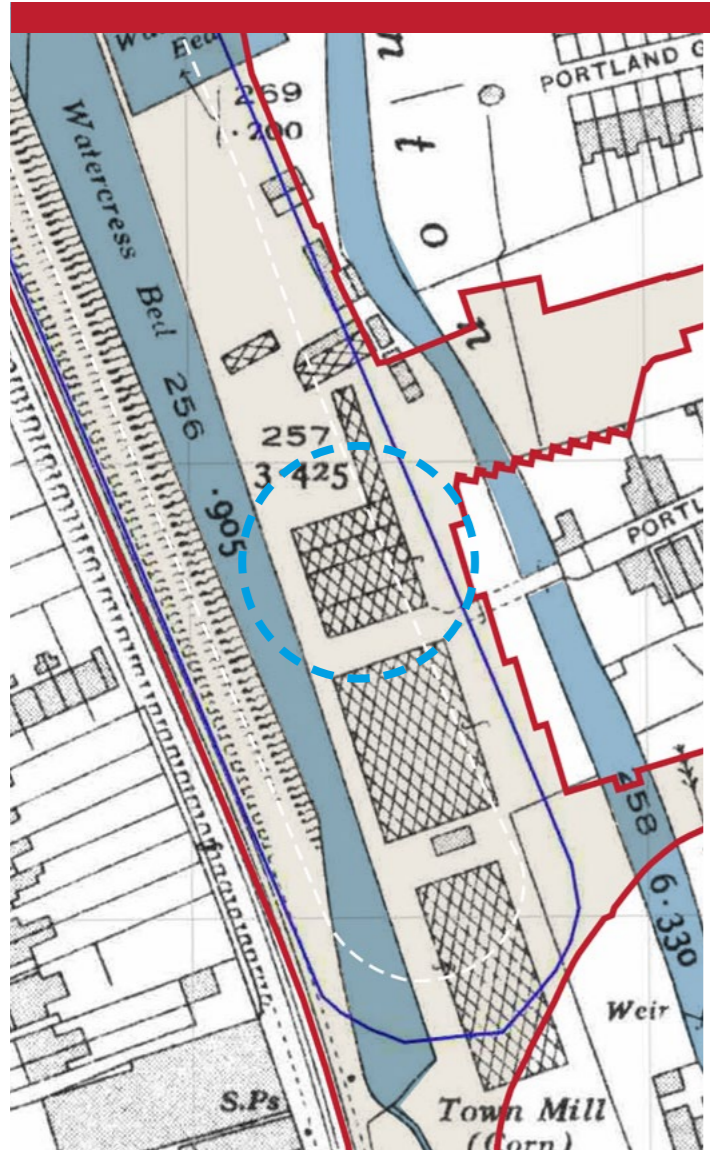
6) Art or play installation



10) Sensory garden

# Character Areas

## Central Square - 'The Bunching Shed'



### History

Watercress cultivation covered the full extent of the site. Sheds were located in the area of the proposed Central Square. We want to reference the past and bring a new feature to the Park. We describe the concept, ingredients and logic behind the design of the pavilion on the right.

### Roof

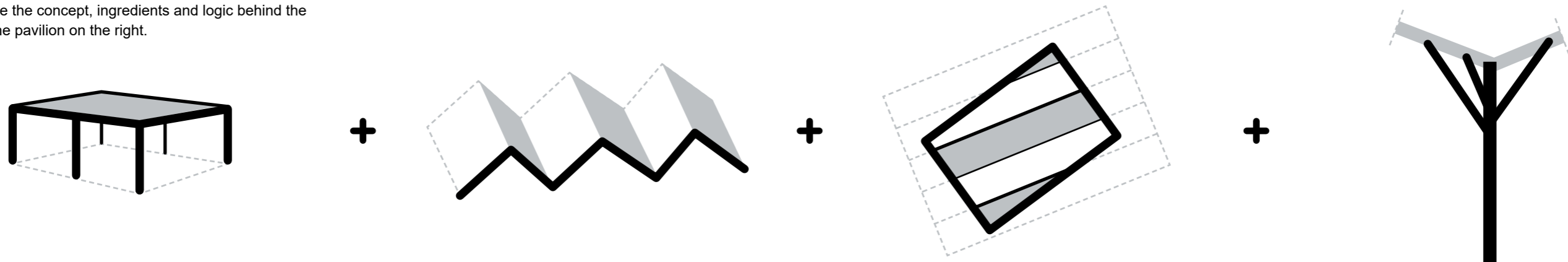
Based on the aerial view from 1926, the sheds can be spotted within the site. They might be used for the watercress, assuming they are bunching sheds. The pavilion will have a pitched roof.

### Orientation

The square and pavilion are orientated based on the outward view to St Mary's Church. The former roof alignment will be overlaid on top of the pavilion to create an interesting angle.

### Support

Watercress was a symbol of the site and Andover. When transported, they were bunched together, potentially in this location. The columns and structure will replicate this formation.



## Character Areas

### Central Square - 'The Bunching Shed'

The Pavilion becomes the focal point of the Central Square, and the overall Riverside Park. Located where former sheds were built, the structure will reference its agriculture past and interpret particular elements in a contemporary way.

Overlooking the River Anton, the Pavilion will be an interesting link between the Park and the River, but also the past and the future.



Simple structure with intricate columns (Photograph: Jonas Adolfsen)



The pavilion within its setting - Artist rendition (This artistic impression illustrates design intent only. Foliage, materials and lighting may vary in the final scheme)



Focal point - link the Park to the River Anton



Elevation of the pavilion over the River Anton

# Character Areas

## Central Square - 'The Bunching Shed'

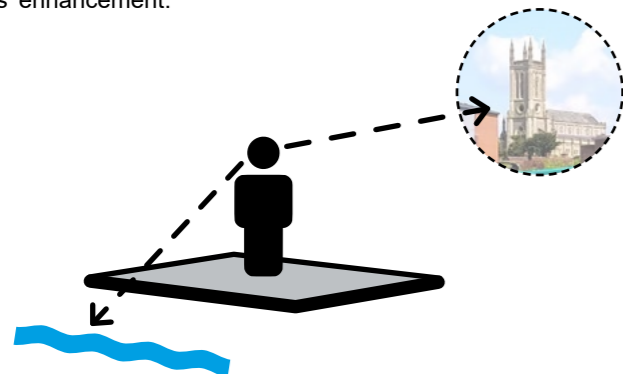


Orientation



### Orientation

The square has been orientated to look at St Mary's Church. People will have a clear view corridor to the Church, that has been emphasised in the design. On the other side, the square steps down to get closer to the River, and offers new views to the banks' enhancement.



St Mary's Church viewpoint from the Central Square - Artist rendition (This artistic impression illustrates design intent only. Foliage, materials and lighting may vary in the final scheme)

# Character Areas

## Central Square - 'The Bunching Shed'



Elevated walkway above the enhanced River Anton - Artist rendition (This artistic impression illustrates design intent only. Foliage, materials and lighting may vary in the final scheme)

# Character Areas

## Playground Area - 'The Boathouse'



### 'The Boathouse' area

Between the northern entrance space and the central square lies a vibrant playground designed to be a hub of activity and exploration for children.

On the eastern side, play features such as slides, climbing structures, and balancing beams invite imaginative play, encouraging kids to engage with the landscape in a tactile and adventurous way. These reference the boathouse and the use of water for hydro-cooling of the watercress.

Meanwhile, the western side offers an elevated promenade that runs alongside the river, providing a serene alternative to the main path. This quieter route invites visitors to stroll while enjoying calming views of the water, surrounded by thoughtfully placed benches and gentle lighting that enhances the ambience during the evening hours.

This combination of energetic play and tranquil pathways creates a balanced experience, catering to both active play and moments of reflection, ultimately enriching the overall park environment.



Playground



Elevated promenade over the river



Interactive play and nature (Copyright Paul Upward Photography)



Render plan of the play area



Section

# Character Areas

## Playground Area - 'The Boathouse'

Andover Western Avenue Riverside Park  
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Landscape Design and Access Statement  
April 2025



The Playground area on the right, the elevated walkway above the River Anton on the left - Artist rendition (This artistic impression illustrates design intent only. Foliage, materials and lighting may vary in the final scheme)

## Character Areas

### Playground Area - 'The Boathouse'

Andover Western Avenue Riverside Park

Test Valley Borough Council

Landscape Design and Access Statement

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On one side, the dedicated play space draws inspiration from the site history, incorporating elements that evoke its past. A boathouse-like playhouse serves as a centrepiece, complemented by timber equipment that invites climbing, balancing, and creative exploration. These structures not only encourage play but also reflect the area's connection to craftsmanship and river life.

A second water feature enhances the space, offering opportunities for interactive activities like splashing, stepping, or observing water flow, enriching the sensory experience and extending the range of playful interactions within the landscape.



1) Boathouse-inspired play house



2) Balancing equipment



3) Climbing stilts



4) Play surface with colours and markings



5) Rill - Water play



7) Pump - Water play



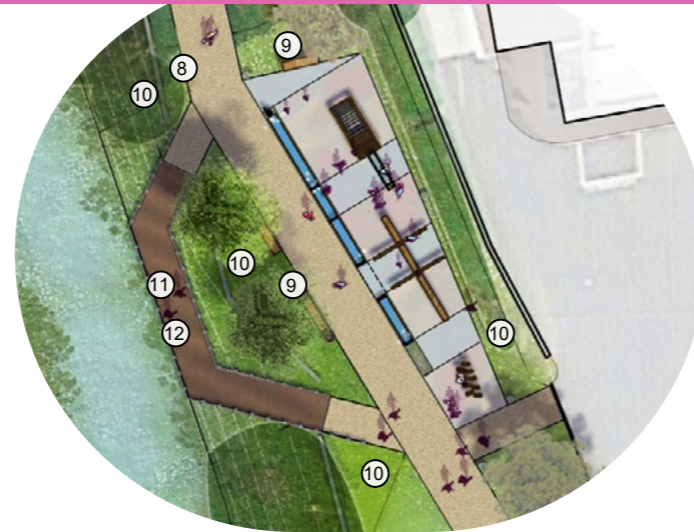
6) Water gates for the rills

## Character Areas

### Playground Area - 'The Boathouse'

On the other side, the elevated walkway offers a peaceful alternative to the play area, with clear views over the River Anton's chalk stream. Simple seating spots allow visitors to pause and observe the river's natural flow and wildlife. Brief signage shares the site's history, while native plants like water crowfoot reinforce the chalk stream habitat.

The design balances quiet reflection with subtle references to the river's past, using durable materials that withstand frequent use.



8) Learning



9) Stand-alone bench and accessible space - for security and rest



10) Sensory garden



11) River promenade and lookout



12) Learning board - Information about the River Anton

# Character Areas

## Active Area - 'The Meadow'

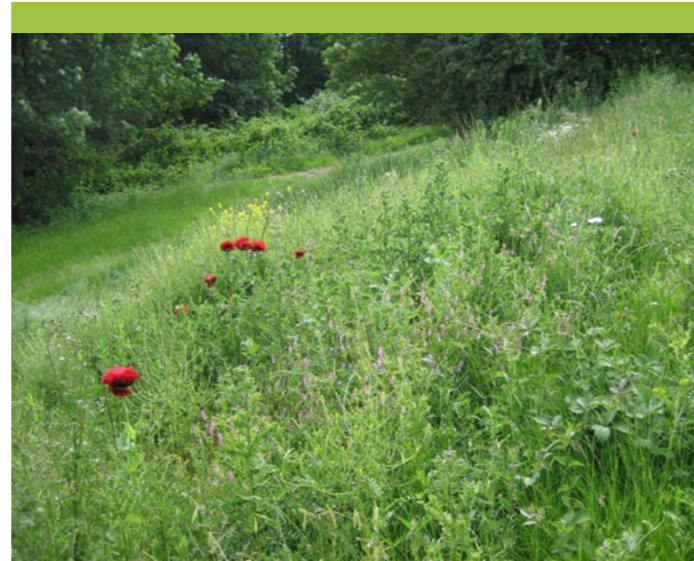


### 'The Meadow' area

On the park side of the river, an expansive meadow area provides an open space that invites active, impromptu play and gatherings. Surrounded by clusters of trees and mid-level planting, this meadow offers a natural setting that fosters a sense of freedom and exploration. Naturalistic planting styles and locally distinctive plant species provide a link to the surrounding countryside.

The generous grassy area is perfect for casual sports, games, and family outings, while the strategic placement of seating and picnic areas encourages visitors to relax and enjoy leisurely meals in a picturesque environment.

This integration of lush greenery and open space not only enhances the park's ecological diversity but also creates inviting spots for community events, such as outdoor concerts or seasonal festivals. The combination of dynamic play areas and tranquil resting spots ensures that these meadows serve as vital spaces for recreation and relaxation, enhancing the park's overall appeal.



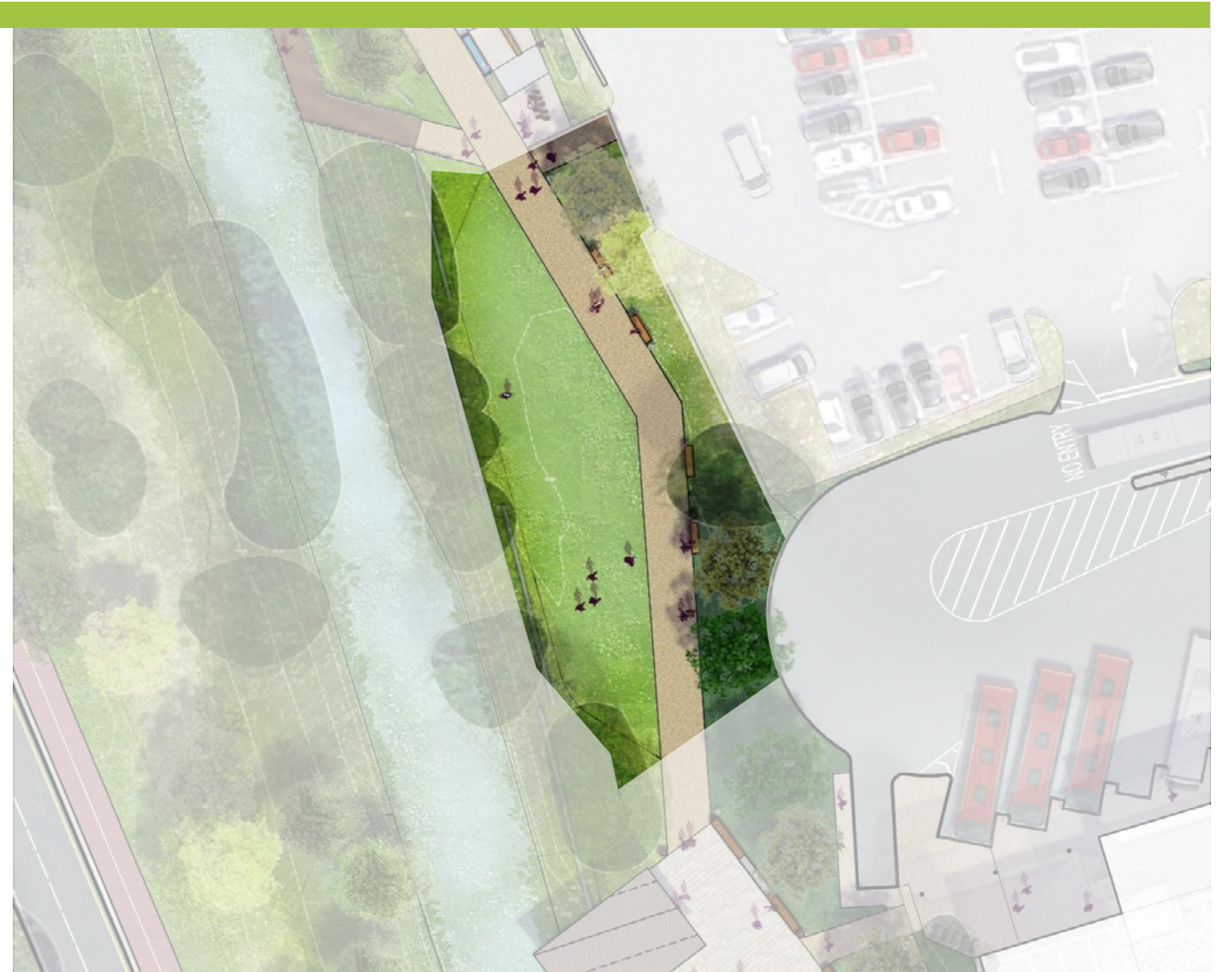
Bordered by wildflower and grass meadows



Northern active area between buildings and River



Gathering on the meadow area



Render plan of the meadow



Section

**Character Areas**  
Active Area - 'The Meadow'



The main path leading to the Central Square framed the meadow area - Artist rendition (This artistic impression illustrates design intent only. Foliage, materials and lighting may vary in the final scheme)

# Character Areas

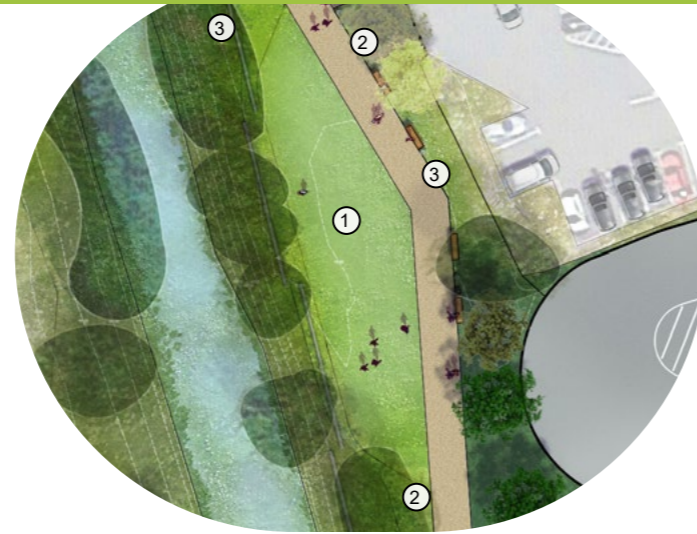
## Active Area - 'The Meadow'



A large meadow offers an open space for free play, perfect for activities like informal ball games, running, and unstructured exploration.

Framed by taller planting, the area doubles as an opportunity to learn about local flora and the surrounding ecosystem.

This meadow also serves as a flexible venue, capable of hosting events, seasonal celebrations, and temporary art installations, making it a vibrant area for community gatherings and creative expression throughout the year.



1) Lawn activities



2) Learning



3) Sensory garden

## Character Areas

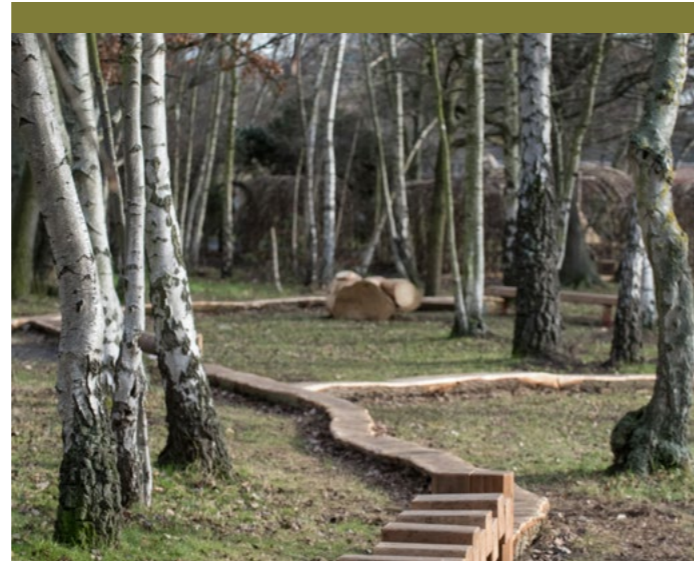
### Active Area - 'The Forest'

#### 'The Forest' area

The forest area offers a dynamic space dedicated to play and exploration, seamlessly integrating activity within a natural setting. A winding trail weaves through trees and woodland planting, creating a sense of adventure and discovery near the central square. Along the main path, benches are strategically placed, providing comfortable spots for parents to rest while children play.

The play elements are designed with a naturalistic approach, incorporating features such as balancing logs, stepping stones, and jumping platforms to encourage physical activity and imaginative interaction.

Surrounding these spaces, the planting scheme is carefully curated to create sensory gardens, engaging visitors with vibrant colours, varied textures, and fragrant blooms, making the forest area a lively and enriching experience for all ages.



Trail within trees



Forest, glades and learning



Natural play within planting



Render plan of the active area



Section

**Character Areas**  
Active Area - 'The Forest'



The main path next to the 'Forest' with its play equipment and natural trail - Artist rendition (This artistic impression illustrates design intent only. Foliage, materials and lighting may vary in the final scheme)

# Character Areas

## Active Area - 'The Forest'



This secondary dedicated play area offers a more immersive and nature-focused experience, with a mown grass path and a play trail woven through planted areas.

Natural elements, such as logs, stumps, and boulders, encourage activities like jumping, balancing, and coordination, blending physical play with a connection to the landscape.

The surrounding planting enhances the space, creating opportunities for children and visitors to learn about local biodiversity and engage with the natural environment in a hands-on way, fostering both exploration and education.



1) Balancing beams



2) Clatter bridge



3) Stilted balance beams



4) Tram tracks



5) Stepping stumps



6) Willow structures



6) Learning



7) Sensory garden

## Character Areas

### River & Ecological Enhancement - 'The Chalklands'

#### 'The Chalklands' area

The western side of the park focuses primarily on vegetation and river enhancement. These interventions not only improve the aesthetic appeal of the riverbank but also add significant ecological value by creating diverse habitats for local wildlife. Planting edges with native vegetation along the water's edge further supports biodiversity while stabilising the banks.

A dedicated cycle lane runs parallel to this area, providing a vital north-south connection for cyclists while ensuring safety and separation from pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Due to its proximity to the main avenue, pedestrian access is intentionally limited in this space, prioritising the experience of cyclists and fostering a more tranquil environment for the river and its surrounding ecosystem.

The focus will be to blend proposed planting and existing vegetation, although it will be pruned and ecologically enhanced with new scrub mix planting. This design approach underscores the park's commitment to enhancing natural landscapes while facilitating sustainable transportation options.



Planting along the river



Large meadow areas



Cycle lane through the landscape



Render plan of the river enhancement

## Character Areas

### River & Ecological Enhancement - 'The Chalklands'

To the north of the site, the cycle lane connects to the existing pedestrian underpass. The planted bank will be re-profiled to allow for the extended width of the existing path. New trees will be introduced along the cycle lane to provide separation from the vehicular traffic, and to expand the biodiversity.



Section

On the central section, the cycle lane will be close to the road, to create the largest green area between the River and the Western Avenue. This will also allow for the lighting column to light the cyclists without affecting the planted edge.



Section

To the southern section, the cycle lane will connect to the existing routes. The lane is shifted to the centre and surrounded by planting.



Section

# Landscape Strategies

## Entrances

The Riverside park features three thoughtfully designed entrances, each with its own unique character and purpose.

- The Northern entrance, adjacent to West Street, serves as a bold gateway, marked by etched lettering on a concrete wall and framed with vibrant plantings that open up views into the park's interior. This design provides a welcoming and accessible entry point from the urban edge.
- The Central entrance, positioned by the bus station, offers a subtler transition, guiding visitors gently into the park. Here, a pavilion on the central square acts as a focal point, inviting visitors to wander and explore the park's features at their own pace.
- Finally, the Southern entrance, set between the river and a car park building, creates an intimate "pinch point" that encourages entry. With playful elements referencing Andover's railway heritage and colourful plantings, this entrance connects visitors with both the town's history and the natural aspect of the riverside landscape.

Together, these entrances create a balanced flow of movement and experience, seamlessly integrating the park with its urban surroundings. Within this scheme the key is to ensure that the spaces are successful through the inclusion of clearly defined interface or threshold conditions and connection between the different types of public spaces.



Northern entrance - example of wall signage



Central entrance - Pavilion in the distance



Southern entrance - example of metal signage

- Pedestrian entrance
- Pedestrian-only crossing
- Cycle lane
- Cycle-only crossing
- Shared crossing



Main entrances and access

# Landscape Strategies

## Circulation & Maintenance



The circulation is guided by the main entrances and the existing trees on site. Circulation within the scheme is defined as primary and secondary;

- The primary path is the north-south route, embellished by public squares along the way; It will be shared use for pedestrian and cyclists to access the bus station and Chantry Centre.
- Secondary paths provide direct links between the primary routes, leading people closer to the River Anton.

Within the scheme there are two other features;

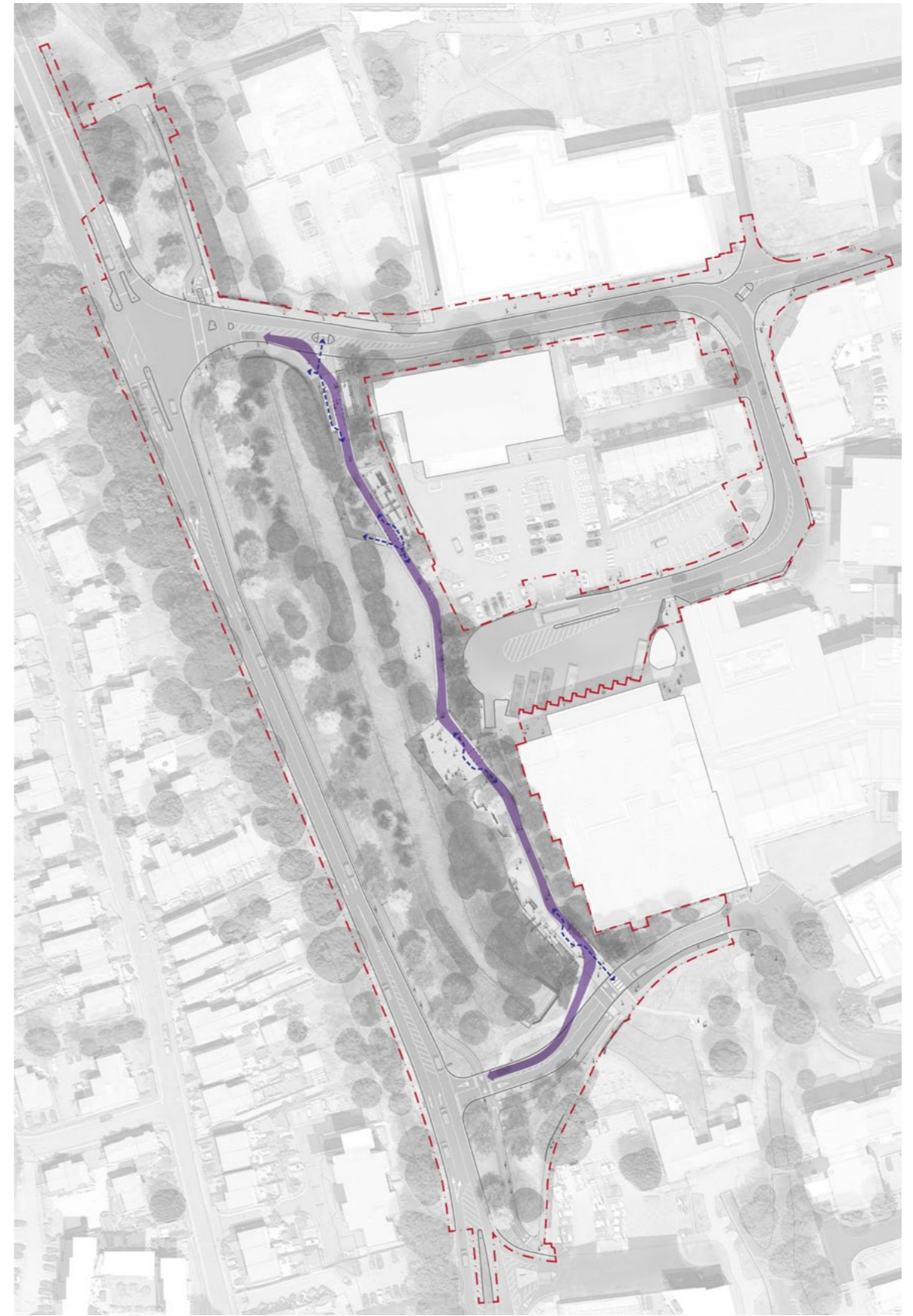
1. Informal and playful trails within the planting areas.
2. The cycle lane on the western bank of the river.

While the Park is for pedestrian and cyclists, cleaning and maintenance access are also provided.

- Primary route
- Secondary route
- Potential link through the parking
- Dedicated cycle lane
- Play trail
- Maintenance route
- Pedestrian route while maintenance
- Drop off area



Circulation diagram



Maintenance route

## Landscape Strategies

### Levels & Accessibility

Within this scheme the key is to ensure that the spaces are successful through the inclusion of clearly defined interface or threshold conditions and connections between the different types of public spaces. The park's design prioritises accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring that all visitors can comfortably navigate its spaces. The levels are kept as simple as possible, closely matching the existing topography to minimise the need for significant alterations.

The design rigorously adheres to the Department for Transport Inclusive Mobility guidance, with all routes meeting the recommended 1:20 gradient and seating provided at intervals of no more than 50 metres. Inclusive routes are provided throughout the park, with gentle ramps that accommodate wheelchair users and individuals with mobility challenges. Pedestrian crossings are equipped with tactile paving to enhance safety and accessibility for those with visual impairments. The materials used across the scheme are carefully chosen to be both functional and sensitive to the site's history and environment, creating a cohesive and welcoming space that serves the needs of everyone.

- Large gathering space
- Main path (3.6 meters wide)
- Secondary path (2.4 meters wide)
- Ramped access (2 meters wide)
- Seating (every 20 meters max.)
- Tactile paving
- Light crossing
- Accessible route
- Ramps
- Accessible lawn



Level and accessibility diagram



Rest and inclusive design diagram

# Landscape Strategies

## Views & Security

### Safety and Community

The elongated design of the park serves multiple functions, with a focus on enhancing both aesthetic appeal and safety through passive surveillance. The linear layout naturally guides movement, creating visual corridors that allow for uninterrupted sightlines across the space.

By strategically placing seating areas, pathways, and focal points within these sightlines, the park encourages a sense of openness and visibility. This design not only maximises the visual enjoyment of the park's features but also enables park users to monitor the space informally, fostering a sense of security without the need for intrusive surveillance methods.

### Evening Safety and Activation

Carefully positioned lighting will extend the park's usability into the evening, with fixtures illuminating key routes and gathering spaces to maintain visibility while preserving the natural ambience.

The Council, in conjunction with the community and other stakeholders, will programme regular community events - from seasonal markets to outdoor performances - ensuring the space remains lively and accessible to all. This combination of thoughtful design and active stewardship will create a truly lived-in space, where safety and community vibrancy reinforce one another.

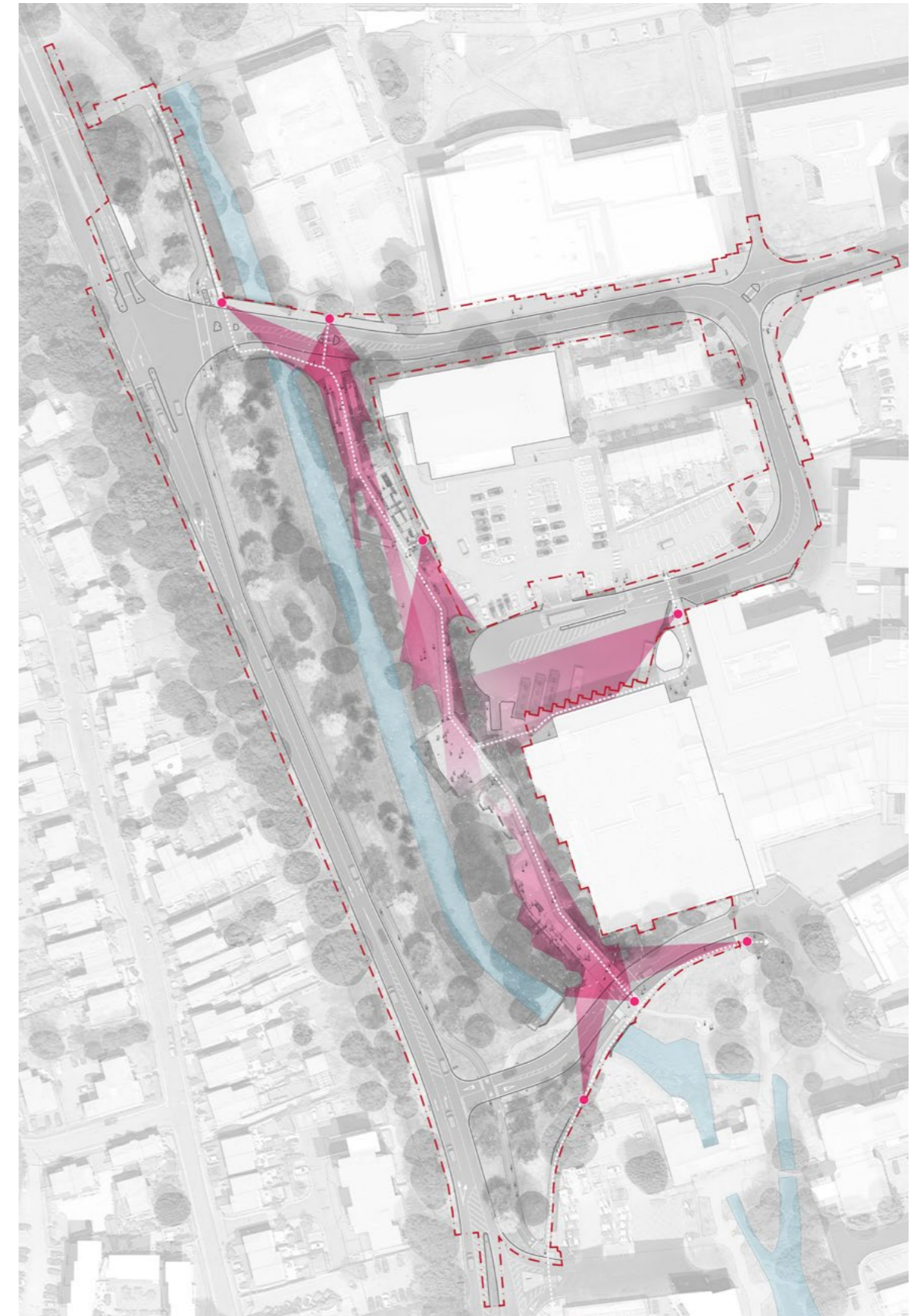


Clear path and next space in view



Clear view and seating available along the route

- Public squares
- Inwards view



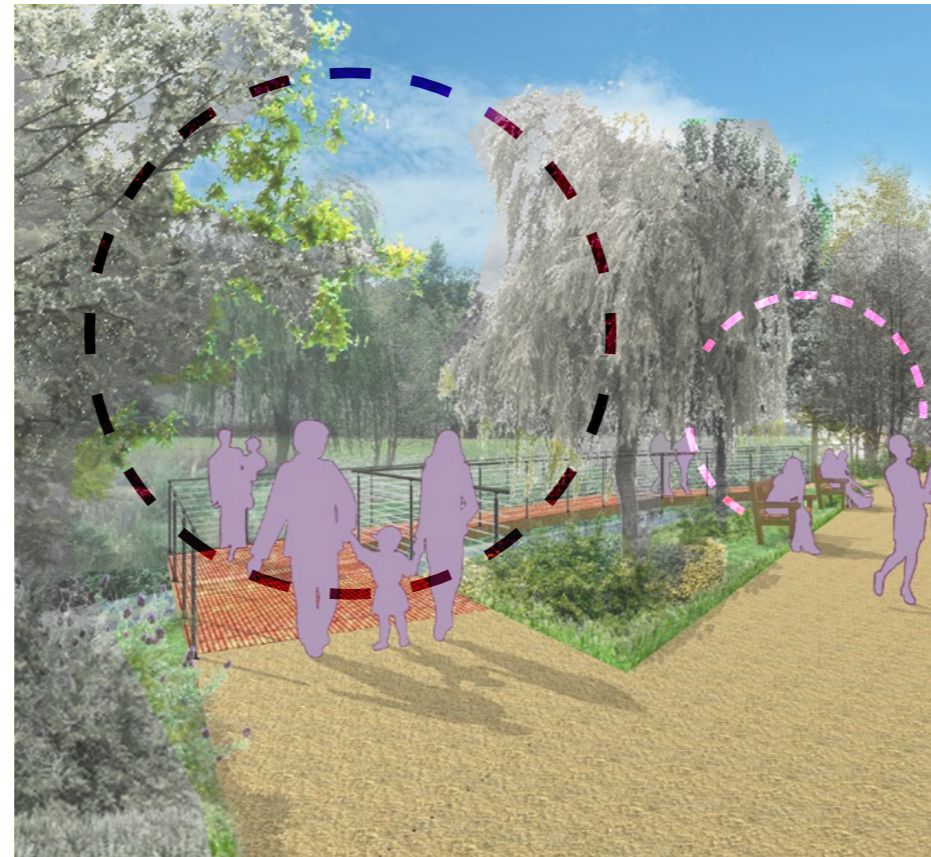
Inward views and passive security diagram

# Landscape Strategies

## Vistas Along the Park

The park's existing riverside tree belt forms a vital ecological corridor and will be carefully preserved. Safety and biodiversity underpin our approach: while retaining mature specimens, we'll remove invasive brambles and expand native understorey planting to improve woodland health and public access. Two strategic openings - aligned with the central square and play area - feature elevated walkways extending toward the River Anton.

Selective pruning elsewhere creates framed views to the river and enhanced western bank, maintaining canopy cover while revealing glimpses of the enhanced river corridor and its wildlife. As shown in the adjacent diagram, the pathway choreographs a dynamic rhythm - dappled, enclosed sections suddenly open to curated clearings before narrowing again, culminating in the riverside panorama. This sequencing draws inspiration from the river's own kinetic energy, mirroring the cyclical patterns of water circulation and the playful 'disappearance-reappearance' of boats along its course. The result balances ecological stewardship with immersive storytelling, where each turn evokes the river's working past and living present.



Large vista with elevated walkway over the River Anton



Glimpses of the River enhancement through the planting

- Public squares
- ◀ Glimpse view
- ▶ Large vista



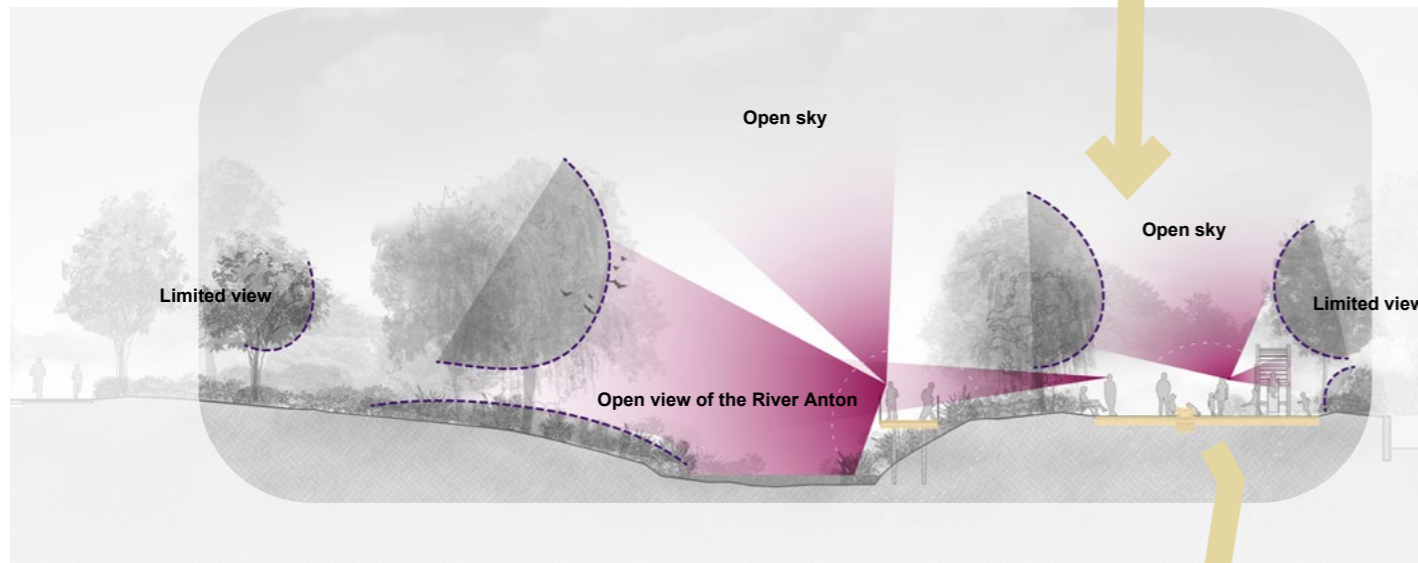
Outwards view diagram

# Landscape Strategies

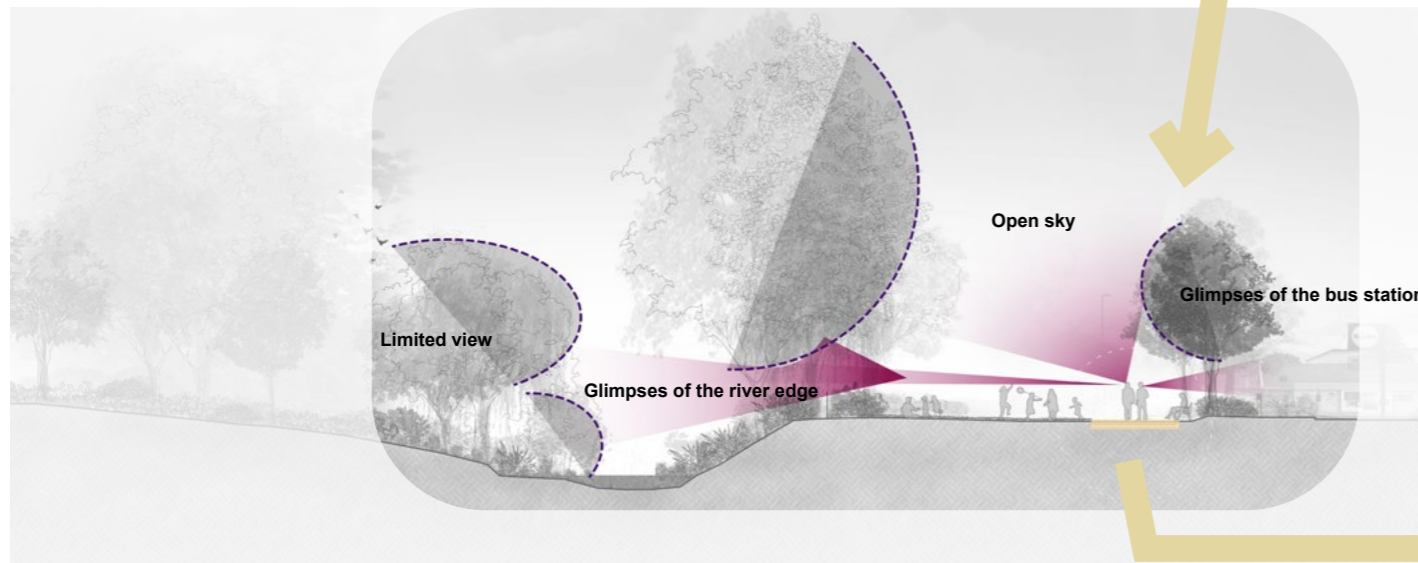
## Vistas Along the Park



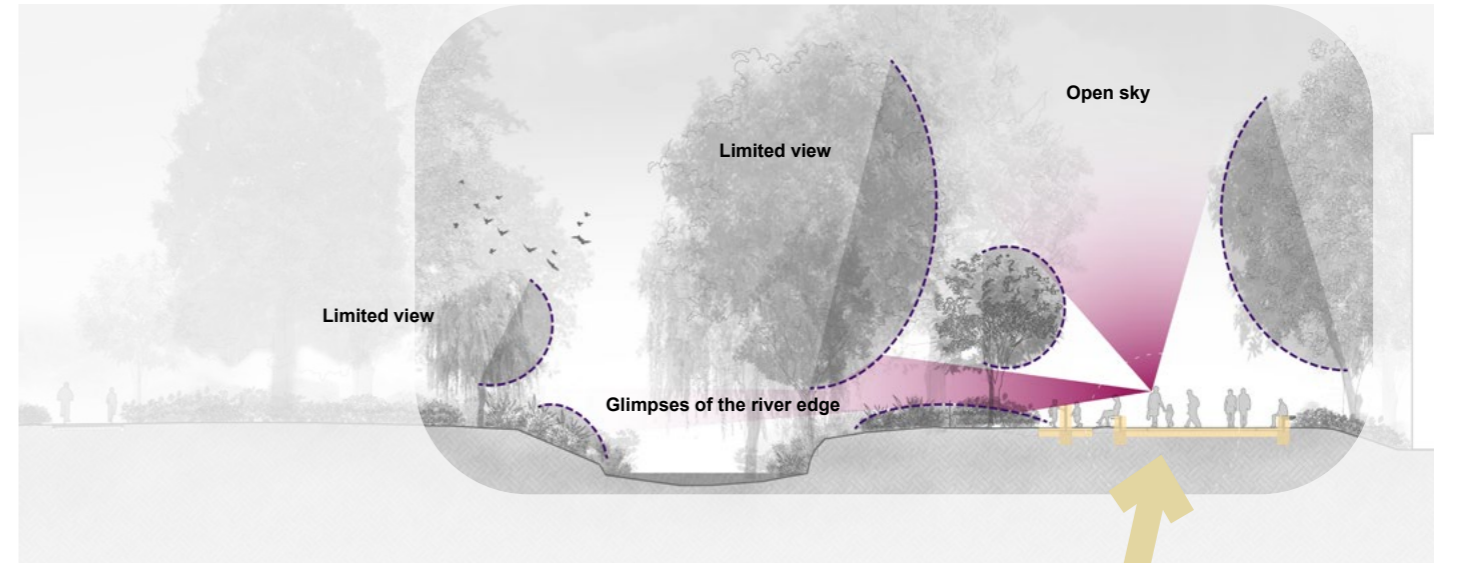
1. Section through the Northern Entrance



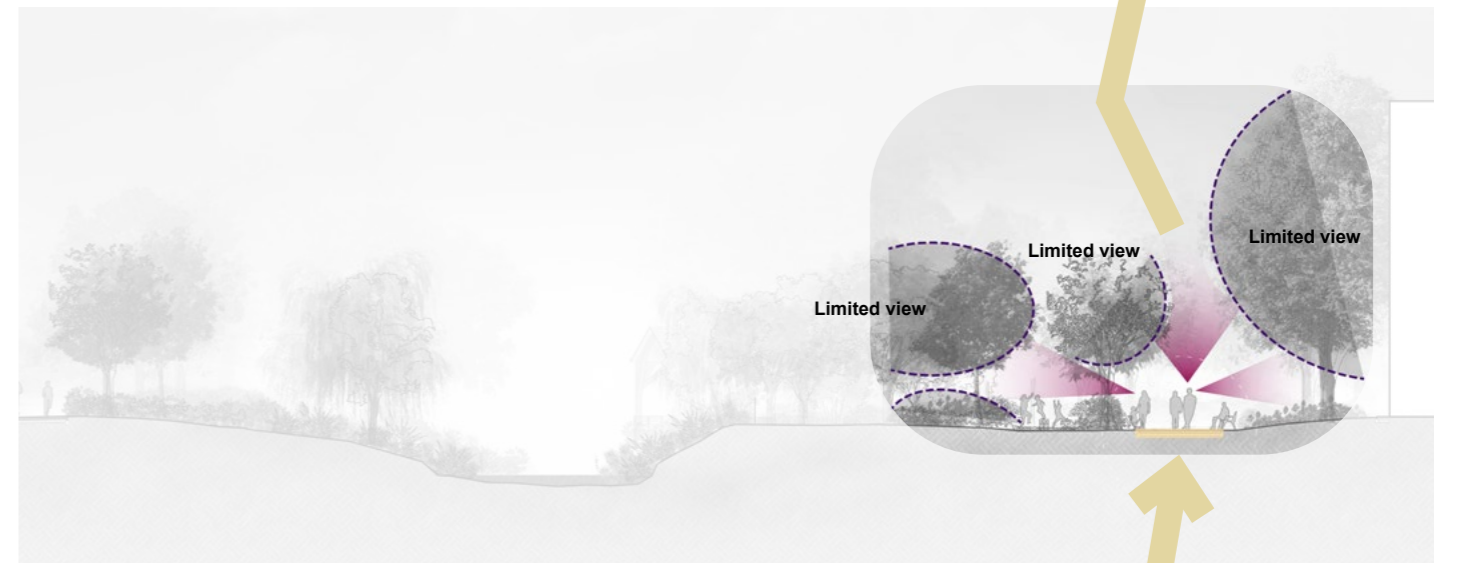
2. Section through the Play area



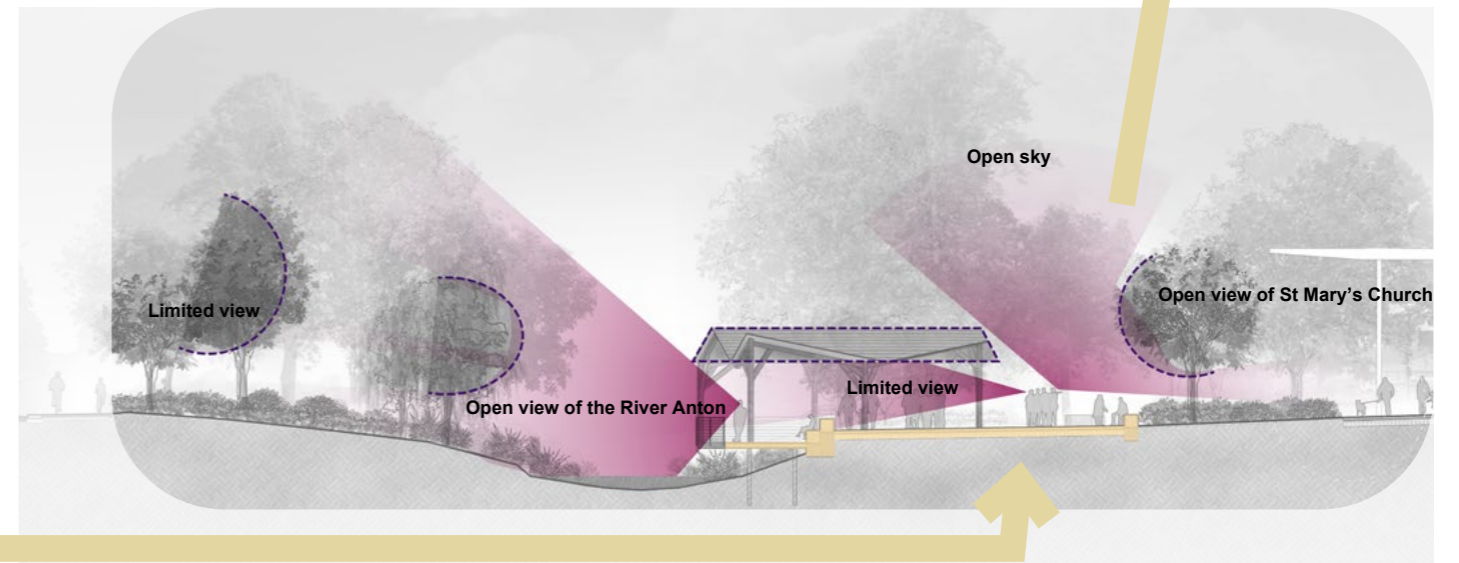
3. Section through the Meadow



5. Section through the Southern Entrance



5. Section through the Forest



4. Section through the Central Square

# Landscape Strategies

## Hardscape Strategy

The landscape design delivers a unifying character for the masterplan while providing robust solutions to support the site's varied uses. Particular emphasis has been placed on material selection, ensuring appropriateness for placemaking and long-term durability in equal measure.

The hard materials palette has been carefully developed to:

- Respond to the surrounding urban character
- Comply with the Public Realm Design Guide (2022)
- Establish distinct yet harmonious identities for each space

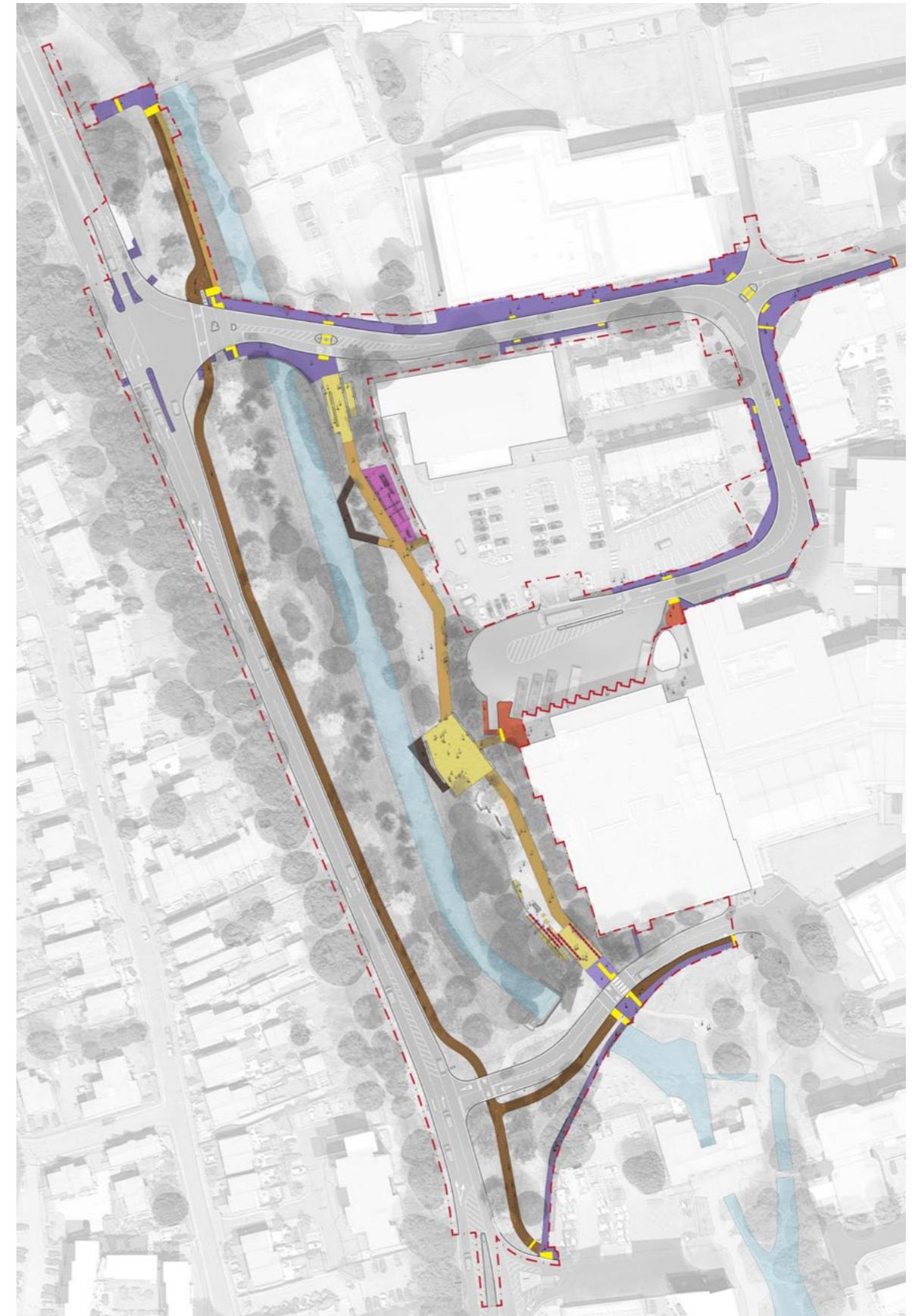
Crucially, this material strategy has been developed in close collaboration with the landscape architect for the New Theatre project. The two sites will be physically connected through an intervening open space, with shared material choices - including matching stone finishes and complementary street furniture - creating visual continuity across both schemes. This coordinated approach ensures a seamless pedestrian experience while reinforcing Andover's distinctive sense of place.

The selected materials balance aesthetic qualities with practical performance:

- Natural stone for key thresholds and seating
- Precast concrete with local aggregate for unified pathways
- Hardwood timber for integrated seating and play features

All specified to meet the highest standards of sustainability and accessibility.

-  Pavement
-  Pathway
-  Public square
-  Playground
-  Promenade
-  Cycleway
-  Brick paving
-  Tactile paving
-  Kerb (adopted highways)
-  Flush metal line



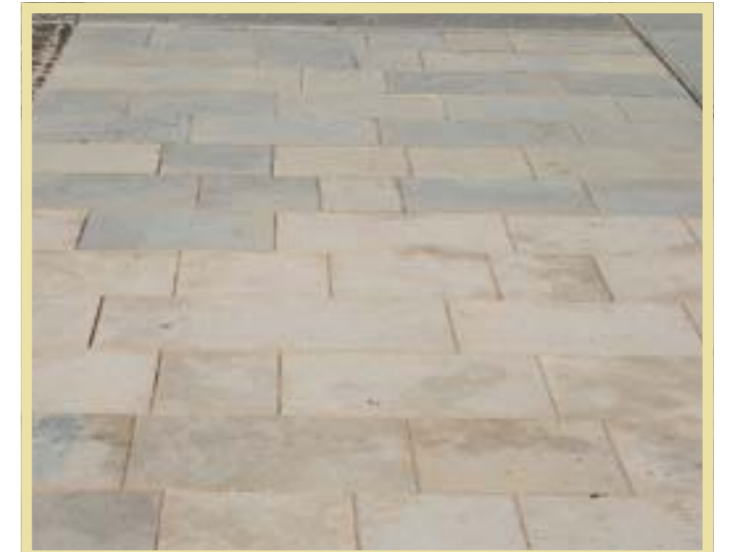
Materials strategy



Pavement - Asphalt (to retain or match existing)



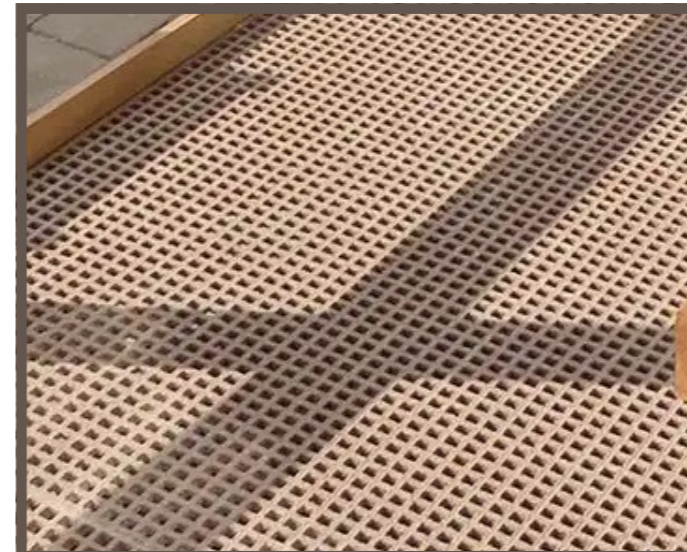
Pathway - Resin bound gravel (Barley butter)



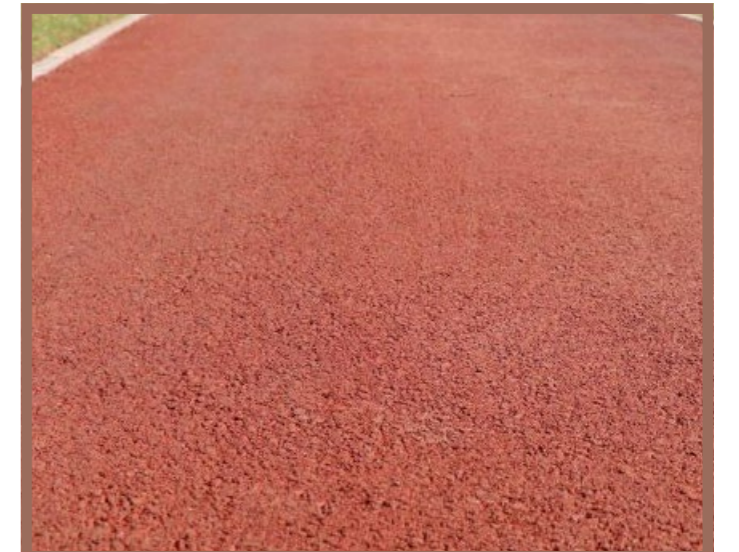
Public square - Purbeck limestone paving



Playground - Wet pour surface (beige)



Promenade - GRP grating mesh panel



Cycleway - Coloured asphalt



Tactile paving - Concrete pavers (to crossings and to cycle lane)



Kerb - Granite kerb



Edge - Steel edge to paving

## Landscape Strategies

### Furniture Schedule



The choice of furniture has a significant impact on the character and feeling of spaces.

Timber seats have been chosen for their comfort and warmth, enhancing the inviting feel of the park. The communal amenity space will be designed to accommodate a variety of activities, fostering social interaction and relaxation.

Litter bins will be strategically placed in high-footfall areas, particularly within the main squares and key seating zones, to maintain cleanliness and encourage responsible waste disposal. The bins will be selected to complement the park's furniture palette, integrating seamlessly with the overall design while meeting practical needs.

The arrangement and type of furniture will be carefully tailored to suit the intended uses and program of each area, ensuring that rest spaces are strategically placed throughout the site.

Most of the furniture will be sourced from a cohesive family of matching elements, such as the use of timber, creating a unified and harmonious composition that ties the space together.

- Stand-alone timber bench
- Timber top seat (on concrete or metal wall)
- Concrete wall
- Water feature
- Corten sheet wall
- Balustrade
- Cycle stands
- Fencing (see *Fencing and Edge Treatment*)
- Litter bin (potential location)
-  Play equipment
-  Pavilion (see *Central Square character area*)



Furniture diagram

**Landscape Strategies**  
**Furniture Schedule**



Timber bench - stand alone bench along the pathway



Timber seat on top of concrete wall



Timber seat on top of corten wall



Concrete wall



Water feature



Corten sheet wall - to Southern entrance



Metal balustrade - to promenades, for fall protection



Cycle stands



Fencing



Litter bins



Play equipments



Pavilion

# Landscape Strategies

## Fencing & Edge Treatment

The design of the safety line along the river carefully responds to the existing topography, particularly the steep riverbanks where level differences present challenges for access and maintenance.

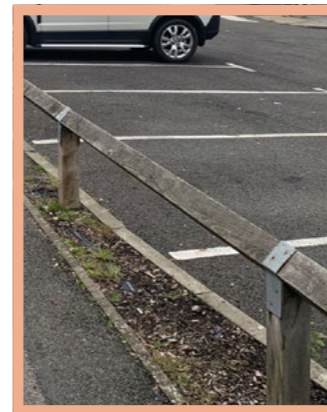
Given the limited access for maintenance, the fence is integrated into the planting, concealing it while reinforcing its function as a barrier. The staggered layout of the fence avoids interfering with both existing and proposed trees, maintaining open views while still ensuring safety.

A raised walkway over the river, featuring balustrades for fall protection, is seamlessly integrated into the overall structure.

Additionally, there is potential to incorporate art or educational elements into the fencing panels, enhancing both the aesthetic and informative value of the space.



Bridge railing



Wooden post fence



Pedestrian guard rail



Balustrade to walkway



Steel fence and post hidden within planting



Fence with potential integrated art / sculpture

- Bridge railing (existing)
- Wooden post fence (to match existing)
- Pedestrian guard rail (to match existing)
- Balustrade
- Steel fence and post
- Fence (with integrated art or educational elements)
- Limited access (except maintenance)



Public access

# Landscape Strategies

## Lighting Strategy

The lighting design for the park is thoughtfully divided into four key categories, each forming part of a broader strategy..

- In the squares, tall columns provide ambient lighting, creating a well-illuminated atmosphere for gatherings and social activities.
- Along the pathways, bollard lights guide visitors, ensuring a safe and pleasant journey through the park while adding a subtle architectural touch.
- The pavilion is accentuated with feature lighting or down-lights, drawing attention to its unique design, making it a focal point even in the evening.
- Under some of the seating areas, soft underlighting adds a cosy, inviting element, blending functionality with aesthetic appeal.

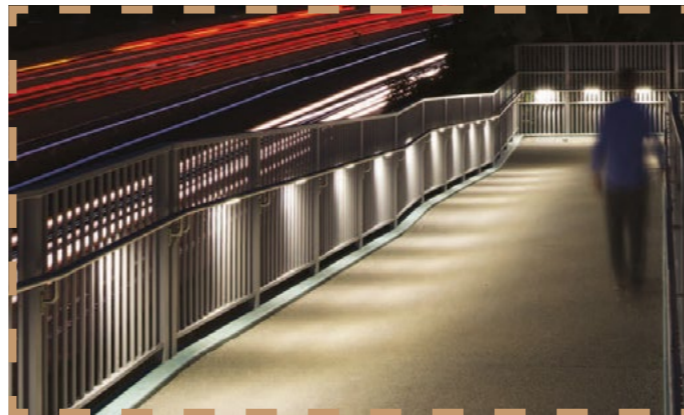
This lighting strategy aims to balance safety and ambiance while respecting the privacy of surrounding areas and protecting local biodiversity. Care will be taken to ensure that the lighting does not disrupt existing biomes, maintaining harmony with the park's natural environment and its riparian surrounding.



Linear lighting under seating



Light fittings attached to pavilion



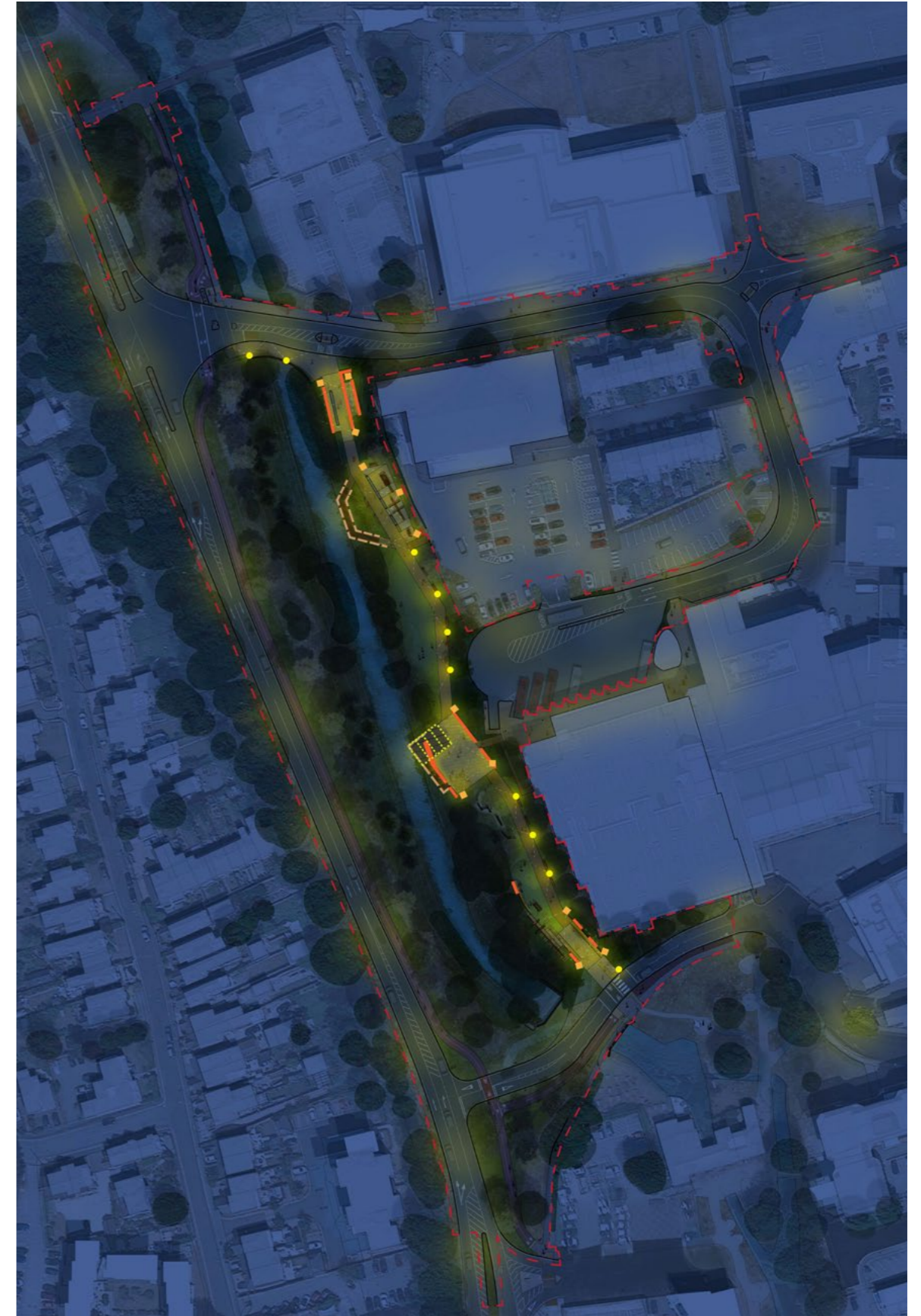
Lighting fixed to balustrade



Lighting column on public squares



Lighting bollard along the main path



Lighting strategy

- Linear lighting under seating
- Lighting fixed to balustrade
- Light fittings attached to pavilion
- Lighting column on public squares
- Lighting bollard along the main path

# Landscape Strategies

## Play Provision

The objectives for the play provision within the public realm and Riverside Park include:

- Integration of playability within public realm strategy, recognising that play can take place in a variety of settings and may or may not involve equipment.
- Developing an environment which encourages outdoor play and social interaction; acknowledging that play occurs within the whole environment that a child occupies for example the route to local schools
- Exploring opportunities to introduce natural elements and elements of risk and challenge within play provision while balancing safety and maintenance needs.

The park has been designed to provide a rich variety of play experiences that cater to different ages, interests and abilities. At its heart lies the Boathouse playground - a vibrant hub of traditional play equipment where children can swing, climb and socialise in a central, accessible location. Complementing this is the railway-themed play area near the southern entrance, which nods to Andover's industrial heritage.

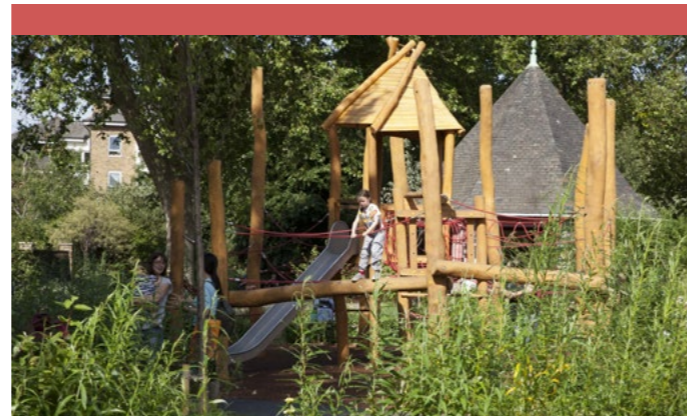
Moving beyond conventional playgrounds, the Forest area offers a more naturalistic play experience. Here, children can explore undulating mounds, navigate log trails and engage with the landscape in imaginative ways. This space has been carefully designed to blend physical challenge with sensory discovery, all within a woodland-inspired setting.

The play opportunities extend organically throughout the park. The expansive meadows to the north and south of the central square provide ample space for informal games, running and spontaneous activities. More subtle play moments emerge within the public squares, where low walls invite balancing and the elevated walkway offers unique vantage points over the Anton.

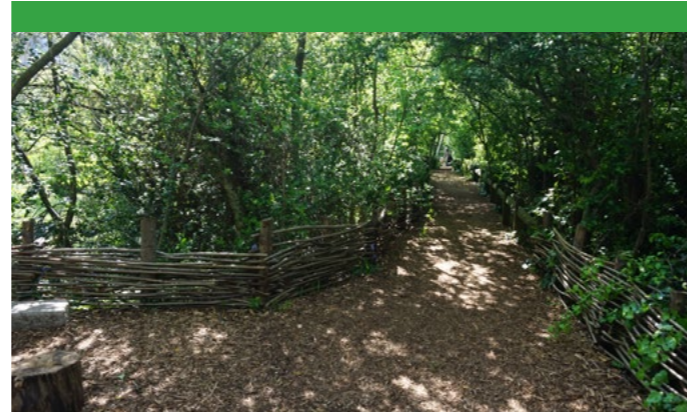
This layered approach to play provision ensures the park caters to different play styles while maintaining a cohesive aesthetic. From energetic group play to quiet, nature-based exploration, the design supports children's development through diverse interactions with the environment.

- Playground (dedicated play)
- Natural play trail (dedicated play)
- Large meadow (incidental play)
- River promenade (incidental play)
- Public squares (incidental play)

Dedicated play area



Playground with water-themed equipment



Natural play trail with balancing beam and jumping logs, within a forest setting

Incidental play



Large meadow - event and play lawn



River watching



Public square



Play provision diagram

# Landscape Strategies

## Art, Learning & Heritage Trail



The park has been designed to enrich visitors' experience through integrated artistic interventions, educational opportunities and heritage interpretation. These elements could work together to create a layered landscape that stimulates curiosity, celebrates local identity and fosters deeper connections with the natural and built environment.

### Potential Art in the Park

Thoughtfully curated artistic features will enhance the park's distinctive character. A signature lighting installation could create atmospheric evening displays, while sculptural elements attached to the Pavilion would serve as focal points. The perimeter fencing could be transformed through collaboration with local artists, incorporating designs that reflect the site's ecological and industrial heritage. These artistic interventions would add visual interest while sensitively complementing the landscape design.

### Educational opportunities

Interactive learning experiences will be woven throughout the park's design. Interpretive boards along pathways will describe native planting schemes and explain ecological processes like flood management and habitat creation. The River Anton Way promenade will feature educational elements that encourage visitors to engage with riverside planting and understand the chalk stream's unique ecosystem. Community gardening areas could provide hands-on opportunities to learn about horticulture and local biodiversity.

### Heritage Loop

The existing heritage trail could be extended to form a circular route, connecting significant historical points along the river with the rest of the Town Centre and the High Street. Key stops will include the restored Boathouse, remnants of the watercress cultivation industry, traditional bunching sheds, and features highlighting the railway's transportation legacy. Information points with archival imagery and narratives will bring these heritage assets to life, creating a journey through time that reveals the site's industrial past and its transformation into a vibrant public space.

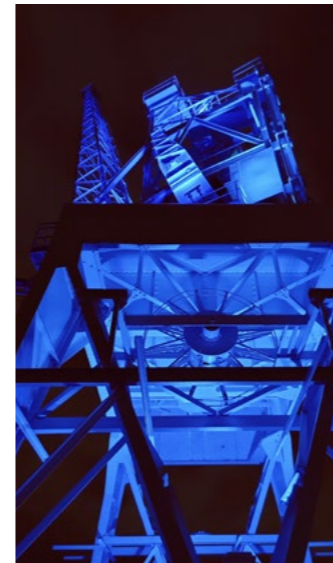
Together, these elements create a rich tapestry of experiences that invite exploration and discovery. The integration of art, education and heritage interpretation ensures the park will engage visitors intellectually and emotionally, fostering a deeper appreciation for Andover's unique natural and cultural legacy.

- Signage
- Art installation
- Educational element
- Heritage information

Examples of Art Installations



Details on fencing



Lighting on structure

Examples of learning opportunities



Learning opportunity

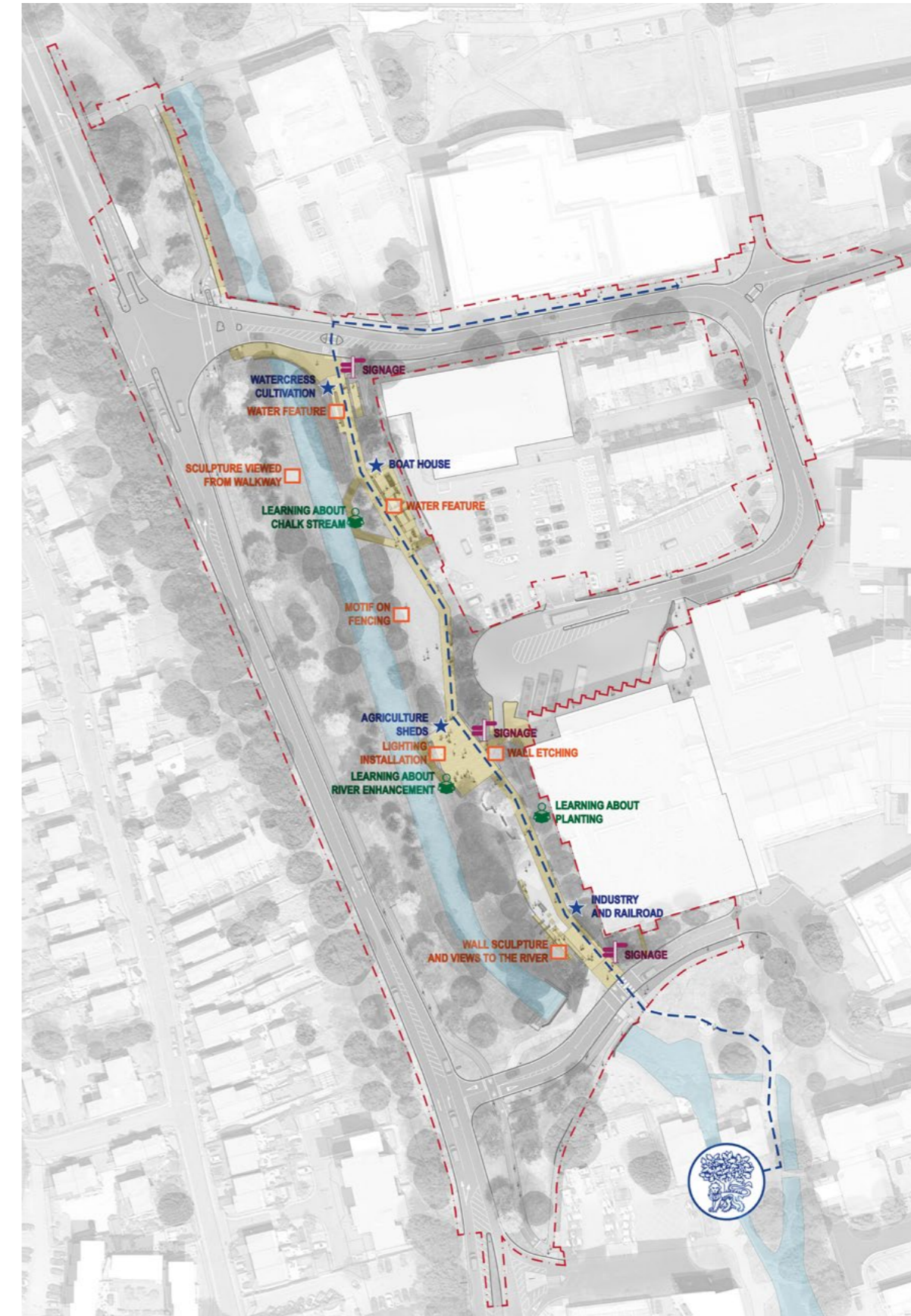


Board and signage

Examples of heritage trail



Heritage trail with information board and signage



Potential locations for artistic, cultural and educational interventions

## Landscape Strategies

### Existing Planting Conditions

The softscape strategy within the site is anchored by a distinctive planting design language and a substantial tree and soft landscape planting programme, carefully curated to enhance biodiversity and ecological value. A key aspect of the design is the retention of existing planting, which plays a crucial role in supporting local ecosystems and providing habitats for wildlife.

The existing conditions are composed of modified grassland (usually mown areas along the road edge), scrub and other woodland habitat (closer to the River Anton).



Existing mowed grassland



Woodland and scrub habitats

- Existing mowed lawn
- Existing woodland and scrub



Existing planting conditions

# Landscape Strategies

## Planting Strategy



The planting concept is seamlessly integrated into the landscape layout;

- With riparian style planting following the River Anton to create transitional habitats that soften the riverbanks and enhance the ecological corridors through the site.
- Building on the natural character of the grassland, planting mediates the transition between marginal and more active planting areas.
- The two main mown areas for active use, located to the north and south of the central square, are also designed as wildflower meadows that support biodiversity while withstanding public use.
- Woodland planting forms a protective threshold around the site, fostering a sense of enclosure while promoting habitat diversity.

This holistic planting approach is essential in achieving the project's sustainable development goals, with a focus on enhancing biodiversity.

### Planting proposals

The planting proposals for the riverside park are a crucial element of the project that have been carefully considered. Plant species and specific mixes will be selected to achieve a naturalistic aesthetic that links Andover to the surrounding countryside and brings the chalk stream ecology into the centre of the town.

The natural look will be achieved by avoiding block planting of the same species and a consistent size of the new trees. By mimicking the look of historic woodland, natural scrubland and wildflower chalk meadows the scheme will appear to have evolved over time and be well rooted in the new surroundings.

The exact species mixes will be refined at RIBA Stage 4 but will be based on recommendations from the Andover Public Realm Design Guide and in conjunction with TVBC's landscape officers and countryside and maintenance teams.

A combination of trees, scrub (woodland edge species), meadow flowers, selected spring bulbs and marginal vegetation will provide year-round interest with a range of forms and colours without resorting to evergreen 'business park' planting.

Species will be primarily native with local provenance with occasional carefully selected non-natives for example to provide additional wildlife benefits or a longer season of flowering.

- Existing mowed lawn (retained and enhanced for ecological value)
- Existing woodland and scrub (retained and enhanced for ecological value)
- Protective holt (woodland planting, scrub and individual tree)
- Active glade (mown grass meadow)
- Ecological field (wildflower meadow)
- Phased riparian enhancement (to be integrated with scrub and woodland)
- Planted access (reinforced lawn for maintenance)
- Road verge (Standard grass seed)



Reinforced lawn for maintenance vehicle access



Planting strategy

# Landscape Strategies

## Planting Palette



Protective holt - Woodland planting and scrub

### Woodland edge and scrub species to include:

- *Acer campestre* - field Maple
- *Cornus sanguinea* - dogwood
- *Crataegus monogyna* - hawthorn
- *Euonymus europaeus* - spindle
- *Ilex aquifolium* - holly
- *Ligustrum vulgare* - wild privet
- *Prunus spinosa* - backthorn
- *Ribes rubrum* - wild redcurrant
- *Rosa arvensis* - field rose
- *Rosa canina* - dog rose
- *Rubus idaeus* - wild raspberry
- *Sambucus nigra* - elder
- *Taxus baccata* - yew
- *Viburnum opulus* - guelder rose



*Acer campestre* - field Maple



*Cornus sanguinea* - dogwood



*Crataegus monogyna* - hawthorn



*Euonymus europaeus* - spindle



*Ilex aquifolium* - holly



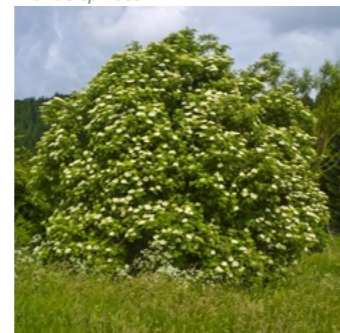
*Ligustrum vulgare* - wild privet



*Prunus spinosa* - backthorn



*Ribes rubrum* - wild redcurrant



*Sambucus nigra* - elder



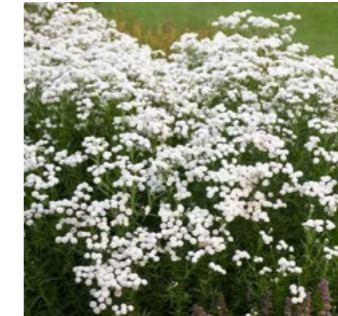
*Viburnum opulus* - guelder rose



Phased riparian enhancement - Scrub and woodland planting

### Marginal planting to include:

- *Achillea ptarmica* - sneezewort
- *Caltha palustris* - marsh marigold
- *Eupatorium cannabinum* - hemp agrimony
- *Filipendula ulmaria* - meadowsweet
- *Geum rivale* - water avens
- *Iris pseudacorus* - yellow iris
- *Lotus pedunculatus* - greater birdsfoot trefoil
- *Lycopus europaeus* - gypsywort
- *Lythrum salicaria* - purple loosestrife
- *Mentha aquatica* - water mint
- *Pulicaria dysenterica* - common fleabane
- *Ranunculus acris* - meadow buttercup
- *Ranunculus aquatilis* - water crowfoot
- *Scrophularia auriculata* - water figwort
- *Scutellaria galericulata* - skullcap
- *Succisa pratensis* - devil's-bit scabious
- *Vicia cracca* - tufted vetch



*Achillea ptarmica* - sneezewort



*Caltha palustris* - marsh marigold



*Geum rivale* - water avens



*Iris pseudacorus* - yellow iris



*Lotus pedunculatus* - greater birdsfoot



*Lycopus europaeus* - gypsywort



*Mentha aquatica* - water mint



*Pulicaria dysenterica* - common fleabane



*Ranunculus aquatilis* - water crowfoot



*Succisa pratensis* - devil's-bit scabious

# Landscape Strategies

## Planting Palette



Active glade - Mown grass meadow



Ecological field - Wildflower meadow

Wildflower meadows, species to include:

- *Achillea millefolium* - yarrow
- *Anthyllis vulneraria* - kidney vetch
- *Centaurea nigra* - common knapweed
- *Clinopodium vulgare* - wild basil
- *Daucus carota* - wild carrot
- *Galium verum* - lady's bedstraw
- *Knautia arvensis* - field scabious
- *Leontodon hispidus* - rough hawkbit
- *Leucanthemum vulgare* - oxeye daisy
- *Lotus corniculatus* - birdsfoot trefoil
- *Onobrychis viciifolia* - sainfoin
- *Origanum vulgare* - wild marjoram
- *Plantago media* - hoary plantain
- *Poterium sanguisorba* - salad burnet
- *Primula veris* - cowslip
- *Prunella vulgaris* - selfheal
- *Ranunculus acris* - meadow buttercup
- *Reseda lutea* - wild mignonette
- *Scabiosa columbaria* - small scabious



*Centaurea nigra* - common knapweed



*Clinopodium vulgare* - wild basil



*Daucus carota* - wild carrot



*Galium verum* - lady's bedstraw



*Knautia arvensis* - field scabious



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*Onobrychis viciifolia* - sainfoin



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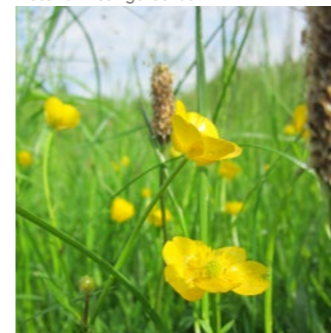
*Poterium sanguisorba* - salad burnet



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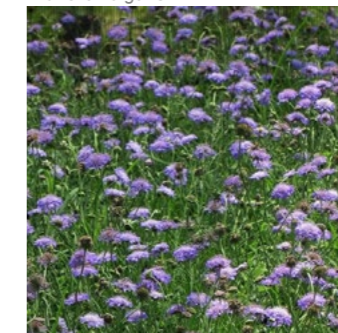
*Prunella vulgaris* - selfheal



*Ranunculus acris* - meadow buttercup



*Reseda lutea* - wild mignonette



*Scabiosa columbaria* - small scabious

# Landscape Strategies

## Tree Strategy

Trees form a dominant and valuable feature of the site and will be retained wherever possible in accordance with the Arboricultural Impact Assessment. The existing tree canopy contributes significantly to the character of the area, and protection measures including Root Protection Areas and Construction Exclusion Zones will be implemented during construction. Particular care will be taken with high-value specimens, where specialised techniques will be employed to ensure their preservation (refer to the Arboricultural Impact Assessment for further information).

Selected tree removals have been carefully considered to achieve key design objectives. A total of 12 individual trees, 2 groups, and part of a further group will be removed primarily to facilitate essential re-profiling works along the west bank of the River Anton. These removals will also serve to open up important views and create visual access to the river, with associated works including selective crown lifting and pruning to enhance these connections. Where removals are necessary, priority has been given to lower value specimens or those with limited life expectancy.

The proposed planting strategy has been developed to not only mitigate these removals but to enhance the overall landscape character. 79 new trees will be introduced, carefully selected to complement the existing species diversity while achieving the desired aesthetic quality. This multi-layered planting approach will see trees forming the upper canopy layer within predominantly soft landscaped areas, creating a rich and varied vegetation structure. The exact species mix and location will be finalised at RIBA Stage 4.



Retained existing trees



Example of a removed tree to allow for the project



Example of pruning

- Retained tree
- Removed tree
- Cleaned group & pruned tree
- Proposed tree (within riparian scrub areas)
- Proposed tree (within woodland areas)
- Proposed tree (within grassland areas)



Tree strategy

# Landscape Strategies

## Tree Palette

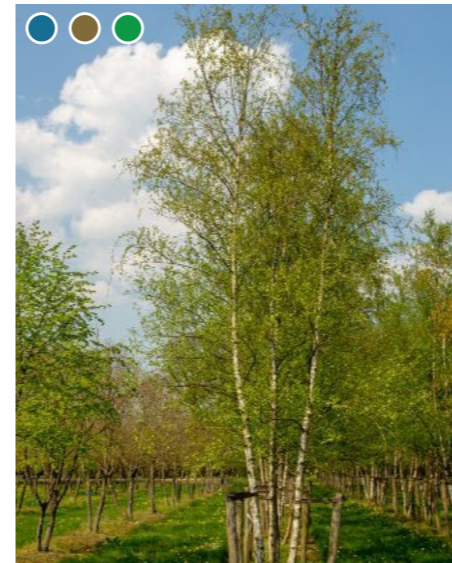
The location and species of the trees are indicative for the planning application, and the detailed planting strategy will be prepared through detailed design (RIBA Stage 4).

Tree and woodland species to include:

- *Alnus glutinosa* - alder
- *Betula pubescens* - downy birch
- *Corylus avellana* – hazel
- *Fagus sylvatica* - beech
- *Frangula alnus* - alder buckthorn
- *Populus nigra* - black poplar
- *Prunus avium* - wild cherry
- *Quercus robur* - English oak
- *Salix caprea* - sallow
- *Salix cinerea* - grey willow
- *Salix fragilis* - crack willow
- *Sorbus aucuparia* – Rowan



*Alnus glutinosa* - alder



*Betula pubescens* - downy birch



*Corylus avellana* – hazel



*Fagus sylvatica* - beech



*Frangula alnus* - alder buckthorn



*Populus nigra* - black poplar



*Prunus avium* - wild cherry



*Quercus robur* - English oak



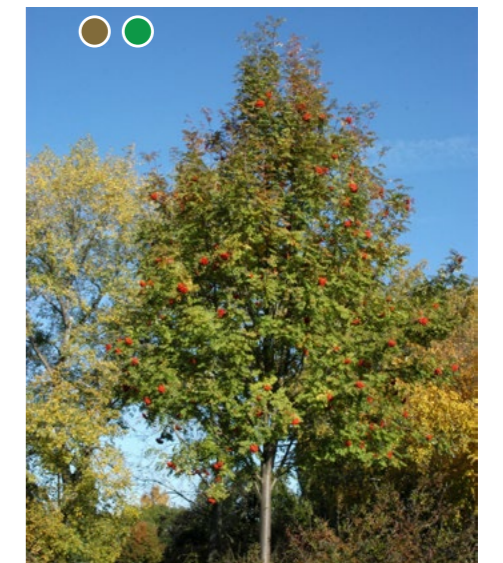
*Salix caprea* - sallow



*Salix cinerea* - grey willow



*Salix fragilis* - crack willow



*Sorbus aucuparia* – Rowan

- Proposed tree (within riparian scrub areas)
- Proposed tree (within woodland areas)
- Proposed tree (within grassland areas)

# Landscape Strategies

## Soil Strategy & Planting Preparation



The overlay illustrates how the new park layout aligns with the existing road network to maximise reuse of the built-up subbase while transforming the space. Key paths and open areas follow the former road alignment where possible, maintaining structural support for the new hard landscaping. This approach minimises unnecessary excavation and material waste, though further coordination will refine details in later design stages. The drawing highlights the transition from vehicular infrastructure to pedestrian-friendly green spaces while retaining the site's underlying logic.

The landscape design introduces new native planting while preserving and enhancing existing healthy soils. Where new planting beds are proposed, we will import high-quality topsoil to ensure optimal growing conditions for the selected species.

For all other areas, the existing soil will be retained and improved. This balanced approach minimises soil disturbance while creating the right foundation for both established and new plant communities to thrive. The soil strategy works in harmony with the site's natural drainage patterns and supports the long-term success of the biodiverse planting scheme.

- Existing road and pavement layout
- Proposed hardscape overlaid
- Reinforced ground (maintenance access)
- Existing soil retained
- 600mm soil
- 1000mm soil
- 1500mm soil



Hard landscape overlaid on top of Western Avenue road layout and pavement



Soil build-ups strategy

# Landscape Strategies

## Soil Strategy & Planting Preparation



1. Section through the Northern Entrance



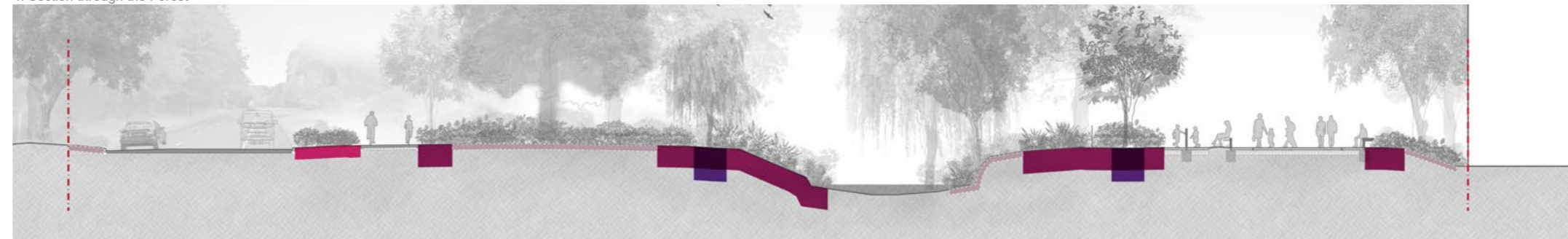
2. Section through the Play area



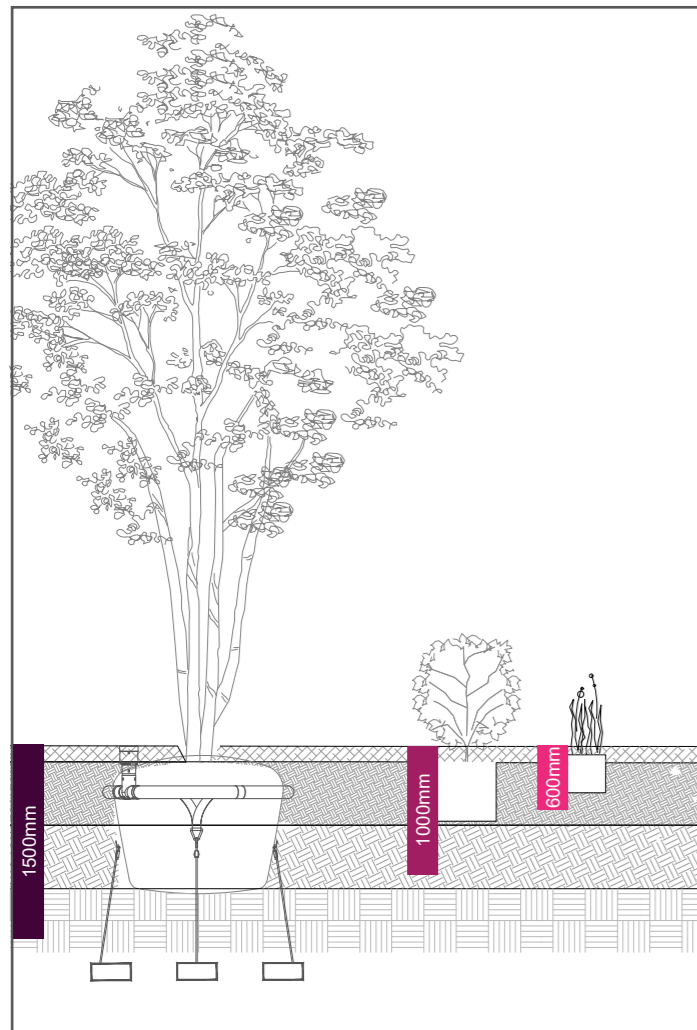
3. Section through the Meadow



4. Section through the Forest



5. Section through the Southern Entrance



Typical soil build-up for tree and planting

# Landscape Strategies

## River Remediation

The River Anton is a 'chalk stream', fed by groundwater emerging from the Chalk of the North Wessex Downs. The characteristics of this habitat support a unique range of plants and animals. Chalk streams are an internationally rare habitat, with ~85% of the World's chalk streams being located in England. Hampshire, in particular, having some of the best examples. Traditionally active management of chalk streams for watercress production, water meadows and water milling generally supported these habitats by maintaining low-levels of tree cover and regular operation of water control structures which together limited silt accumulation and allowed high levels of light to support the growth of aquatic vegetation, invertebrates and fish.

Over recent decades, these interventions have ceased, and river channel straightening and simplification for infrastructure such as roads like Western Avenue have further constricted the space available for the river and further limited the variety of aquatic habitats. The present day river channel here is a product of these modifications as documented in this DAS.

The photographs presented show the types of chalk stream habitat features characteristic of natural chalk streams in good ecological condition. In these photographs the abundant growth of aquatic plants, and balance between some areas of tree shading, and notable unshaded areas can be seen throughout. The proposed works seek to enhance and create these features within the river channel situated within the current Western Avenue gyratory road loop.

With careful interventions, the proposed river habitat works seek to reinstate a greater variety of priority chalk stream habitats within the channel, and support the sustainability of this habitat and species ensuring resilience into the future. This will be done by carefully modifying the shape of the channel to create more variation in water depth and velocity, helping support the establishment and maintenance of these natural chalk stream habitat forms..

The river habitat improvement elements of the scheme have been informed by a range of site visits, surveys and investigations by river specialists and ecologists. The works will be delivered by a Hampshire-based, experienced river restoration contractor who specialises in chalk streams.

- Gravel runs and riffles
- Gravel and LWD (Large Woody Debris) marginal feature
- New vegetated berms/lower bank, chalk stream species
- Riparian enhancement (tied to proposed planting strategy)
- Areas of tree shading
- Trees (existing and proposed)



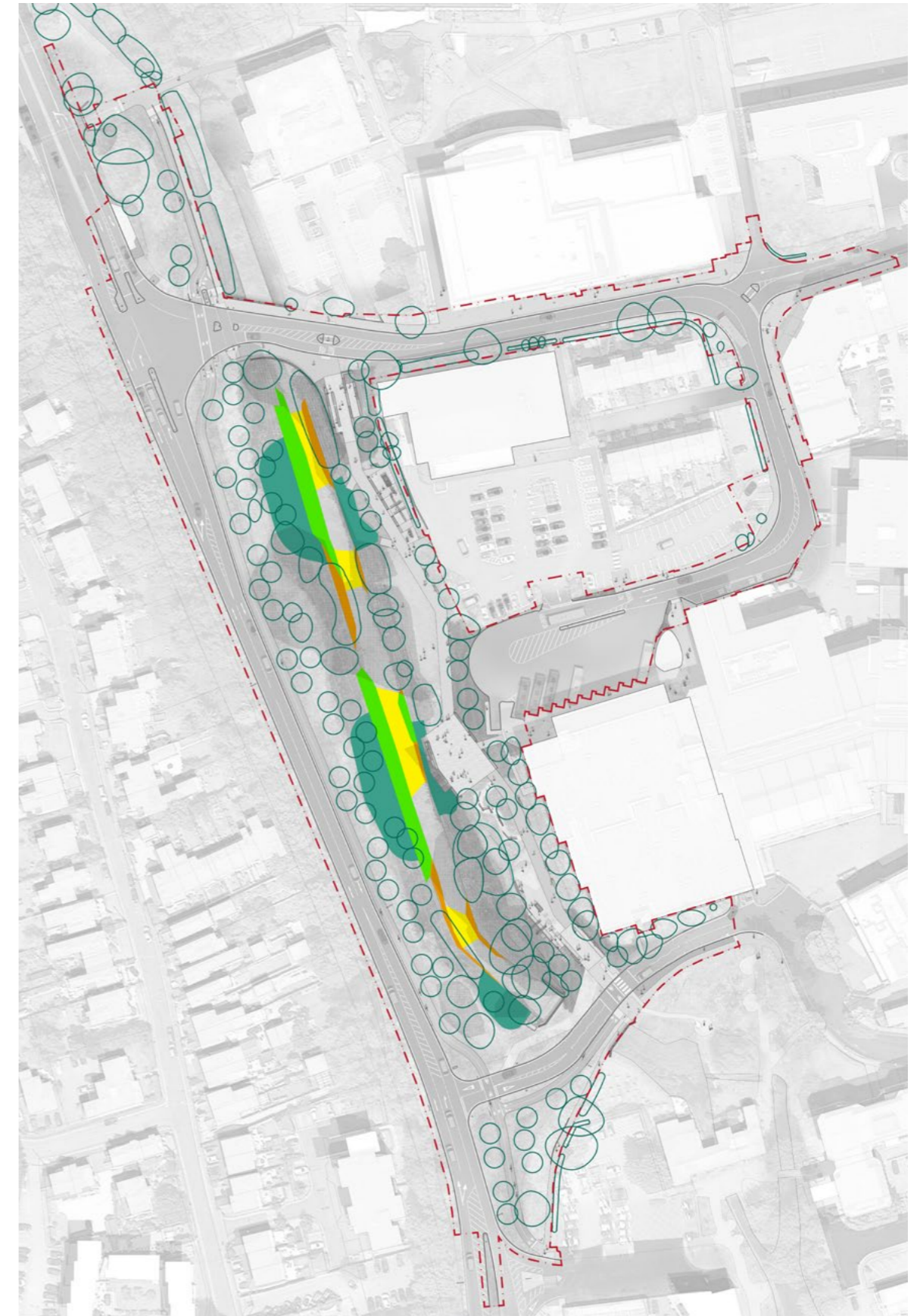
High quality chalk stream (Cain Bio-Engineering projects)



Characteristic submerged vegetation growth (Cain Bio-Engineering projects)



Bed form modification for habitat creation (Cain Bio-Engineering projects)



Proposed habitat works to River Anton (Southern Water and WSP)

# Landscape Strategies

## River Remediation

The artistic representation shown is an indicative visual representation and does not reflect an exact representation of the finished scheme. Due to the limitations of the seasonal source images and that of the proposed view, foliage discrepancies are expected.



Zones of intervention in the River's channel and verges



View from the Central Square's elevated walkway looking at the River enhancement - Artist rendition (This artistic impression illustrates design intent only. Foliage, materials and lighting may vary in the final scheme)

# Landscape Strategies

## Ecology & Biodiversity

The Andover Western Avenue Riverside project represents a transformative opportunity to enhance the ecological value of the town centre while delivering much-needed public realm improvements. Rooted in the principles of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and sustainable design, the scheme has been developed through close collaboration with ecologists, arboriculturists, and environmental specialists to ensure it not only protects but actively enriches local biodiversity.

### BNG Assessment

The project exceeds statutory requirements, achieving a 12.83% net gain in habitat units and a 13.29% net gain in watercourse units, surpassing the mandatory 10% target. This has been accomplished through:

- Retention and enhancement of existing habitats, including mixed scrub, grassland, and woodland.
- Creation of new habitats, such as species-rich grassland and native woodland, to support pollinators and wildlife.
- Strategic river corridor improvements, working alongside Southern Water's parallel project to reintroduce gravel substrates, aquatic planting, and riparian edge enhancements along the River Anton.

A Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan will ensure long-term success, with a 30-year framework for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity across the site.

### Ecological design principles

The landscape has been designed to function as a series of interconnected, closed-loop ecosystems, where native flora, pollinators, and soil health mutually reinforce biodiversity. Key strategies include:

- **Native and Wildlife-Friendly Planting:** Species have been selected to support local ecology, with an emphasis on nectar-rich plants for pollinators, berry-bearing shrubs for birds, and dense scrub for nesting and shelter.
- **Soil and Water Management:** Techniques such as natural filtration, rain gardens, and permeable surfaces reduce runoff while improving soil health and water quality.
- **Structural Diversity:** Varied vegetation layers (from ground cover to canopy) create microhabitats for insects, small mammals, and birds.

### Tree Retention and Compensatory Planting

Working closely with arboriculturists, the scheme prioritises the retention of mature trees wherever possible, recognising their ecological and aesthetic value. Where removal is unavoidable, 79 new trees will be planted as compensation, ensuring no net loss of canopy cover. The new planting includes native species, which support a wide range of fauna while enhancing climate resilience.

### Wildlife-Conscious Lighting Approach

Recognising the importance of balancing public safety with ecological sensitivity, the lighting design has been carefully considered to minimise disruption to nocturnal wildlife while ensuring a welcoming and functional space after dark.

A cohesive lighting palette has been developed to align with the park's furniture and material selections, ensuring visual harmony across the public realm.

Light levels have been thoughtfully calibrated to meet the necessary Lux requirements for pathways and gathering spaces, while avoiding excessive illumination that could disturb local wildlife, particularly bats and other light-sensitive species. The lighting strategy prioritises subtle, well-distributed illumination that enhances wayfinding and security without encroaching on habitats.

This approach reflects the project's broader commitment to sustainable design, where even functional elements like lighting contribute to the site's ecological integrity. Further details will be refined in collaboration with lighting specialists to ensure compliance with best practices for dark skies and biodiversity protection.

### River Restoration

The River Anton is a rare chalk stream, fed by groundwater from the North Wessex Downs. Once maintained by traditional water management, its habitat has been impacted by urban development.

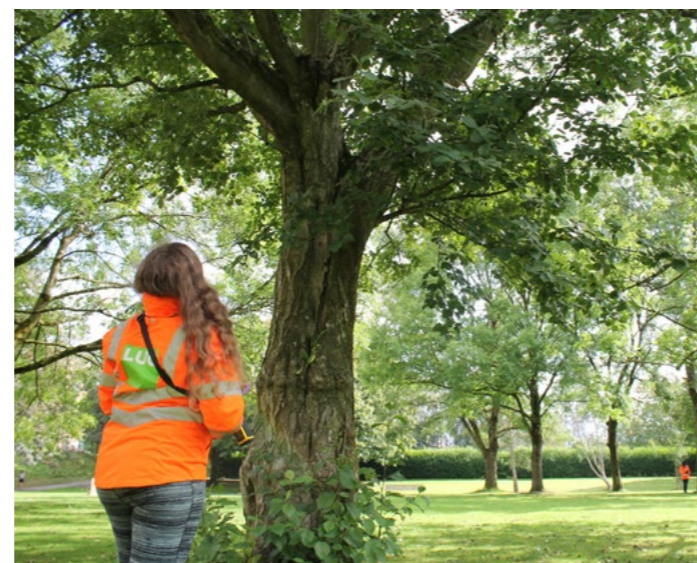
The restoration will reintroduce natural features like gravel beds and varied flows to support aquatic life. Working with Southern Water and local specialists, the scheme will carefully reshape sections of the channel to create healthier habitats while respecting the urban setting.

These improvements complement the wider ecological enhancements, helping restore the river's natural character within the town centre.

### Road Removal & Sustainable Material Reuse

The removal of existing road infrastructure presents both opportunities and challenges for the scheme. While creating space for new ecological habitats and public spaces, we must carefully address potential ground contamination from historical road use.

A key sustainability focus is the potential reuse of suitable existing subbase materials to form stable foundations for new pathways and hard landscaping. All repurposed materials will undergo testing to ensure they meet environmental and engineering standards. Where contamination is found, appropriate remediation measures will be implemented to protect both the new park environment and the adjacent River Anton.





Bird's eye view of the Central Square, the Pavilion and the River Anton - Artist rendition (This artistic impression illustrates design intent only. Foliage, materials and lighting may vary in the final scheme)

