

27/09/22

River Irwell Pocket Park

Vision Document



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01

Introduction

Project Overview and Vision

The aim of this document is to set out proposals for a new pocket park in the heart of Radcliffe town centre which will meet the needs of the local community and enhance the use of the adjacent River Irwell.

The site is ideally situated at the centre of Radcliffe with furniture, planting and hard surfacing now in poor condition, contributing to its lack of use. The following pages will discuss the current site's condition, strategic location and outline the key design drivers and how they can be used to create a meaningful space for the local community.



The existing site



The existing site



Site location in wider context

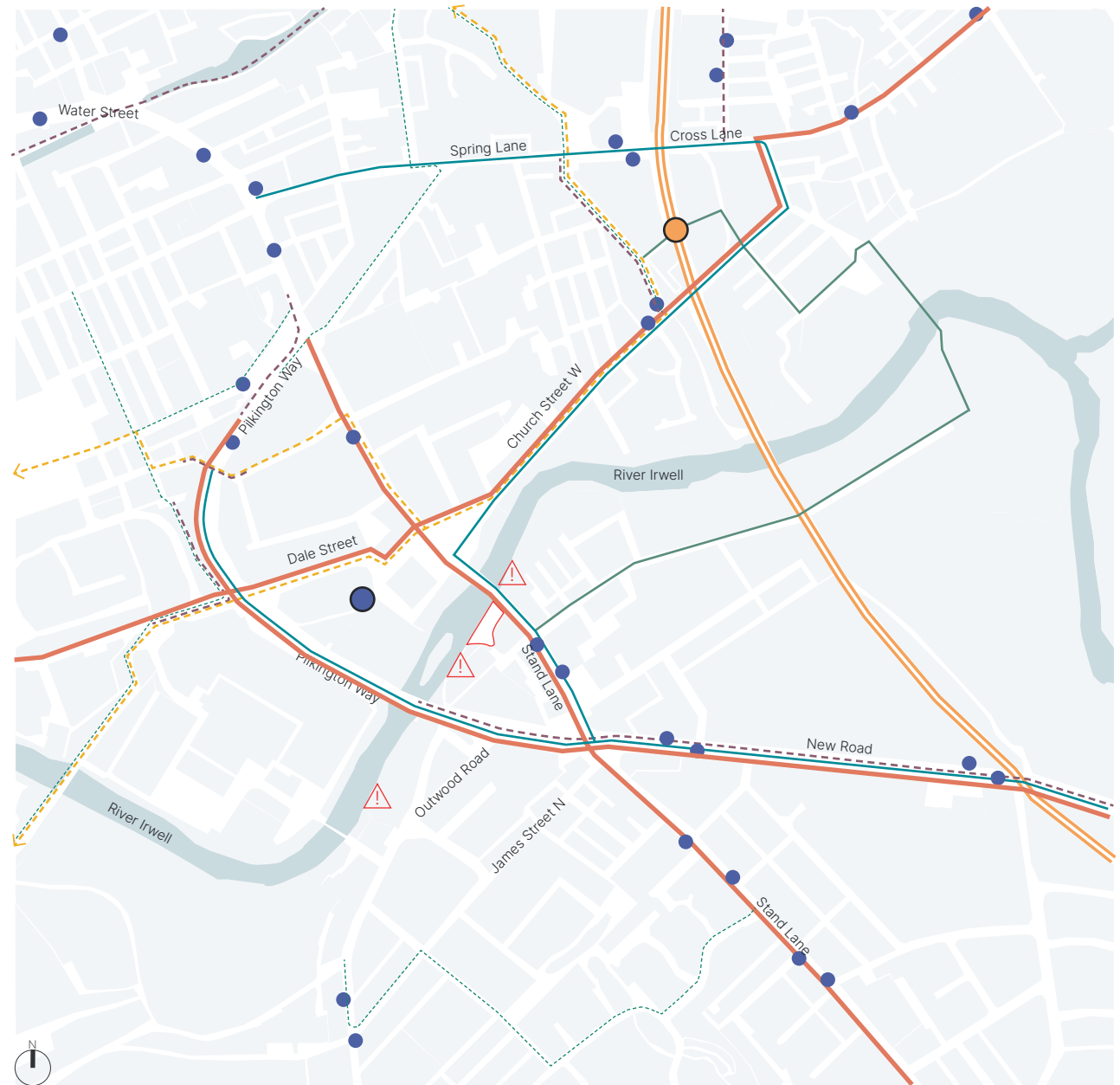
Public Transport and Pedestrian Routes



Design Consideration:

- Reinforce and create pedestrian links to allow for easy and enjoyable movement through Radcliffe

Key	
	Site
	Tram Line
	Tram Stop
	Bus Station
	Bus Stop
	Main Pedestrian Routes
	Cycle network (Tfgm)
	Cycle Network (Sustrans)
	Bee Network (confirmed Infrastructure)
	Bee Network (proposed)
	Busy Beeways
	No pedestrian access to River Irwell




Land Use and Town Centre Facilities

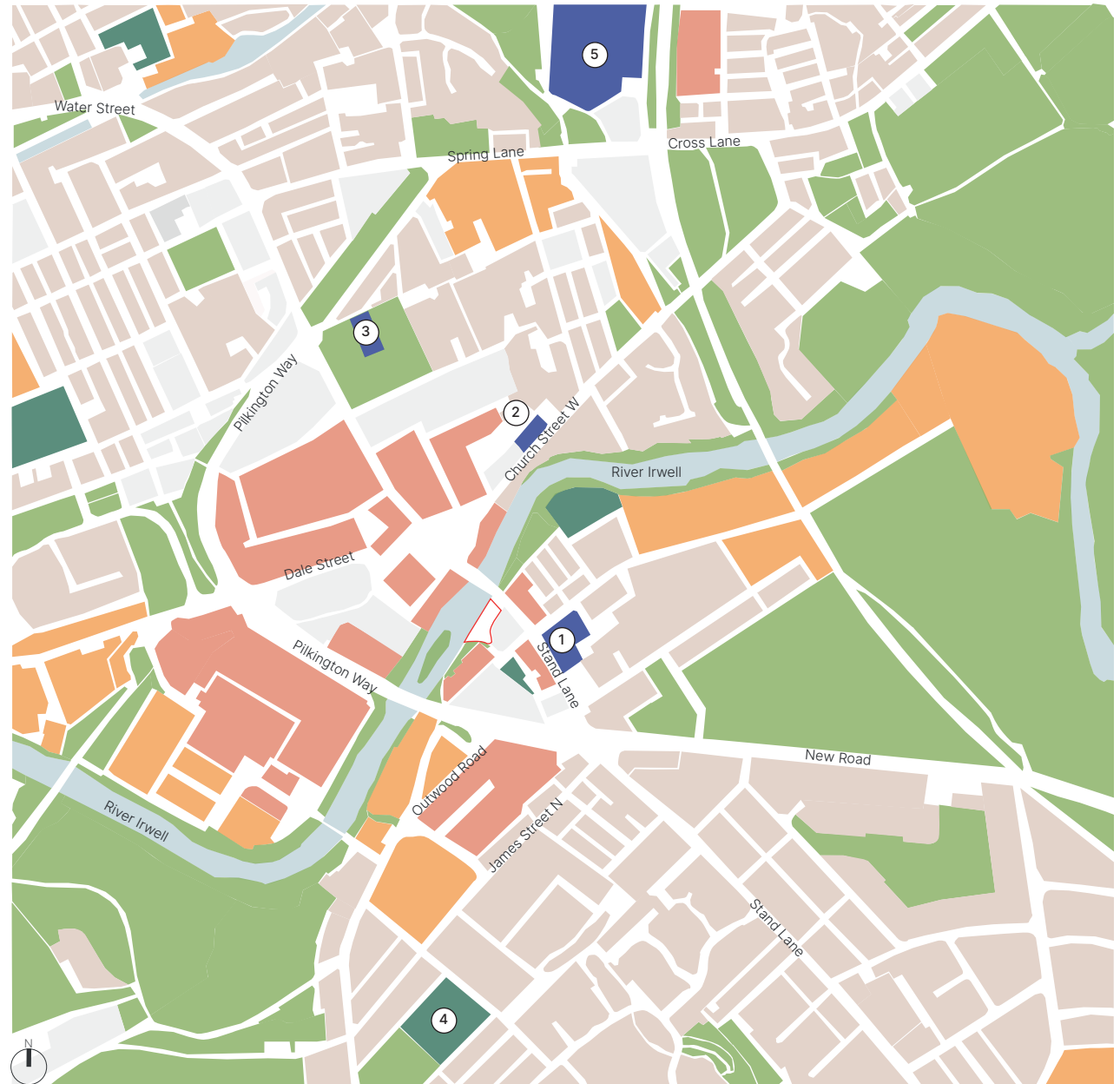


Design Consideration:

- Use the pocket park's central location to provide community and green space which is not found centrally elsewhere.

Key

	Site
	Residential
	Retail & Leisure
	Industrial
	Education & Child Care
	Green Space
	Car parking & empty
	Community Facilities
	1 Library
	2 Medical Centre
	3 St. John's Primary School
	4 St. Thomas and St. John's Primary School
	5 Temporary Leisure Centre



Green and Blue Space



Design Consideration:

Increase the amount of everyday access to nature in the town centre, and enhance the River Irwell to enjoy the benefits of access to water.

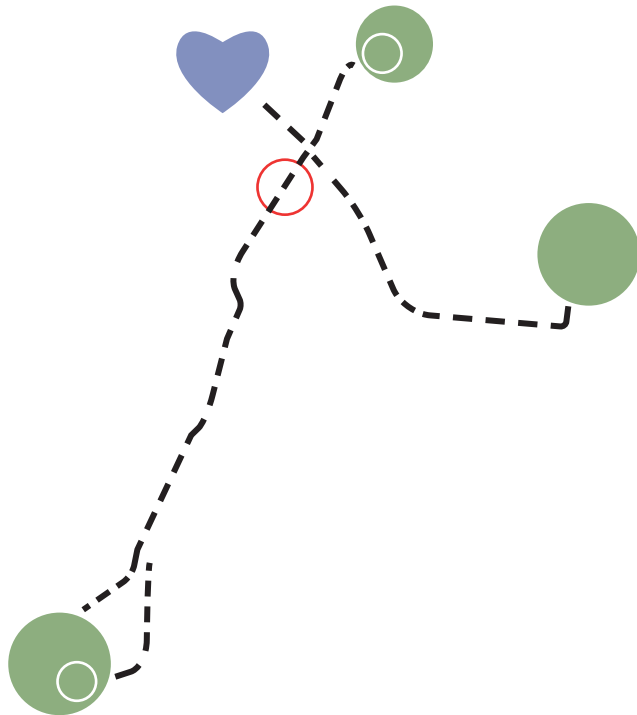
Key

- Site
 - River Irwell
 - Manchester Bolton and Bury Canal
 - Public Park/Meadow
 - Peripheral green spaces
 - School Green Space
 - Sport pitches
 - Woodland/Trees
 - Community group
- ① Outwood Country Park
 - ② Coronation Park
 - ③ Radcliffe Skatepark
 - ④ Festival Gardens
 - ⑤ Radcliffe Ees
 - ⑥ King George V Playing Fields

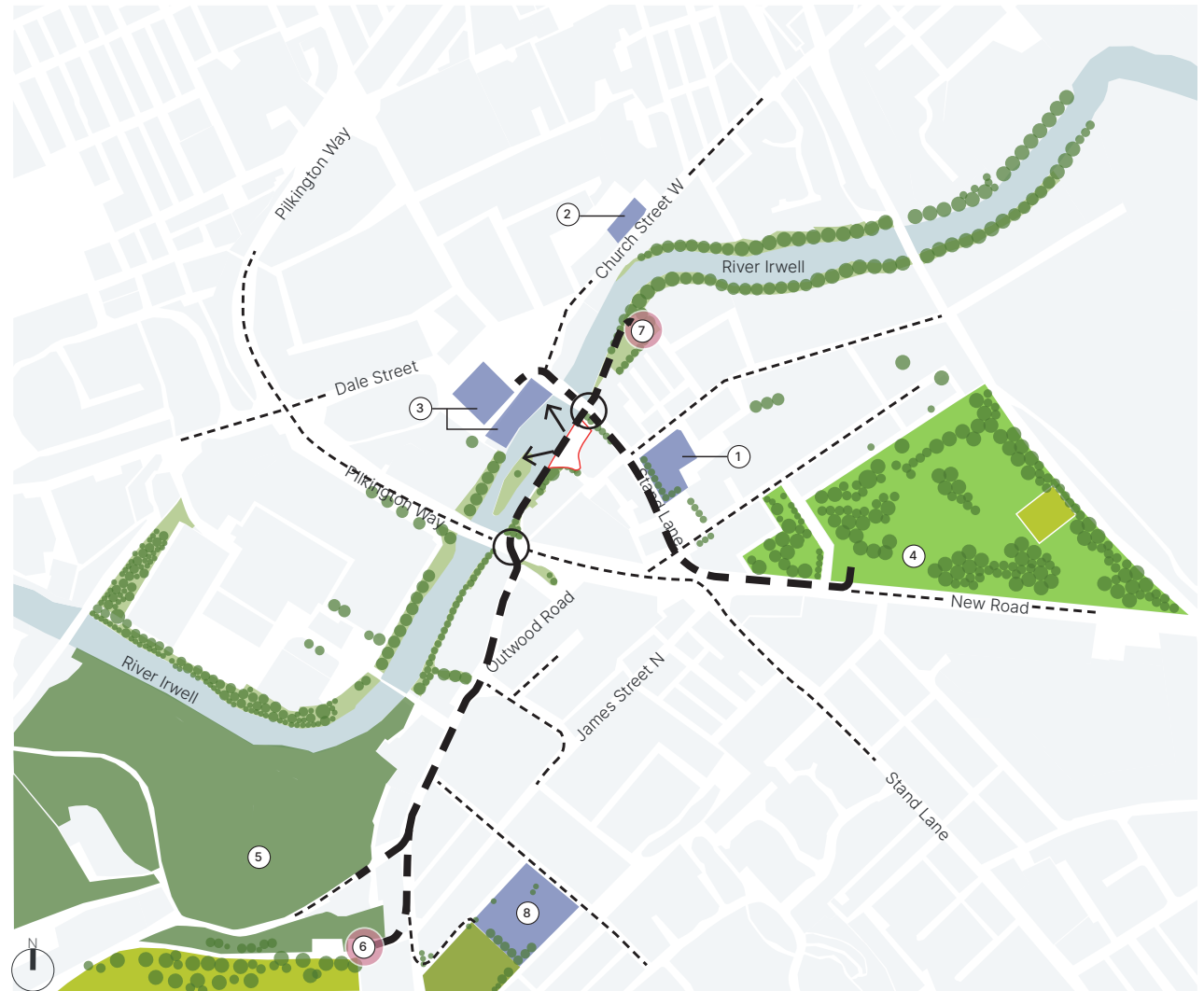


Making the Connection

To reinforce pedestrian movement, create a green community space and increase access to everyday nature we propose a route through the heart of Radcliffe along the River Irwell connecting to existing community spaces, and with the River Irwell Pocket Park in the centre.



Route concept diagram



Key

- Site
- ← Key Views
- Improved/New Crossing Points
- Radcliffe Route

- Wider Connections
- ① Radcliffe Library
- ② Medical Centre
- ③ Radcliffe Market and Hub

- ④ Coronation Park
- ⑤ Outwood Country Park
- ⑥ Incredible Edible
- ⑦ Community Garden

- ⑧ St. John's Primary School

02

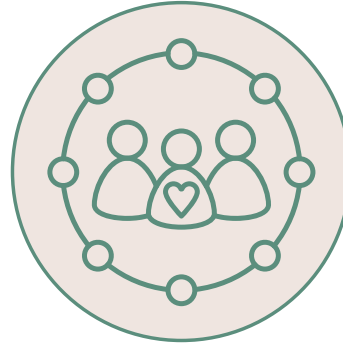
The Vision

Vision Drivers



Ecology

Improving access to everyday space, enhancing existing ecological habitats and nature educational opportunities.



Community

Provide a new community space for the people of Radcliffe to take ownership of, connecting and enhancing existing community spaces



Play

Create opportunities for play along the route and at key hubs with playful, engaged design features considered throughout

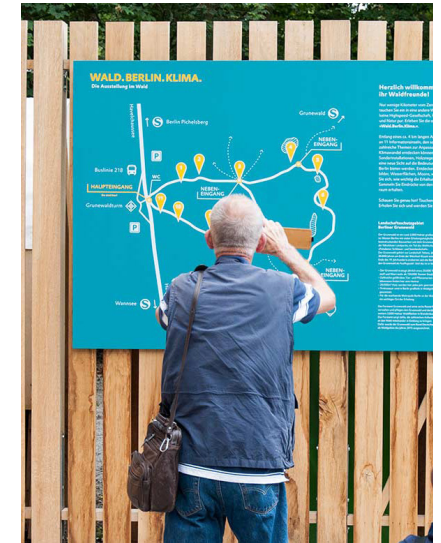
Ecology



Ecological features will include opening up access to the River Irwell, planting species along the river and green spaces to improve habitats and engaging the local community with making days and way finding.



Pollinator friendly species and bug boxes made by the local community



Nature route signage and education



Mill River Park transformed riverside



Otter habitat and foraging priority



Floating reedbeds to improve habitats

Community



Community features will be locally commissioned artwork to reflect Radcliffe's identity, community growing spaces, educational opportunities to learn about food and communal seating to allow visitors to meet.



Community allotment space and maintenance teams



Food education opportunities



Local artist artwork



Communal/ampitheatre seating



Community allotment space

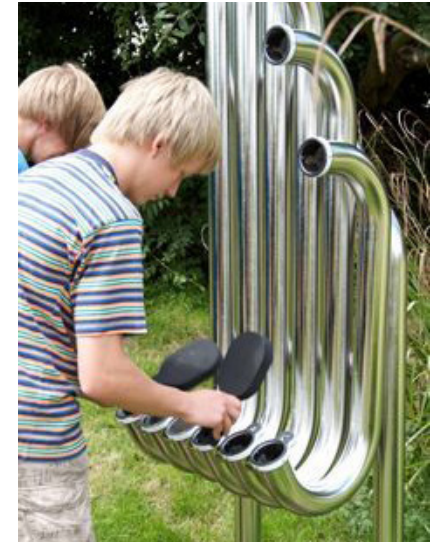
Play



Play will be brought to the route through features such as inclusive play equipment, bright tones along streets and hard spaces, musical and textured panels and soft grass mounding to clamber.



Musical play element



Musical play element



Soft grass mounding



Bright coloured games painted on the ground



Wheel chair friendly roundabout

03

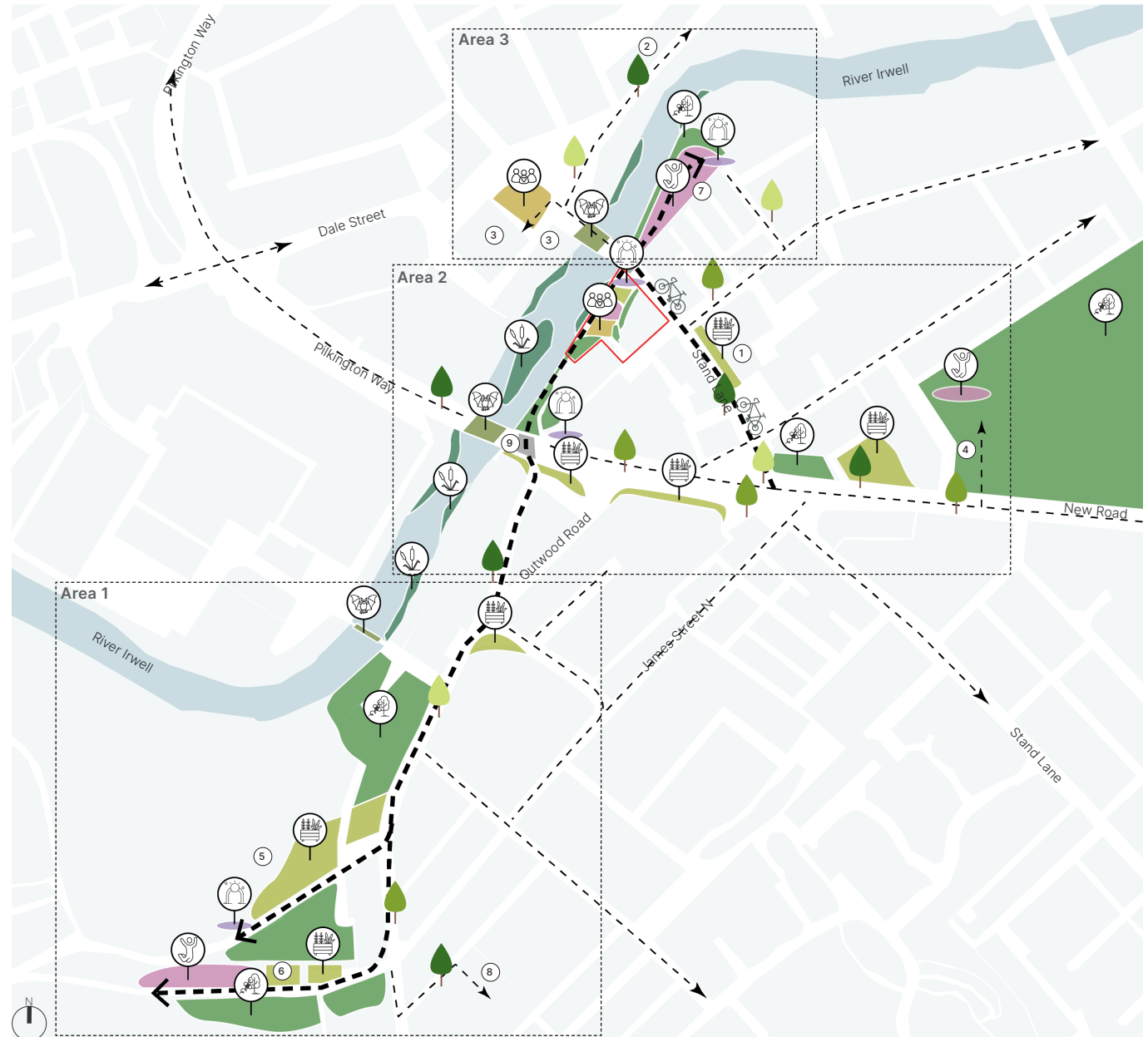
The Route

Radcliffe Route

The adjacent diagram shows the Radcliffe Route, its proposed ecological, playful and community elements and connections to existing local features.

Key

- Site
- Radcliffe Route
- Wider Connection
-  Woods Improvement
-  Bird & Bat Boxes
-  River Improvement
-  Community Artwork
-  Play Facilities
-  Community Growing
-  Community Meeting
-  Street Tree/Planting
- 1 Radcliffe Library
- 2 Medical Centre
- 3 Radcliffe Market and Hub
- 4 Coronation Park
- 5 Outwood Country Park
- 6 Incredible Edible
- 7 Community Garden
- 8 St. Johns Primary School
- 9 Improved Crossing



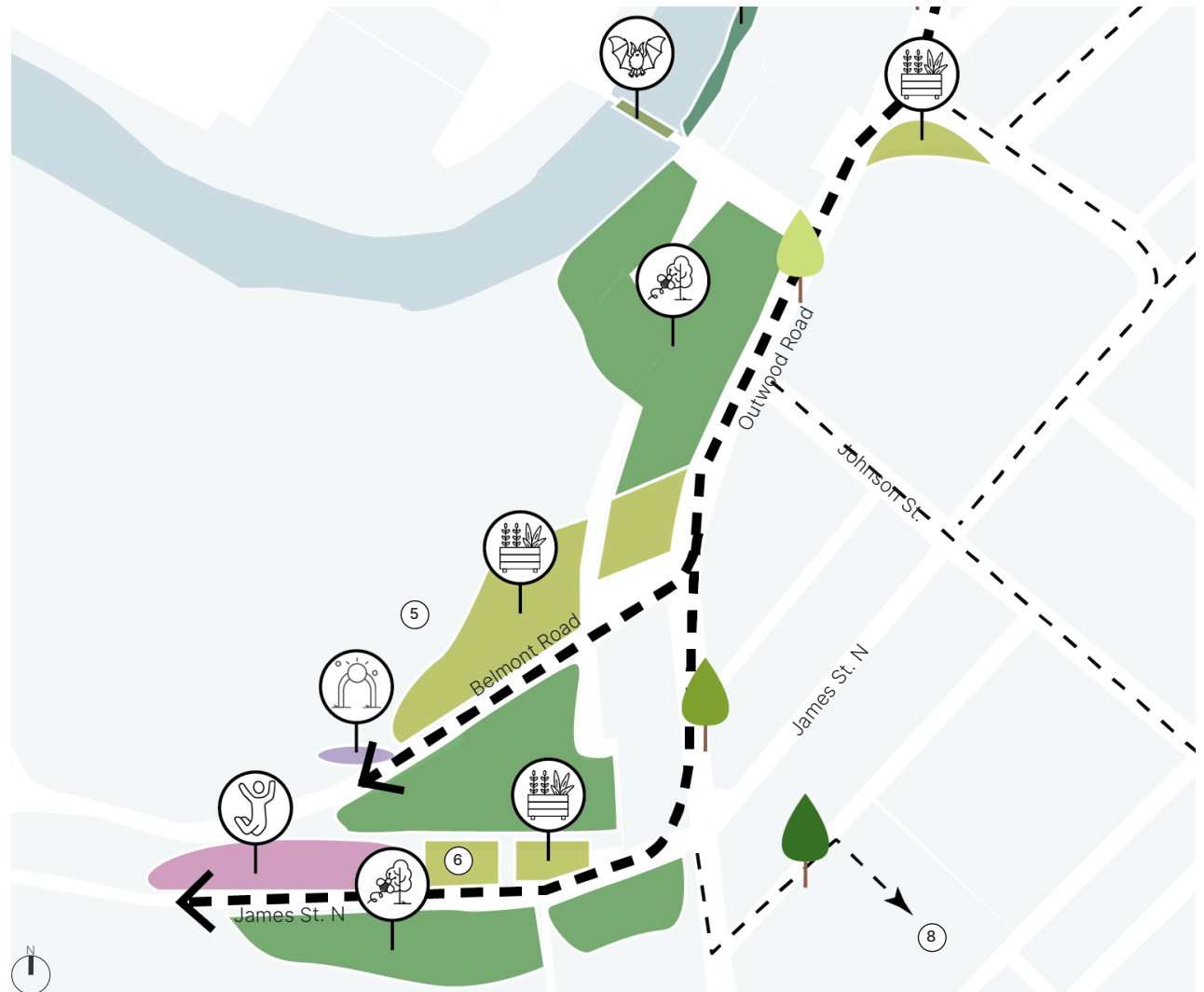
Area 1

The start of the route at Outwood Country Park is signposted with community artwork, will provide plentiful space for play equipment and build upon the existing community of Incredible Edible.

Woodland and existing green space habitats in the Country Park and towards the River Irwell will be improved for local noted species.

Where possible along the roads street trees will be proposed and areas of unused peripheral green space given back to the local community for growing.

- Key**
- Site
 - Radcliffe Route
 - Wider Connection
 - Woods Improvement
 - Bird & Bat Boxes
 - River Improvement
 - Community Artwork
 - Play Facilities
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 - ① Radcliffe Library
 - ② Medical Centre
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 - ⑦ Community Garden
 - ⑧ St. Johns Primary School
 - ⑨ Improved Crossing











Area 2

The central site will contain community space, artwork to signify the key part of the Route and overlook the River Irwell's river habitat improvements.

Pedestrian access will be reinstated along the River Irwell allowing access to the river's nature as a forging route for key species, and giving a car-free route back to pedestrians to enjoy.

Street trees and the reinforcement of peripheral and existing green space will enhance the route adjacent to local community assets such as the library and Coronation Park.

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 -  Bird & Bat Boxes
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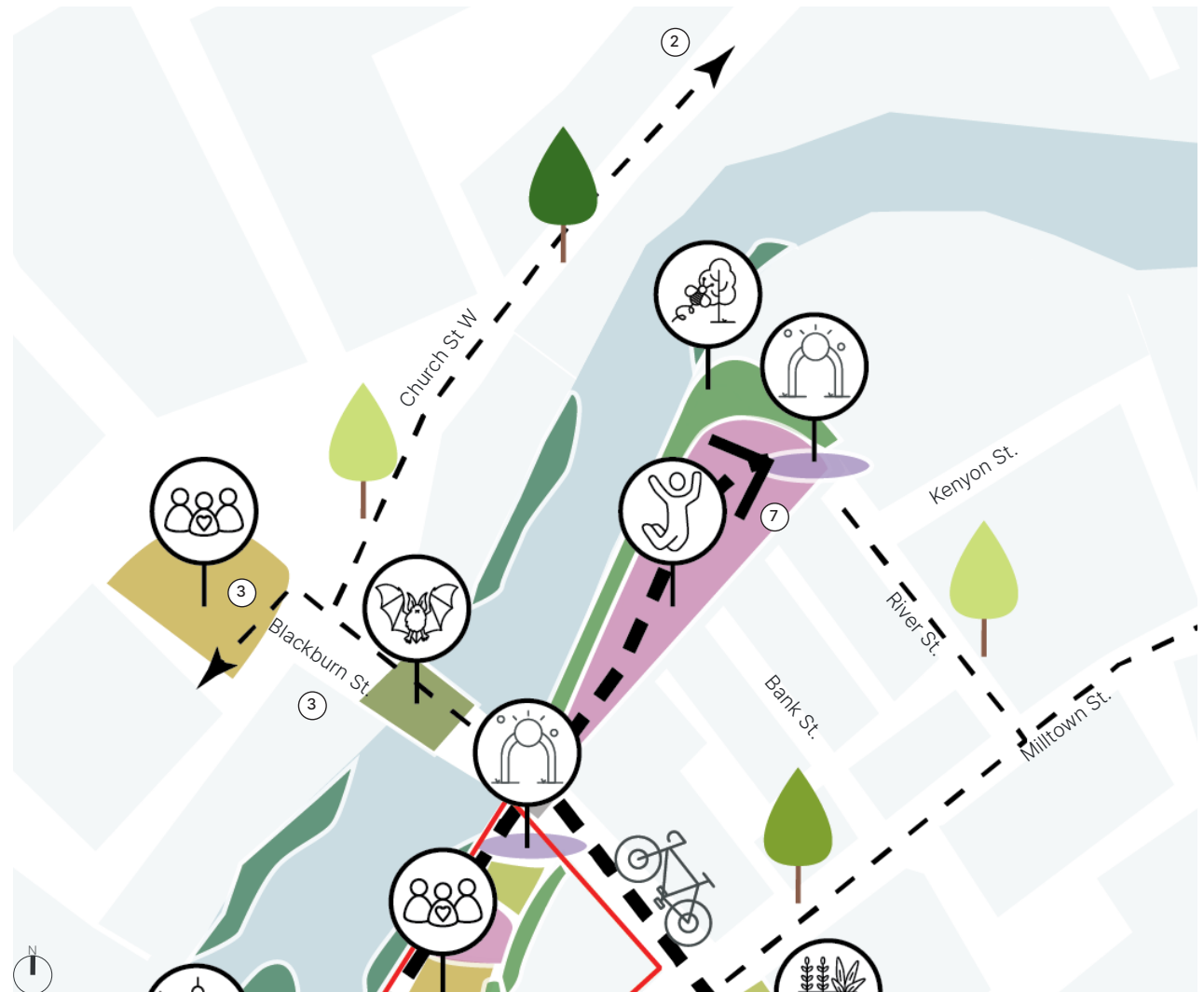
Area 3

The Route will end at one the existing community spaces marked by locally commissioned artwork adjacent to which a play space will be located.

The River Irwell will be enhanced by habitat improvements such as floating reedbeds and engaging tree growth, with adjacent woodland enhanced for foraging species.

Links to community assets such as the medical centre and Radcliffe Market will be part of the wayfinding and signage strategy with street tree proposals

- Key**
- Site
 - Radcliffe Route
 - Wider Connection
 -  Woods Improvement
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 -  River Improvement
 -  Community Artwork
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 - ⑧ St. Johns Primary School
 - ⑨ Improved Crossing



04

River Irwell Pocket Park

Central Current Site Conditions

The site has several existing features which will be considered as part of the design.

Primary access is found at two points on Sand Lane, Mill Bank and via the car park to the south. Multiple entrance points allow high permeability, however the lack of access along the river results in a dead end and forces pedestrians to travel through car parks or along busy roads.

Wide, open views across River Irwell where several local species such as kingfishers and otters forage provide opportunity for education and enjoyment of the river. Trees throughout the site of general good quality, with planting lacking in maintenance, but both contributing the habitats and ecology of the area.

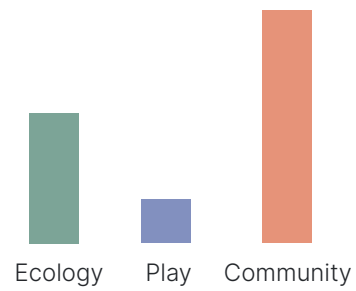
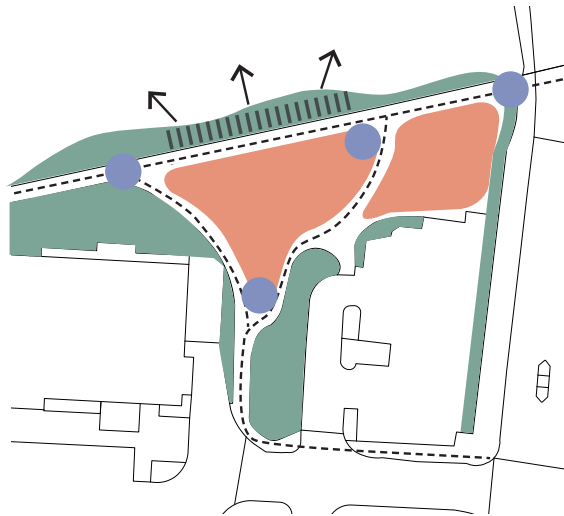
Finally, the car park to the south of the site is heavily used and restricts increasing the site boundary, but does provide access for those using accessible parking bays.

- Key**
- Site boundary
 - ← Views across the river
 - Entrances
 - ↔ Routes through the site
 - Lack of access along river edge
 - 1 Existing trees
 - 2 Poor quality seating
 - 3 High use car park

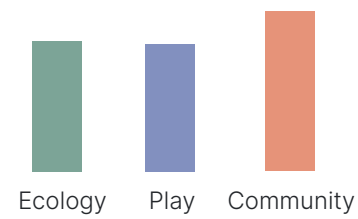
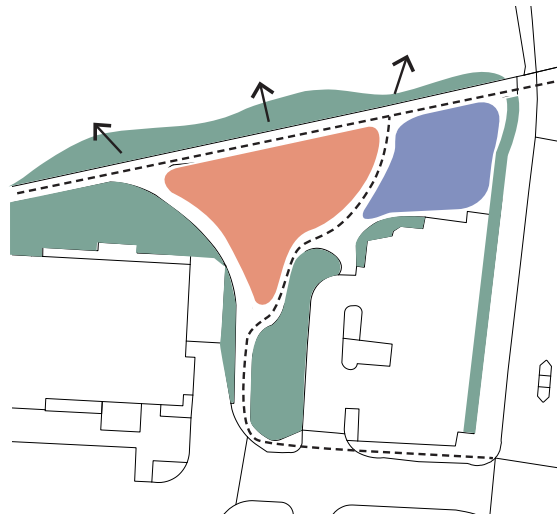


Spatial Arrangement

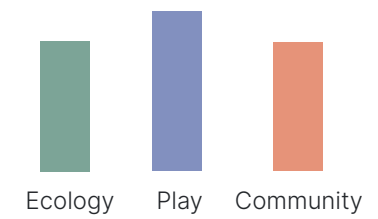
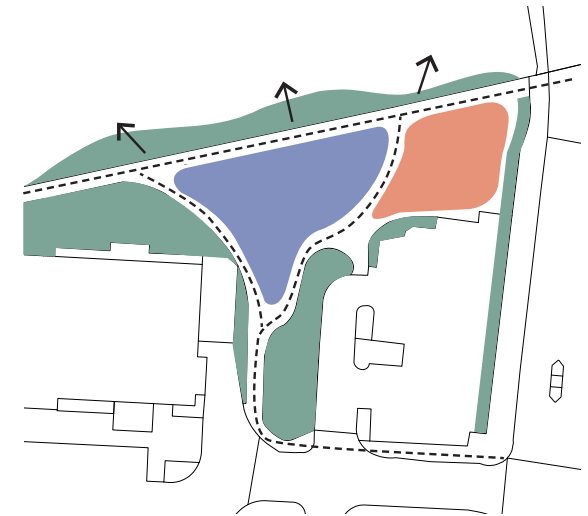
Option 1



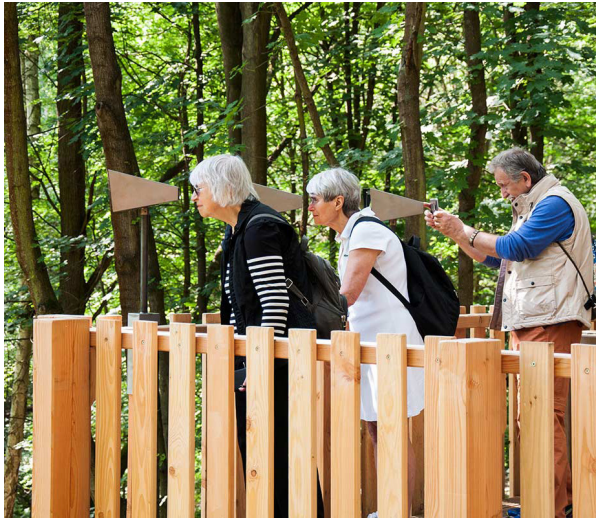
Option 2



Option 3



Option 1



- ① Community artwork way finding totem
- ② Sound play speaker
- ③ Mounded planting
- ④ Floating reedbeds and vegetation habitats
- ⑤ Community veg growing boxes
- ⑥ Existing trees retained
- ⑦ Inground trampoline
- ⑧ Elevated timber platform with telescope, seating and ecology information board
- ⑨ Lawn with amphitheatre style seating
- ⑩ Sound play pannels
- ⑪ Resin bound gravel
- ⑫ Existing river wall
- ⑬ Bird/bat boxes
- ⑭ Hedging



Option 2



- ① Community artwork way finding totem
- ② Sound play speaker
- ③ Mounded planting
- ④ Floating reedbeds and vegetation habitats
- ⑤ Sound play pannel
- ⑥ Spinner
- ⑦ Wheelchair friendly roundabout
- ⑧ In ground trampoline in lawn
- ⑨ Community veg grow boxes
- ⑩ Resin bound gravel
- ⑪ Existing river wall
- ⑫ Bird/bat boxes
- ⑬ Existing trees retained
- ⑭ Hedging



Option 3



- ① Community artwork way finding totem
- ② Mounded planting
- ③ Floating reedbeds and vegetation habitats
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- ⑤ Sound play speaker
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- ⑪ Existing river wall
- ⑫ Bird/bat boxes
- ⑬ Existing trees retained
- ⑭ Hedging



Play Equipment Exercise

The adjacent plan demonstrates the lack of space available if a basic set of play equipment is placed in the scheme. Circulation, community and ecological needs are not met in the space.



05

Next Steps

Consultation

The following community groups will be consulted to gain opinions and views in the Radcliffe Route and options for the central site.

- Local community allotment and growing groups.
- Local schoolchildren and educators.
- Local residents and volunteer groups.
- Local stakeholders and businesses.



Stakeholder engagement



Opinions on design features



Wider community opinions

Workshops and Placemaking

To allow the local community to be involved in the decision making and build of the Route and central site the following workshops and making events are proposed:

- Community and volunteer planting days.
- Bird and bat box making days.
- Local artwork integration.
- Local guides and knowledge sharing days.



Community and volunteer planting



Knowledge from local guides and ecologists



Making bird and bat boxes with local schools

Leeds

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Liverpool

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London

+44 (0)207 253 5678

Manchester

+44 (0)161 928 9281

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