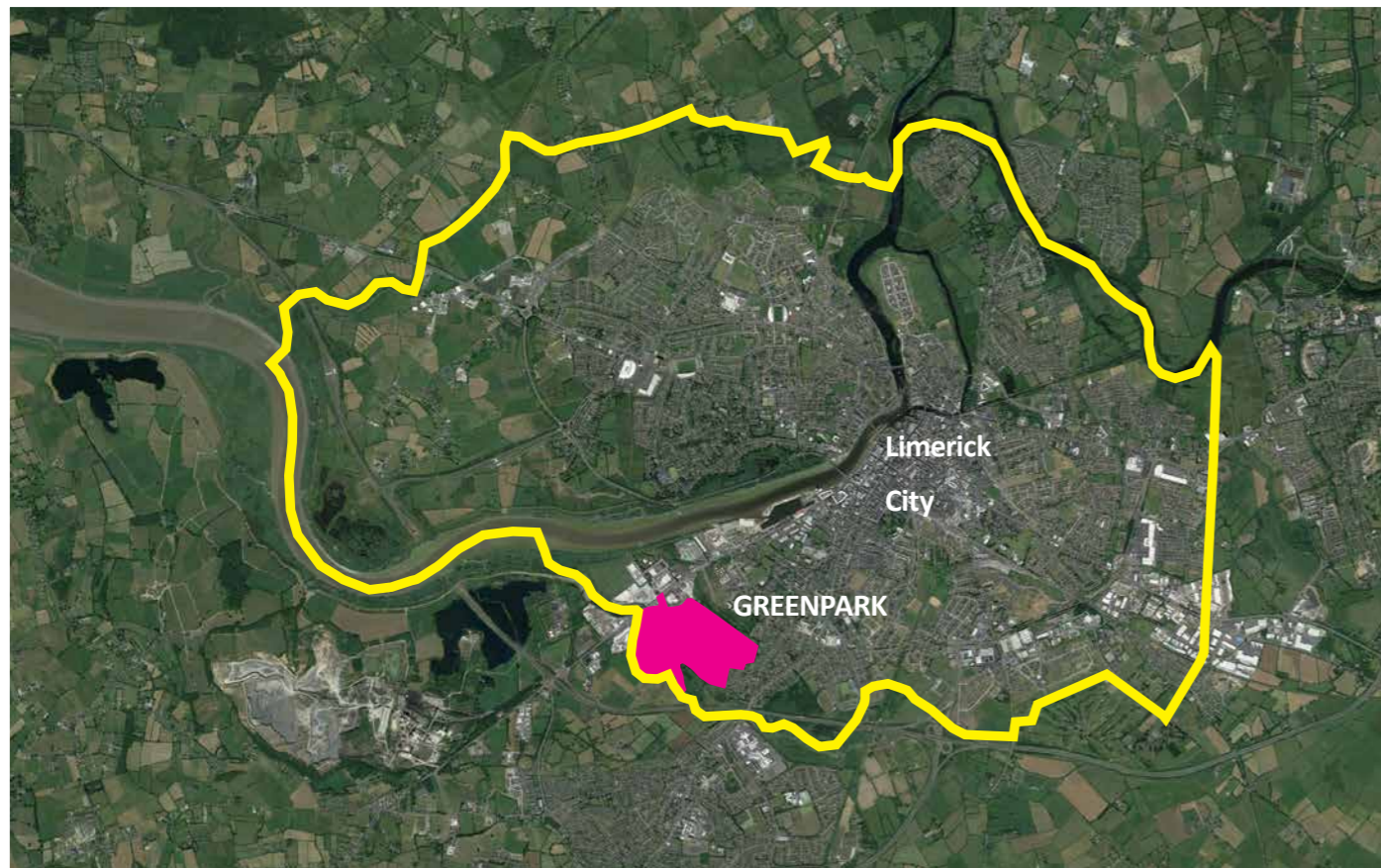


Greenpark SHD
Limerick

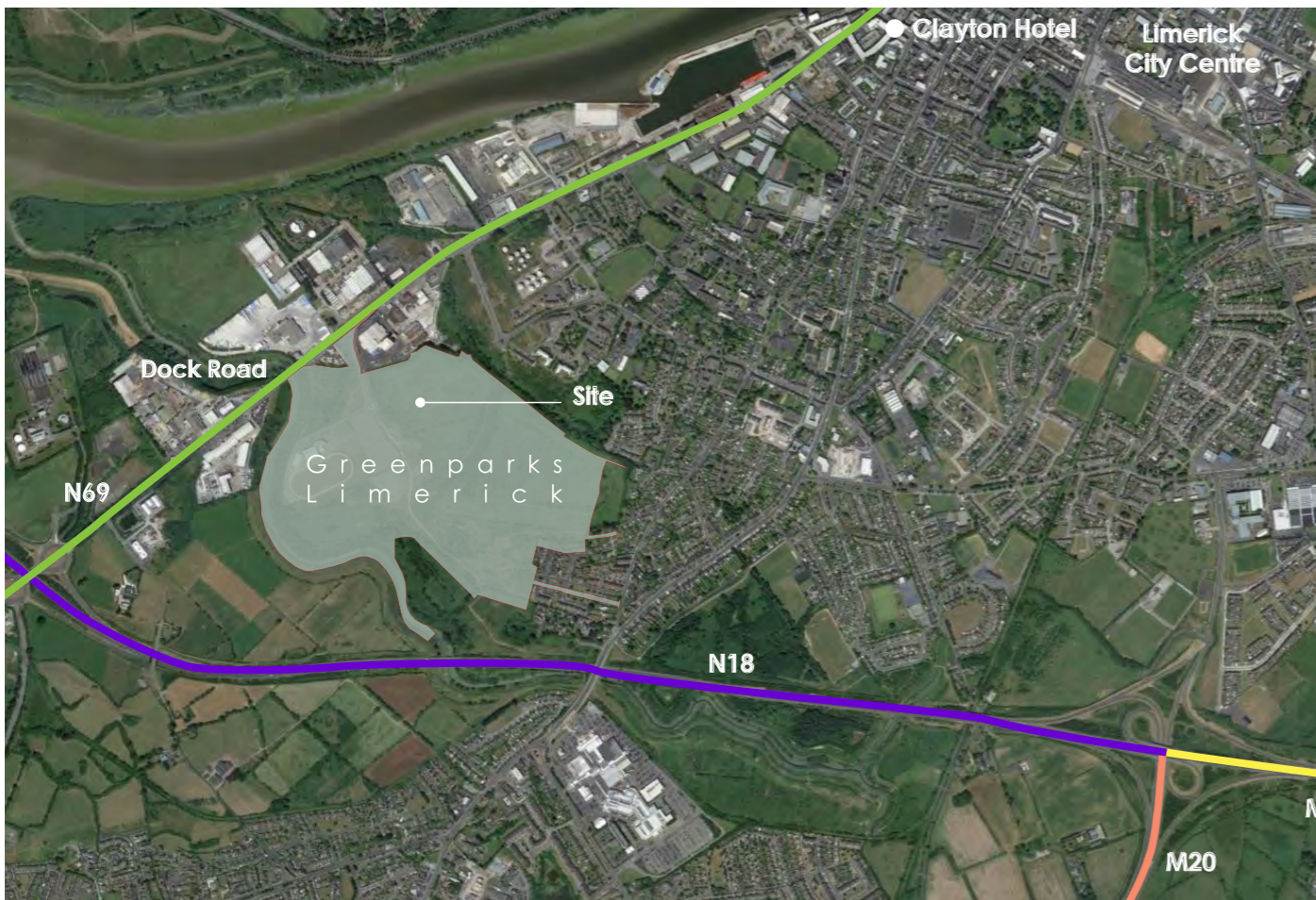
LANDSCAPE DESIGN REPORT

September 2021

murray & associates
landscape architecture



Wider Map



Area Map

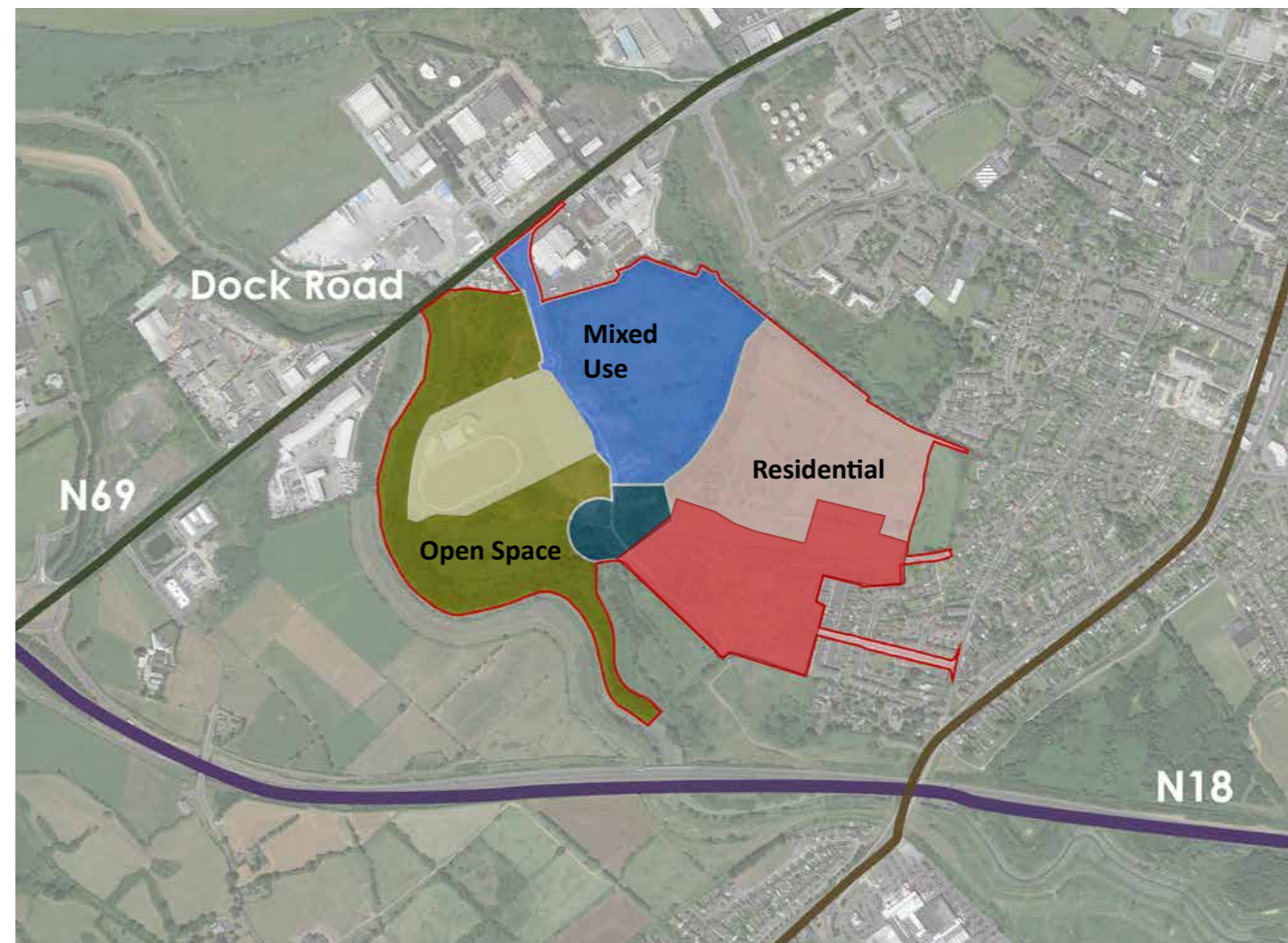
Site Location

The Greenpark lands are located to the south-west of Limerick City to the south of the Shannon. The Ballynaclogh River bounds the western edge, with commercial uses to the north and existing residential uses to the east.

The lands are part of the former Greenpark Racecourse, and the greyhound stadium constructed in 2008/2009 is situated to the north-west.

Within the Limerick City Development Plan (2010-2016) the masterplan lands are zoned Residential (2A), Mixed Use (5A), Public Open Space (6A) and Neighbourhood Centre (5C).

The SHD lands are in the southern portion of the residentially zoned area. The lands also include some mixed use zoning (where the proposed access road runs).



Zoning Map



Design Approach

The design intent is to create a high quality and appropriate landscape for future residents which will meet their recreational needs and provide an attractive visual setting and associated social amenity spaces. The principles of inclusivity for all age groups, universal accessibility and sustainable development are applied to ensure an inclusive and environmentally responsible design solutions.

The main objective of the landscape strategy for the residential area is to place the new residential and community facilities within a cohesive landscape that responds to and integrates the proposed development within the overall site.

The landscape strategy also seeks to create a permeable network of green infrastructure and open spaces throughout the development and pay attention to future links to the development lands outside this application boundary.

The proposed landscape development is in accordance with the relevant Green Infrastructure and Open Space policies of the Limerick County Council Development Plan 2010 - 2016 (as amended) and the relevant national guidelines, as appropriate.

These include:

- Building For Everyone - Booklet 1: External Environment and Approach
- Design Manual for Urban Streets and Roads
- National Cycle Manual (2011)
- Design Standards for New Apartments (2020)
- All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
- Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009)
- Relevant Technical Guidance Documents (Part M)

Aims and Objectives

The site layout proposals aim to create a unifying streetscape which is rich in detail and diverse in textural and spatial qualities, with open spaces and boundary planting lending a verdant and visually attractive atmosphere. The open spaces are directly over-looked by dwellings, providing passive surveillance for safety. All pedestrian routes and access points are fully accessible and inclusive

Within the open spaces there are areas for informal play, casual recreation and passive leisure. The quality of these spaces is enhanced by the inclusion of features such as seating, paths, native planting and landform. A sympathetic palette of materials will also be used to integrate the proposed architectural forms and materials within the landscape.

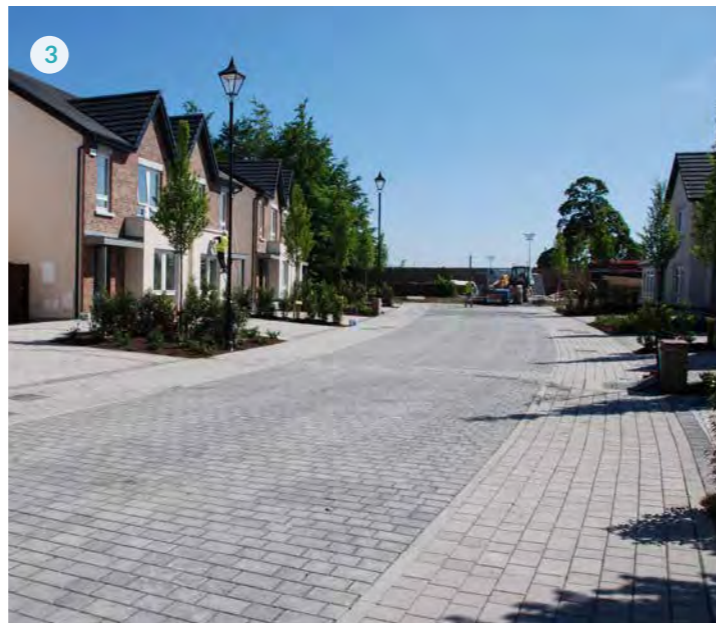
The four varying character areas within the development are softly defined through a change in planting typology and a subtle shift in materials. This brings a variety of visual interest to the development and aids wayfinding and placemaking.

Within the development lands there are 4no. open spaces in total, amounting to 1.15 HA. This accounts for 14.6% of the total net residential area.

This mosaic of open spaces gives every resident easy and convenient access to recreational amenity, and allows distinct landscape treatments and elements to be applied to different spaces.

Natural Play elements will be incorporated within the open spaces. Natural Play incorporates designed elements that enable play spaces to blend in with their surroundings and encouraging interaction with the natural landscape. Local Areas for Play (LAP) and Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP) will be incorporated within a five minute walk of the residential developments.

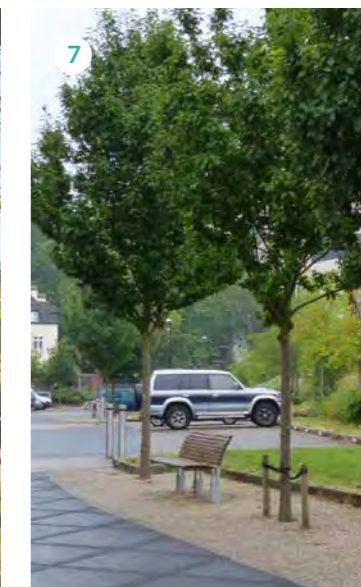
All appropriate age ranges will be catered for and play spaces will be fully accessible, inclusive and comply with the relevant safety standards.

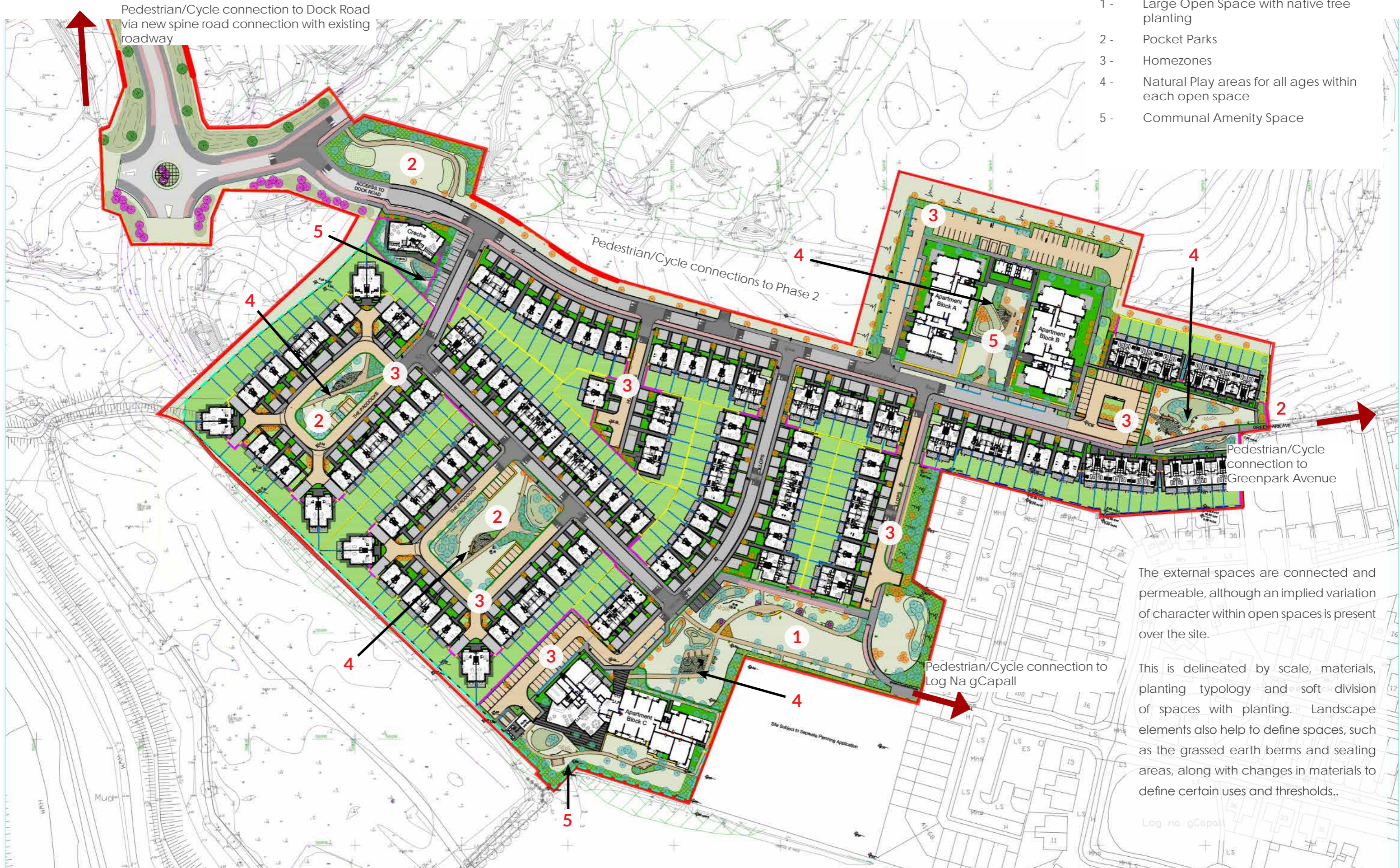


Typologies
 There are a range of open space sizes within the site. A larger central open space caters for passive play and recreation, while smaller pocket parks provide more local intimate spaces for play and relaxation. Structural and appropriate trees are planted along the streets where possible and native planting is included within the open spaces.

The landscape proposals may include the following elements:

- 1 - Main Open Space with native tree planting
- 2 - Pocket Parks with natural playful spaces
- 3 - Homezones
- 4 - Ornamental planting at pedestrian nodes
- 5 - Play areas for all ages within each larger open space
- 6 - Age-friendly seating areas within open spaces
- 7 - Tree-lined streetscape with incidental seating
- 8 - Soft division of on-curtilage parking where possible



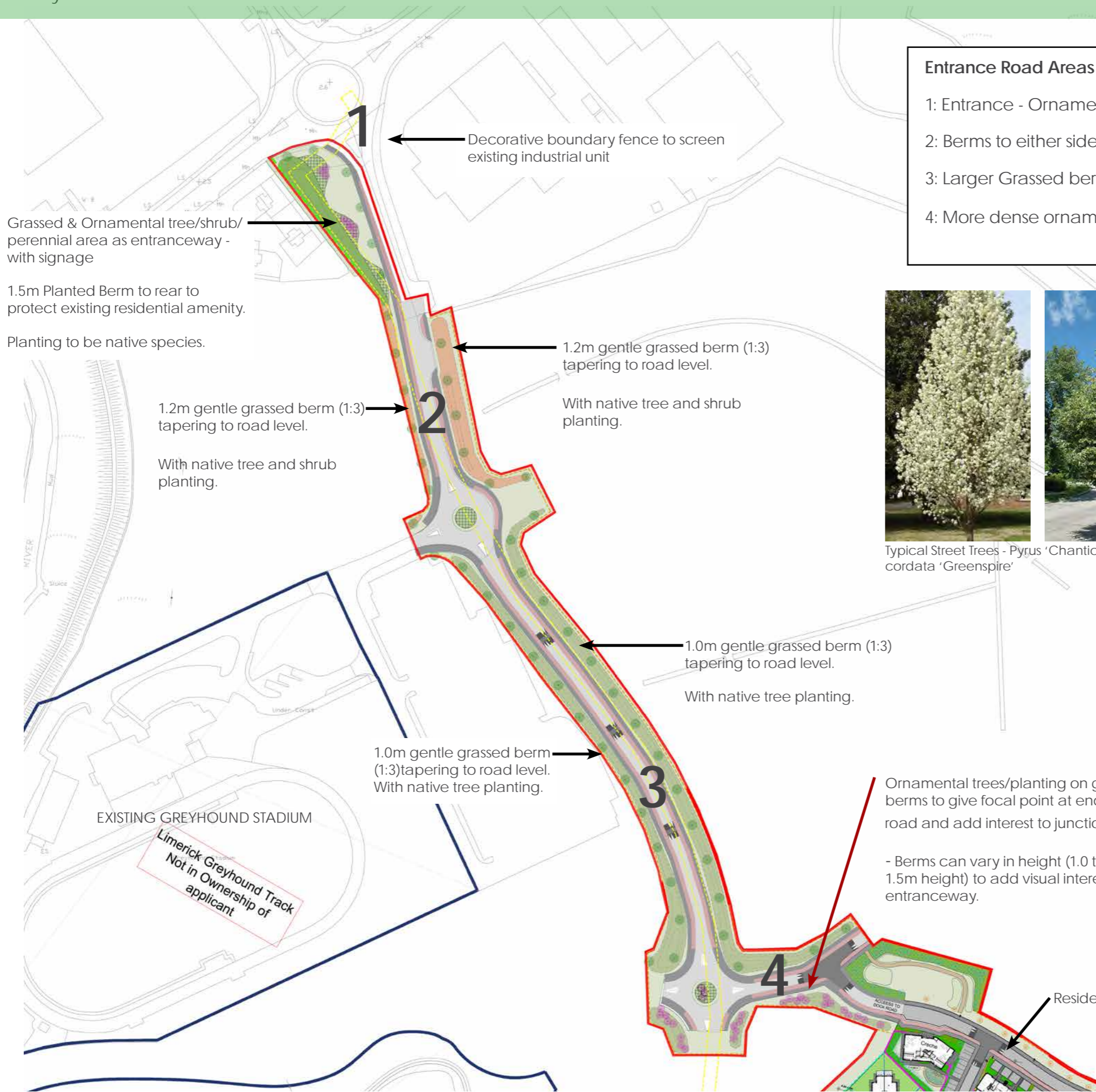


- 1 - Large Open Space with native tree planting
- 2 - Pocket Parks
- 3 - Homezones
- 4 - Natural Play areas for all ages within each open space
- 5 - Communal Amenity Space

The external spaces are connected and permeable, although an implied variation of character within open spaces is present over the site.

This is delineated by scale, materials, planting typology and soft division of spaces with planting. Landscape elements also help to define spaces, such as the grassed earth berms and seating areas, along with changes in materials to define certain uses and thresholds..

Landscape Plan - (see Murray & Associates Drawing 1835_PL_P_02 for details)



Entrance Road Areas

1: Entrance - Ornamental, manicured & screening

2: Berms to either side with Tree & native/ornamental Shrub either side

3: Larger Grassed berms with tree planting - no shrub

4: More dense ornamental trees on berms, but low maintenance



Typical Street Trees - Pyrus 'Chanticleer' & Tilia cordata 'Greenspire'



Ornamental & Native planting to grassed berms at Dock Rd entrance and SHD entrance

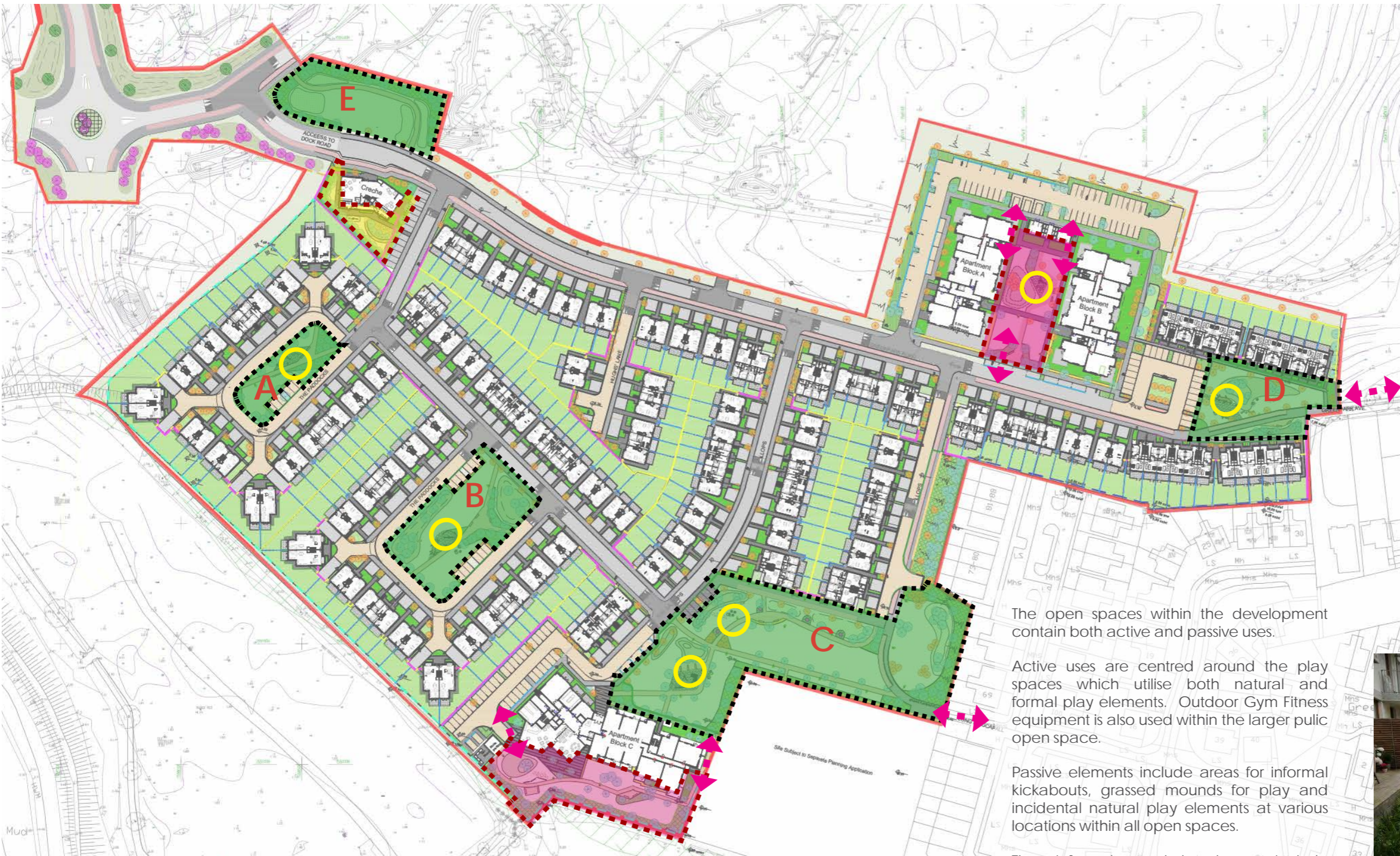







Native trees within wider spaces where possible

Ornamental trees/planting on grassed berms to give focal point at end of road and add interest to junction.

- Berms can vary in height (1.0 to 1.5m height) to add visual interest to entranceway.

NOTE:
Root Protection Barriers to be installed where proposed trees are adjacent to services.



-  Public Open Spaces
 - A: 717 sqm.
 - B: 1908 sqm.
 - C: 5879 sqm.
 - D: 1427 sqm.
 - E: 1580 sqm.
 - TOTAL: 11,511 sqm (14.6%)**
 - (SHD Development Site Area: 78,955 sqm)
-  Communal Amenity Space
 - 3091 sqm.**
 - (2300 sqm required)
-  Creche Amenity Space
 - 560 sqm.**
-  Formal & Natural Play Areas
 - 580 sqm.**
-  Pedestrian Connections

The open spaces within the development contain both active and passive uses.

Active uses are centred around the play spaces which utilise both natural and formal play elements. Outdoor Gym Fitness equipment is also used within the larger public open space.

Passive elements include areas for informal kickabouts, grassed mounds for play and incidental natural play elements at various locations within all open spaces.

These informal natural play elements include locally sourced boulders for seating and climbing, logs for balance, grassed slopes and the creation of enclosures to aid imaginative play.

Natural play elements are included within the defined play areas and are also within the wider scheme at appropriate locations. This dispersal of play and activity throughout the open spaces allows the whole landscape to be seen as an opportunity for play and activity.



Communal Amenity Space - intimate seating



Pathways & Routes through Residential Open Spaces



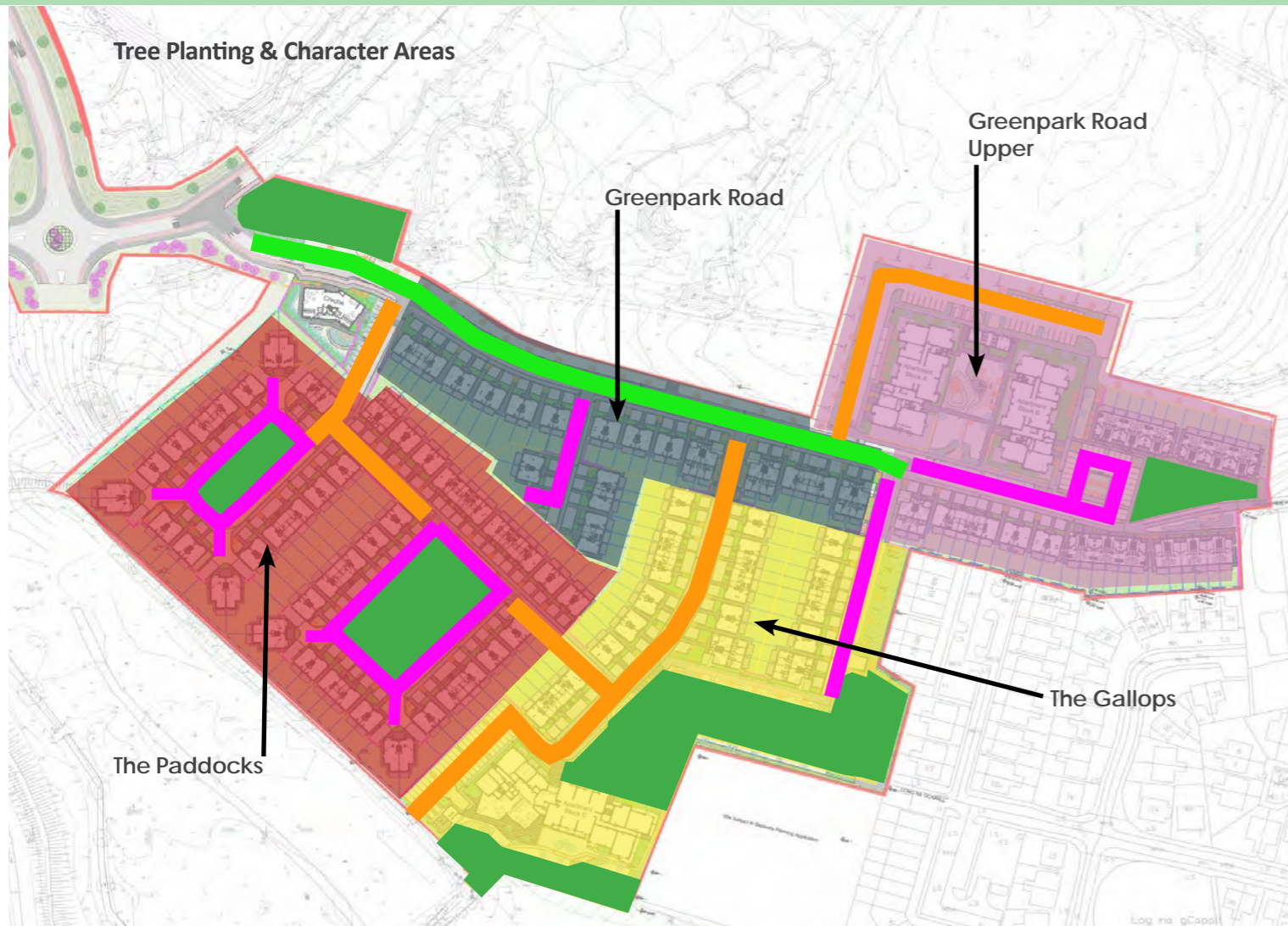
Opportunity for rest & relaxation



Grassed Areas for Passive & Active Recreation



Seating Areas at appropriate locations throughout parks



Outline Proposed Tree Planting Mix

- Open Spaces: 12-14cm - 16-18cm girth**
 Quercus robur, Sorbus aucuparia, Pinus sylvestris, Sorbus aria, Salix spp, Alnus glutinosa, Betula pendula, Prunus padus, Malus sylvestris, Elm
- Link Roads: 16-18cm girth**
 Tilia cordata 'Greenspire', Platanus orientalis 'Minaret'
- Local Roads: 14-16cm girth**
 Alnus glutinosa, Betula pubescens, Sorbus aucuparia, Carpinus Betulus
- Small Residential Streets/Homezones: 12-14cm - 14-16cm girth**
 Corylus avellana, Prunus avium, Pyrus 'Chanticleer', Malus sylvestris, Betula pendula, Amelanchier lamarckii



Small Leaved Lime (Tilia cordata)

SOFT LANDSCAPE

The various open spaces and public realm areas will have a defined appearance by the use of different varieties of trees and planting within the four architectural character areas. This reinforces the architectural placemaking and aids wayfinding within the development.

In order to minimise the need for mowing, extensive lawn areas are avoided where possible; meadow areas or wilder, natural open space areas are included in their place. Where mown areas are required they should cater for informal play.

Native trees and shrub species are predominantly used throughout the areas where possible, and suited to the micro-climactic conditions. Where native species are not proposed, planting should have reference to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Ornamental shrubs, perennials and hedging are proposed adjacent to seating areas and entrances to add interest in these intensively used spaces. This intensification of planting can also be proposed around other thresholds and pedestrian nodes, and can aid wayfinding. These public realm planting mixes are to be selected for vigour and once established should require minimal maintenance.

Larger groups of tree planting are proposed, creating new networks and enhancing the existing green infrastructure networks. An intensification of planting can be proposed at appropriate locations within this open space: play areas, seating spaces and path intersections.

There will also be approximately 620 new trees planted with the development and the Open Spaces. Additionally, there will be 2170 sqm of native woodland and shrub planting specified within the residential areas, and a further 1300sqm of native tree and shrub planting to the access road area (totalling 3,470 sqm), further bolstering the green infrastructure network.



Silver Birch (Betula pendula)



Callery pear 'Chanticleer' (Pyrus 'Chanticleer')



Crab Apple (Malus sylvestris)



Snowy Mespilus (Amelanchier lamarckii)



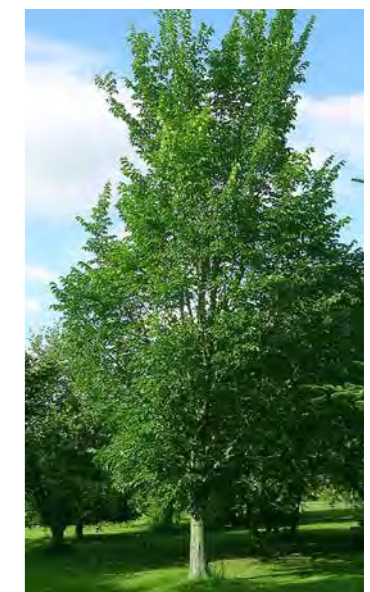
Oriental Plane (Platanus orientalis 'Minaret')



Common Alder (Alnus glutinosa)



Hazel (Corylus avellana)



Elm 'Lobel' (Ulmus 'Lobel')

Hard Landscape Materials

A simple and robust palette of hard landscape materials is proposed. The paving materials are arranged to reflect the various changes in use and identity of the proposed public realm, while allowing a coherent and consistent treatment over the site.

This creates a strong and integrated urban identity for the development. Proposed paving is generally within a buff to light brown colour range, with various darker colours used sparingly for contrast.

Specific areas within the development are further defined by the use of various paving sizes, layout and colour.

Typical Boundaries



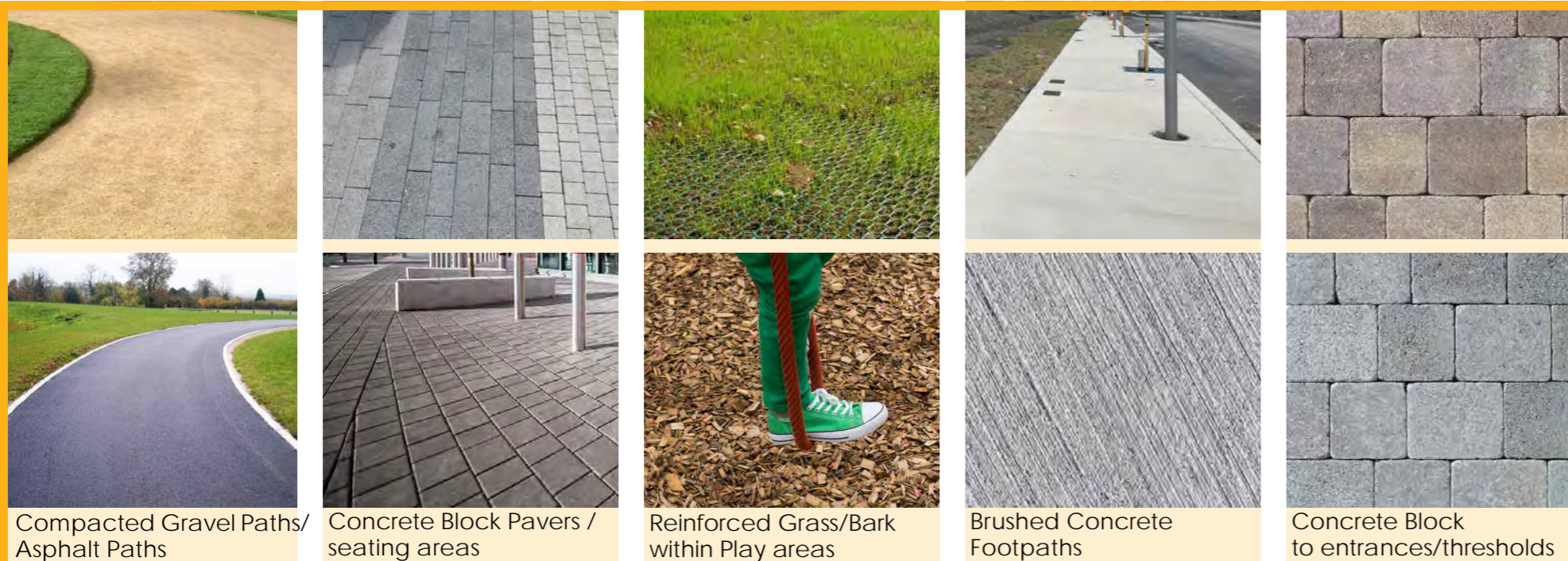
Planting & Hedgerow between driveways



Timber Panel & Concrete Post in rear gardens



Rendered Concrete Block Wall with PC Concrete Capping to public realm areas



Compacted Gravel Paths/ Asphalt Paths

Concrete Block Pavers / seating areas

Reinforced Grass/Bark within Play areas

Brushed Concrete Footpaths

Concrete Block to entrances/thresholds

Materials - Open Spaces

- Compacted Gravel Paths/Asphalt Paths within Open Spaces
- Concrete Block Pavers within specimen seating areas
- Reinforced Grass/Bark within Play areas
- Brushed Concrete Footpaths
- Concrete Block to entrances/thresholds

Street Furniture

Indicative palette of furniture:

- Benches/Seating
- Picnic Table in open spaces
- Lighting
- Cycle Stands



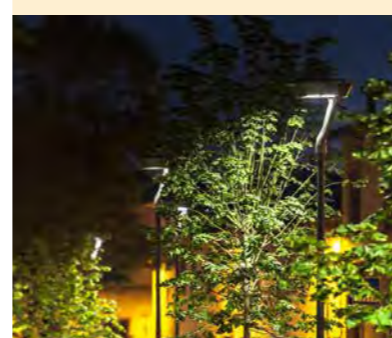
Seating

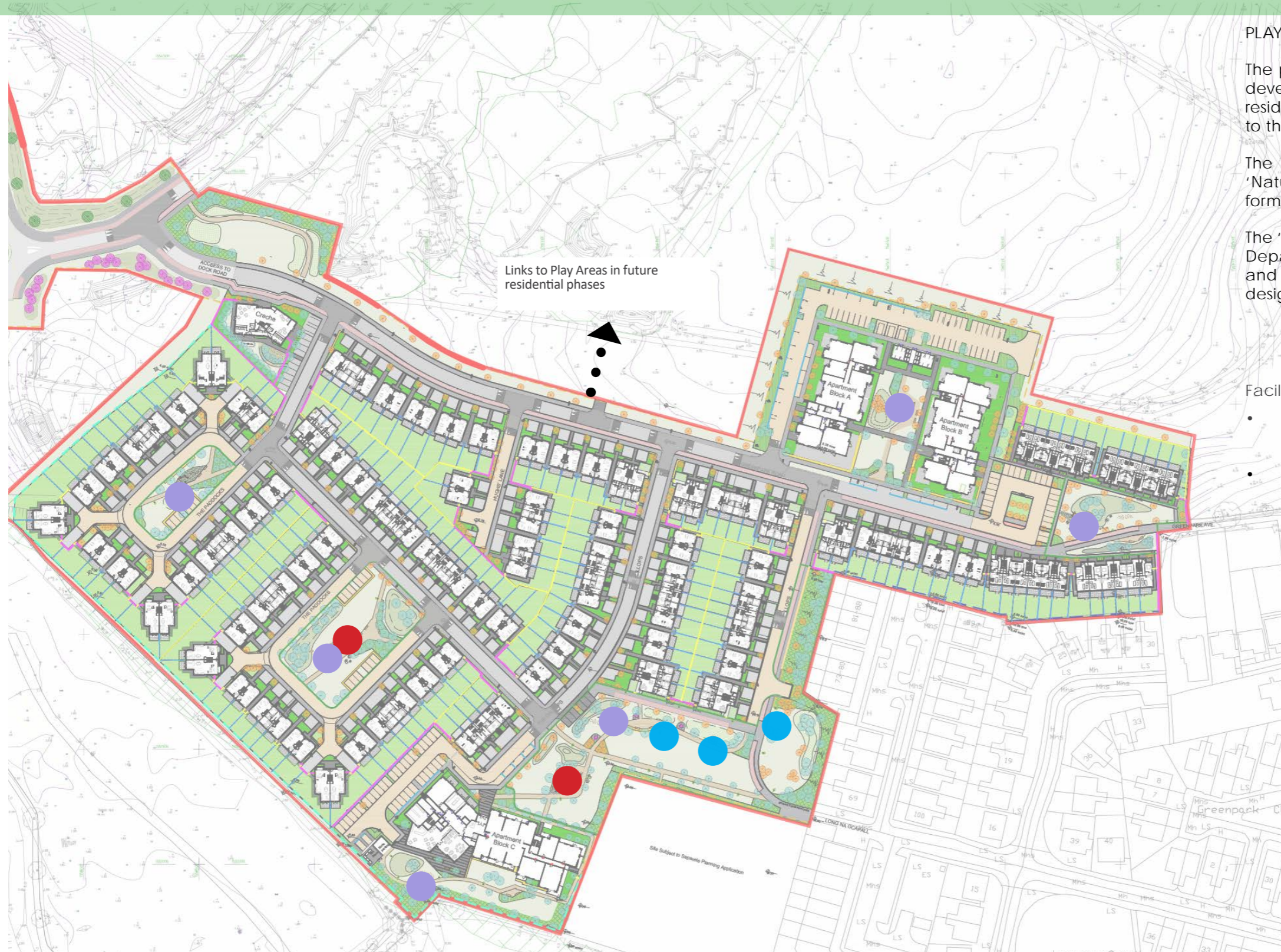


Lighting



Cycle Stands





PLAY/RECREATION FACILITIES

The play spaces and recreational elements within the development have been distributed to allow future residents and visitors to enjoy easy and direct access to the various facilities.

The play areas are envisaged, in part, as being 'Natural Play' areas with the inclusion of elements of formal play equipment as required.

The 'Ready, Steady, Play!' national play policy from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2019) should be consulted when detailed design of play spaces is considered.

Facilities to include:

- Local Areas for Play (LAP)
 - catering for children up to 6 years
- Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP)
 - within a five minute walk of residential areas
 - some formal equipment within 5 minutes walk
 - equipped for early school age children

- Structured Play Elements
- Natural Playful Area
- Fitness Station Points



Natural Play Elements

Change in Topography



Natural play incorporates a number of elements that enable play spaces to blend in with their natural surroundings, and encourages interaction with the natural landscape.

These components represent the larger wild environment in a way that feels safe and manageable to young visitors. A few man-made components might also be carefully integrated to support creative play, encourage confident exploration and help children develop a lasting affinity for the natural world.

Enclosure



Natural Materials

