

GRAND UNION CANAL SOUTHALL TOWPATH IMPROVEMENTS FEASIBILITY STUDY

Have your say on these
canalside focus areas:

Spikes Bridge Park
Bankside
Southall Recreation Ground
Havelock Road Canalside Park
Glade Lane Canalside Park and Norwood Top Lock

Southall Canal Towpath Improvements – developing plans

Canal & River Trust (the Trust) is the charity who own and manage the Grand Union Canal which runs through Southall. We believe that spending time by water makes us happier and healthier.

We want everyone in Southall to use and enjoy the benefits of the canal and its towpaths. Working with and supported by Ealing Council and its Let's Go Southall project we are currently doing some preliminary work to identify what actions are needed to improve the canal towpaths and accessibility to them in Southall.

Alongside the towpaths and access points themselves, we are at the early stages of exploring options to improve five focus areas along the canal and we would like to know what you think.

We are seeking your views on how to improve the canalside at the following areas:

- Spikes Bridge Park
- Bankside
- Southall Recreation Ground
- Havelock Road Canalside Park
- Glade Lane Canalside Park and Norwood Top Lock

This document describes the details of the focus areas and more information on the project can be found on our website www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/southallhaveyoursay.

In partnership with:



What do you think?

We would like to hear your thoughts and suggestions on how we can improve these five focus areas, so that we can develop the proposals to raise the funds to improve them.

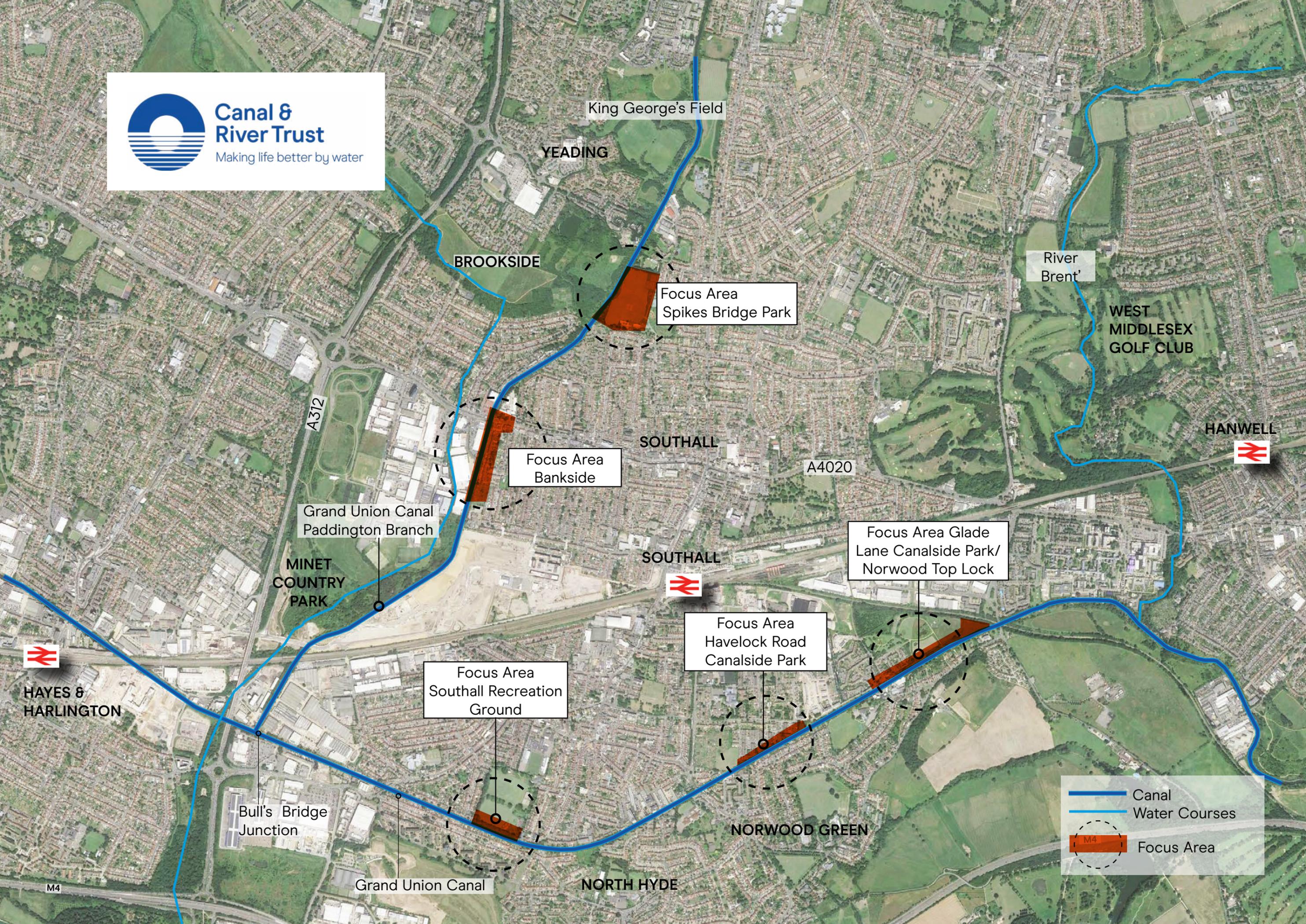
You might live or work in Southall, or you may use the canal towpaths for walking or cycling, or maybe you live on board a canal boat – however you use, or would like to use, the canal and towpaths, we want to hear from you. You can give us your views by completing our short online questionnaire at www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/southallhaveyoursay

With your input we will develop proposals and we hope to be able to seek funding to put them into place to make better canalside places for everyone in Southall.





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King George's Field

YEADING

BROOKSIDE

Focus Area
Spikes Bridge Park

River
Brent

WEST
MIDDLESEX
GOLF CLUB

A312

Focus Area
Bankside

SOUTHALL

A4020

HANWELL

Grand Union Canal
Paddington Branch

Focus Area
Glade
Lane Canalside Park/
Norwood Top Lock

MINET
COUNTRY
PARK

SOUTHALL

Focus Area
Havelock Road
Canalside Park



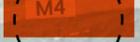
HAYES &
HARLINGTON

Focus Area
Southall Recreation
Ground

Bull's Bridge
Junction

Focus Area
Havelock Road
Canalside Park

NORWOOD GREEN

-  Canal
-  Water Courses
-  Focus Area

M4

Grand Union Canal

NORTH HYDE

EXERCISE



Outdoor gym stations



IMPROVE SIGNAGE & INTERPRETATION



Directional signs and information boards



SOCIALISE



Cultural, Art and Heritage events

Volunteering and social events



Family gatherings



Bird watching



TRIM TRAILS AND LOOP ROUTES

Walking



Jogging



Cycling



Dog walking



FORMAL AND INFORMAL PLAY



Activities for all ages and abilities



FOOD GROWING

Edible planting
Community orchards



How can we create more special canal places in Southall?

INVESTIGATE OPPORTUNITIES AND INNOVATIVE WAYS TO ENABLE:

- Creating attractive and inviting spaces on and around the canal
- Linking the canal from nearby areas
- Improving the environment
- Providing opportunities to enjoy the canal and connect with the water and nature
- Providing opportunities to connect with others and enjoy family time outdoors
- Provide nice places to wander, dwell, exercise
- Link community culture and the canal

WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENTS

Bat boxes



Bug hotels



Bird boxes



Rain-gardens

Wildflower meadows





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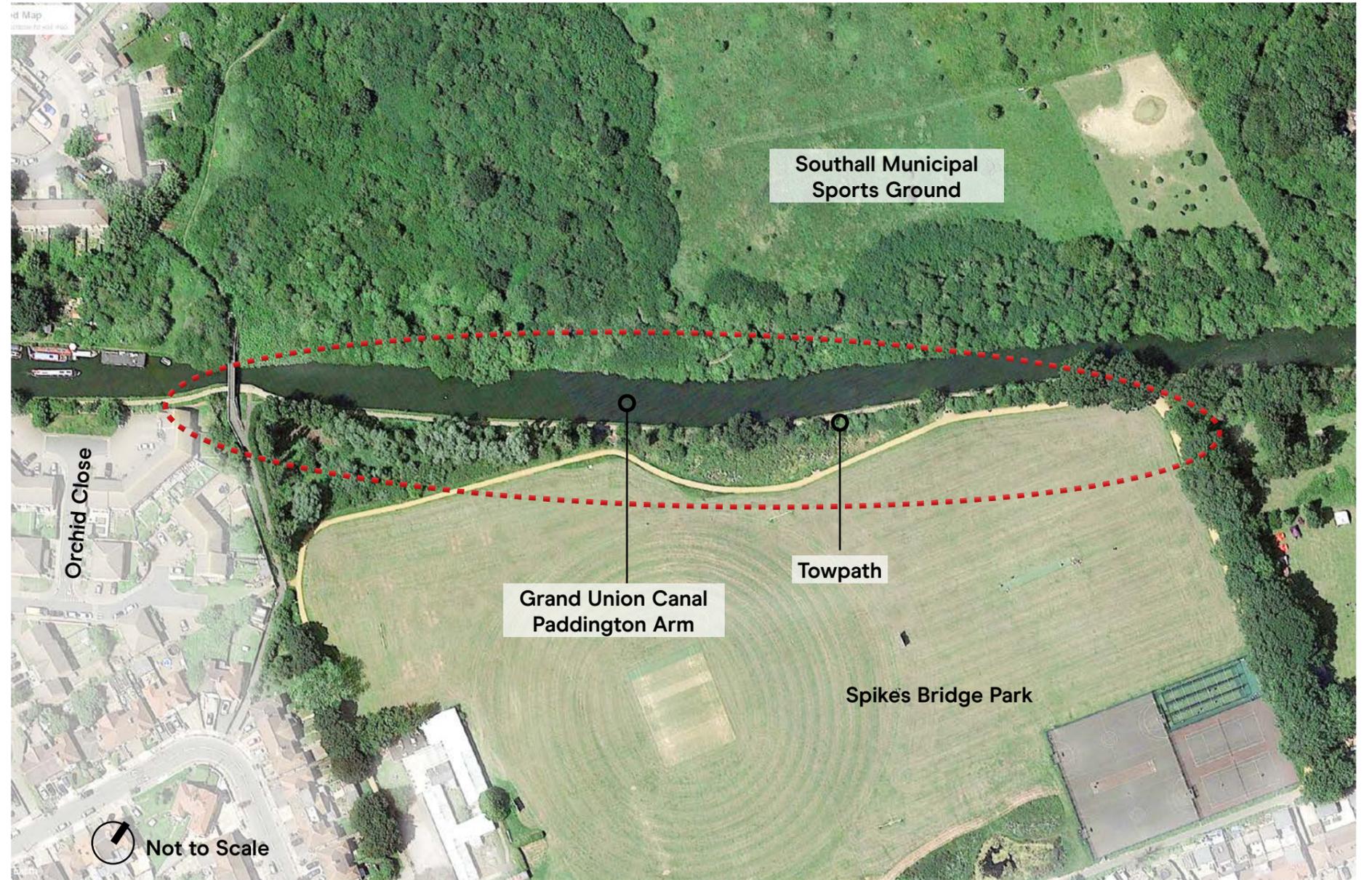
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SPIKES BRIDGE PARK



EXISTING SITUATION

- Well used and maintained sports facilities.
- Limited interaction between the park and the canal.
- Limited visibility of the canal or the park.
- Peaceful space on the canal.
- Surrounded by green spaces.
- Lack of well maintained signage.



VISION

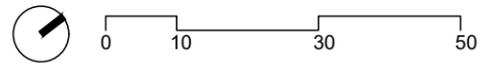
A park that has stronger visual and physical connections to the canal. A canalside that is used for exercise, community activities, and which has improved wildlife habitats and signage.



OPPORTUNITIES

- Open up key views between the park and the canal.
- Install new signage showing maps of the park and the routes to other open spaces in the neighbourhood and further along the canal.
- Create areas along the canalside for natural play and keeping fit.
- Create gardens that can be planned, planted and cared for by the community and volunteer groups.
- Plant areas of wildflower meadow and orchard.

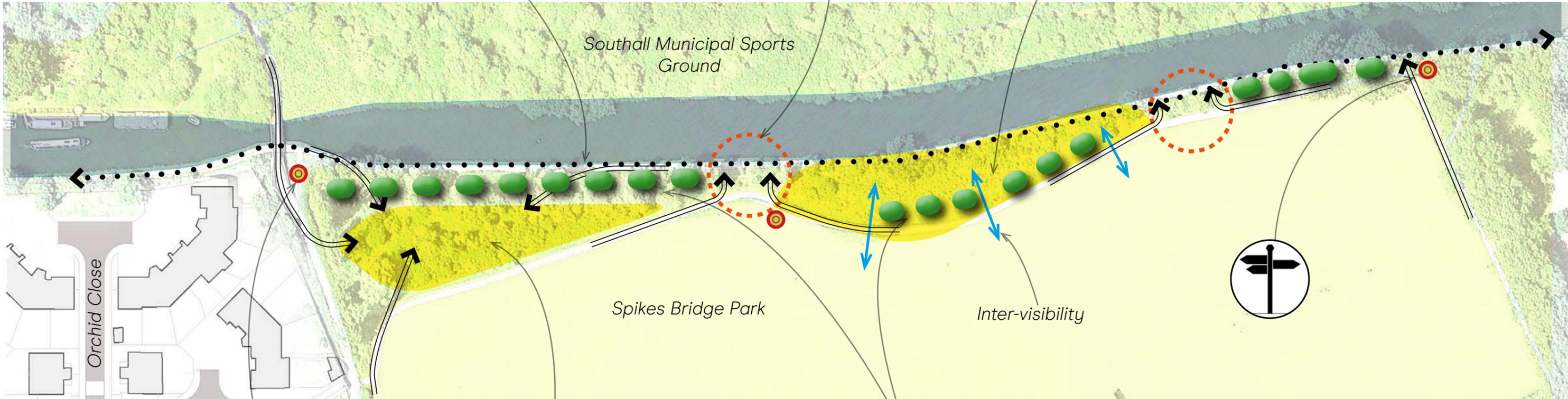




Potential to create new access points to the towpath and improve/ manage planting

Potential for prominent towpath access points

Potential area for canalside seating, community gardens / orchard, and sculpture or art trail.

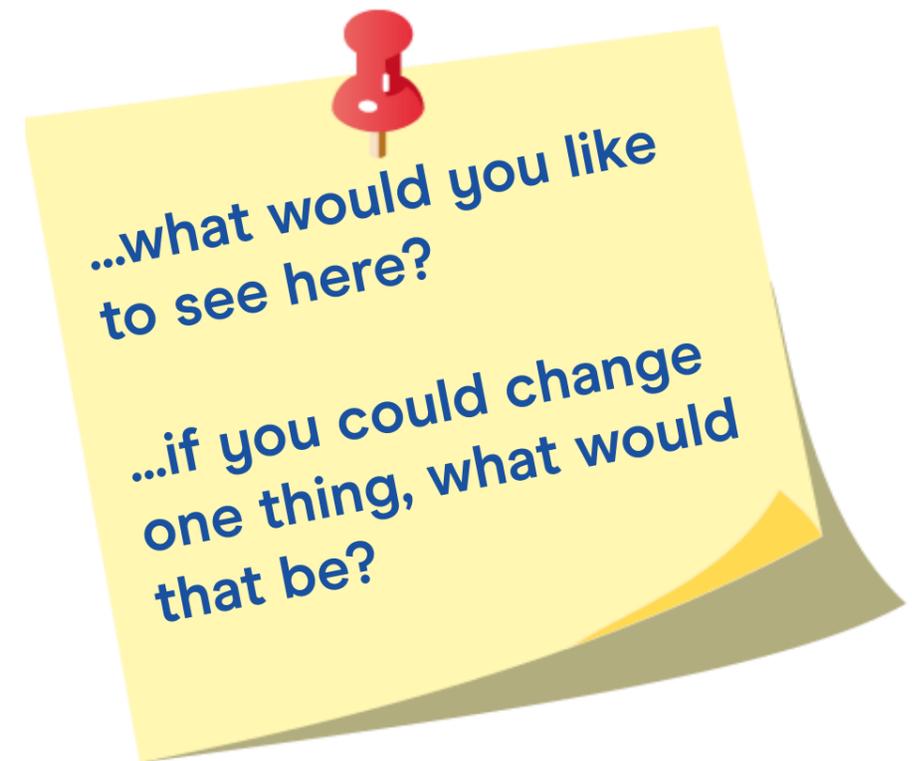
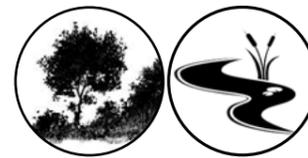


Directional signs and maps i.e. wildlife information signs or wildlife treasure hunt



Potential area for outdoor gym, trim trail and natural play, plus space for community gardens and orchard

Create more views between the park and the canal, and make the towpath feel safer by removal of some areas of vegetation



- Towpath
- Other pedestrian and cycle routes
- Potential activity zone
- Additional vegetation and/ or existing vegetation management
- Improved visibility
- Potential formalised access point
- Additional directional signs

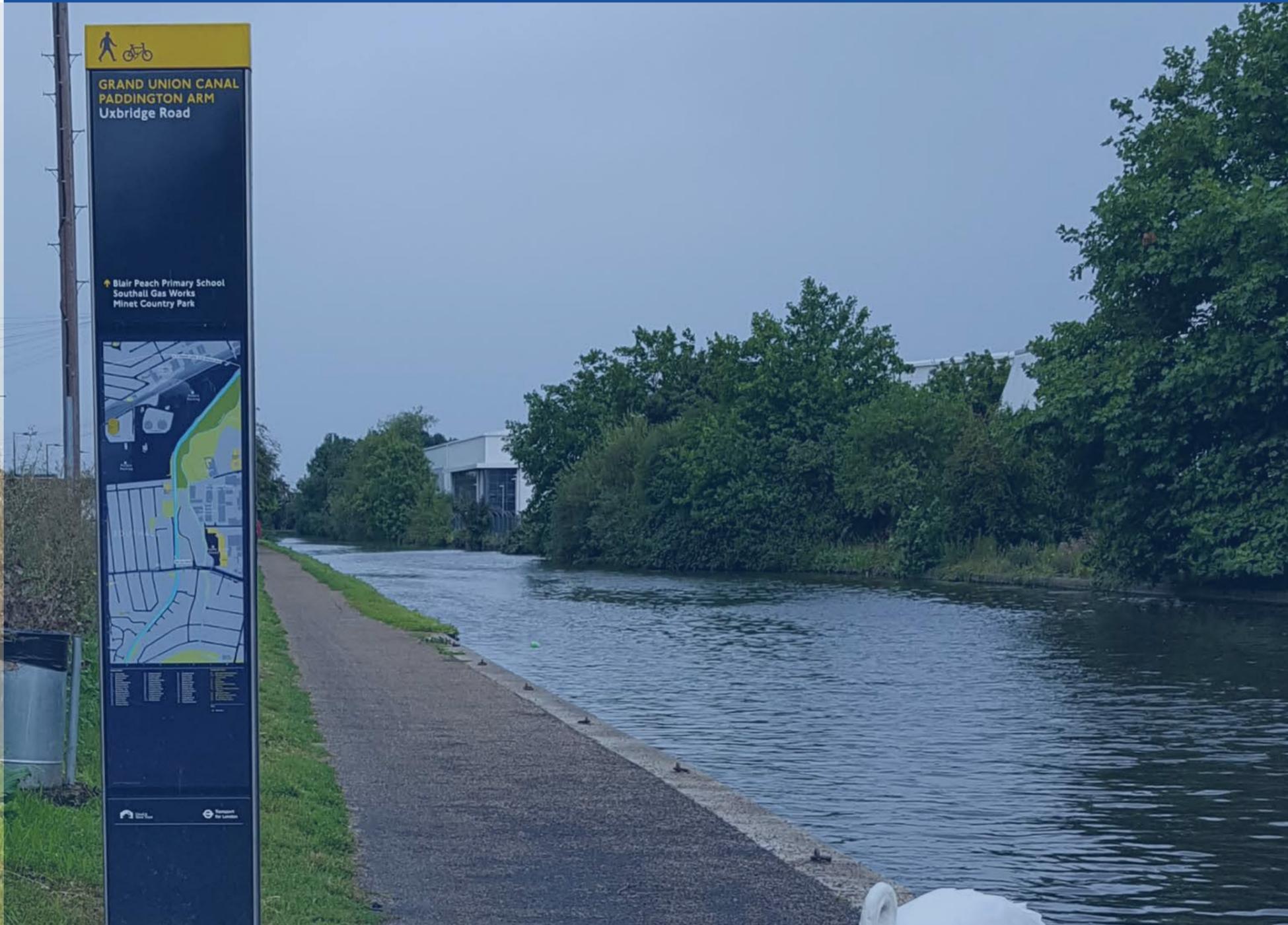


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BANKSIDE



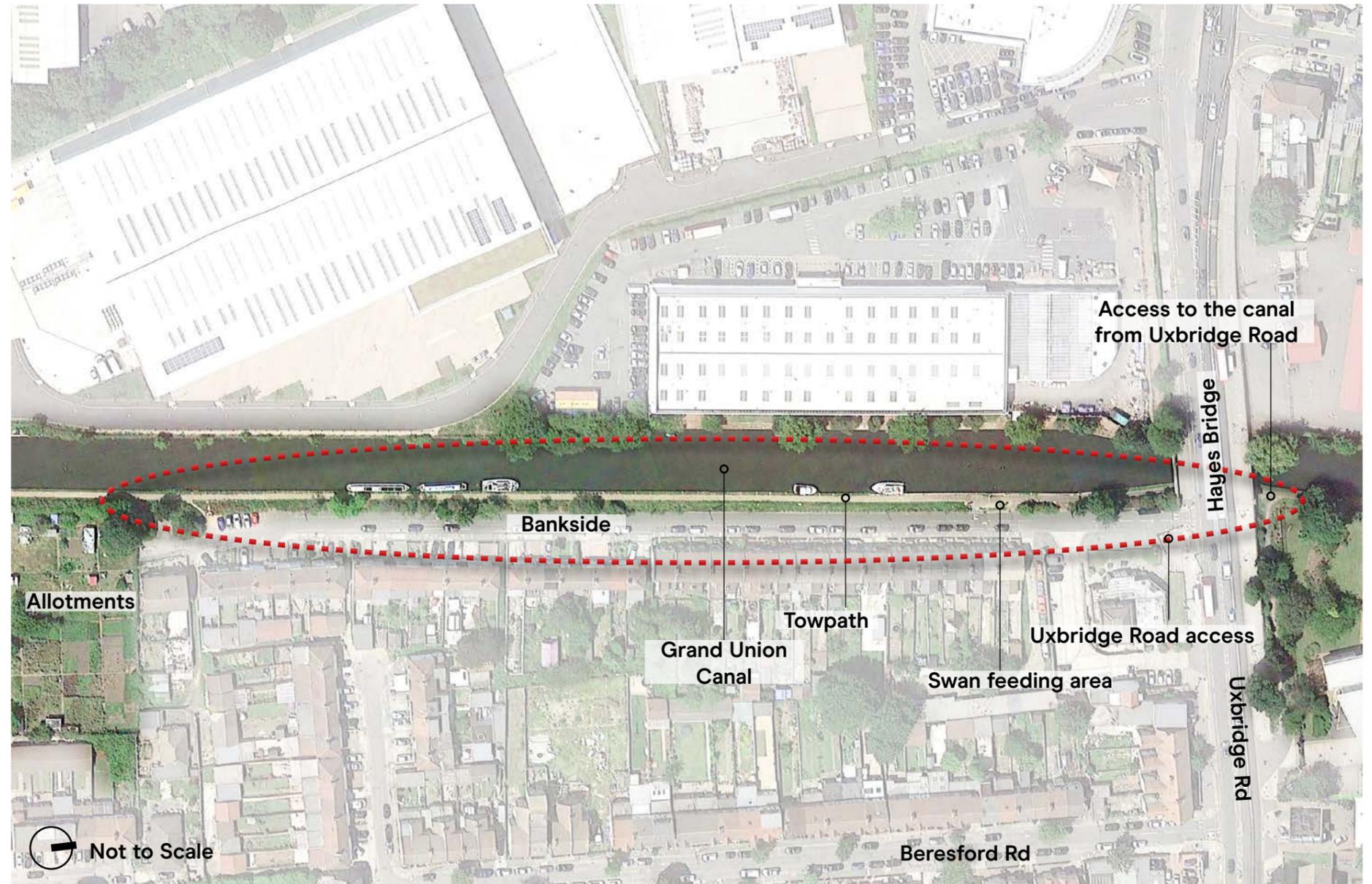
EXISTING SITUATION

Bankside

- The area is popular for boat mooring, especially in winter.
- The recent improvements to the towpath surface have increased the through-flow of pedestrians and cyclists.
- Bankside provides access to Blair Peach Primary School and the Hayes Bridge Allotments.
- The area's popularity for feeding swans has led to problems with litter and rodents.

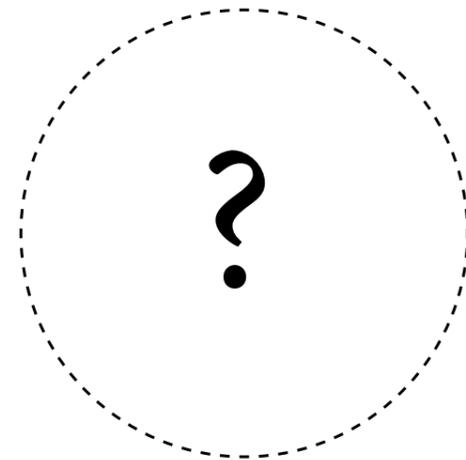
Uxbridge Road access

- Various community organisations working with the Trust and Ealing Council to clear litter, clearing vegetation and replanting the access point
- Ongoing anti-social behaviour issues
- Mural due to be painted on north bridge abutment (local artist)



VISION

An attractive, accessible, safe and well-used canalside that has a strong local identity and increased sense of community ownership. A space that is used by all for social gathering, onward movement and community activity.



OPPORTUNITIES

- Swan feeding area is retained and clearing marked with better signage.
- Improved pedestrian crossings over Bankside.
- More areas of seating, which don't affect those using the towpath.
- Improvements to the existing canalside vegetation (such as growing space) that can be planned, planted and cared for by the community and volunteer groups.
- Improvements to signage and information boards.
- Mooring space for a community and/or commercial travel boat.

...what opportunities are most important to you?

Area for potential seating, bird feeding and community activity, alongside improvements to the existing access points and better definition and separation of the residents' parking from the canalside



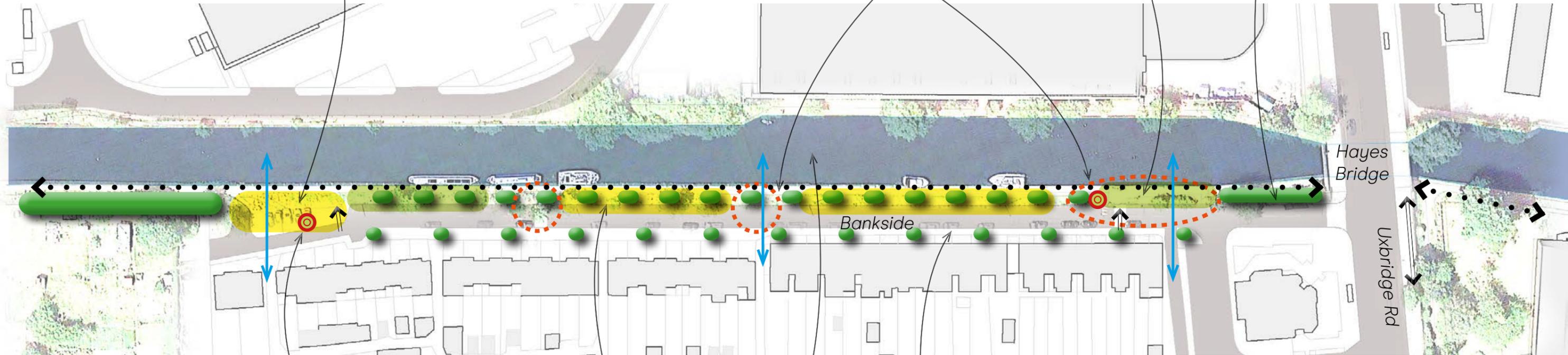
Better definition of the bird feeding area and new information boards



Improved pedestrian crossings over Bankside (ensuring that users remain safe when nearing the water's edge)



Potential thinning of the existing vegetation to improve the sense of safety for users of the towpath near the bridge, to enhance biodiversity and to create areas for community managed growing space



Directional signs and maps e.g. wildlife information signs or wildlife treasure hunt



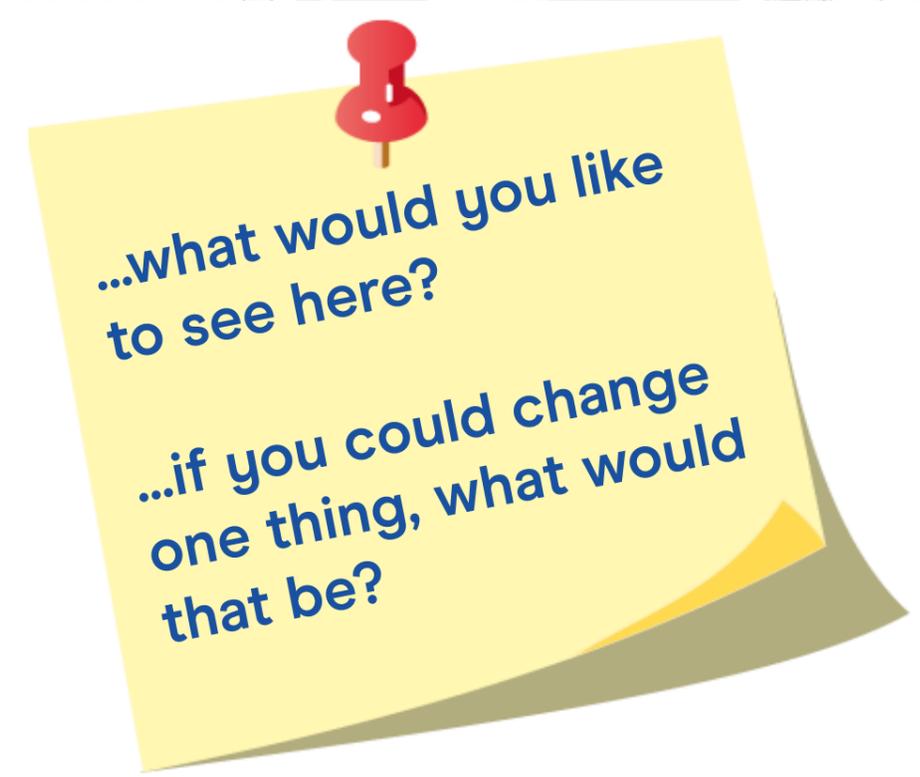
Create areas along the back of the towpath for seating and community managed growing space.



Mooring site-potential for commercial/community boat



Consider possibilities of planting street trees to 'break-up' continuous car park line



...what would you like to see here?

...if you could change one thing, what would that be?

- Towpath
- Other pedestrian and cycle routes
- Potential activity zone
- Additional vegetation and/or existing vegetation management
- Improved visibility
- Potential formalised access point
- Additional directional signs

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SOUTHALL RECREATION GROUND



EXISTING SITUATION

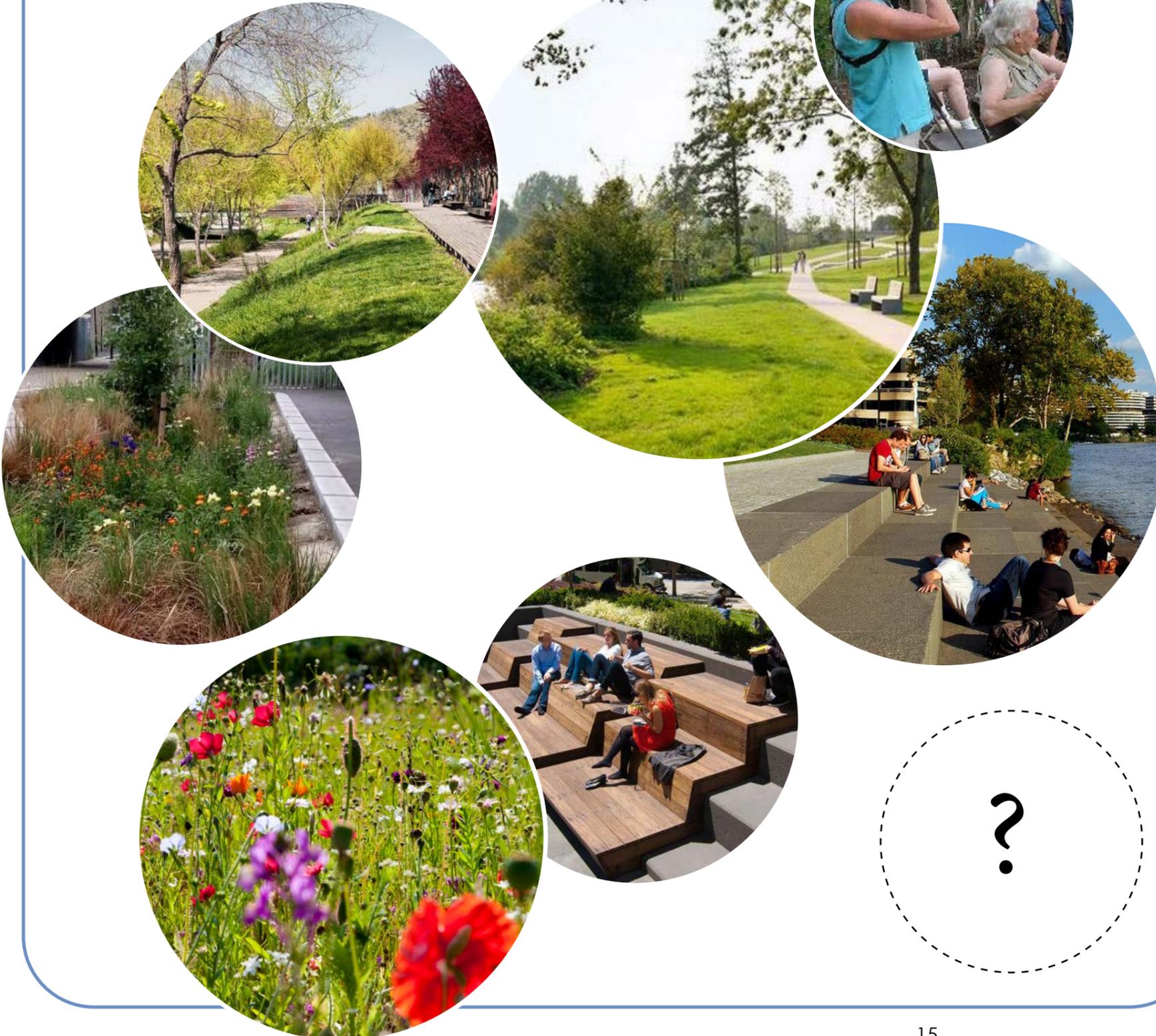
- Strong tree line along the edge of the Recreation Ground
- Well maintained and used community facilities in the park including playground and outdoor gym.
- Lack of a formal access between the Recreation Ground and towpath discourages connections between them.
- Narrow towpath with uneven surface, can be muddy.
- Visually evident anti-social behaviour along towpath, such as littering and dog fouling
- Poor existing vegetation management
- Mooring currently discouraged by shallow canal depth alongside towpath
- Limited or no directional signage
- Potential safety issues on western side of North Hyde Lane Bridge due to informal crossing of road and steep vegetated slope to reach towpath.



Existing site pictures

VISION

Connecting Southall Recreation Ground and canal edge to one integral space

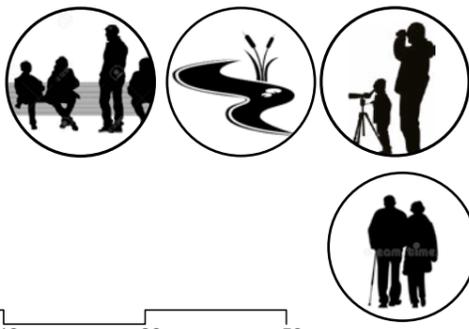


OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve connections between the Recreation Ground and the canal by improving and increasing the pedestrian crossings over The Common, or closing it to vehicles completely and integrating them as one space.
- Thin undergrowth and improve planting to open up the canal and connect with the Recreation Ground
- New edge to the Recreation Ground could be further activated with community gardens, wildflowers for interest and wellbeing, biodiversity and habitat improvements, bat boxes, bird boxes, bug hotels etc.
- Possibility for split level paths with potential for segregated cycle path as well as waterfront structures to access and enjoy water
- Segregated cycle path along line of current road
- Areas along canal for seating and increased interaction with water.
- More diverse habitat and enhanced links along canal and into Recreation Ground
- Add safer crossing points at entrances to Recreation Ground



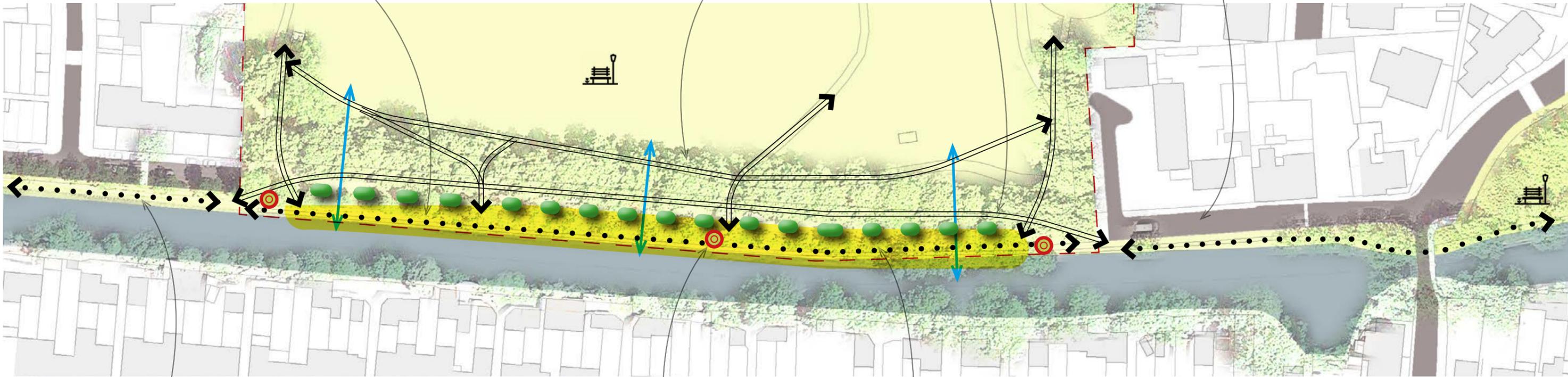
...what opportunities are most important to you?



Waterfront promenade with space for improved interaction with the water, seating and community activity spaces.

Potential to divert cyclists away from the towpath to create a more pedestrian focused canalside

Potential reduction of road width to accommodate cycle lane



Feasibility study underway to explore possible towpath width and surface improvements and improvements to access points



Better directional signage and information boards at key points along towpath



Potential thinning of the existing vegetation to improve the sense of safety for users of the towpath, and to create a more naturalised canalside with enhanced biodiversity (such as wildflower strips, bird and bat boxes, bug hotels etc.)



- Towpath
- Other pedestrian and cycle routes
- Potential activity zone
- Additional vegetation and/ or existing vegetation management
- Improved visibility
- Potential formalised access point
- Additional directional signs



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HAVELOCK ROAD CANALSIDE PARK



EXISTING SITUATION

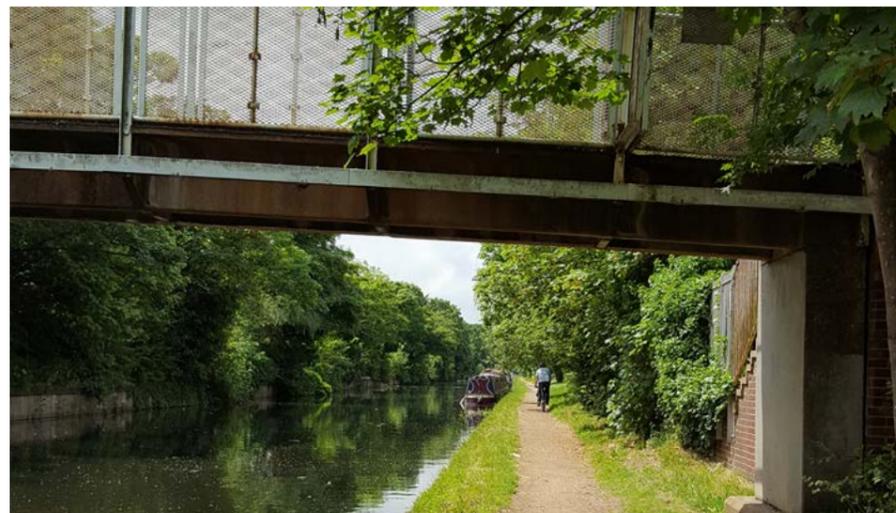
- Narrow towpath width and poor condition of surfacing
- Litter issues
- Canal is too shallow to allow moorings
- Little or no wayfinding
- Limited number of connections/ access points between canal and nearby developments
- Limited or no opportunities for seating/ resting/ socialising
- Encroaching canal-side vegetation
- Open Havelock canoe club house/gym/café project will improve the access point to the towpath
- Possible improvements to connection to green spaces at Bixley Field and Glade Lane Canalside Park



Havelock Regeneration, birds-eye view, Price and Myers, <https://www.pricemyers.com/>



Not to Scale

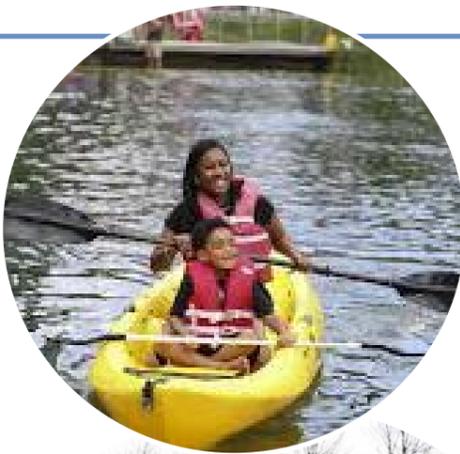


Existing site pictures



VISION

An attractive, accessible, safe and well-used canal side that forms a key part of the area's regeneration, and creates places that have strong local identity and increased sense of community ownership.



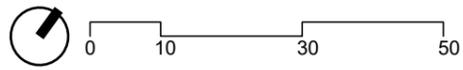
OPPORTUNITIES

- Activated canal side edge.
- Improved mooring with opportunities for floating market, boat cafés etc.
- Celebrate connections to the canal.
- Create physical activity zones i.e. outdoor gym or informal areas for exercise.
- Create community gardens, wildflower meadow, orchard.
- Improvements to existing vegetation and biodiversity.
- Connecting green spaces – wildlife trail/canoe trail/heritage trail etc.



...what opportunities are most important to you?

Planned location of canoe club (Open Havelock Project)



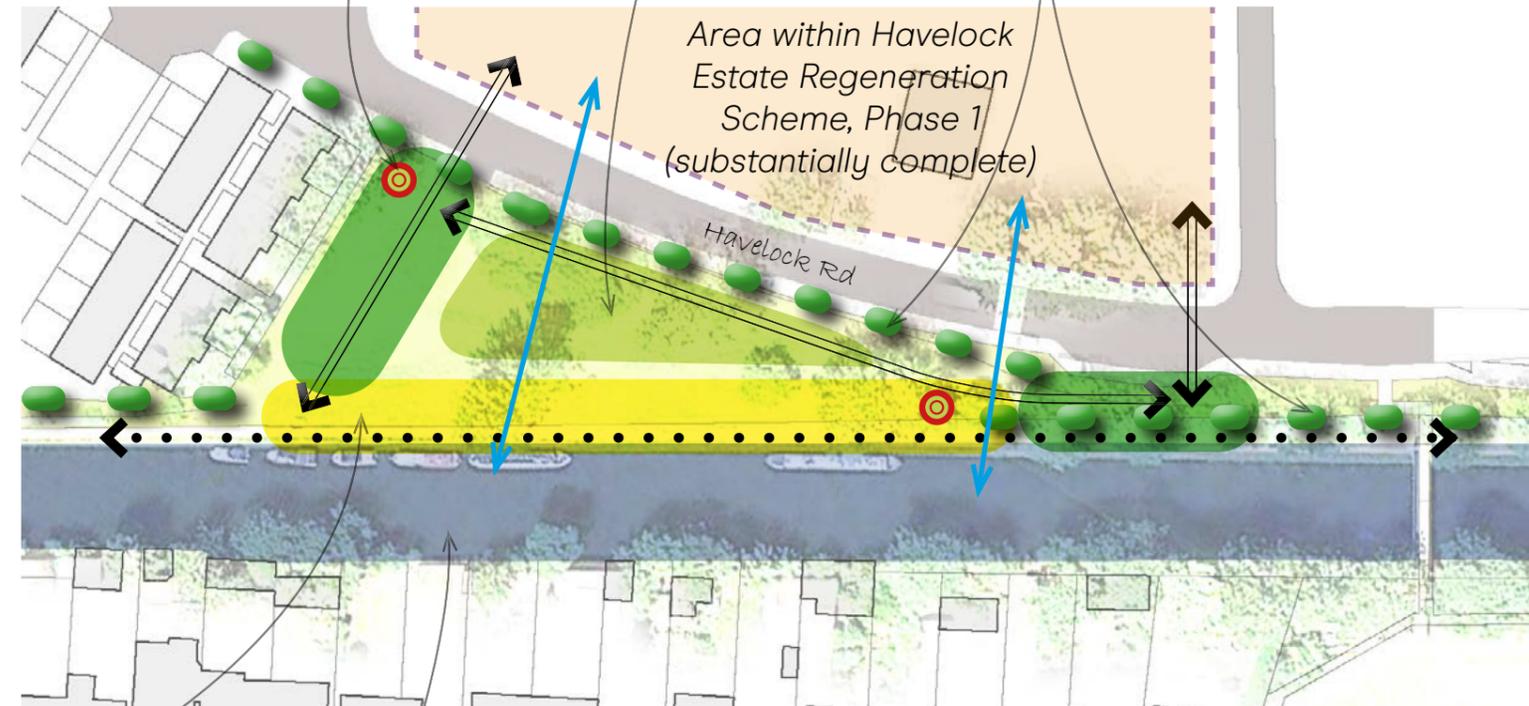
Additional directional signage and information boards at key access and points



Potential space for playground, outdoor gym, community gardens, orchard etc.



Additional planting and existing vegetation management, enhancements to ecology and biodiversity



Feasibility study underway to explore possible towpath width and surface improvements and improvements to access points



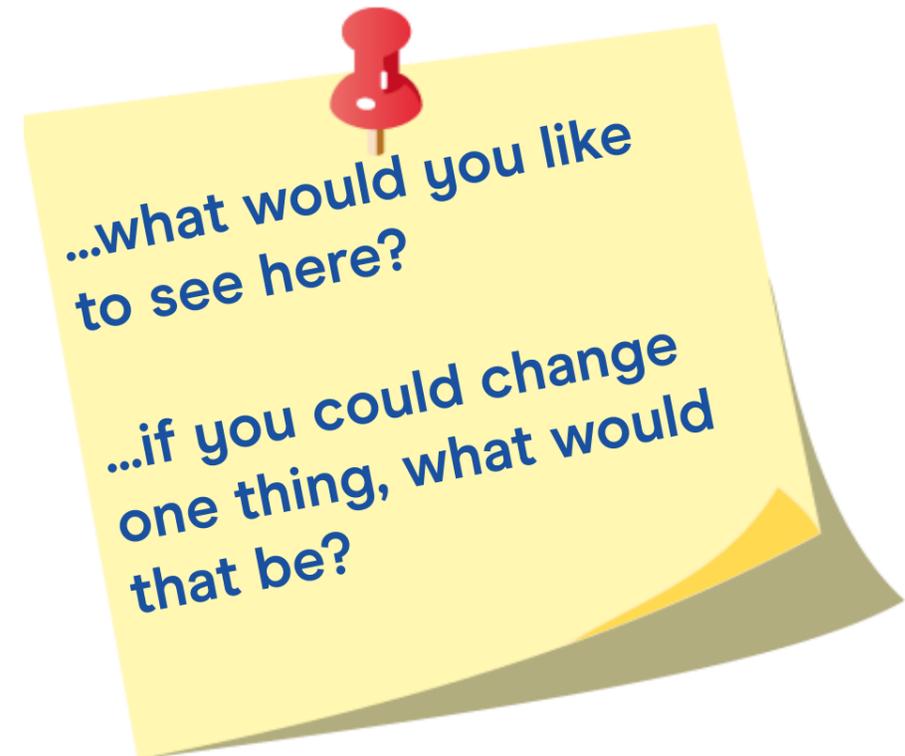
Directional signs and maps e.g. wildlife information signs or wildlife treasure hunt



Canalside with integrated activity zones for seating, resting and socialising



Improvements to encourage additional mooring. Potential for cafe boat/ floating market/ promotion of art/books/culture etc.



- Towpath
- Other pedestrian and cycle routes
- Potential activity zone
- Additional vegetation and/ or existing vegetation management

- Improved visibility
- Potential formalised access point
- Additional directional signs
- Area within Havelock Estate Regeneration Scheme



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GLADE LANE CANALSIDE PARK and NORWOOD TOP LOCK



EXISTING SITUATION

Glade Lane Canalside Park

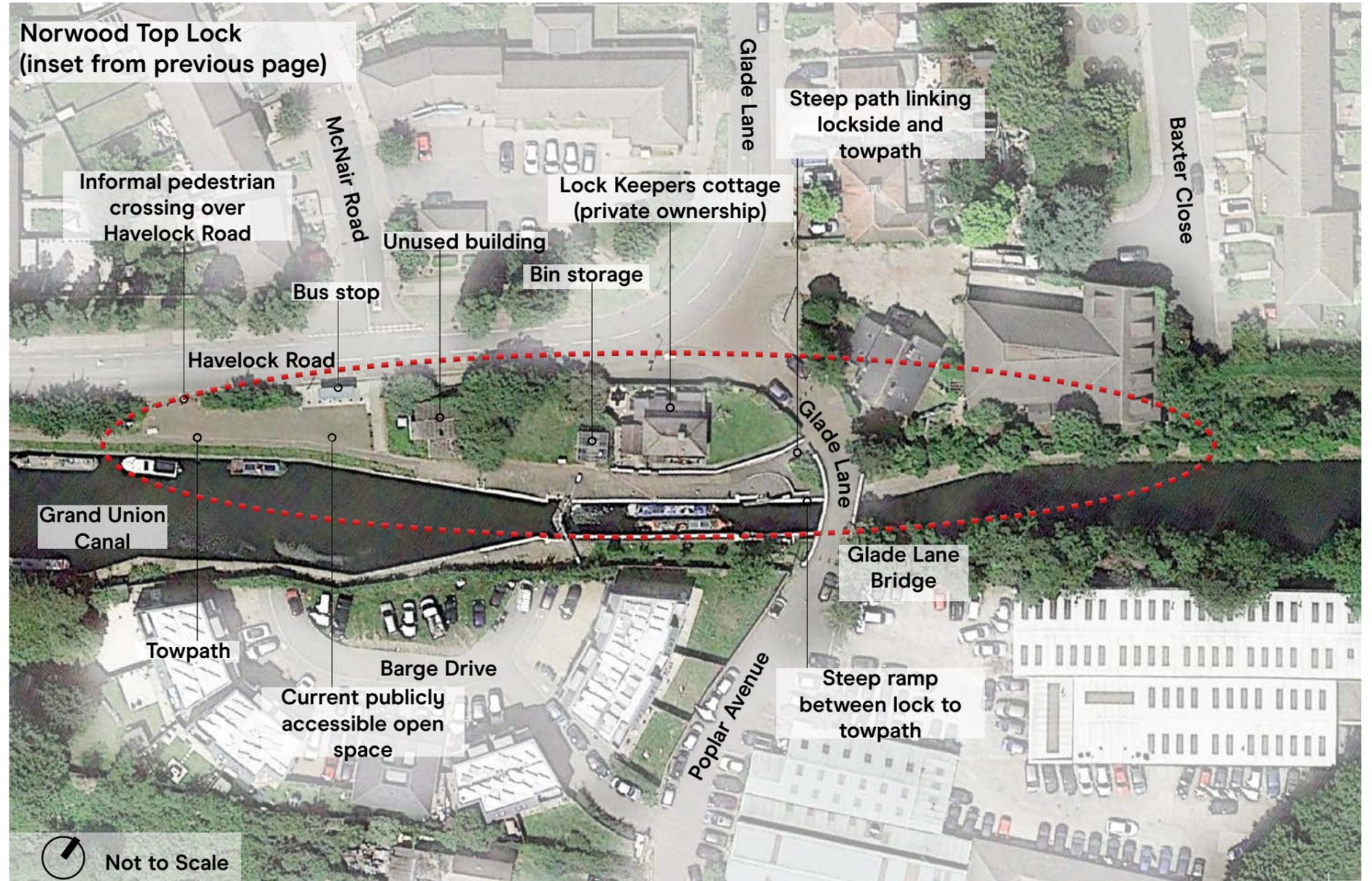
- A relatively quiet and tranquil reach of the canal adjoining Glade Lane Canalside Park
- Mixture of mature trees (some of which restrict and overhang the towpath), hedgerows and meadow grassland along the canal edge, which sometimes prevents movement into the rest of the Park
- Norwood Top Lock (see next page) and Three Bridges strongly define the west-east extents of the focus site.
- Forms part of the valued and historic 'Hanwell Flight' of locks.
- Poor visual connections between the Park and the canal.
- Narrow width and poor condition of some towpath surfacing



EXISTING SITUATION

Norwood Top Lock

- Lock and immediate surroundings present valuable heritage asset to be respected and potentially enhanced.
- Unused building.
- Lack of formal pedestrian crossing over Havelock Road.
- Lack of suitable pedestrian access between towpath and east end of the lock.
- Unused open space in The Trust's ownership to the west of the lock.
- Unsightly bin store.
- Discordant mix of surfacing.
- Open access to Havelock Road, with bus stop immediately adjacent.
- Narrow width and poor condition of some surfacing.
- Existing mooring west of the lock.



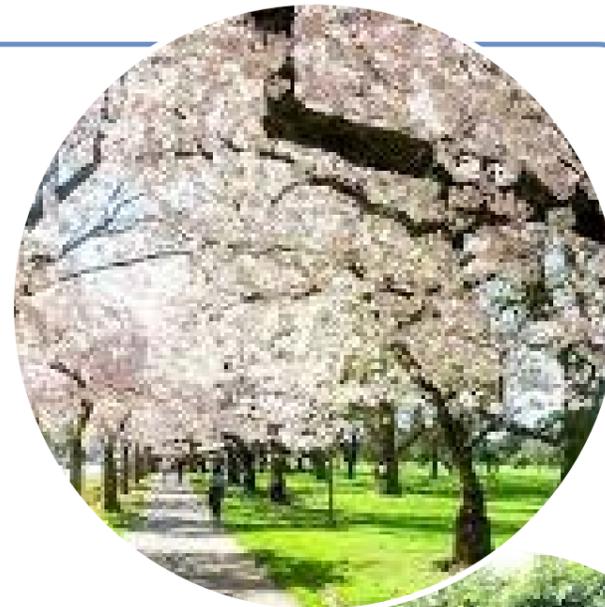
VISION

Glade Lane Canalside Park

A canalside that retains its valued peaceful character, but which has better physical and visual links with the rest of Park, a safer and more comfortable towpath, and which encourages greater community ownership through the growing of food and the management of its habitats.

Norwood Top Lock

A community focal point with volunteering opportunities, an outdoor cultural/activity space that is respectful of the site's heritage, and clear starting point for enjoyment of the Hanwell Flight.



OPPORTUNITIES

Glade Lane Canalside Park:

- Improved surfacing, signage and visibility along the existing pathways between the canal and the Park.
- Create additional paths that provide more opportunities for recreational cycling and walking away from the towpath, and which connect with routes through the park.
- Provide areas for the community to grow food, such as raised beds and community orchards - reflecting the previous use of parts of the Park.
- Maintain the diversity of vegetation along the canal but carry out management to areas which restrict movement along the towpath or make it feel unsafe.

Norwood Top Lock

- Potential new uses for the disused building, such as a cafe, a community room, or a volunteer station.
- Space for a community garden with opportunities for food growing that can be planned, planted and cared for by the community and volunteer groups.
- Celebrate heritage of the canal and buildings through information boards and a heritage trail.
- New directional signage and information boards used to celebrate the Hanwell Flight, identify links to nearby green spaces, and promote wildlife trails and led walks.



Potential step-free access from lock to towpath



Potential new recreational foot/cycle path away from towpath and a trim trail along it

Existing informal path

Potential for stronger integration of towpath into existing Glade Lane 'loop' routes via creation of additional activity stops and focal points



Norwood Top Lock (see next page)

Feasibility study underway to explore possible towpath width and surface improvements and improvements to access points



Directional signs and maps e.g. wildlife information signs or wildlife treasure hunt. Existing entrance points into the park improved with solid surfacing, bell-mouth corners, clearer lines of sight, better visibility into the park and signage



Potential for community space and food growing garden (raised beds etc.) with volunteering and adoption opportunities, marking the footprint of the old lock keepers cottage.



Potential for community orchard to reflect previous use of the land within part of the Park (with volunteering and adoption opportunities).



- Towpath
- Other pedestrian and cycle routes
- Potential activity zone
- Additional vegetation and/or existing vegetation management
- Potential formalised access point
- Additional directional signs
- Potential step-free access from lock to towpath
- Potential for improved access and new paths

Additional planting and existing vegetation management, ecological and biodiversity improvements



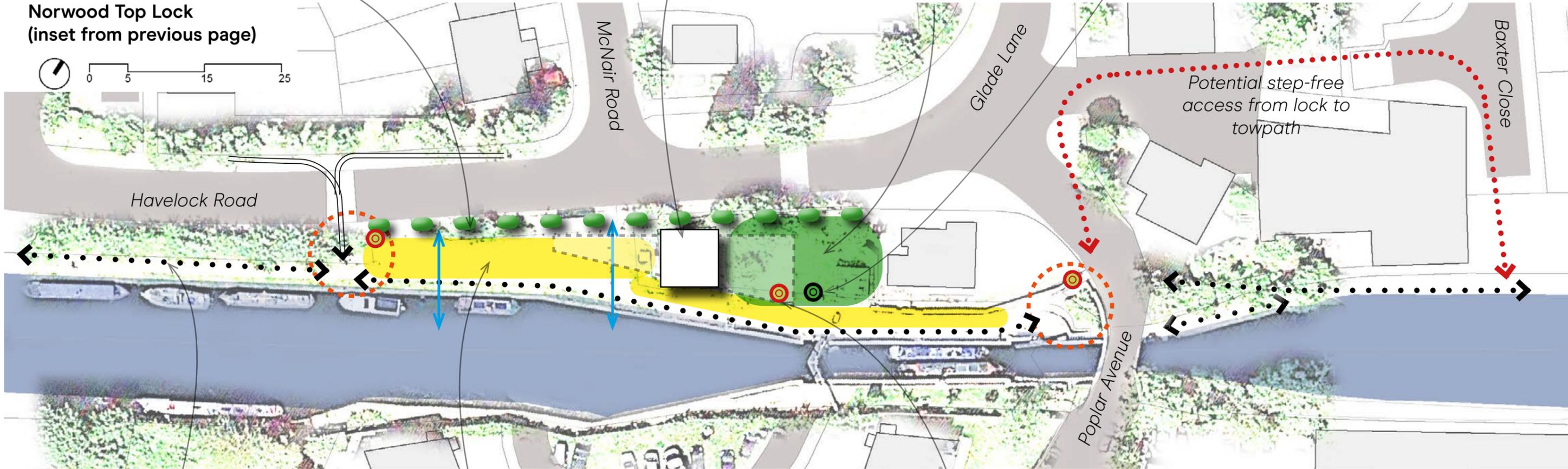
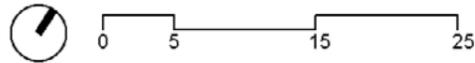
Building (reconstructed or new) and associated open space- potential focal point for various community uses

Potential for community garden, sensory garden, wildflower meadow, volunteering opportunities etc.



Green Flag Pole (approximate location)

Norwood Top Lock (inset from previous page)



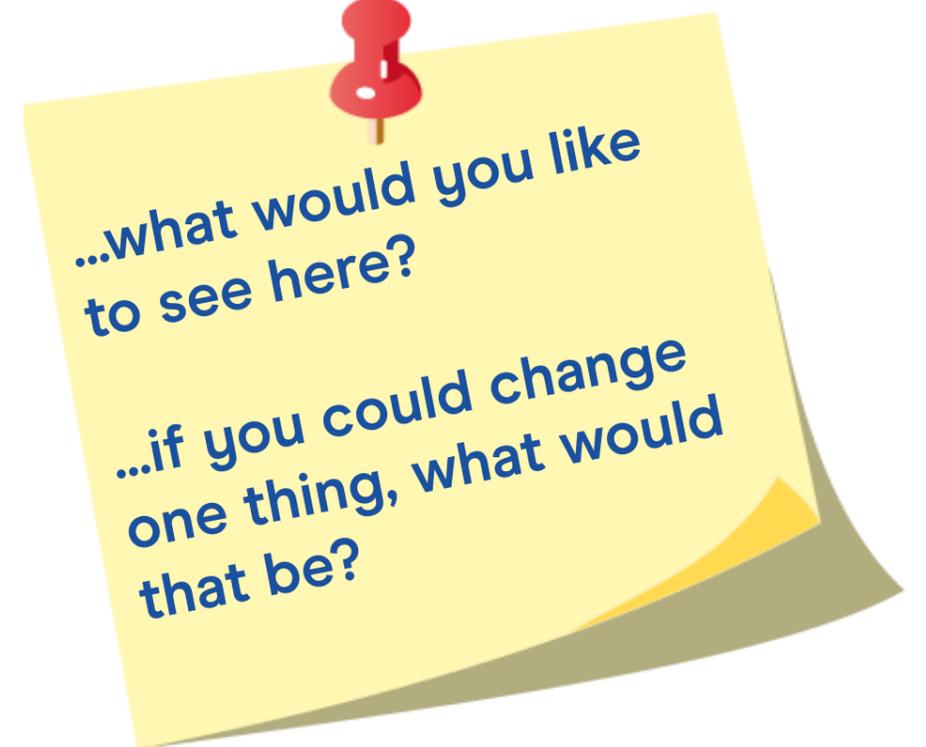
Existing towpath improvements: widening, re-surfacing, creating additional access points



Canalside promenade with space for seating, community gatherings and cultural events such as a sculpture or art trail



New directional signage and information boards at key areas and arrival points into the space



- Towpath
- Other pedestrian and cycle routes
- Potential activity zone
- Additional vegetation and/ or existing vegetation management
- Improved visibility
- Potential formalised access point
- Additional directional signs
- Potential step-free access from lock to towpath