

Queen's Park and Recreation Ground

Development Plan

Phase 1




Phase 1 Report
August 2024



1.01 Contents

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Queen's Park Management Plan
4. Asset Register
5. Survey and Analysis
6. Historic Images
7. Historic Mapping
8. Statement and Themes
9. Zonal Plan
10. Project Long List
11. Next Steps



Ironside Farrar were commissioned by the community-based Queen's Park Working Group to produce a Development Plan for Queen's Park and Recreation Grounds, Glasgow. The group received Glasgow City Council Area Partnership funding to undertake this work. The Development Plan seeks to provide proposals for the sustainable long-term future for the park that is evidence based and supported by the local community. The proposals aim to be sensitive to the history of the park, and its importance to the people of Glasgow's Southside in particular.

The park is constructed around a drumlin. This local highpoint gives elevated views over the city and provides clean, fresh air – an important aspect in the original conception of the park as articulated in Sir Joseph Paxton's Masterplan. It was expanded to the south and west at the turn of the 19th / 20th century and was concurrent with the ambitious urban planning of the Glasgow southwards. It has remained at the heart of the Southside community for generations.

Phase 1 of the Development Plan project is associated with gaining greater understanding of the park, including the views of users and then developing a framework of themes and supported project ideas to inform the second phase.

Discussion

The purpose of the report is to provide sufficient information to allow for an informed briefing for the production a feasible Development Plan for Queen's Park and Recreation Ground. This is broadly in line with RIBA stage 1 approach. As such, information produced is not necessarily definitive, but rather broad in its scope. Much of the information produced, is also as a result of specific site survey work, rather than over reliance on existing more generic data. As such, it is inevitable that further confirmation, refinement and research would be required at each appropriate project stage. Specific points include the following:

- Whilst buildings in the park are referred to, there have been no condition surveys undertaken to them as part of this commission. A separate study associated with the Glasshouses is being undertaken.
- The long-list of proposals includes for the possibility of repurposing some buildings and their adjacent spaces. There are presently no known Glasgow City Council (GCC) proposals associated with repurposing buildings within their ownership in the park and any proposals associated with them have been included as long-term explorations for discussion purposes only.
- Litter was raised as an issue within the park during the consultation. Although management of litter requires consideration during the production of a Development Plan this would not be necessarily illustrated within a drawing of concept proposals. Litter management was observed as part of the survey – and noted that whilst on exceptionally busy days littering was evident this was normally cleared quickly.
- Seating was also discussed during engagement. This was something that may be considered in more detail as part of the Development Plan but was not necessarily relevant as a long list project, as likely to be associated with small scale interventions. It is noted that seating provision within the park has been increased in 2024.
- Whilst some current management practices are discussed, the focus of the project is associated predominantly with identifying key opportunities for infrastructure improvements, together with gaining an understanding and considering the importance and condition of existing park assets.
- No costs – either capital or revenue, are included within this phase of reporting. The project list identified could potentially have wide variance of costs depending upon how any future works are articulated. The consultation process has been useful in both gaining an understanding of project priorities but also as a barometer of the likely level of intervention regarded as being appropriate and offering value to park users.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Engagement and Consultation report that records the full engagement process to date.



2.01 Methodology

The methodology for the project was included within Ironside Farrar's original bid in 2023. Through discussion with the Client, and to best meet their preferred outcomes for the first phase of the project, it was reviewed and agreed through the development of a Project Implementation Plan.

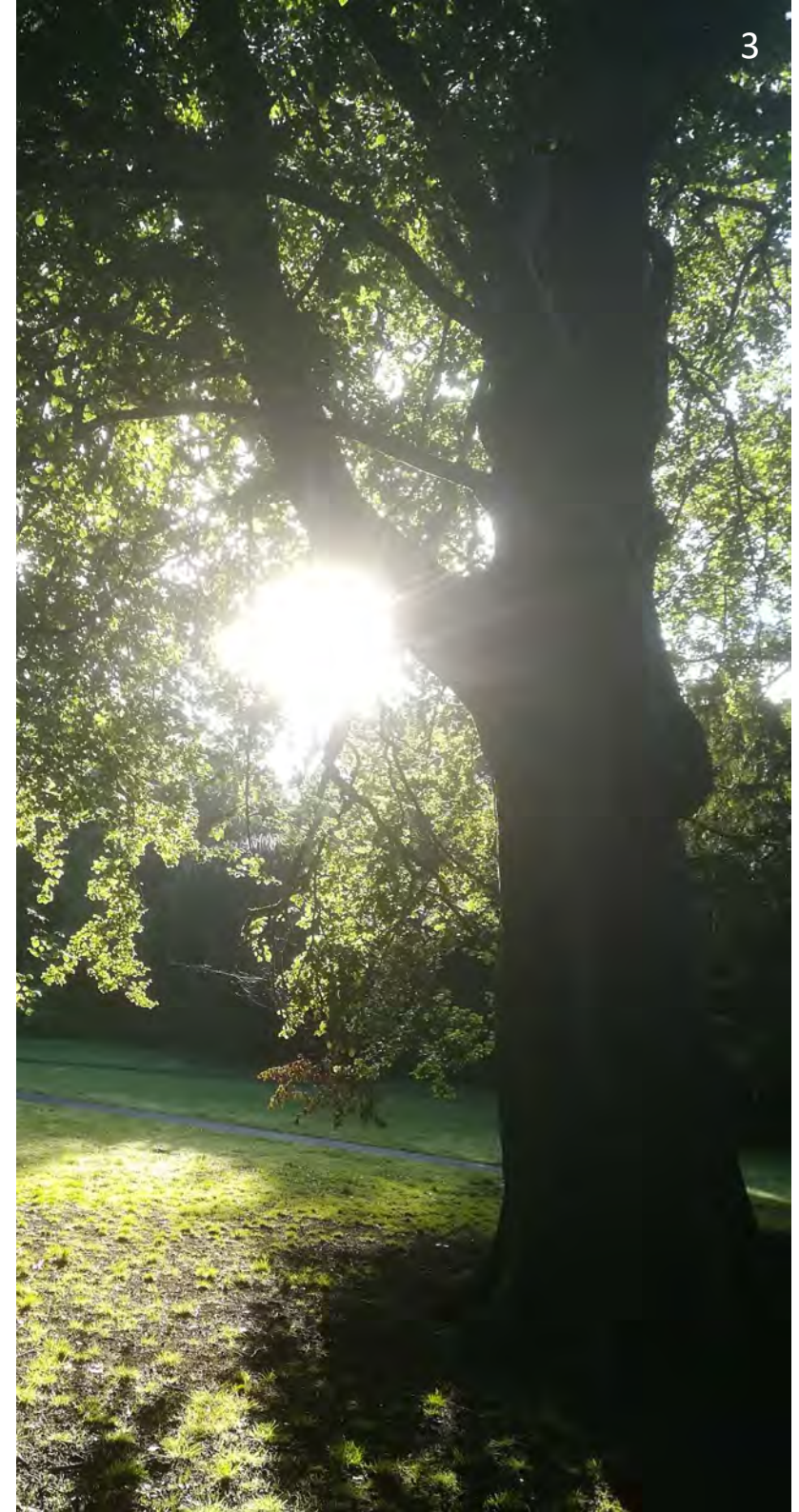
The plan required outputs to include:

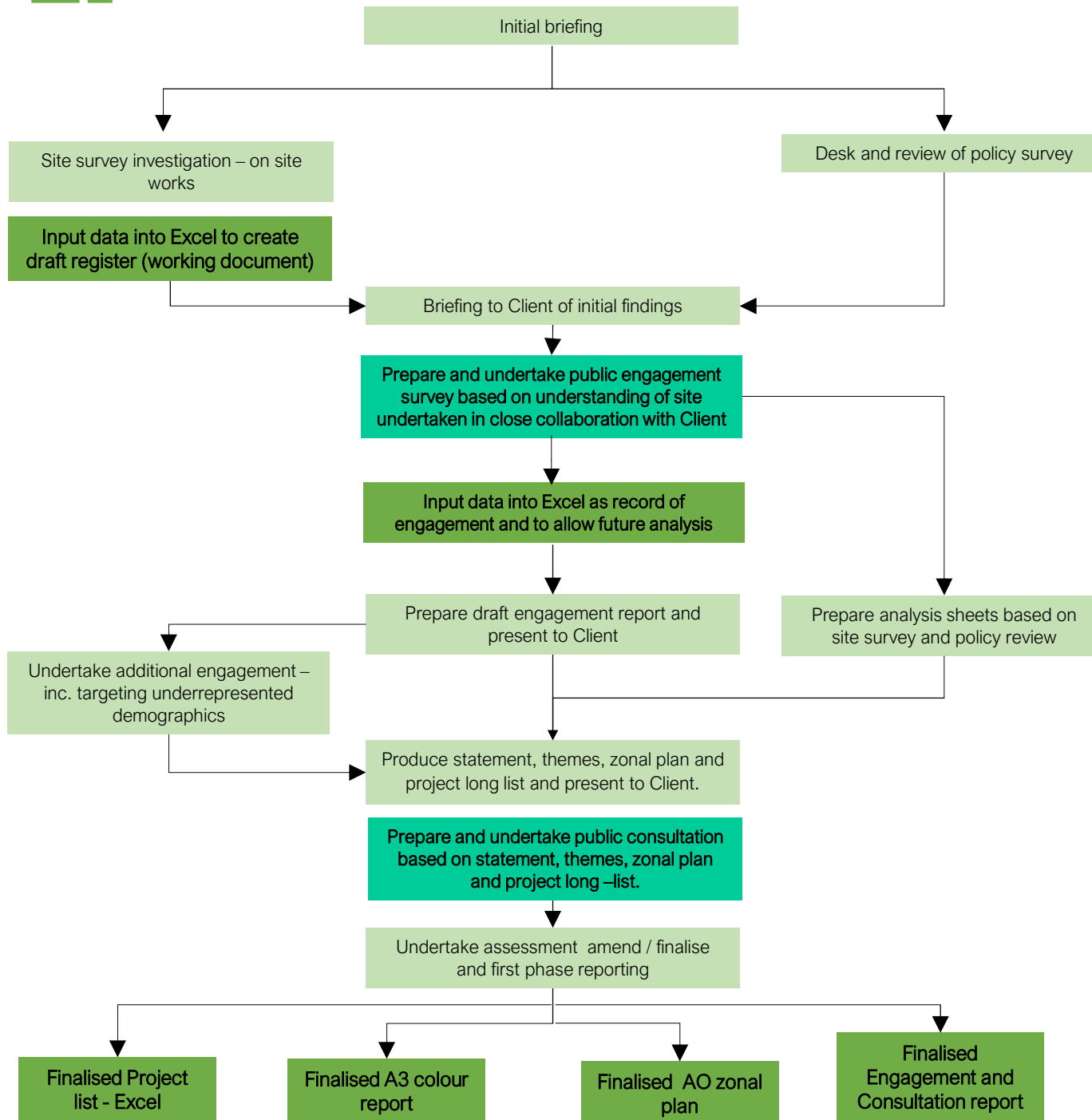
- A comprehensive initial public engagement to gain understanding of park users through a physical and online questionnaire. An ambitious target was set for number of respondents.
- A second engagement, including an in-person event (and online option) to be undertaken towards the end of the first phase.
- Survey and analysis of the park to gain a better understanding of the infrastructure and history of the park and how it relates to adjacent communities.
- An emphasis on collating data in a manner that was focused, relevant and gave a sense of priority.
- Production of a zonal plan and list of project ideas – to provide consensus, briefing and the framework to facilitate a considered and supported Development Plan as a second phase task.
- Regular meetings to allow for Client comment and approval.

A key element in the methodology was associated with making survey data clear and comprehensible. This was undertaken through the following means:

- A selection of 20 topics for discussion.
- Each topic was illustrated as a map. In most instances Google Earth imagery was utilised as a base. Mapping was simple and symbolic. As a result, not every element could be fully mapped, as a focus on broad issues was considered most appropriate.
- Each topic included a quote. In most instances this quote was associated with a national or local policy document / report and was included to assist in both comprehension and provide key references.
- Each map produced was associated with a column of discussive text- aimed at highlighting the main issues associated with each topic.
- Each map has a full-page photograph associated with it – to assist in the discussion and illustration of some key findings.

Reporting of the history of the park was undertaken with an emphasis on use of historic mapping and photographs – included as full-page images. This allowed the physical historic significance of the park to be readily considered and also provided insight to the social significance of park infrastructure and its use historically by local communities.





The methodology was designed to produce outcomes in three related formats:

- Excel spreadsheets – for future use, interrogation and review,
- A zonal plan produced as an AutoCAD drawing.
- Illustrated coloured reports produced utilising Microsoft office.

The methodology included two stages of public engagement together with regular Client review.

Five public documents have been produced for this phase. In addition, a draft register of assets has been prepared this is a working document that will be subject to considerable review, addition and refinement during subsequent stages.

Queen's Park Management Plan 2011 - 2016



**LAND & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
QUEEN'S PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN 2011 - 2016**



Queen's Park Vision

To ensure Queen's Park continues to provide high quality facilities that meet the recreation, leisure, education, environmental and cultural needs of the community whilst protecting the historic & natural landscape character of the park, and at the same time contribute significantly to the economic and environmental regeneration of the city.

Discussion

The 2011 five-year management plan was a comprehensive document that covered history and context, current maintenance and management practices, references to local and national policy and a series of recommendations. These recommendations covered both maintenance and some capital works associated with identified issues.

This document was underpinned by public consultation and provides particularly useful information and reference. From a management perspective, one of the outcomes that has been undertaken has been a review of grass management within the park, with reduced mowing regimes, aimed at improving bio-diversity. The 2023 and 2024 consultations provided useful information relating to public perception to this management change.

The document was referred to within the survey and analysis process and remains an important resource in understanding the park. The consultation information also provides a comparison to be made relating to changing community perceptions of the park over time. The plan did not include the Recreation Grounds.

Changes since 2011

Management plans are always subject to review. The period since 2011 has been associated with major change, within the park, surrounding area and larger societal change. These include the following:

- The unprecedented impact of the pandemic on public perception and use of local green space.
- The impact of pandemic conflicts and global economics on public funding.
- The impact of tree disease – notably ash die-back within the park and nationally.
- The impact of development associated with the New Victoria Hospital, including reducing the size of the Recreation Ground and reducing accessibility from Mount Florida.
- The conversion of Victoria Hospital into high density residential development (nearing completion)
- The development of public space associated with Langside Halls, and the present closure of the building.
- The development of South City Way, presently being expanded, in providing improved active travel links.
- The removal of dome of Glasshouses and the predominant closure of the complex for public use and centre for activities – particularly for children and young people.
- The redevelopment of the Arena as a popular events space.
- The increased use of Recreation Grounds for large events such as concerts within large tents.
- The increased use of the park by private fitness instructors and by organised groups.
- Changes in park infrastructure associated with Scottish Water works – including new amenities.
- Changes to the management of tennis courts.
- Bowling greens and pitch and putt areas no longer in use.
- Increased community involvement in the park – inc. planting, maintenance and redevelopment of Old Changing Rooms.
- Increased number of running events including the weekly Parkrun.
- Significant reduction in size of recreation grounds due to the construction of New Victoria Hospital and associated road, completed 2016.

Known Investment in Queen’s Park and Recreation Grounds since 2011.

Other than routine repairs or small-scale investment some of the recent elements that are associated with the park have included the following;

- Creation of major new civic space to Langside Halls with associated links to the park. This space amends linkages to the park from Shawlands and may provide the opportunity for further investment. Funding partners included Sustrans.
- Opening of Queen’s Park Arena in 2017 – with a now well-established popular series of summer events.
- Refurbishment of tennis courts with new all-weather surfacing, refurbished pavilion, improved lighting.
- Creation of a ball court close to Victoria Road entrance.
- New entrances to Pollokshaws Road and Queen’s Drive (Associated with Scottish Water works)
- New paths associated with entrances above.
- New outdoor gym equipment of differing types close to Balvicar Street entrance and at Recreation Ground
- Installation of artwork to pond.
- Installation of Commonwealth Games sculpture.
- Orchard planting
- Tree planting – including both avenue planting and individual trees.
- Increased number of seats.
- Individual items of play equipment at Balvicar Road play area.
- Development of Hugs and Mugs café.

Many of these investments were not specifically referenced within the 2011 masterplan but rather are examples of improvements that have been opportunistic in terms of funding possibilities associated with different local or national programmes. The significant infrastructure works, associated with the 2018 Shieldhall Tunnel undertaken by Scottish Water provided further opportunity to invest in park infrastructure.

It is therefore key to acknowledge that future opportunities may also be unanticipated. It is hoped that the Development Plan may assist in providing a framework that both helps in attracting appropriate funding and also provides some guidance to ensure investment is compatible with an overarching vision.

Volunteer / Community Investment

Since the 2011 report, there has been an expansion of known activity by community groups and organisations involved undertaking physical works to the parks. These include the following;

- Old Changing Rooms – South Seeds – ambitious project to turn derelict property into a community use. The project, which is presently being constructed (May 2024) includes community growing external to the building.
- Poetry Garden – Friends of Queen’s Park involved in maintenance and upgrading planting.
- Wildlife Pond – Friends of Queen’s Park involved in planting and improvement works.
- Moria Jones Memorial Garden – Community construction / management.
- Orchard – Community planting sand maintenance.

In addition, further community involvement has been facilitated through GCC programmes.

From public consultation, it appears to be the case that there is an appetite for increased community involvement in volunteering within the park. It may be that co-ordination and encouragement of these activities becomes an important element in achieving sustainable improvements to the park in the future.



Volunteer Work Party

Volunteers working on Old Changing Rooms.

Image courtesy South Seeds .

Community Payback

Since the 2011 report, a further source of involvement in the park maintenance and management has been through Community Payback labour. During 2023 and 2024, works to the park have included repainting of boundary fencing, vegetation clearance, path and edge clearance etc.. It is possible that in the future that further co-ordination of these activities may be required to maximise positive change.



Sandstone Retaining Wall – Flagpole
Register is a working document that seeks to note the condition of build and landscape assets within Queen’s Park and Recreation Ground. The retaining wall is an example of an existing feature in a dilapidated condition.

Queen's Park identified Risks to Park Assets								
Ref	Item	Description	Risks	Location(s)	Action	Priority	Timescale	Notes
A.01	Ash Dieback - Avenues	Death of significant boundary trees	Health and safety - for both park users and those utilising adjacent roads / footways / Loss of park character, loss of designed landscape	Along park boundary - particularly Langside Avenue	Remove trees significantly impacted by disease and replace with trees of appropriate species	High	Short term	Removeable and replanting of boundary trees impacted upon by ash dieback could be considered as a priority as boundary trees are a key asset to park.
A02	Ash Dieback - General	Death of significant trees within park	Loss of tree cover in key locations of park - particularly designed landscape.	Throughout park - ash was an important species within park - including the use of weeping ash as a "signature" tree	Replace ash in locations where tree was a significant element of designed landscape. Consider best practice / guidance elsewhere when managing ash die-back.	Mid (Except those trees posing a safety risk)	Mid term	Where there are signature trees that were utilised within the park - there may be the opportunity to consider what future tree species may be appropriate - this could provide an opportunity for community involvement - or donation.
A03	Mature tree decline	Signs of die-back / damage or decline of existing veteran trees	Loss of tree cover in key locations of park - particularly designed landscape.	Throughout park, and recreation grounds. Decline of trees may be as a result of various reasons - life expectancy of different species, storm damage, disease or possibly root damage - waterlogging or compaction, for example.	Full tree survey of park recommended.	High	Short Term	A detailed tree survey can provide important information to ensure well targeted interventions.
A04	Damage to Holly	Shaped formal trees being compromised by self seeded trees and scrub	Design Landscape permanently compromised	To the south of formal terraces.	Remove self seeded species impacting upon integrity of hollies	High	Short Term	As a distinctive and broadly intact planted feature this is a significant and distinctive element of the designed landscape.
A05	Self-seeded non-native trees - habitat area	Predominantly horse chesnut, beech and sycamore	Potential to reduce biodiversity - compared to native species. Loss of views	Within habitat area of park and also wooded area of recreation grounds where biodiversity is likely to be a major management goal.	Selective removal of self seeding trees impacting on biodiversity goals or other identified reasons - loss of key views etc.	Mid	Mid term	The management of this area requires careful consideration, including ensuring it meets both bio-diversity and community aspirations. Community involvement in habitat management is likely to be a key recommendation. Removal of trees - other than very small self seeders would be a controversial decision and therefore should be undertaken if it results in clear bio-diversity, designed landscape and community benefit.
A06	Self-seeded native trees and scrub-habitat areas	species such as bramble, blackthorn, hawthorn, rowan, wych elm, ash, oak and birch are naturally regenerating - changing character towards woodland.	Potential to change habitat from scrub to woodland. Potential to also remove key views and impact upon use and safety.	Within habitat area of park and also wooded area of recreation grounds where biodiversity is likely to be a major management goal.	Potential selective removal / management	Low	Long Term	The management of this area requires careful consideration, including ensuring it meets both bio-diversity and community aspirations. Community involvement in habitat management is likely to be a key recommendation. Removal of trees / native scrub would be a controversial decision and therefore should be undertaken if it results in clear bio-diversity and community benefit.
A07	Self-seeded native trees and scrub outwith habitat areas	species such as bramble, blackthorn, hawthorn, rowan, elm, ash, oak and birch are naturally regenerating - changing character of sections of designed landscape towards woodland scrub.	Loss of character of designed landscape - loss of views, perception of safety.	General locations - scrub areas adjacent to Langside Avenue, shrub areas to rear of trees at some boundary edge.	Potential selective removal / management - depending on detailed assessment of location.	Low	Short Term	Management requires careful consideration on a case-by-case basis - depending on sensitivity of designed landscape, community safety and biodiversity aims.
A08	Self seeded non-native trees outwith habitat areas	Predominantly horse chesnut, beech and sycamore	Loss of character of designed landscape - loss of views, perception of safety.	Several locations - shrub areas adjacent to Langside Avenue, shrub areas to rear of terraces, some boundary edge.	Targeted / phased removal of self seeded vegetation - depending on detailed analysis of individual locations.	Low	Mid term	Management requires careful consideration and a targeted / well justified approach to ensure lasting community support.
A09	Invasive Species Wildlife and Countryside Act - Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam.	Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam identified	Spread of species - impact on designed landscape and biodiversity - noted within SINC	To north west of fort, along path close to the main amphitheatre	Test to prevent spread - spray generally using undertaken	High	Short term	Whilst Japanese knotweed appears to have been largely controlled within the park any remaining stands would require to be carefully managed prior to other works that could cause its spread.
A10	Invasive Species Wildlife and Countryside Act - Rhododendron ponticum.	Rhododendron ponticum identified	Spread of rhododendron - impact on designed landscape and biodiversity. Large shrubs may also impact on feelings of safety.	Within several sections of Queen's Park - particularly above terraces and to northwest of fort.	Targeted / phased removal - depending on detailed analysis of individual locations.	Mid	Mid term	Rhododendron ponticum may have been planted as part of design landscape and control / removal should be associated with a replanting / management strategy.
A11	Invasive scrub / shrub / ground cover species outwith Wildlife and Countryside Act	Species such as snowberry and common laurel, whilst often planted can be invasive	Potential loss of biodiversity / habitat. Loss of designed landscape, reduction in perceived safety.	Throughout park including biodiversity area and planting to south of terrace.	Targeted / phased removal depending on detailed analysis of individual locations.	Mid	Mid term	Laurel may well have been utilised as part of designed landscape - however encroaching into other areas.
A12	Boundary railings, gates and gate posts	Existing cast and wrought iron railings, gates and gate posts, including original features of designed landscape.	Rust damage - reduction of detail and / or integrity of park boundary fence.	Park Boundary - Note railing with finials predominantly associated with original park boundary but extends to beyond Battlefield Monument	Returbish and repaint existin traditional boundary fencing	High	Short Term	Associated with boundary fencing are some key questions - are all park boundaries within QP original - and reflect the different time they were fabricated - or have some edlements been replaced. Park railings are presently painted black - but was this the original Victorian design / colourway - (paint analysis may be utilised)
A13	Ironwork / urns at granite steps	Predominantly original features stonework and metalwork.	Gradual replacement of heritage items.	To South of Victoria Road gates.	Undertake refurbishment - including replacement of non-original basic elements.	Mid	Mid term	As one of the key features of the designed landscape it is possible that full refurbishment will be an important element if comprehensive restoration of designed landscape is undertaken.
A14	Iron Bridge	Original feature - removed from location c. 2017?	Loss of designed landscape	To south of lower pond	Refurbish and reposition	Mid	Mid term	The bridge is a design feature that could readily be lost to the park and provides an opportunity for wider improvements to section immediate south of pond - including remnants of icehouse.
A15	Glasshouses	Following concerns relating to structure, dome of Glasshouses was removed c. 2021. Glasshouses date from c. 1905 and in recent times have been utilised for growing, botanical displays, reptile / bird displays, cafe, gift shop, soft play, college use and events.	Loss of significant amenity and well loved historic, park specific historic building.	Adjacent to Battlefield Monument.	Subject to review - consider new uses, functions and association with adjacent park spaces.	High	Mid term	The Glasshouse refurbishment and future is likely to be a highly significant element of the park. It is anticipated this will require substantial capital funding, and it is recommended that this is considered in context of adjacent sites - former nursery space to rear and its relationship with Battlefield Monument / adjacent entrances.
A16	Significant broken glass / evidence of fires	Area of park being misused as a result of drinking of alcohol and fire lighting	Public safety, damage to park, reputational damage.	Main areas include fort area, wooded area to recreation grounds, dense woodland slopes above upper pond, wooded area to immediate south of lower pond.	Subject to site specific review - consider means to have targeted action that promotes more positive use and / or encourages natural surveillance.	High	Short term	Requires detailed community consultation and space specific proposals to balance safety, character
A17	Loss of spring bulbs	Significant spring bulbs within the park	Loss of historic / well liked element of park design.	Various locations - including adjacent to pond and adjacent to Langside Road	Review mowing regime	Mid	Short term	bulbs provide considerable interest in early spring and therefore may be an important feature in encourage all year use of the park.
A18	Evidence of syringes	Area utilised by intravenous drug users identified.	Health and safety of park users	Within sloping wooded area to east of upper pond	Improve access into area and improve visibility in to provide natural surveillance.	High	Short term	Intravenous drug taking within a park is an inherently unsafe environment for both those taking substances and for people / animals that may encounter discarded needles etc.
A19	Loss of key views	Views within Queen's Park have particular significance and appear to have been carefully considered in terms of designed landscape	Quality of park experience could be diminished.	Flagpole / views from circular path around fort.	Selective felling / clearance to reestablish views at risk	High	Short term	Views from flagpole, in particular, are an essential element of park design and user experience. Encroachment / planting becomes more problematic to manage over time - as this landscape matures and has its own value.

Draft Extract - Example of Working Document - Subject to Regular Review

Discussion

As part of the analysis process, a register spreadsheet has been created to help record the assets of the park with consideration of both condition and risk. This is a working document regularly updated and reviewed, as a tool to assist the design process and should be of particular relevance during the second phase of the Development Plan process. The information provided is not considered definitive and is provided within this report for illustrative purposes only.



Viewpoint December 2023

The following section consists of survey and analysis of the park. Whilst some information is desk based, much has been gathered through regular site visits and observation throughout the seasons.



Illustration from Masterplan
Sir Joseph Paxton provided the conceptual plans for Queen's Park – formally opened in 1862. The plans were developed and subsequently modified by City Architect John Carrick.

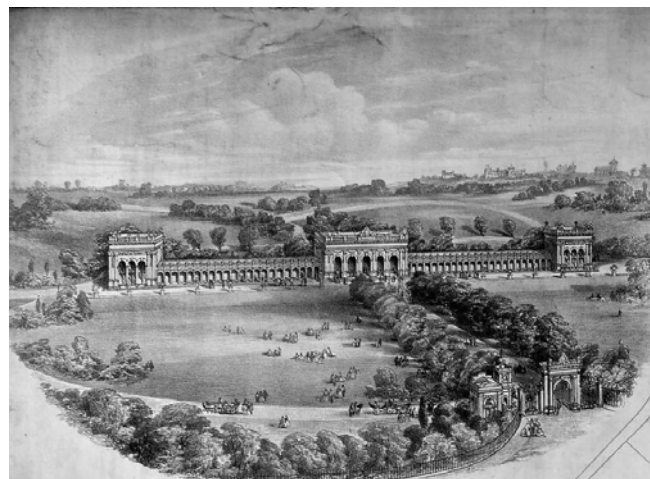
5.01 Paxton's Masterplan



"The expansion of the city and increase in population density during the 19th century (particularly south of the river) led to demands for more common outdoor spaces. One key driver was the cholera epidemic of the 1840s, which prompted the council to take a more interventionist approach than had it had done previously.

It bought a patch of land some two miles south of the city boundary and started planning the new "South Side Park", as it was then known. Councilors appointed Sir Joseph Paxton - the pre-eminent planner of the day who had just designed the Crystal Palace in London - to draft the original design.

Paxton's ambitious plan is held in the City Archives. As well as a large ornamental lake, it included an elaborate covered winter gardens facing the Victoria Road entrance to the park for staging musical performances, exhibitions and displays of art. Clearly sympathetic to the Glaswegian climate, Paxton urged councilors to proceed with the covered building so that visitors could enjoy outdoor exercise and have somewhere to shelter from the inevitable rainfall." _Mark Gallacher – Glasgow Life



Discussion

11

Paxton's Original Masterplan c. 1857 superimposed onto aerial imagery. Due to orientation difference and use of scanned imagery, there is a margin of error in aligning the two. Nonetheless significant aspects of his layout and vision can be analysed. Whilst elements of his plan were not fully realised, the expansion of the park at the end of 19th C / beginning of 20th C allowed the city to arguably be consistent with his vision –whilst evolving to meet new demands of a growing city.

Key elements of the plan and vision include the following:

1. Formal Avenue with stepped terrace. Vision achieved
2. Winter garden / pavilion – never constructed. Several elements achieved through later park buildings.
3. Continuation of avenue and formal arc of planting – achieved – including use of holly.
4. Langside Avenue, entrance – achieved.
5. Road alignment – including Queen's Drive and Langside Avenue - achieved.
6. Villas backing onto park not undertaken – park extended c. 1900
7. Balvicar Street to Langside – route follows different alignment – however concept achieved.
8. Villas facing onto park – vision achieved in this location.
9. Bridged waterbody linking both sides of park. Not undertaken – however vision partially achieved through the creation of two ponds towards Pollokshaws Road associated with park extension.
10. Villas backing onto park – not achieved – however park expanded to accommodate increasing populations with properties facing onto park.
11. Recreation Ground - designed as an integral part of park with, looping paths "playground" (space for ball games) and combination of boundary planting and larger informal groups. Partially realised – the space still presents the opportunity to reimagine Paxton's Vision.
12. Camp Hill - broad circular path around earthworks with route designed towards Camphill House. Path works were achieved when park was extended.

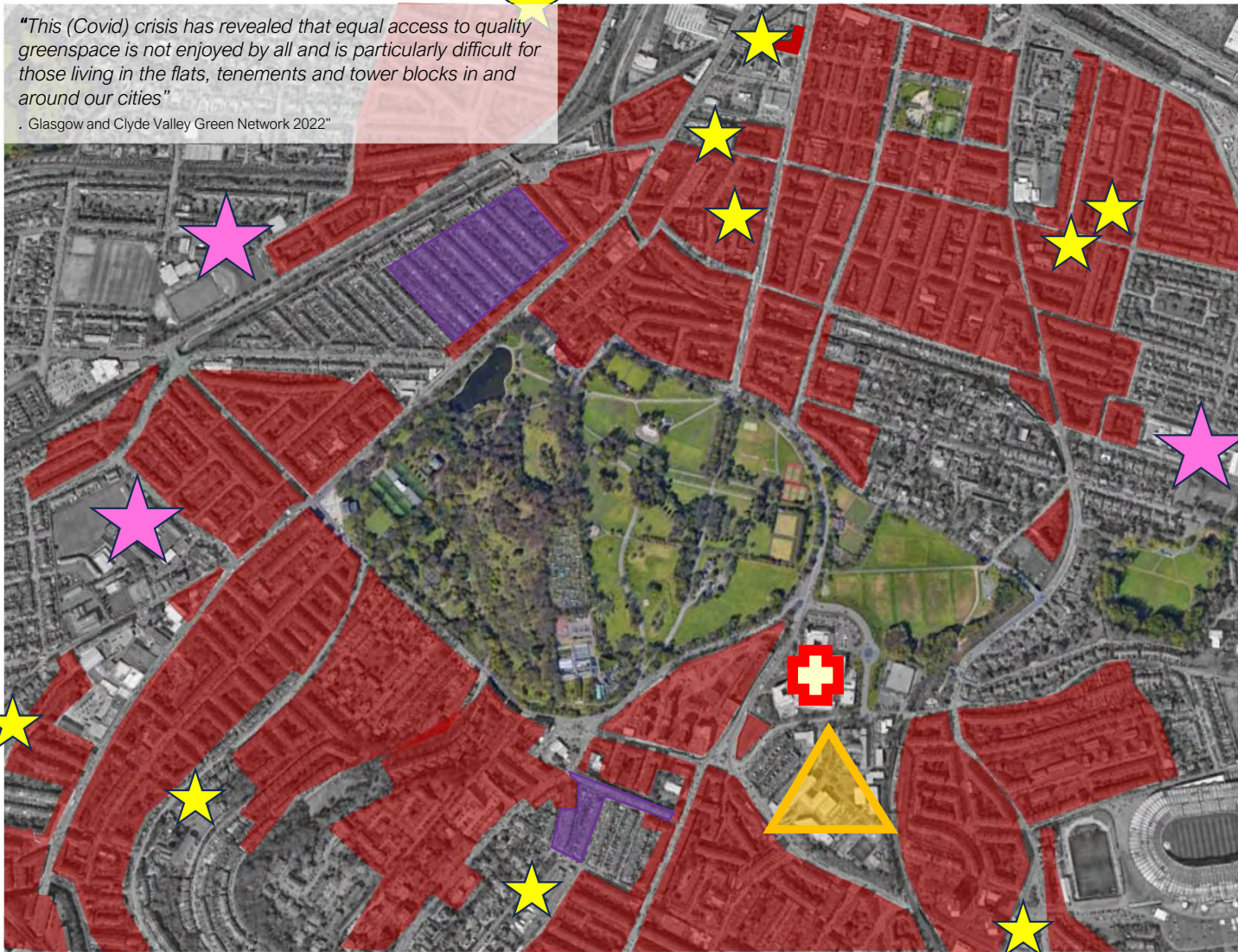
Key Finding

Arguably Paxton's vision was largely realised as plan evolved and developed to meet changing needs of the city.



Queen's Drive
The park character is defined by the dense urban form of the buildings that were designed to surround and link to it. This was a consistent urban planning theme continued as Glasgow expanded southwards during the later Victorian and Edwardian eras.

"This (Covid) crisis has revealed that equal access to quality greenspace is not enjoyed by all and is particularly difficult for those living in the flats, tenements and tower blocks in and around our cities"
 . Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network 2022"



	Tenements / Flats		Secondary Schools		Langside Campus
	Terraced Housing – Significant Sub-Division of Properties		Primary Schools		New Victoria Hospital

Key Finding
 The park and recreational ground are surrounded with high density populations requiring high quality greenspace.

Discussion

The surrounding built environment provides important indications of need and potential demand for high quality local greenspace. The immediate neighbourhoods adjacent to the park are associated predominantly with Victorian and Edwardian housing. Most contemporary residential housing relates to original street patterns and forms.

Although there are significant differences in terms of social deprivation and housing quality near the park some factors remain consistent and would be likely associated with high need and demand:

- Very high density of housing – tenemental, sub-divided terraces and modern high density flatted developments.
- Tenemental flatted properties, typically 4 storeys high, with very limited greenspace for residents.
- A significant private rental sector – resulting in multi-occupancy.
- Residential outdoor space available is often in shade, may consist of hard paved surfaces or have other functions – typically communal clothes drying, that would restrict some general use.
- Majority of residential properties have limited on-street car parking only and therefore there is a resultant low car ownership percentage.

Additionally, the park is within close walking distance of several Primary Schools, two, GCC High Schools – Shawlands and Holyrood (over 2000 pupils). The Langside campus of Glasgow Clyde College enrolls over 5000 students per annum.

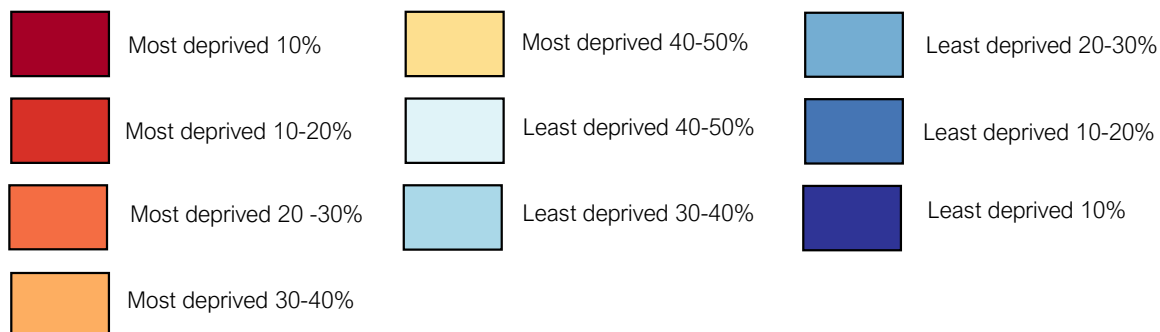
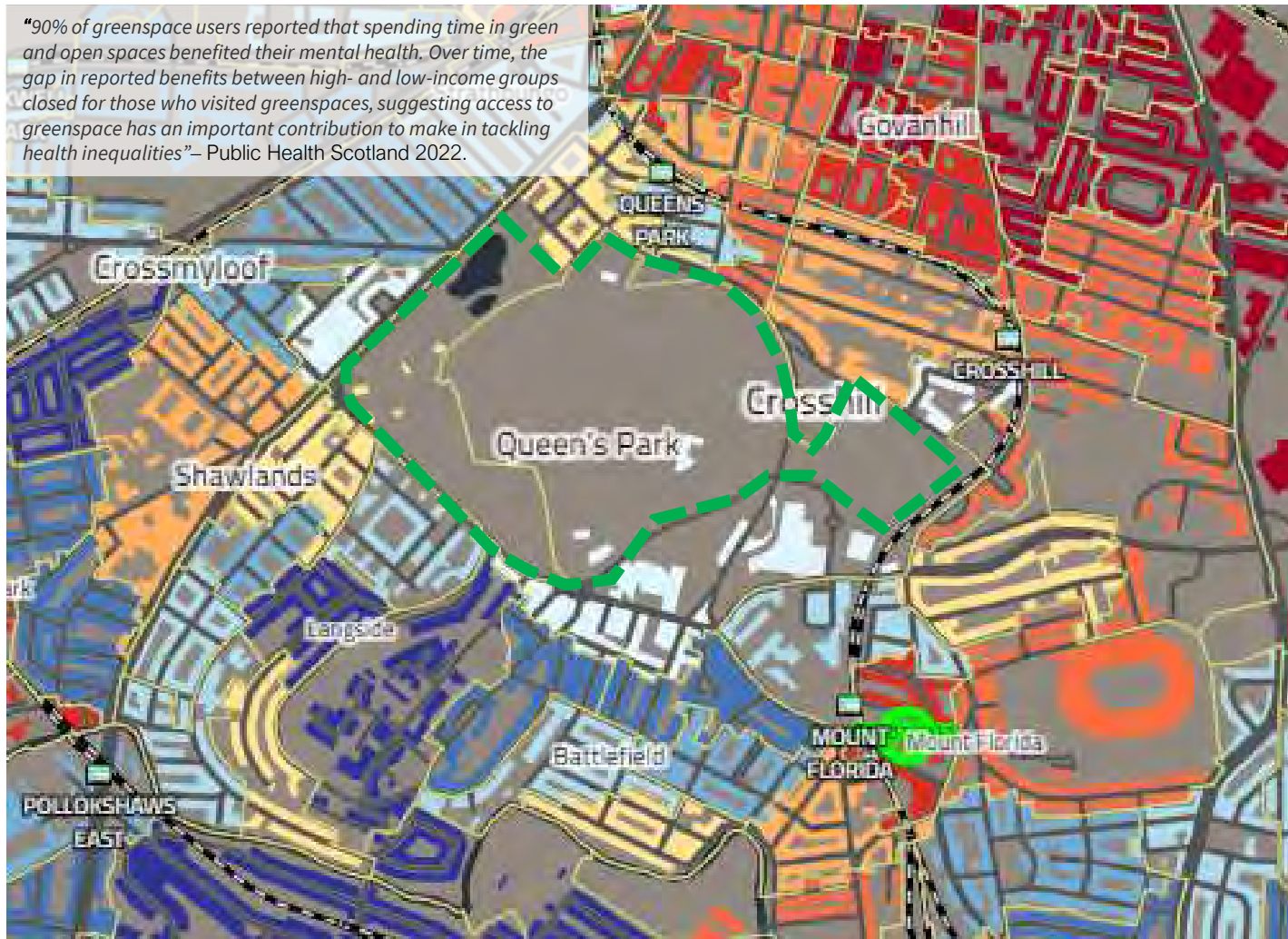
Further anticipated demand for greenspace within the immediate vicinity could include users of local high streets such as Victoria Road. The park is also adjacent to the New Victoria Hospital with potential use by staff and patients.

It is noted that the residential population associated with the three council wards that are adjacent to the park is 81,786.



Govanhill
The most deprived communities are predominantly to the north of Queen's Park and Recreation Ground. Housing, health, income and education are all contributing factors.

“90% of greenspace users reported that spending time in green and open spaces benefited their mental health. Over time, the gap in reported benefits between high- and low-income groups closed for those who visited greenspaces, suggesting access to greenspace has an important contribution to make in tackling health inequalities” – Public Health Scotland 2022.



Discussion

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation provides important data about surrounding communities. The principle behind the index is to target action in the areas which need it most. It is noted that within five minutes walking distance of Queen’s Park and Recreation Ground all 10 deciles are found – illustrative of the diversity of adjacent communities and the potential of the park to provide cohesion.

The most deprived communities close to Queen’s Park and Recreation Ground are as follows:

- Decile 1
- Govanhill East and Aitkenhead (part) 247
- Govanhill West (Part)– Overall rank 441
- Govanhill East and Aitkenhead Overall ranking 487
- Govanhill West (part) – Overall ranking 511
- Govanhill East and Aitkenhead Overall ranking 587
- Govanhill East and Aitkenhead Overall ranking 685

- Decile 2
- Govanhill West (Part) - Overall Rank 877
- Govanhill West (Part) – Overall Rank 1138
- Govanhill West (Part) – Overall Rank 1201
- Mount Florida (Part) – Overall ranking 1374

Health, housing, income and education were amongst the individual factors that contributed significantly to these rankings.

These deprived communities are to the north, east and southeast to the park. The closest community in the second most deprived decile is within Mount Florida c.200m from park (Rec. Ground). The closest community in the most deprived decile is within Govanhill West, adjacent to Victoria Road – c.350m.

There is a particular cluster of deprivation associated with communities adjacent to Cathcart Road. This indicates that ensuring the quality and diversity of offer of greenspace of the Recreation Ground is likely to be an important consideration in future investment.

Key Finding
 Targeting high quality access and greenspace to the Recreation Ground and the northern section of park may be critical when considering inequalities.



Govanhill – Allison Street
Densely populated area within 5-minute walking distance of Queen's Park and Recreation Ground.

"People who live within a 5-minute walk of their local greenspace are significantly more likely to visit once a week or more often, compared to those living further away"

Greenspace Use and Attitudes Survey 2017 – Greenspace Scotland / SNH/ CSGNT



Queen's Park 5-minute walking zone



Recreation Ground 5-minute walking zone

Discussion

Use of parks and greenspace can be predicted by both their accessibility and the quality of the experience. 5-minute walking zones associated with Queen's Park and Recreation Ground indicate both spaces link with densely populated communities.

Queen's Park Recreation Ground provides important potential accessibility to communities within the Cathcart Road corridor – Govanhill East, Crosshill and Mount Florida as well as parts of Battlefield. This would tend to indicate that targeting accessibility to these areas and ensuring greenspace quality and offer of Recreation Ground would maximise benefits to many adjacent communities.

Key Finding

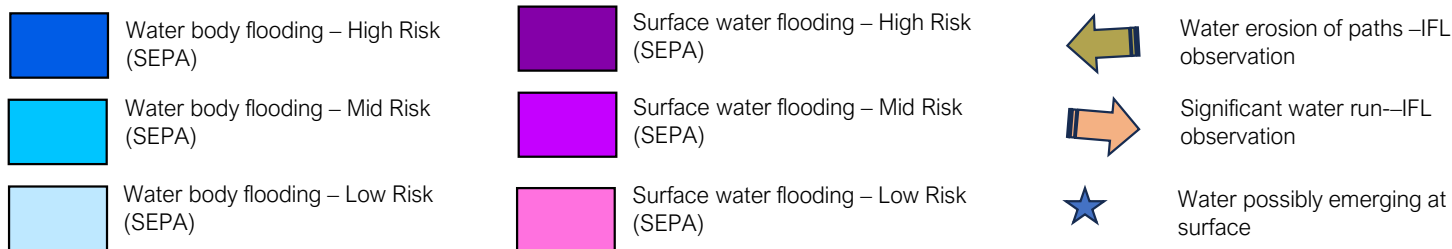
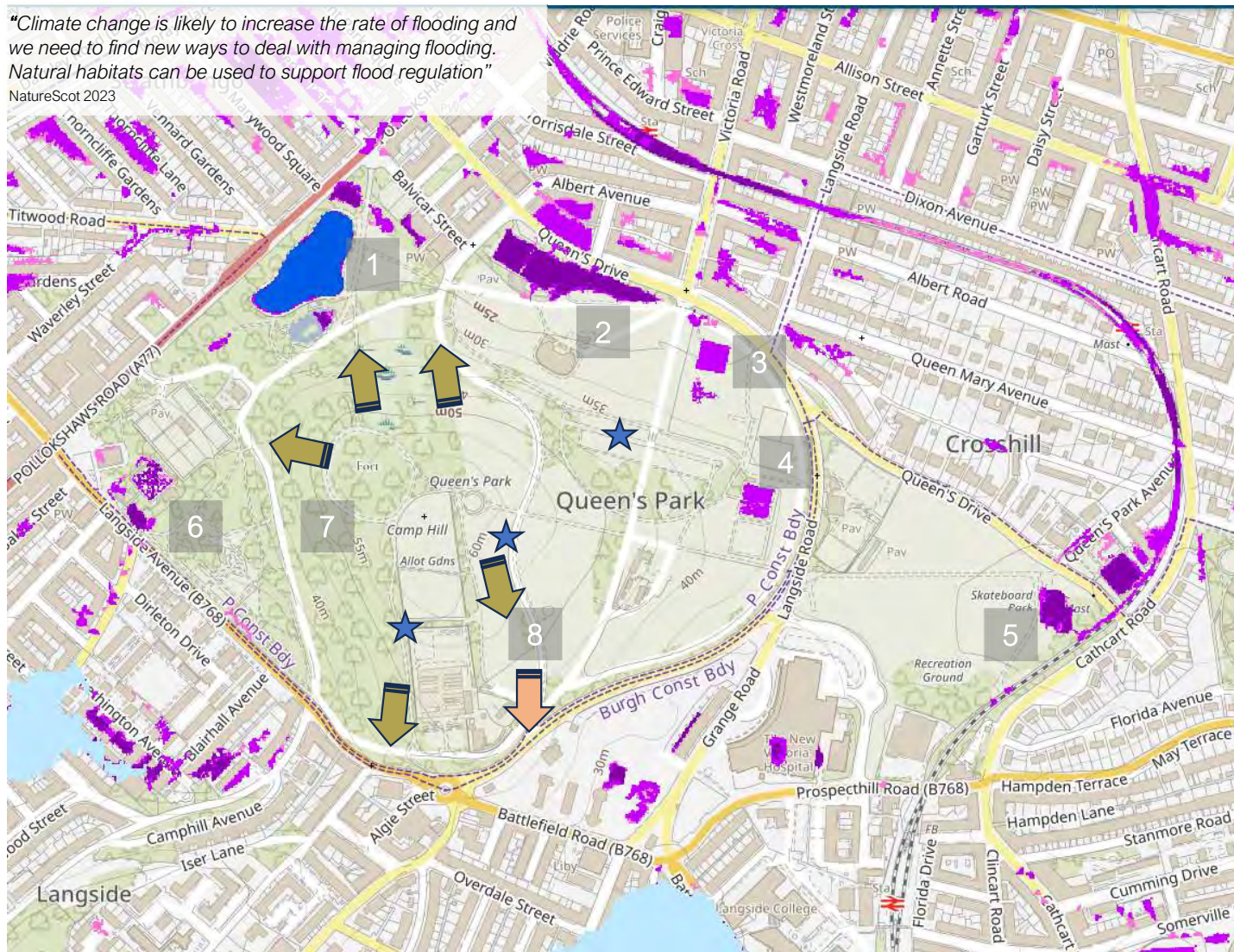
The site provide greenspace for a large demographic. Ensuring a high quality, connected Recreation Ground maximises accessibility.



Significant Water Run-off
The path to Langside Road is associated with considerable water run-off. This is impacting upon the structure of the path and can be associated with icing at the Langside Road entrance area.

“Climate change is likely to increase the rate of flooding and we need to find new ways to deal with managing flooding. Natural habitats can be used to support flood regulation”

NatureScot 2023



Discussion

Climate change is associated with the likelihood of more extreme weather events and resultant water management issues. As a greenspace, Queens Park plays an important role in reducing run-off and filtering water compared to urban streets. Nonetheless, flooding, run-off and waterlogging can impact upon the useability of sections of the park and can also be damaging to paths and other elements. Sustainable water management requires consideration of both issues and opportunities associated with water. SEPA flood mapping provides a clear overview. This information has been augmented by observation. Areas of the park / recreation ground identified within mapping include the following:

1. High risk of surface and waterbody flooding at pond / Balvicar Street area.
2. High risk of surface flooding towards Queen's Drive – pony track and bowling greens.
3. Mid risk of surface flooding Queen's Drive at ball court.
4. Mid risk of surface flooding lower bowling green.
5. High risk of surface flooding close to skate park.
6. High, mid and low risk surface flooding to Langside Avenue.
7. Erosion of steep, unbound paths noted.
8. Surface run-off noted Langside Road entrance.

It would appear to be a priority to tackle areas identified by SEPA as having a high risk of flooding, particularly when these are associated with potential damage to infrastructure. Using SUDS principles, it is likely that water management could include the provision of ponds, wetlands and swales. Potential, possible locations include the existing pond area, the Pony Track, the area adjacent to skate park, grassland to southwest of Pathhead Farm, low section of pitch and putt and within low points of Langside Avenue landscape.

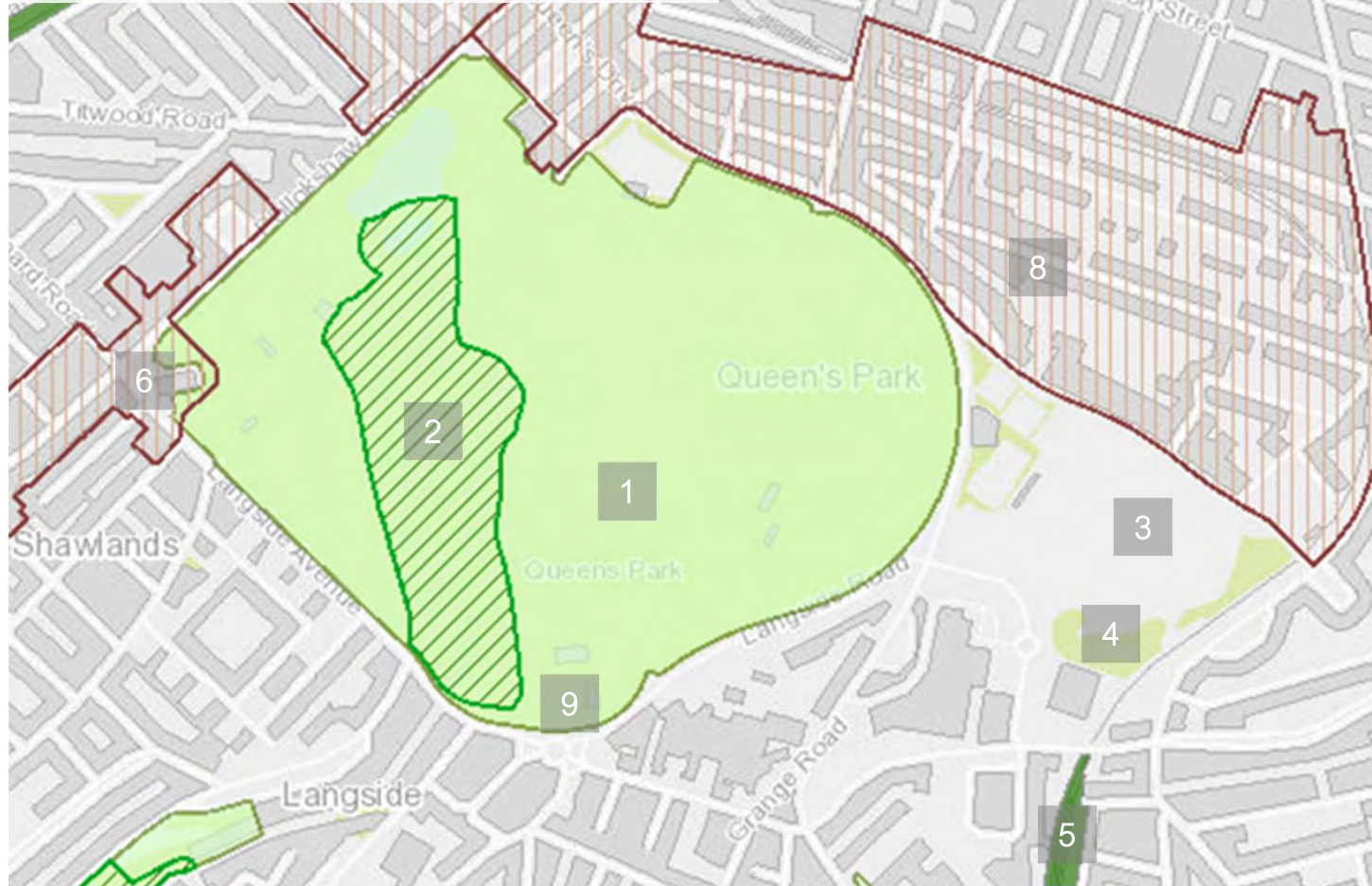
Key Finding






The park has areas of high flood risk. The Development Plan should consider SUDS principles and target key locations to minimise infrastructure damage and maximise useability of park.



SINC Area
Area designated as a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation consists of a mix of woodland, scrub and grassland habitats. This includes native and non-native species.

"Battlefields– the landscapes where these events took place – are hugely important because of what they can tell us about the course of the battle, and the physical remains and artefacts they can contain. Battlefields are also places of remembrance, as sites where soldiers fought and died and may have been buried"
 Historic Environment Scotland



-  Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (Local)
-  Conservation Areas
-  Site of Special Landscape Importance
-  Trees / Woodland
-  Green Corridors



Discussion

Appropriate development / management of the park from a built and natural heritage perspective will be informed by current designations.

Of relevance, the entire park and recreation ground are included within Historic Environment Scotland's **Inventory of historic Battlefields**. Associated with the Battle of Langside 1568.

Whilst a Paxton design, the park is not included within the National Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland. It is however a **site of Special Landscape Importance**, a local designation. Designations are as per GCC mapping include the following;

1. **Site of Special Landscape Importance** – this covers the full Queen's Park site – excluding Goals 5-aside football complex.
2. **Site of Interest for Nature Conservation**. This covers Camphill earthworks, associated slopes to west and the upper (Duck) pond. Management of this area is therefore important to ensure that bio-diversity objectives are understood and achieved.
3. **Recreation Ground** –no specific designations for full site. However, it has considerable significance in the global history of development of football.
4. **Trees / woodland** – mapping indicates the value of trees within this location.
5. **Green Corridor** – outwith site but linking to it – a wildlife corridor associated with railway line between Crosshill and Mount Florida.
6. **Conservation Area** covering section of Shawlands including the **A listed Langside Halls**.
7. **Conservation Area** including properties in Strathbungo facing onto park.
8. **Conservation Area** covering properties to north of park and recreational ground facing onto park.
9. **Glasshouses – B-Listed building**.

Key Finding

Designations indicate the significance of park as a historic landscape with bio-diversity interest and a setting for 19th / early 20th century urban design.



Glasshouses – location of removed dome
The glasshouses played a year role in the park both as a functioning nursery that provided training but also for children's play, reptile house, café, gift shop, events use etc.



- ★ Langside Halls
- ▲ Residential
- ★ Glasshouses
- Old Changing Rooms
- ▾ Pathhead Farm
- ★ Goals
- Tennis Pavilion
- Bowling Green Pavilions
- Temporary / semi-permanent structures
- ▲ Allotment sheds
- The Bothy

Discussion

Within Queen's Park and Recreation Grounds are several buildings, serving public, private or community functions. Of these, **Langside Halls** and the **Glasshouses** were associated with major public realm improvements – Langside Halls c. 2018, Glasshouses c. 2000. Neither are fully operational (Langside Halls presently closed) and both will require substantial investment to return to full use. The dome of Glasshouses was removed c 2021. It is understood that feasibility studies associated with both buildings are/have been produced, Both buildings had substantial community use prior to their closure.

Some of the Glasshouse associated buildings and yard space are utilised by GCC. Langside Halls are owned by Glasgow Life. Pathhead Farm which predates Queen's Park, and its associated yard are used operationally by GCC. In former times this building had some public functions. Many of these operations are not specific to the park itself.

A building until recently derelict but being refurbished as a project for community use by South Seeds is the **Old Changing Rooms**.

The Bothy, adjacent to Langside Halls is presently derelict, but it is understood there is some community interest associated with this.

Camphill House, formerly a museum was converted to private residential flats c.2000.

The **former toilet block** to Pollokshaws Road has been converted to a café. (Hugs and Mugs).

In recent years, the **pavilion to tennis courts** was upgraded, it is understood that both Glasgow Life and Scottish Tennis worked in partnership to provide this.

In addition, there are some, semi-permanent structures – containers associated with the arena and the model boat club, together with a portable coffee outlet adjacent to the pond.

The glasshouse (recently partially reopened) provides public toilet facilities. It is understood that Hugs and Mugs are also to provide toilet facilities.

Key Finding
 Finding funded, sustainable, community supported uses for many of the buildings within the park will be a key challenge for any future proposals.








View North - adjacent to flagpole

Topography and elevation influenced the choice of Queen's Park as a site, its history and its continued significance as a public space.

"A Scottish park with incredible views has just been named one of the best for a picnic in the UK. Queen's Park in Glasgow's southside ranked among the top 10 in the study as part of the National Picnic Month celebrations". Daily Record, July 2022"



	Level – moderate gradients.		Localised impediments to access
	Moderate grades		Elevated views
	Steep grades		

Discussion

Queen's Park character is in many ways derived by its topography particularly the drumlin, Camp Hill with associated earthworks and an elevation of 64m.

Paxton's design exploited this topography to create a grand terrace (building never constructed) and paths that led to Camp Hill and around the earthworks.

Subsequent additions further sought to exploit this, with the creation of an artificial mound and viewpoint (flagpole) together with paths that encircled around the earthworks. Vistas were referenced in Paxton's design and have considerable significance in terms of the culture and image of city. The views from around the flagpole, looking northwards are regularly utilised in the media.

Topography also impacts upon the park in other ways - it determines likely uses, location of facilities and accessibility. Where grades are particularly steep, it further impacts upon potential management regimes. In some instances, the existing park design provides localised impediments to accessibility which may be feasible to be resolved through intervention.

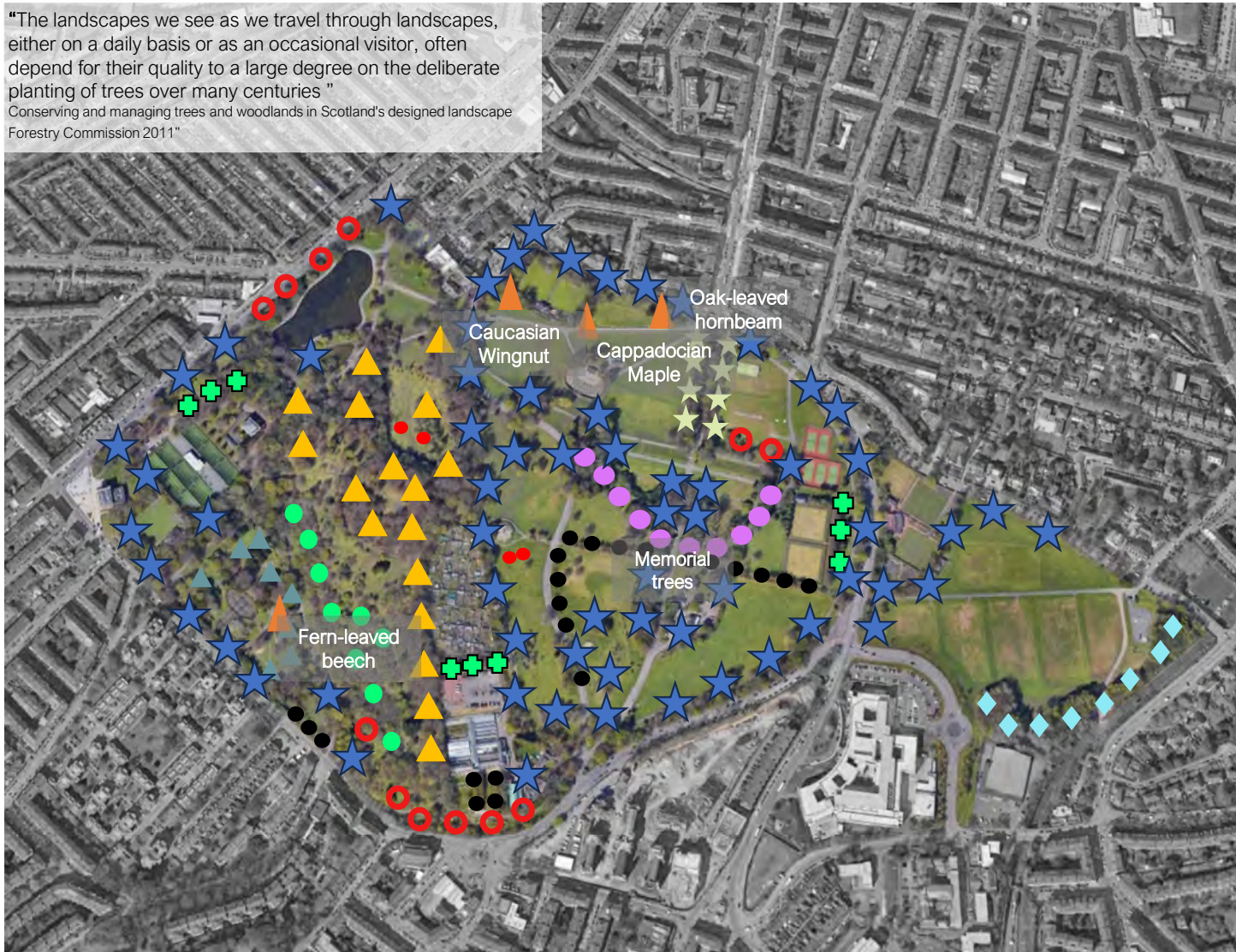
1. Panoramic views from flagpole over city towards Campsie and Ben Lomond. Significant views southwards not included within viewfinder.
2. Filtered views to north, west and southwest. Encroachment of woodland and scrub will largely block these over time.
3. Views from terrace over rooftops to city and Campsie's beyond.
4. Localised steep grade that may impede accessibility and active travel.
5. Steps accessing lower pond.
6. Tiered arrangement of levelled blaes pitches designed for football – later addition to design.

Key Findings
 The elevated location provides panoramic views over city that should be retained. Some impediments to access through localised topographical challenges could be readily addressed.



Mature Beech - Encampment
Beech is an important element of the designed landscape associated with Camphill House, including some specimens pre-dating the construction of Queen's Park.

“The landscapes we see as we travel through landscapes, either on a daily basis or as an occasional visitor, often depend for their quality to a large degree on the deliberate planting of trees over many centuries.”
 Conserving and managing trees and woodlands in Scotland's designed landscape
 Forestry Commission 2011”



- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| ▲ | Beech dominated woodland | + | Lime dominated / lime avenue | ▲ | Rare trees species |
| ▲ | Yew dominated | ★ | Mixed parkland trees –inc. Chestnut, Ash Sycamore and Lime | ● | Mixed planting / self-seeded trees – native and non-native, conifers and deciduous |
| ● | Holly | ★ | Main Avenue – Chestnut – Sycamore and Lime | ● | Young avenue planting – Lime, Cherry and Beech |
| ○ | Mixed species – inc. smaller trees birch, rowan and cherry | ◆ | Predominantly native woodland planting c. 30 – 40 years old | ● | Young orchard planting |

Discussion

The designed landscape of Queen's Park is to a considerable extent associated with parkland tree planting. In some instances, this relates to Camphill Estate, which pre-dates the park, In other areas planting has continued to be undertaken, and landscape evolved accordingly. This evolution has been due to replanting with different species, self-seeding and tree death.

Ash has been important species – both as a component of original planting, and as a specimen – weeping ash was utilised in some key locations. The impact of ash die-back is therefore significant. In 2011, when the Management Plan was published, it was virtually unknown in the UK. Tree diseases are likely to be an ongoing issue. Known global diseases where there is concern of future spread include those affecting chestnut, oak, birch, pine and rowan (Source Woodland Trust) Vigilance and restocking are likely required in the future. Whilst tree cover has complexities and it is not always possible to fully ascertain original design intent, some key elements include the following:

- The Camphill designed landscape is associated with beech, other than close to location of rose garden yew provides the landscape character.
- Queen's Park's landscape was associated with a mix of large parkland species. Outwith the main avenue, groupings are relatively informal - chestnut, sycamore, oak, ash and lime are main components. Lime is the most likely species to have been planted as a replacement.
- Natural regeneration is occurring throughout, with over 10 tree species noted as self-seeding.
- Relatively recent plantings have often utilised smaller or more ornamental trees – birch, rowan, whitebeam, and cherry – some in poor condition.
- Woodland planting to recreation ground is predominantly native and developing well.
- Formal line of holly is a particularly distinctive component of tree planting.

Key Finding






Vigilance and appropriate restocking are likely to be important elements in retaining and evolving the important landscape structure of park.



Mount Florida Entrance
One of the most significant desire routes to have become established since the reduction of Recreation Grounds associated with the New Victoria Hospital.

“Access to good quality, well-maintained outdoor spaces can help improve our physical, social and mental health”
 Paths For All 2023”



-  Blacktop surfaces (Asphalt / Macadam)
-  Non-sealed stone paths – some previously sealed.
-  Desire line / unsurfaced paths
-  Former paths –alignment still visible.
-  Former paths –alignment not clearly visible.

It is noted that existing and former paths are associated with vernacular detailing. This is likely to be original – horonizing, cast gratings and use of whin setts/ kerbing. It is speculated that these setts may have been cut stone that was rejected from 19th century adjacent roadworks – as individual stones are irregular. There is a small stock of whin kerbs adjacent to earthworks which presumably were intended for path repairs, or formation of steps.

Discussion

The path network within Queen’s Park largely follows the original alignments. Change is most evident within the Recreational Ground – initial alignment formed a pattern of diagonal paths that sub-divided space. These were removed due to later addition of pitches. A section of the Recreational Ground was also lost due to development of New Victoria Hospital and road.

More modest recent changes were because of works by Scottish Water, (close to ball court and adjacent to Balvicar Road entrance).

The majority of paths are of blacktop construction of varying widths. The quality of these varies, generally in good condition with an estimated 15-25% being towards the end of their useful life and benefiting from resurfacing.

Towards the earthworks there are non-bound paths. These appear to have been previously constructed as macadam. They now provide a contrast in material and-character within the park. Tree roots are close to path surface. These surfaces are prone to degradation — but are readily and economically repairable.

Desire line paths are evident in several locations. In some instances – to the slopes to the southwest of Camp Hill there is some evidence that these were originally constructed routes. Elsewhere, they relate to pedestrian movement that has not been accommodated as park changed – most evidently links from Mount Florida through recreation ground. In some locations, desire line paths may be best left as a simple trodden path - providing an informal walking experience, in other cases – they are missing elements of an accessible network.

There are also examples of overgrown “lost” paths that have the potential to be reinstated. This action would appear to have potential to improve the experience of the park and maximise positive use.

Mown grass paths close to flagpole provide further interest. Because of their transient nature they have not been mapped.

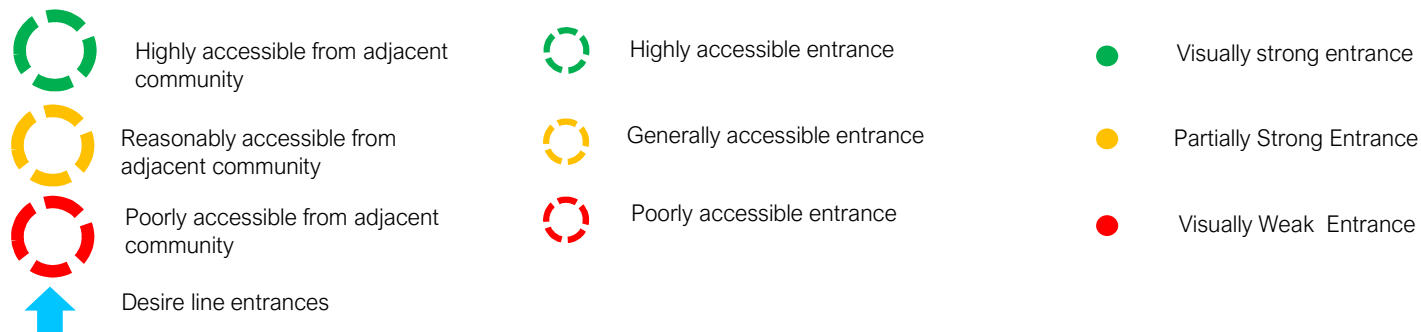
Key Finding

Whilst network generally follows traditional designed path alignment and provides good accessibility, there are opportunities to restore lost routes and tackle localised access issues.



Victoria Road
The entrance at Victoria Road remains the most prominent access to the park. Accessibility has been enhanced through the development and extension of South City Way.

"Parks and greenspaces will be lively, welcoming and safe places; sustainable, well connected and accessible to all, providing opportunities for activities and shared use for current and future communities."
 GCC Vision Statement – Our Dear Green Place 2019"



Discussion

Access into the park from the surrounding built environment require to be in the correct locations, otherwise informal / desire line routes – often with removed fencing appear. In addition, they need to connect well to community, be accessible and be welcoming. In terms of this analysis accessibility has been appraised according to the following:

- Accessible from adjacent communities** – most positive locations would be associated with convenient safe pedestrian crossing.
- Accessible entrances** – most positive locations would have no conflict between pedestrians and vehicles, smooth surfaces and no steep grades or steps.
- Visually strong entrance** – most positive locations would have welcoming features, good visibility and be well sited. Improvements may still be appropriate.

1. Battlefield Monument roundabout provides an impediment for pedestrian accessibility. The stepped ramp at monument is inaccessible to many, whilst shared vehicular access, with restricted pedestrian space impact on accessible pedestrian circulation from Langside Road.
2. Traffic light junction at Langside Halls provides safe crossing. However significant conflict with vehicles predominantly associated with Goals and poor sightlines.
3. No crossing on either Queen's Drive or within proximity of junction with Cathcart Road. Use as small informal car park / access for events impacts on visual quality of entrance point.
4. Whilst junction controlled by traffic lights, poor direct connections with park circulation paths and steep access to Queen's Park.
5. Poor / unconsidered access to recreation grounds has resulted in removed fence panels offering desire line access.

Although accessibility from adjacent communities is outwith the park boundary there may be the potential to influence initiatives such as Liveable Neighbourhoods / Connecting Battlefield.






Key Finding
 Mapping indicates that entrances to the park have significant variance in terms of accessibility and welcoming quality.



Pollokshaws Road Entrance
The Goals 5 a-side football complex has c.80 parking spaces. Access in this location is constrained, without separation between vehicular and pedestrian users.

“The hierarchy puts the consideration of walking and wheeling at the top followed in descending order by cycling, public transport, taxis, and shared transport with private cars at the bottom.”
 Transport Scotland Guidance on Inclusive Design 2022”



-  Regular Vehicular Access
-  Parking (not public)
-  Maintenance Access
-  Event areas
-  Boat Club

Discussion

Within a popular urban park, likely to attract vulnerable user groups, including children, consideration requires to be taken relating to the management of vehicular access and use. Potential future changes in use of any buildings would require detailed assessment of impact on safe pedestrian use. There is no public car park within Queen's Park.

The former blaes pitches to the recreation ground have been utilised, on occasion as temporary car parking for events at Hampden Stadium.

There are two regular access points, with multiple vehicles per day:

- Pollokshaws Road – narrow access associated with Goals 5-aside football complex and private parking for Camphill House. This access is shared between vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. Whilst traffic calmed, it is considered that this is a point of potential conflict between different users.
- Langside Road – wide access route with traffic calming. 5mph signs are in place and GCC vehicles also utilise hazard lights. Used by operational vehicles / parking accessing compounds at rear of Glasshouses and Pathhead Farm, Limited vehicle access to allotments and residential property close to entrance.

There is a small section of surfaced ground adjacent to the skatepark that is utilised for car parking and is associated with, an access track leading to railway - with an unfenced area utilised for storing / dumping of construction materials.

The two areas associated with large events require vehicle access, these appear to be well managed.

One further area where some vehicular activity was noted is associated with model boat club. This is in a location where high numbers of young children and other vulnerable park users are likely to be present.

Key Finding

The current vehicular arrangements provide some possible conflict between pedestrian and cycle access into and within the park with vehicular use. This requires careful consideration within the Development Plan.



Parkrun
The weekly parkrun, often attracting over 200 participants, illustrates the popularity of particular routes within the park for walking and running.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments acknowledged the importance of outdoor exercise (walking, cycling and jogging) for people’s health and wellbeing by including it as one of the few legitimate reasons for people to leave their homes” Get Scotland Walking Glasgow Centre for Population Health 2022”



Discussion

Whilst Strava data is utilised by some demographics more than others, the fitness tracking app is used by 17% of UK population and therefore gives some important indications of running and walking use within the park. It is noted that some caution is required as it may not be fully reflective of use. (Strava was traditionally used by sport runners). It is also noted that Queen’s Park has a weekly “parkrun” and bootcamp running sessions which focus on sections of the park which will have some influence on data.

It is not possible to discern use with full confidence of accuracy in locations where existing footway to road and internal park are directly adjacent to each other.

Points noted include the following:

1. Very high use of hill immediately beyond Balvicar Street – likely to be as a result of running groups.
2. Whilst flagpole is a Strava “hotspot” relatively little use of path surrounding earthworks.
3. Trodden paths – both above and below trees to south of Recreation Ground – indicating a potential demand for looped paths and links northwards from Mount Florida.
4. The western arc of designed landscape path appears expectantly less used.
5. Path created following Scottish Water works with relatively low volume of use.
6. Main path bisecting recreation ground well used.
7. Trodden paths through SINC relatively low volume of Strava use.
8. High level of activity around pond.

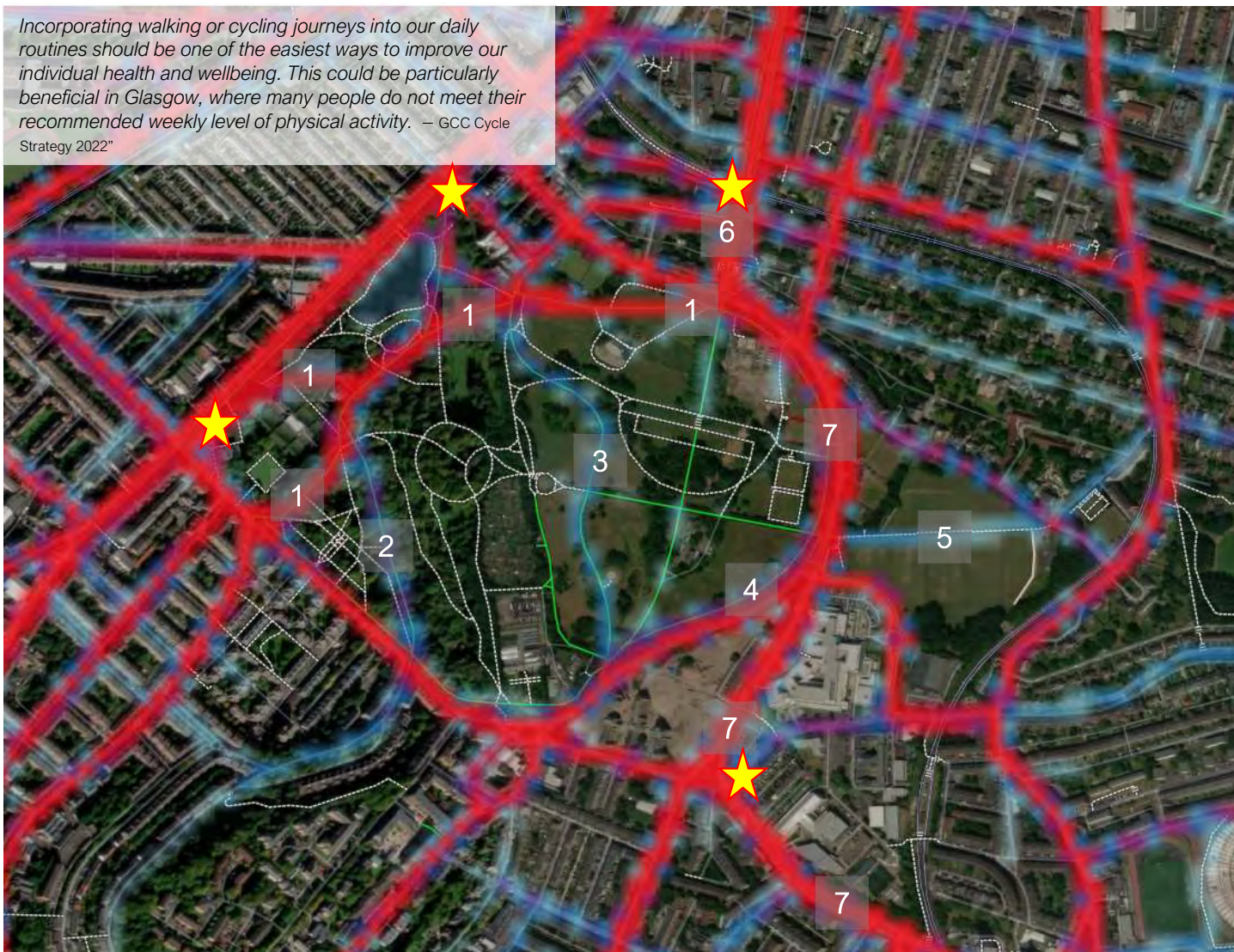
Observation on site suggests that use of softer, non macadam surfaces may be greater than indicated by Strava use – dog walkers, family groups and trail runners all observed.

Key Finding
 Extensive use of path network apparent. Data confirms use of some observed desire lines within park that are presently unsurfaced.



Cyclist Adjacent to Langside Halls
Cycling through Queen's Park has been noted as a significant activity with clear active travel movement and connections.

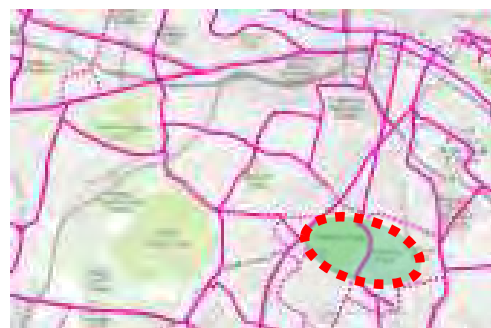
Incorporating walking or cycling journeys into our daily routines should be one of the easiest ways to improve our individual health and wellbeing. This could be particularly beneficial in Glasgow, where many people do not meet their recommended weekly level of physical activity. – GCC Cycle Strategy 2022”



-  Highest Level of Activity Recorded
-  Medium Level of Activity Recorded
-  Some Activity Recorded
-  Hire bike stations / major bike parking

The Glasgow Active Travel Strategy 2022 is an ambitious document that identifies strategic active travel infrastructure within the city. Mapping associated with that document favours 24-hour routes that are predominantly associated with reallocating existing road space. No routes are presently indicated through Queen’s Park / Recreation Ground.

It is noted that there are currently no cycle parking facilities within the park associated with any potential destinations.



Discussion

Whilst Strava data is utilised by some demographics more than others, the fitness app is used by 17% of UK population and therefore gives some indications of cycle use associated with routes within the park. It is accepted that this may not be fully reflective of use. Nonetheless the following points were noted:

1. Connection between Shawlands and South City Way indicates high level of activity.
2. Connection to Camphill Avenue indicates medium level activity.
3. Langside to Balvicar Street route – relatively little activity recorded.
4. Internal path less recorded use than adjacent carriageway. (South City Way being constructed)
5. Route through recreation ground, level and lit. Strava dated suggests light usage.
6. Existing South City Way segregated cycle route.
7. Extension to South City Way to Mount Florida – use of existing carriageway hi. (Under construction)

Cycling provides an active means to access the benefits of greenspace and helps to connect neighbourhoods within a wider radius to it. Parks can be a destination for everyday active travel journeys as well as providing safe routes to school, for example. Improving connections to existing and proposed networks such as South City Way and consideration of other initiatives, such as Liveable Neighbourhoods could further encourage usage.

Parks provide particularly safe environments for children to learn to cycle and encourage behavioural change. It is noted that the park is utilised by groups such as Women on Wheels who are encouraging women, (often from communities where cycling is an underrepresented activity) to gain skills and encouragement to cycle in a safe, supportive environment.

Key Finding

The park provides opportunities for active travel and behavioural change associated with increased cycling that could be further realised by infrastructural investment.



Games Court – Victoria Road Entrance
One of the significant facilities associated with a high concentration of freely accessible active public use.

"Parks and green spaces are vital democratic spaces where people come together and interact and can play an important role in promoting social cohesion and integration"
 Re-evaluating Parks and greenspace Fields in Trust 2018"



- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | Goals – Commercial 5-aside football | | Bootcamp / personal trainer activities | | Volleyball / Karate | | Tar cricket square | | Sledging / snowboarding |
| | Adjacent bowling greens | | Children's play area | | Team sports – inc. minority sports | | Yoga / Tai-chi | | Ice Skating |
| | Parkrun route | | Toddler play area | | Golf practice | | Orienteering | | Model Boats |
| | ball court – football and basketball | | Tennis Courts | | Skatepark / Street skate | | Outdoor gym | | |

Discussion

Parks provide opportunity for outside recreation and well-being. Sports, formal, semi formal and informal within greenspaces are statistically more important and achieve high participation levels from BAME minorities (Fields in Trust). It is therefore of particular relevance to ensure opportunities for diversity of activities are considered in the development of the park.

During the pandemic, those seeking to exercise and those providing it, both sought to use greenspace more as access to indoor facilities was curtailed. This legacy appears to be continuing with observation suggesting a great diversity activity and strong levels of use. Further analysis is likely to be required in the future to ascertain changes in use and reflect on management / development implications.

Investment in the park since 2011, including tennis, ball court, outdoor gym, and calisthenics gym, all of which have proven to be highly popular.

Whilst Goals is a commercial 5-aside football provider, other active recreation utilises the park infrastructure freely. This ranges from informal use, free events such as parkrun, use by sports clubs and use by commercial operators such as bootcamps. The subject of small-scale commercial use is contentious, difficult to define, and likely to be dictated by city wide policy.

In recent years, the pitch and putt course no longer operates and use for golf practice appears to be declining. It is also noted that the skate park appears to have relatively little activity. This may well be due to an aging infrastructure. Some skate activity was noted to civic space at Langside Halls.

Whilst the public bowling greens are no longer used as designed, having a level closely mown surface has slowed them to be adopted for other sports and recreational use – volleyball, bootcamps, karate etc.

Skating is not encouraged on the ponds – but occurs during cold periods. The pond is shallow but may have potential for some water-based activity. Blue-green algae has occurred previously and would need to be considered if additional use is a goal.

Key Finding
 The park and recreational ground presently offer diverse opportunities for physical activity. Care will be required to ensure any Development Plan or management proposals consider these uses



Existing Play Location Balvicar Street
Existing formal play within Queen's Park is predominantly concentrated to the northeastern corner of the park, set adjacent to other attractions for children – notably the two ponds.

5.16 Major Play Provision – 15-minute walking zones

"Playing outdoors has huge benefits for children's physical and mental wellbeing, and play parks ensure children can access high quality safe environments free of charge as families grapple with the cost-of-living crisis"
 Children's Minister Clare Haughey – Announcement of £50m investment in play areas March 2023.



-  Existing Queen's Park play area
-  Existing Queen's Park toddler play area
-  15-minute walk zone from Existing QP Play area
-  15 min walk zone existing large play areas
-  Potential large play area
-  15 min walk zone potential large play areas
-  Potential to explore play potential of landscape

Discussion

The human right to play is enshrined within the UN Convention of the Rights of a Child. Whilst play has a much broader definition than just formal play area provision, nonetheless it is recognised the significant role that public play areas provide in facilitating play opportunities that are free and locally accessible.

It is recognised that play equipment and associated surfacing may have a life expectancy of between 12 – 20 years typically. Therefore, play provision requires regular investment to retain asset.

The existing play area towards Balvicar Street is the traditional location for play within Queen's Park, and, being located adjacent to the ponds, provides a destination setting. It has undergone incremental investment over the last 30+ years, with items of equipment replaced rather than a wholesale reimagination.

Larger play areas, that provide opportunities for older Children / young teens are defined as NEAPs – Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play. Whilst play standards are being reviewed, current guidelines suggest that they should be no more than a 15-minute walk away. This is defined as a 1000mm walk. Given the street pattern the mapping illustrates a c.800m radius that approximates to this distance.

The mapping includes other major provision within surrounding areas. It is noted there has been recent substantial investment at Malls Myre and Pollok Park. Analysis suggests that there are local shortfalls of play provision within residential areas that could be addressed through additional play areas. A location towards the southwest of the Recreation Ground may well be appropriate in improving access to play for many.

The southwestern boundary of the park provides fewer clear opportunities for a more conventional approach to play but may be of relevance to consider play potential within the landscape as part of the overall design and management of the park.

Key Finding
 The park could provide an opportunity to increase the accessibility to major play provision for local communities. If play offer is extended to other locations.



Slopes Adjacent to Victoria Road
The slopes were shown in Paxton's original vision drawing as having small groups of people sitting / picnicking on the grass. This appears to have been a consistent use of this space for over 160 years.

“Access to local, quality green space improves the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all sections of the community.”

Revaluing Parks and Greenspaces Fields in Trust 2017



-  Highest Level of Use
-  High Level of Use
-  Events locations



Aerial imagery illustrating very high levels of sitting within park close to arena as well as within the arena itself.

Discussion

During warm, dry weather Queen’s Park and Recreation Ground provide opportunities for passive recreation – sitting / picnics etc, The summer is also the predominant time when events and entertainment occur, It is on these occasions – predominantly at weekends and summer evenings when the most intensive use of the park generally occurs. This can have some implication in terms of park management – litter collection, for example, and in some potential restrictions on free access – particularly associated with the recreation ground.

Major, publicly popular, events are held within the recreation ground. Typically, these are commercial (circuses, music gigs/mini-festivals, large scale children’s shows) involve temporary fencing, large tents and infrastructure). During the weekend 28th - 30th June 2024 a music event will attract an audience of 6000 people per day.

The arena is used for open-air events during the summer, including music, open-air cinema and dance. In 2023 visitor numbers exceeded 35000. In addition, it was observed that it was being used informally for unofficial music and as a location for socialising, particularly by young people.

Smaller events also occur in other locations, notably the poetry garden and to the public space outside Langside Halls. Pre-covid, regular events occurred within the glasshouses, often associated with children during the day, as well as being a popular let function space in the evening.

The mapping is based on observation during peak summer use and cross referenced via use of google earth satellite mapping – which captured early afternoon weekend activity.

The area to the west of Victoria Road is particularly busy with people sitting picnicking and socialising, however other popular spots were identified throughout the entire park and recreation ground. In areas where grass is unmown sitting / picnicking appears to be less popular than where grass is mown. The former pitch and putt course appears to become increasingly popular, as a likely result.

Key Finding
 As a busy park in a densely populated location, the park provides diverse opportunities for passive recreation including entertainment. Care will be required to ensure Development Plan provides support for events and allows for regular park use.



Slopes adjacent to Langside Avenue –
Natural regeneration of both native species e.g. oak, bird cherry, bramble and blackthorn, together with non-natives such as sycamore, snowberry and laurel.

"The loss of Glasgow's natural resources has been halted and reversed, with habitats and species more resilient and better adapted to change."

Source Glasgow Local Biodiversity Action Plan



Discussion

In relatively recent years landscape management, within the park, has included techniques aimed at promoting biodiversity through reduced mowing and use of herbicide. Some successes of this management include, for example, expanding orchid colonies observed within the SINC area.

Within the SINC area, it is clear, from observation of aerial photographs that wooded cover continues to encroach upon more open sections, where species such as meadowsweet flourish. This is unsurprising, given the abundance of species that regularly colonise grassland when there is little no mowing or grazing (except rabbits). These plants are both native, such as bramble, blackthorn and rowan, for example, and non-native such as snowberry, laurel and sycamore. Invasive species were noted, including Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed, Rhododendron ponticum and salmonberry.





It is fundamental choice to consider whether general succession should continue or whether management interventions are important to maximise positive long-term outcomes. Generally, when woodland is emerging this potentially positive occurrence should be balanced with loss of other spaces of bio-diversity interest associated with small glades and clearances. These open areas often also provide views to the wider city and landscape beyond. Positive management may also be utilised to favour native species and reduce the impact of non-natives. This is likely to be something that requires a long-term strategy.

Areas of grassland, with low levels of maintenance, such as a single grass cut are generally dominated by vigorous grass species with areas where pernicious broadleaved species such as docks are evident. These are associated with higher levels of soil fertility, and without considerable and continued intervention it is likely that this process will continue.

Within some sections of the park, reduced intensification of mowing regimes and other management decisions have contributed to areas subject to waterlogging where wetland species are colonising. There is the potential that through either succession or through positive intervention that more biodiverse wetland habitats could develop.

Key Finding

Positive management and maintenance of all areas of the park will be required to maximise bio-diversity value and ensure key design and recreational assets are retained.

-  Woodland / scrub colonisation highly likely
-  Woodland / scrub colonisation likely
-  Wetland succession likely
-  Japanese knotweed / Himalayan balsam / Salmonberry noted





Dense Vegetation
Typical dense vegetation, encroaching upon former path. *Rhododendron ponticum* and *Prunus laurocerasus* (laurel) are two dominant species evident.

“Visibility and openness – the ability to see around for a good distance and be seen by others – are crucial for a park to feel safe”

safer parks Improving access for women and girls, University of Leeds 2023”



- Areas with low level of natural surveillance
- Park screened by boundary planting / embankments

Recent Works

It is noted that during late 2023 and early 2024 works were undertaken within the park at key locations, including some identified within this report, to improve natural surveillance.

Discussion

Within greenspace there can be areas where natural surveillance – the ability to be able to see around for a good distance is limited. This can impact upon feelings of safety particularly if associated with unavoidable paths. In some instances, there is also evidence of anti-social behaviour. However, areas that are screened also have positive connotations too – They help to subdivide greenspace into a series of outdoor rooms / views, can be highly beneficial from a bio-diversity perspective and give the sense of momentary escape or contemplation within an urban environment.

Screening can have a seasonal quality too – areas of deciduous trees and shrubs have greater through visibility during winter and early spring.

Main identified areas are as follows:

1. South of pond - levels / dense vegetation inc. evergreens. Alcohol bottles found.
2. Wooded area – screened by tall evergreen shrubs. Syringes found.
3. Overgrown area adjacent to Camphill Bowling Club.
4. Dense wooded area – including evergreen shrubs to lower bank of habitat area.
5. Encampment – some areas with overgrown evergreen shrubs that restrict through views.
6. Park screened as a result of dense, predominantly evergreen shrubs – Langside Avenue.
7. Overgrown, predominantly evergreen shrub beds associated with designed landscape.
8. Dense, predominantly deciduous emerging woodland and scrub.

In many instances the reduction in natural surveillance is associated with the non-native evergreens rhododendron and laurel. Whilst originally planted, as part of landscape design they are invasive in character.

Key Finding

Whilst screening plays a key role in character of park, control of rhododendron and laurel could be beneficial in improving perceived safety.

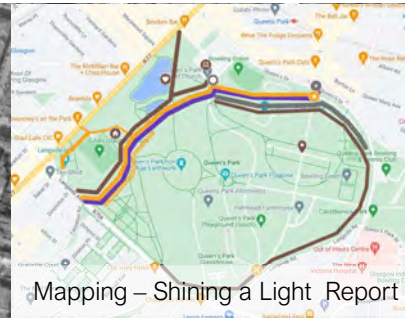


Park Lighting

The subject of park lighting has been associated with recent consultation and some 2024 works (New LED solar markers)

5.20 Park Lighting

"Feeling that a park is safe to use is an important dimension of accessibility, without which the positive effects of parks on health and wellbeing may not be realised. Yet, national statistics show high levels of perceived unsafety in parks among women, particularly after dark." Greenspace Scotland 2023



- Site of Interest for Nature Conservation
- Street lighting fittings
- Flood lighting – Goals / Tennis
- Cycle Route with solar LED markers (2024)
- Arena, could require lighting for increased evening use.
- Building, presently lit that may require associated lighting for increased evening use.
- Play / outdoor facilities that may require lighting for increased use.
- Areas where lighting may be considered to exit park if increased use of buildings proposed.
- Unlit footways – adjacent to park

Key Finding
Lighting in the park is likely to be associated with other management decisions – increasing use of buildings / spaces or requirement for active travel.

Discussion

Lighting within public parks remains a subject of debate and research. Proposals should balance real and perceived safety, environmental concerns and park use. Informed discussion and bespoke, community focused solutions are therefore important.

Queen's Park was included as one of three Glasgow parks where a 2022/23 placemaking study and consultation associated with lighting. (Shining a light on safety in parks)

11. What additional lighting, if any, would you like in Queen's Park? (Tick all that apply)

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 No additional lighting	10.81%	36
2 Lighting on main routes only	67.57%	225
3 Lighting at play areas	32.43%	108
4 Lighting at sports areas	34.83%	116
5 Lighting entrances and exits to the park	71.47%	238
6 Lighting on national cycle/active travel routes	57.66%	192
7 Lighting specific areas in the park (please specify under 'Other' which areas)	10.51%	35
8 Other (please specify)	12.61%	42

12. Do you have any concerns about additional lighting in Queen's Park? (Tick all that apply)

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Affects biodiversity and habitats (Light pollution / tree removal for lights)	48.33%	159
2 Encourages anti-social behaviour	17.93%	59
3 Creates noise	6.99%	23
4 Climate change/increased energy use	36.78%	121
5 Maintenance issues/costs	28.88%	95
6 Expensive to buy	13.68%	45
7 Council budget better spent on other priorities	18.54%	61
8 No concerns	34.95%	115
9 Other (please specify)	11.55%	38

The reporting excluded Queen's Park Recreation Ground. The findings noted that increased events in evening would increase perception of safety. It also stated that active travel / main paths should be a particular focus should any lighting be implemented.

The major concerns regarding lighting were environmental – bio-diversity and energy. The SINC could therefore be particularly sensitive to any proposals.

Based on analysis and report, the mapping illustrates both existing elements of lighting – and indicates where future demand is most likely to occur, assuming desire to increase evening use.



Historic Images

Historic images, particularly postcards, provide a fascinating insight into both the physical and social history of the park since it was established. As such they are a key resource, together with historic mapping and documentation in understanding the heritage of the park. These have been utilised in the production of an asset registrar, a working document to assist the design and assessment process. Should a full Conservation Management Plan be undertaken in the future, photographic and illustrative evidence will be an essential element. There remain some areas of the park where we have yet to find historic images, notably the glasshouses.



Victoria Road Entrance 1909
Illustrates original gates, prior to stone pillars, use of grass banks for informal seating. Note the bandstand to east of flagpole area.



View north-eastwards - c. 1900 - 1910
View from path below flagpole area looking towards terrace. Extensive use of estate fencing – some removed as late as early 2000s Considerably less wooded than present.



Queen's Park Bowling Greens c. 1910
Image illustrates how space, originally designed as open parkland was enclosed for sports and pastimes during the Edwardian era. Platforms for greens exist – now utilised for informal cricket.



Queens Park, Glasgow

RELIABLE

Path – south of Terrace 1917
Illustrating well maintained, ornamental shrub planting – including a variety of rhododendrons. Whin, edging detail to planting beds remains as per this tinted photograph, planting composition similar. Many of the shrub species remain an element of this landscape.



Terrace c.1905 - 1918

Illustrates ornamental bedding to terrace. Whilst design of beds changed, formal bedding remained a component of design in this location until c. mid 2010s.

**Steps at Terrace c. 1900 - 1920**

Much of the infrastructure associated with the design appears still to be in existence – including stone pillars (though some vases missing) set detailing and the steps. There is an interesting cast column to the right of picture – possibly for hanging planting rather than lighting.



Rockery – c. 1900 - 1920
The rockery, a design feature to the west of the terrace was partially exposed in 2024 after being hidden from view for many years.



Pathhead Farm – C. 1904
Image indicates formal planting to either side of farm, framed by tree planting Sett edging to path remains to the north side. Path has been broadened to southwest and there has been additional tree planting since image taken.



Queen's Park Recreation Ground 1947
Image illustrates football continuing in the snow, whilst others sledging. Note the pre-fab buildings that line the northern extent of park.



Leafy Walk – Langside Avenue c. 1900 - 1915
Image indicates the design intention of an enclosed heavily planted and screened walkway. – with no views out to Langside Avenue. This remains largely realised, including more recent replacement shrub planting.



Former Glasshouse / Summerhouse c.1900-1920
The glasshouses, demolished in 1930, were a key element of the formal gardens, situated close to what is now the poetry garden. Note maturity of yew tree.



Former Summerhouse c. 1930s?
Image of former glasshouse / summerhouse after demolition. Step features, sundial and high-quality horticultural planting are all apparent. Walling, steps and sun dial plinth remain.

In Camphill Park Glasgow



View to Camphill House – c.1904
Illustrates more open views to Camphill House and beyond. were anticipated. Note specimen tree planting and use of metal estate fencing.



W
ries 7650

Beech Avenue

Beech Avenue c. 1910
Beech, as a species, is strongly associated with the Camphill House landscape. Many of these trees are still in existence.



CAMP HILL TENNIS COURTS, QUEEN'S PARK, GLASGOW.

Tennis Courts 1935
Former tennis courts – now converted to commercial 5-a-side football pitches (Goals). Tennis provided an opportunity for both men and women to take part in sport and socialise - on court and within the clubroom.



MODEL YACHT POND AND CLUB HOUSE CAMP

Pond and Boathouse c. 1900
Postcard illustrates the original boathouse design as a strong feature. Designed landscape appears broadly as present. Possible flagpole and lighting column visible.

**Boating Pond – Date Unknown.**

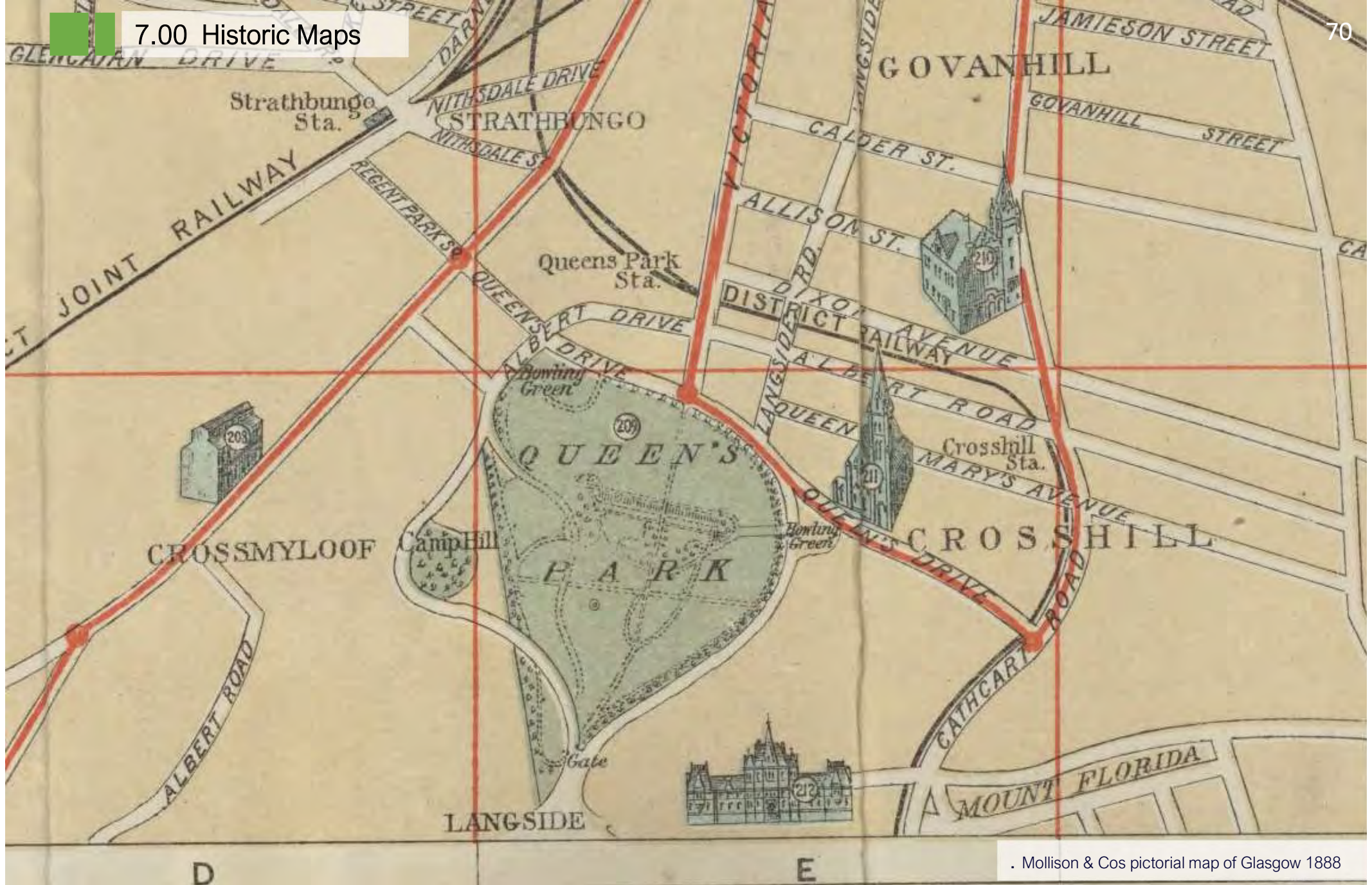
Image indicates the popular use of the pond for model boats. It is likely that the original stone edging to pond exists but has been infilled with insitu concrete. Trees towards Pollokshaws Road appear substantial and there is likely to have been some loss / replanting with different species.



Two Ponds c. 1900 - 1905
Image indicates the early design intention for a formal boating pond and, in contrast, a duck pond with island and protected planting. Design of ponds remain broadly unchanged.



Aerial Photograph- 1928
Image indicates significantly less wooded cover throughout the park, particularly to the slopes above Camphill House and Langside Avenue. Use of grounds to rear of glasshouses as plant nursery / garden evident.



. Mollison & Cos pictorial map of Glasgow 1888

Historic Maps

Historic maps provide essential information relating to the development and change to the park and adjacent areas. The maps referenced have been resourced via National Library of Scotland, and it is fortunate that such comprehensive information is available. Use of mapping will be an important element to consider in any future development of the park to ensure any proposals take cognisance of the significance of the heritage of the landscape.



Discussion

The first edition OS provides a record of the park immediately prior to construction. It is presented with an aerial transparency to provide context. The map illustrates an open landscape with field patterns associated with Pathhead Farm. To the south and west, including the encampment, the landscape relates to Camphill House and includes mature trees, woodland belts, boundaries, pathways and some other design landscape features, such as elements of walled garden, that were incorporated into the extended park in the late 1890s.

Key Finding

The designed landscape associated with Camphill House pre-dates the construction of the park and includes elements that remain today.



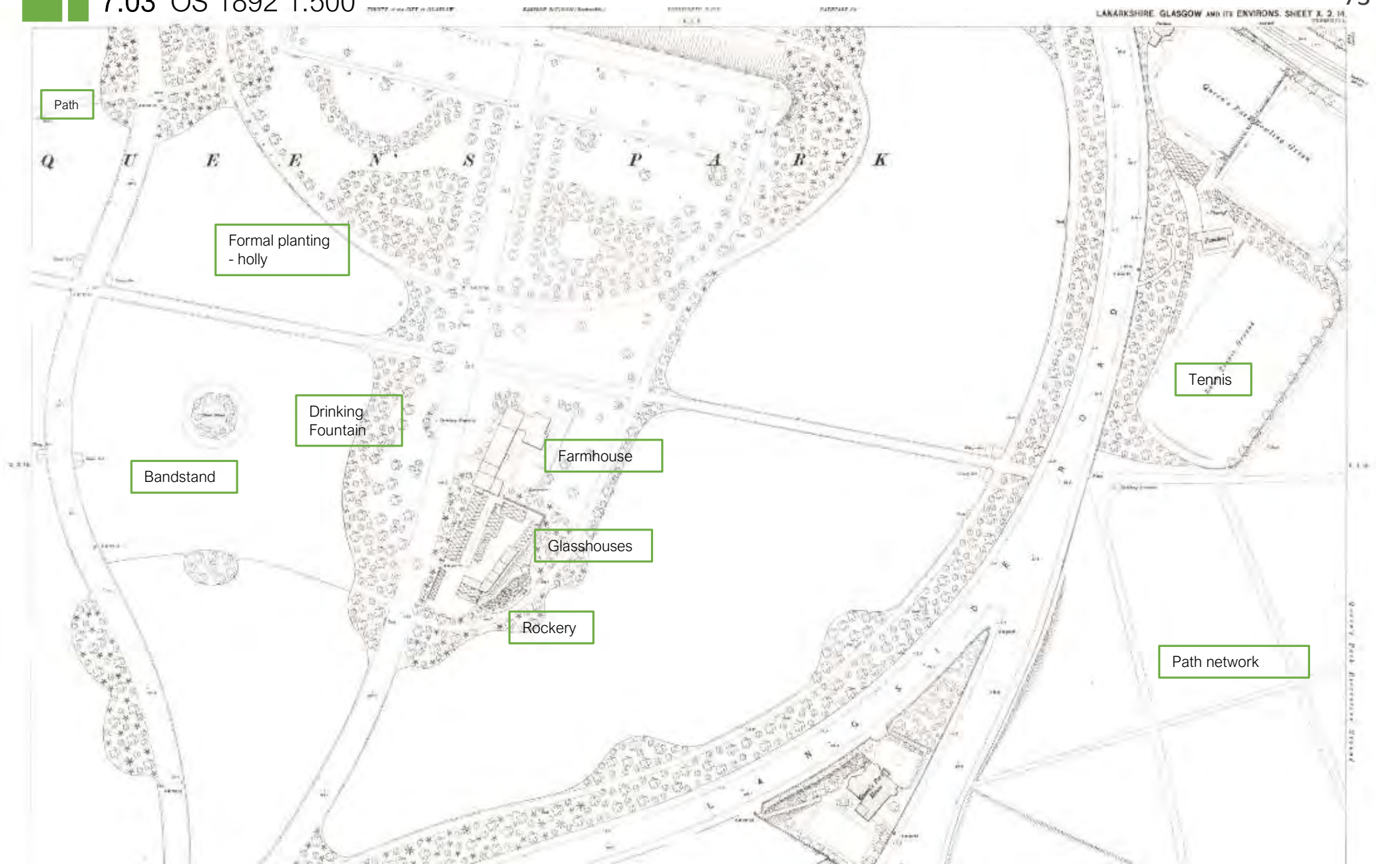
Discussion

The map illustrates the original Paxton / Carrick design, including path layout and location of tree groups. The majority of these paths remain in existence, though some, generally close to the flagpole area have been lost or realigned.

Map would suggest that Balvicar Street (named Camphill Drive) may have been conceived as a new street and possible residential development (Contemporary with this mapping there was a banking crisis in the city (1978) which impacted upon housing development for more than a decade).

Key Finding

The 1885 map is an early document of the completed original design.



Discussion

The 1892 1:500 map (single sheet illustrated) provides a very accurate of the design of the Paxton / John Carrick landscape, including location of individual trees, seating and features such as rockeries.

Key Finding
 The 1892 OS mapping provides a particularly useful resource to allow for accurate understanding and potential restoration of designed landscape.



Discussion

The plan illustrates the parks, gardens and recreation grounds belonging to and maintained by the City of Glasgow Corporation in 1900. It illustrates the layout of the original park, the extents of the recreation ground and the area of the park associated with Camp Hill House that had come into the city's ownership. No paths or ponds illustrated within this area. Of note is the broad route between Victoria Infirmary and Balvicar Street which was removed as part of the park works soon after this map was surveyed.

Key Finding

In 1900 the southwest extension of the park was within the ownership of the city but works appear yet to have been undertaken / mapped.



Discussion

The second edition OS provides a record of the park following completion of extension that included the Camphill Estate, Glasshouses, pond and Langside Halls. The main elements of the present park are predominantly in place and there is evidence of additional planting within the Paxton / Carrick boundary compared to 1895 OS. The Balvicar Street play area had yet to be included, and the original path alignment to the west of Victoria Road entrance followed close to site boundary.

Key Finding

By 1910 the park design was broadly complete, and most key elements of the design remain today.

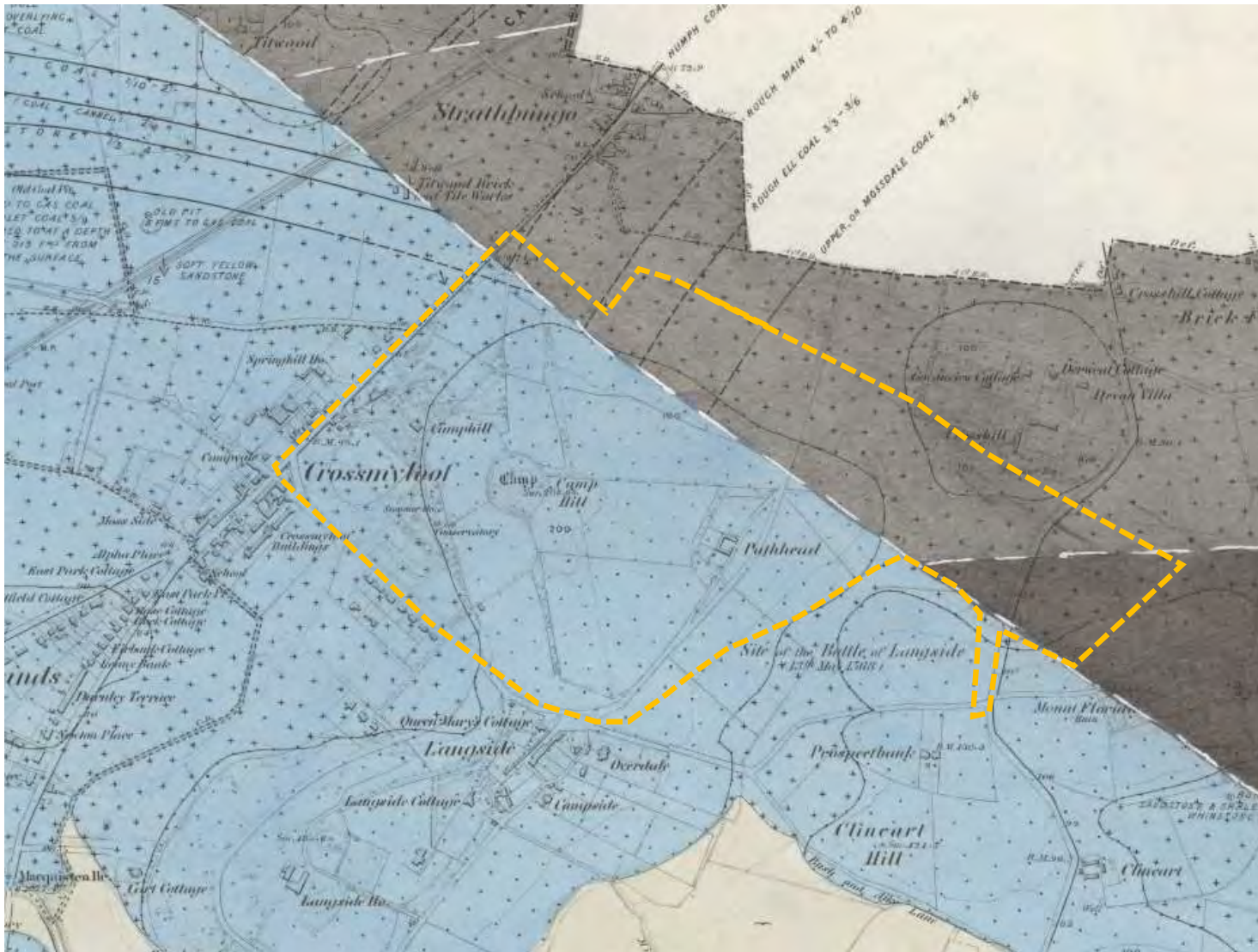


Discussion

This fascinating period map illustrates the park in 1935 printed on the 2nd edition OS on light blue. This allows the changes that occurred during that period to be compared. The Edwardian era is associated with construction of bowling greens, miniature golf and tennis – with subsequent reduction in general open space. Allotments were also added. The two earlier bandstands were replaced with a larger arena in its present position. New and widened paths were illustrated together with further tree planting. Some of that planting has been subsequently replaced, possibly suggesting that different species choices were introduced – perhaps including relatively short-lived ornamentals that were popular in that period.

Key Finding

By 1935 the focus of improvements had been centred on provision of large bandstand arena, bowls, tennis and miniature golf. Path network and areas of planting were also expanded.



Discussion

The 1858 Geology map, surveyed at the time of the purchase of land to form Queen's Park indicates underlying coal to the north including various seams. Mining works to these areas has resulted in relatively recent stabilisation works within Govanhill and Crosshill. The map indicates a geological fault line between coal measures and carboniferous limestone. This fault line is approximately towards the southern boundary of the Recreation Ground and the terrace to the north of Pathhead Farm.

No pits are specifically marked within the boundary of the park, however there are recorded workings to the west within Pollokshields. Other than seams, there are no specific geological notes associated with the park on this map.



Key Finding

The park is associated with a geological fault line that is approximately on the line of the southern boundary of the Recreation Ground projecting north-westwards.



A busy spring afternoon – May 2024

Consideration of the comments from the initial public consultation questionnaire, together with an assessment of the park, an attempt was made to distil these into an overarching statement of intent. That statement was then sub-divided into four themes, each with five action points.

These were tested during the spring 2024 public consultation –see associated report.

“Queen’s Park and Recreation Ground shall be an exceptional, world class, much used and well-loved public park that respects and celebrates its heritage whilst also meeting the aspirations of existing and future generations.”



Queen’s Park and Recreation Ground shall be a **welcoming, friendly and safe place** that invites regular use and provides enriching experiences.

Provide safe, welcoming access into the park from adjacent communities.

Encourage active travel through key routes within the park.

Provide lighting, where appropriate to facilitate positive and safe use of the park.

Ensure that there are a variety of spaces that provide opportunities for social interaction.

Encourage the provision of facilities that provide freely accessible shelter and toilet provision.



Queen’s Park and Recreation Ground shall be a **dear green place** that celebrates the rich and diverse heritage of the park and its people.

Ensure that the key aspects of the designed landscape are retained and restored

Ensure that the key views in and out of the park are protected and enhanced.

Provide opportunities to celebrate and interpret the historic and cultural heritage value of the park

Ensure that long established, popular activities within the park continue to flourish.

Provide opportunities for the cultural heritage associated with park and people to be expressed through planting, play, interpretation, events and arts.



Queen’s Park and Recreation Ground shall be a **resilient, sustainable and biodiverse place** that can be enjoyed by future generations.

Remove encroaching, invasive plants and favour planting of climate resilient species – native where appropriate.

Provide opportunities for environmental education and community participation in planting / management.

Provide SUDS solutions that reduce flood risk and provide habitat opportunities.

Ensure that sourcing of construction materials for works are sustainable, durable and readily repairable.

Encourage sustainable, best practice management techniques to maximise biodiversity.



Queen’s Park and Recreation Ground shall be a **wellbeing place** for all providing space and opportunities for recreation and participation.

Provide opportunities for children’s play and education in the widest possible context.

Provide opportunities for young people to socialise and be physically within the park.

Provide spaces that are as multi-functional as possible to maximise recreational use throughout the year.

Ensure enclosed quiet, enclosed spaces that provide opportunities for contemplation are protected / enhanced.

Ensure that the park provides opportunities for volunteering, training, lifelong learning and helps tackle social exclusion.



A Victoria Road Arrival



B Terrace / Designed Landscape



C Ponds and Play



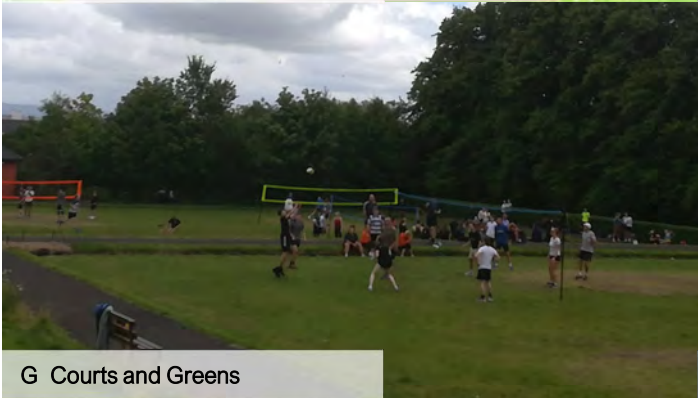
D Langside Avenue Landscape



E Wilderness



F Meadow



G Courts and Greens



F Flagpole and Encampment



G Recreation Ground



J Allotments



K Glasshouses



L Pathhead Farm



Discussion

The park has developed as a series of spaces that are created by a combination of landscape structural elements, including tree planting and site topography. These spaces are often associated with different designed landscapes and have also been informed by different functions and uses that have developed over time. As such they form the framework of the park.

Whilst there is often some fluidity between these “rooms” within the park, generally they are relatively well defined. As such, consideration of these as zones provides an opportunity to formulate project ideas that aim to ensure each zone has high quality and specific functions. In addition, creating or improving the linkages between these zones will be an important element in continuing to improve the quality of the park in the future.

Illustration is of the first sketch zonal plan provided to Client for confirmation, prior to being redrawn for consultation purposes, with minor revisions undertaken.

Key Notes
 Considering the park as a series of connected spaces helps to inform design proposals .

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| A Victoria Road Arrival | F Meadow | K Glasshouses |
| B Terrace / Designed Landscape | G Courts and Greens | L Pathhead Farm |
| C Ponds and Play | H Flagpole and Encampment | Key Arrival Improvements |
| D Langside Avenue Landscape | I Recreation Ground | Key Crossing / Connection |
| E Wilderness | J Allotments | Key Improved Access Links |



Skate Park – Identified as requiring upgrading / replacement.

A long list of projects to potentially be included were identified via public consultation and survey and analysis. These are reflective of appropriate public policy at a local and national level. The long list was included within the spring 2024 consultation and further refined as a result. This consultation also gave some insight into local priorities and what would be an appropriate approach towards design interventions.

Queen's Park Projects				Theme	Theme	Theme	Theme
Zone	Project	Description	Notes	Welcoming, friendly and safe place	Dear green place	Resilient, sustainable and biodiverse place	Place of wellbeing
Victoria Road Entrance							
A01	Access Improvements	Improve access to Balvicar Street	Provides more inclusive access.				
A02	Pony Track Pond	Creates SUDS feature	Tackle area / run off prone to flooding to create additional landscape feature / habitat.				
A03	Entrance Improvement	Upgrade entrance to park	The iconic entrance of the designed landscape.				
A04	Permanent Infrastructure associated with Arena	Replace temporary units with building. Consider permanent structure to allow all weather use - retractable tent?	Potential to improve use of arena and provide ancillary investment through infrastructure - including lighting.				
Terrace / Designed Landscape							
B01	Upgrade terrace - reimagined with contemporary "artwork" planting	Provide a statement design to top of terrace - including restoration of steps	The design requires careful consultation and support.				
B02	Restore and reimagine designed landscape	Restore pathways, planting rockeries etc. Include artworks to help provide a loop that encourages movement further southwards.	A key element of designed landscape with considerable opportunity to restore				
B03	Southern avenue	Improve quality of landscape connecting towards Landside Road.	Opportunity to consider reflection on internationalism of area - given commemorative trees in location				
Ponds and Play							
C01	Lit promenade	Atmospheric lighting of pond and associated areas to encourage evening use and as "window" into park.	Associate with proposed lighting of active travel path ? Could be focused with new boat shed building and allow evening use of play area.				
C02	Hidden path restoration	Provide an accessible route that merges designed landscape with woodland - Inc. restoration of bridge - icehouse interpretation, bog garden.	Design would increase attractiveness of pond and play and provide means to address encroachment of rhododendron and laurel.				
C03	New Boathouse	Create building that includes boathouse together with other facilities - café?	Accessible - adjacent to Pollokshaws Road - likely suitable for evening use.				
C04	Themed play area	Reimagine Balvicar Street play area as a high-profile themed play experience	Highly popular play area - possibility of improving its setting within the park and relationship with pond.				

Queen's Park Projects				Theme	Theme	Theme	Theme
Zone	Project	Description	Notes	Welcoming, friendly and safe place	Dear green place	Resilient, sustainable and biodiverse place	Place of wellbeing
Langside Ave							
D01	Entrance	Improve entrance from Langside Hall - transforming it to one of significance.	Potential to include bothy building				
D02	Bothy building	Find new use for bothy. Potentially key location if included within D01, highlighting importance of entrance.	Assessment of building required				
D03	Play landscape	Ensure opportunities for informal play - building upon present uses.	Lack of play within the Shawlands / Langside area.				
D04	Horticultural improvements	Create horticultural improvements based on remaining elements of walled garden - including wall and ruins of former summerhouse	Opportunity to further develop a space that facilitates quiet and contemplation				
Wilderness							
E01	Bluebell woods	Manage beech dominated woods to remove rhododendron etc. and create a bluebell understory	Improvements to habitat / landscape likely to require long term focus on management				
E02	Wetland creation	Create / expand wetland pockets within hillside to manage water run-off and enhance bio-diversity.	Limited space - but potential for positive management of water				
E03	Viewpoint restoration	Manage woodland to ensure filtered views from key locations retained / enhanced.	Careful assessment of habitat aims / impact required				
E04	Path - steps to earthworks	Improve access towards earthworks following original alignment	Unbound surface appropriate				
E05	Habitat improvements	Reduction in non-native species - positive planting / encouragement of native species.	Likely to be a long-term aspiration through continued management interventions.				
Meadow							
F01	Play improvements	reappraise play offer and location when play area requires replacement	A less visually prominent / enclosed setting may be one potential option				
F02	Localised habitat improvements	detailed assessment of ecological value of grassland with targeted enhancement.	Associated predominantly with long term management.				
Courts and Games							
G01	Reimagine bowling greens	Provide new sporting activity based on community demand	Space already being utilised by other sports				
G02	New ball court	Provide new court -suitable for basketball	High demand noted				
G03	Remove fencing to pitch and putt and improve connection with farm	Retain as open space	Note new high density flatted housing facing pitch and putt - alternatively consider dog exercise requirements				
Flagpole and Encampment							
H01	Landmark reimagination	Refurbishment / reimagination of flagpole area - possible including sculptural element as park landmark	Flagpole is a significant destination - without flag usually flying is another feature more fitting to signify viewpoint?				
H02	Path improvements and interpretation	Improve circuit around earthworks and provide interpretation	Earthworks appear to be less explored at present.				

Queen's Park Projects				Theme	Theme	Theme	Theme
Zone	Project	Description	Notes	Welcoming, friendly and safe place	Dear green place	Resilient, sustainable and biodiverse place	Place of wellbeing
Recreation Ground							
I01	new skatepark	create new skate facility - consider locating closer to New Victoria Hospital	A bowled skate facility that perhaps utilises embankment and is overlooked may encourage more use.				
I02	Environmental play area	Provide an exciting environmental play area - potentially incorporating existing woodland / embankment.	Embankments and woods provide opportunity for a different play experience than offered in park or within wider locale. Location is a response to need.				
I03	Path network including entrance from Mount Florida	Formalise desire line paths from Mount Florida and New Victoria, whilst also adjusting levels to improve accessibility.	Important link - adjustment of levels could improve relationship of grounds with new road and provide spatial opportunities for other functions towards the outer edge of recreation grounds.				
I04	Feature entrance	Create strong feature entrance to east.	A welcoming and bold entrance would be something that would both improve the setting of the park from the east and could also reflect the significance of the recreation grounds in terms of sporting heritage.				
I05	Entrance and connectivity Landside Avenue	Create strong design feature that clearly links and integrates the park and recreation ground together.	The extension of South City Way may provide an opportunity to influence this. Note that Paxton's design had strong linking connectivity (via bridge and ornamental pond)				
I06	Pond and wetland creation	Create pond and wetland within low lying areas close to skatepark	existing wet area - provides opportunity to link with developing woodland and form strong environmental feature.				
I07	Purpose designed event space as centrepiece of reimagined park	Create an events space that is attractive to potential users, whilst also providing all round positive amenity to park users.	Consider what needs and requirements are for the accommodation of additional larger scale events - as per existing use. Likely to include adjustment / removal of pitch terraces to create a more flexible space.				
Allotments							
J01	Expand allotments southward	Provide additional allotment space - possibly associated with community growing / accessible plots.	Ground presently waterlogged. Further expansion towards glasshouses would require removal of tarred surfaces and importation of soils.				
J02	Path south of allotments	Create path between rear of glasshouse complex and allotments to improve connectivity.	Former connection opportunity to restore - requires consideration of existing ground conditions.				
Glasshouses							
K01	Form new grand entrance from Battlefield Monument	Steps and ramps to provide dramatic and accessible access to Glasshouses	Likely dependent on junction improvements suggested in Liveable Neighbourhoods.				
K02	Refurbish and reimagine Glasshouse to provide high quality visitor experience and opportunities for evening use.	Consideration of the use and functionality of Glasshouses to provide enhanced daytime experience and create flexible space and facilitate more potential use - functions / events etc.	Likely to be dependent on decisions relating to structure of glasshouses and potential for funding				
K03	Repurpose yard space	Potential for building expansion / exhibition space / education space / community growing - all benefiting from enclosure. Could be an access to section of glasshouse for evening use or flow through park.	Likely dependent on long term views of functional and operational needs of parks. Has the advantage of being one of the largest fenced spaces within the park.				
Pathhead Farm							
L01	Repurpose farm buildings to provide park facility	Potential for public or other use of some element of farm buildings - possibility of commercial use.	Decision whether this or glasshouses would be most beneficial to facilitate operational base activities.				
L02	Create public face to eastern pathway.	Improve setting / open out views across pitch and putt to improve pedestrian movement and safety.	Related to also be associated with likely future use of pitch and putt - an improved relationship with building and park could be an important element in improving public face of park.				

Zone – Victoria Road Entrance

The following projects were included within the long list for consultation in March 2024:

A01 Access Improvements – Improve access to Balvicar Street.

The suggestion to reduce the severity of gradient of path to the immediate east of Balvicar Street would be considered a reasonable adjustment to the park infrastructure. As such, it is consistent with legislation such as the Equality Act 2010. The gradient of the path was noted in **Section 5.08**, while its use for walking and cycling was illustrated in **Sections 5.13** and **5.14**. Accessibility was noted as being of importance in the questionnaire, particularly among the oldest demographic and those who stated they had a physical condition. Park discussions with two wheelchair users also highlighted that this specific popular path could be a barrier to use.

A02 Pony Track Pond – Create SUDs feature.

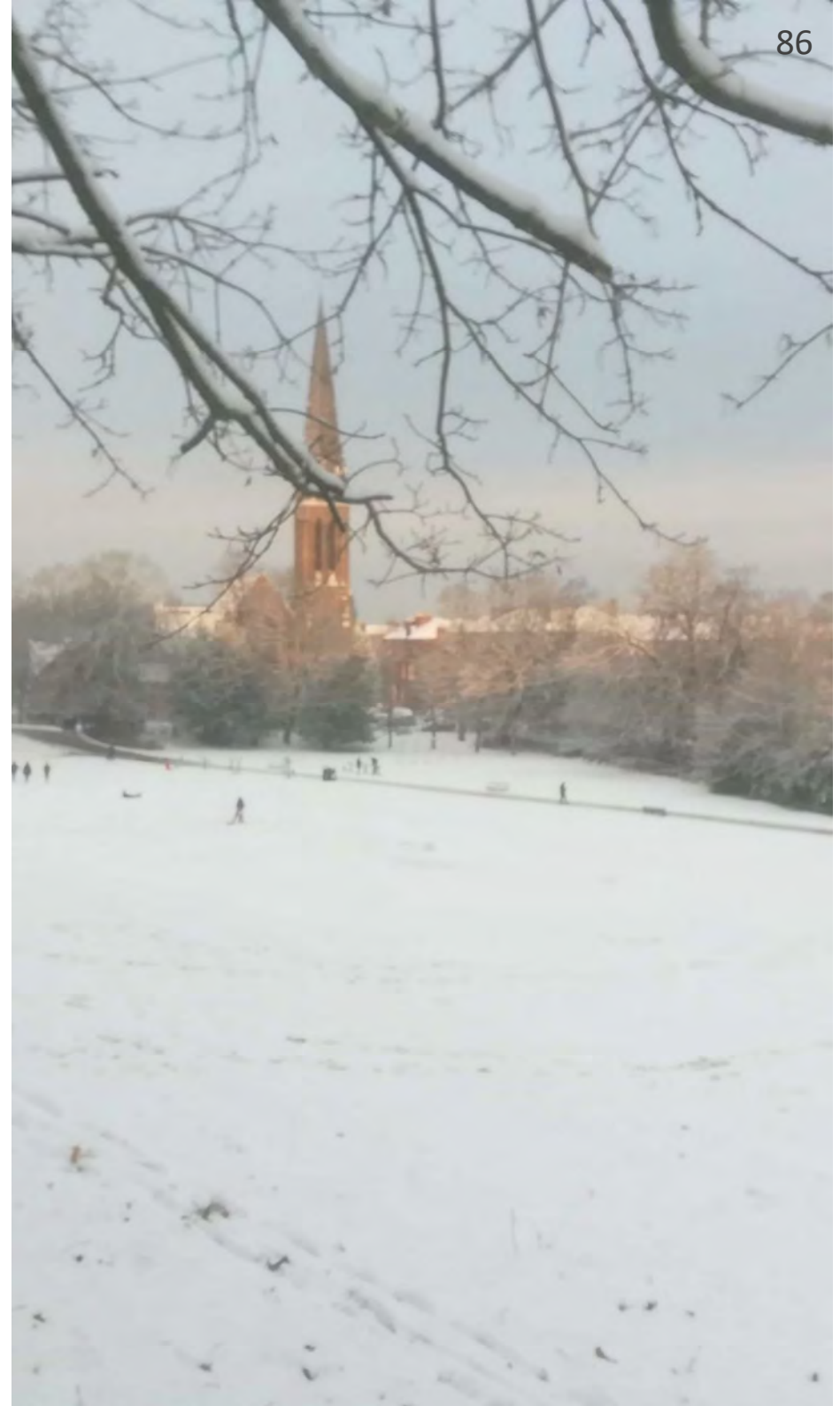
Drainage and water management were highlighted as issues for improvements within the October 2023 consultation. SEPA mapping (**Section 5.05**) noted that there was a high risk of flooding within this area – with resultant flooding to adjacent bowling green and building. On-site observation noted that space inside pony track was little used, while some of the trees of particular interest noted in **Section 5.09** were adjacent to the Queen's Drive boundary. A positive feature could therefore provide more interest and use of this area as a landscape element that also tackled water management issues.

A03 Entrance Improvements – Improve Victoria Road entrance.

The Victoria Road entrance is the main original designed entrance to the park. Twenty percent of respondents in the October 2023 questionnaire believed more accessible and attractive entrances would encourage them to use the park more. While the Victoria Road entrance is generally reasonably accessible (**Section 5.11**), some high-quality improvements, especially associated with making setted area smoother for wheelchairs etc. would be an element that has a positive impact.

A04 Permanent Infrastructure Associated with Arena – Replace temporary units with building.

Seventy percent of respondents in the October 2023 questionnaire indicated they would use the park more if there were improved facilities. Fifty-seven percent indicated that more activities would increase use. In addition, within the comments section several people referred to having more high-quality permanent infrastructure associated with the arena. A permanent structure could provide opportunities for increased use, provision of toilet facilities (mentioned specifically by 54 respondents) a café etc.



Zone – Terraced / Designed Landscape

The following projects were included within the long list for consultation in March 2024:

B01 Upgrade Terrace - reimagined with contemporary "artwork" planting – Provide a statement design to top of terrace - including restoration of steps.

Within the consultation comments, the loss of formal horticultural planting was raised by several people. In addition, almost twenty-seven percent of people put artworks in their top three improvements they would like in the park. Paxton had designed glasshouses – a palace of arts to the terrace (**Section 5.01**) and though never undertaken, the formal horticultural displays that were undertaken instead would be seen as a design device to provide strong interest to climb the formal grand steps from Victoria Road. A reimagination of the terrace could therefore provide a fresh design statement that would be compatible with the ethos of park.

B02 Restore and Reimagine Designed Landscape – Restore pathways, planting rockeries etc. Include artworks to help provide a loop that encourages movement further southwards. During survey and analysis, the designed landscape paths, appeared underutilised (**Section 5.13**). Since the questionnaire was undertaken, works to Moira's garden and the partial exposure of the hidden rockery have been undertaken - which are illustrative of the general approach suggested. As above, artworks were highlighted in the questionnaire, and this location was highlighted as an area, where from a landscape character perspective, provided strong opportunities for small scale works to be accommodated.

B03 Southern Avenue – Improve quality of landscape connecting towards Langside Road.

The landscape to either side of Pathhead Farm, has been amended over time. Notably this has included widening of path and the inclusion of commemorative trees. The upper section includes pitch and putt ball stop fence and edge of Pathhead Farm yard space. It was noted that the commemorative trees were international in terms of commemoration and that there may be the potential to extend upon this principle. This was based on a recognition that ethnic communities were under-represented within the questionnaire and that a sense of internationalism could provide the potential to reflect the cultural identity and diversity of the Southside of Glasgow and give an opportunity to work directly with groups, as an option that could be explored.



Zone – Ponds and Play

The following projects were included within the long list for consultation in March 2024:

C01 Lit promenade – Atmospheric lighting of pond and associated areas to encourage evening use and as "window" into park.

Lighting was an issue that was mentioned by many respondents within the consultation. The route between Victoria Road and Shawlands had been identified as a commuter route with subsequent requests for this to be lit. It is recognised that increased use of an area is associated with improved personal safety. With open views from Pollokshaws Road, the use of atmospheric lighting could therefore be viewed as being complementary to likely lighting. The proposal was therefore included to further debate about the potential of lighting parts of the park.

C02 Hidden path restoration – Provide an accessible route that merges designed landscape with woodland - inc. restoration of bridge - icehouse interpretation, bog garden.

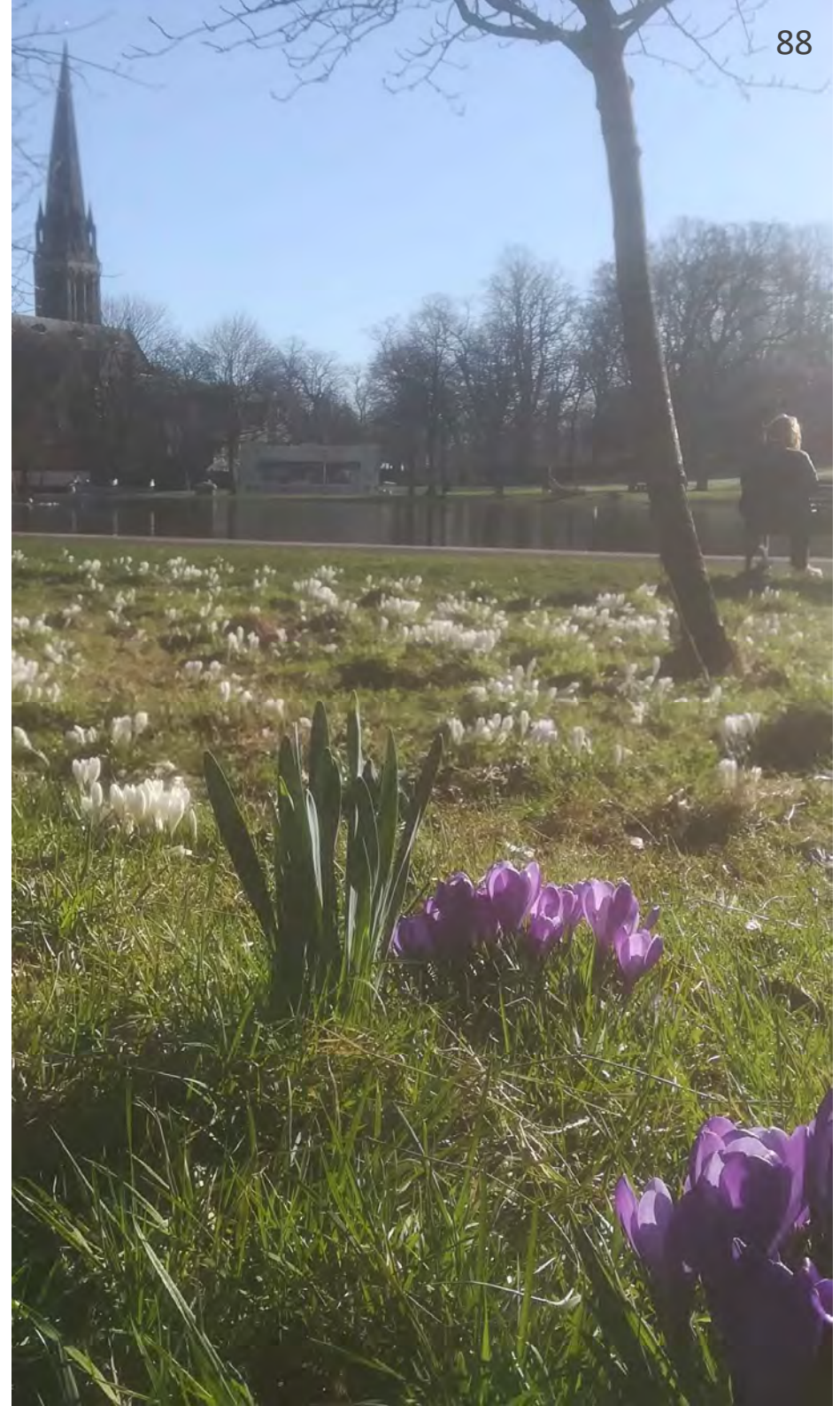
Analysis of the site and interpretation of maps highlighted "lost" paths (**Section 5.10**) and areas of poor natural surveillance (**Section 5.19**). Some anti-social behaviour has been noted in these areas, including within comments from the questionnaire. The project would have the potential to extend opportunities for walking within the park and could be associated with creating child focused routes that would relate to the play area and pond as an attraction for children.

C03 New Boathouse – Create building that includes boathouse together with other facilities - café?

Historic images of the park illustrate the original boathouse (**Section 7.16**). The present temporary cabin is in poor condition. Additionally, there is a portable coffee outlet to the north of pond. Whilst popular with many, there were negative comments relating to it in the consultation, predominantly associated with its visual intrusion, in its location. A building that could be flexible enough to accommodate and service future uses of the pond and include a café – serviced from Pollokshaws Road would have the potential to provide toilet facilities within a key location within the park. Toilet facilities were requested within the public consultation and are an important element in ensuring greenspace is as accessible as possible.

C04 Themed play area – Reimagine Balvicar Street play area as a high-profile themed play experience.

23% of respondents in the October 2023 questionnaire used the park for children's play. The existing play area is well located to serve many communities (**Section 5.16**) and benefits from being accessible and adjacent to other likely attractions such as the ponds. Whilst individual items of equipment and surfacing have been replaced over the years, the area itself has not benefited from a wholesale investment that could transform it into a destination area, that could broaden play opportunities. A theme that took cognisance of its setting could be appropriate. Over 20% of those who responded considered improvements to play area to be a priority. Within the comments section of the consultation this was reinforced by many respondents.



Zone - Langside Avenue Landscape

The following projects were included within the long list for consultation in March 2024:

D01 Entrance – Improve entrance from Landside Hall - transforming it to one of significance.

The conflict between vehicles and pedestrians was referred to in the questionnaire and observed within **Section 5.11**. While there are physical constraints associated with Pollokshaws Road, at an equal distance from Langside Halls is the Langside Avenue entrance. In that location, it has been identified that there is scope to create a strong and improved entranceway, past the bothy building, to provide a fitting entrance from Shawlands, thereby strengthening the connection between the Halls and the park. Opportunities exist to consider improvements to the area between the path and the bowling green/goals, which is prone to flooding and has stands of Himalayan Balsam.

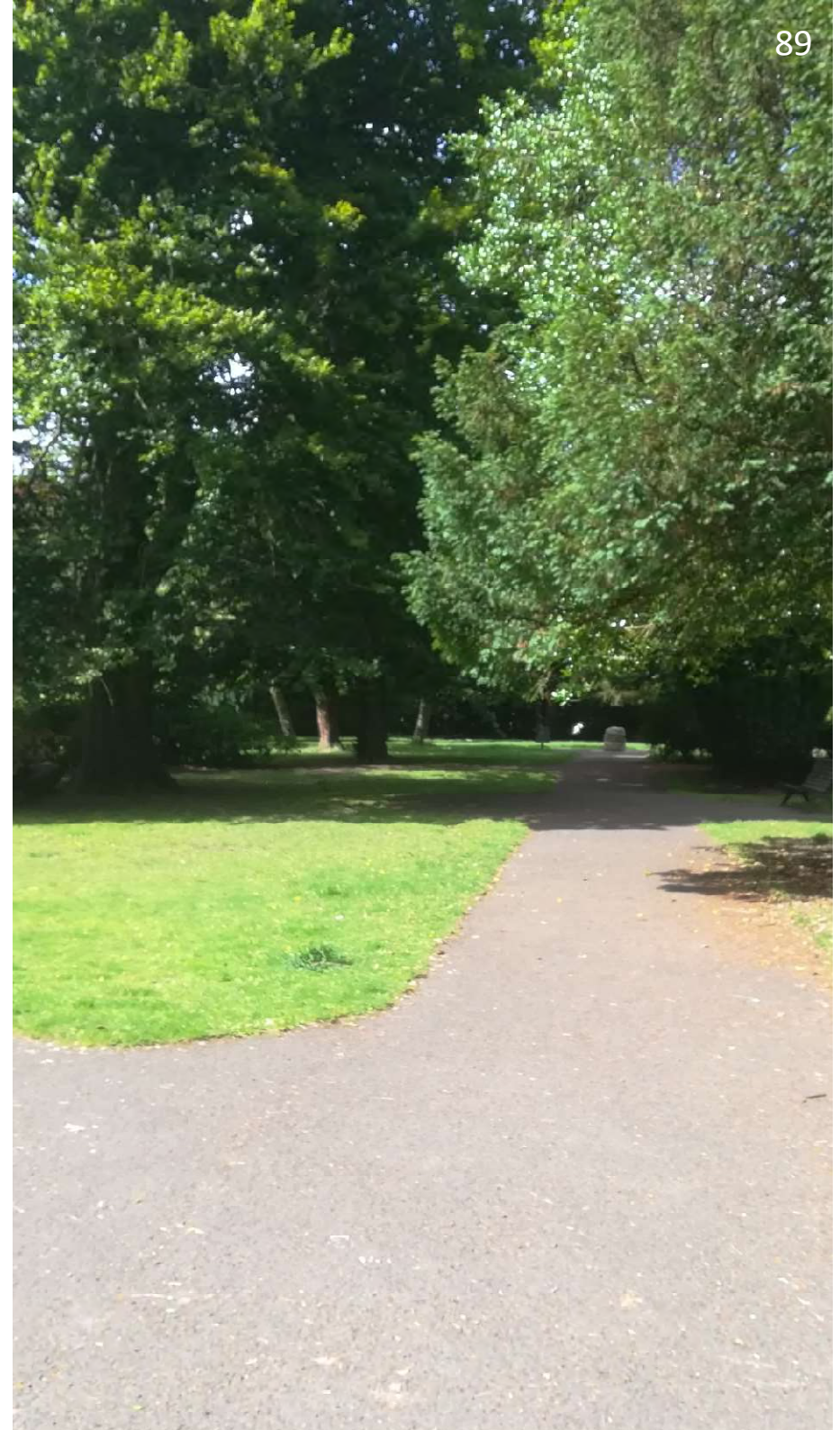
D02 Bothy Building – Find new use for bothy. Potentially key location if included within D01, highlighting importance of entrance.

The Bothy was noted as a building that is currently disused and in poor condition.

(**Section 5.07**) during the consultation, it became evident that there was some community interest associated with it. Although not necessarily the original intention of the building, nonetheless the positioning of it as a gatehouse to the park could be argued as being reflective of Paxton's idea of having gatehouse pavilions associated with the main entrances along the northern boundary of the park, enhancing the entrance at Langside Halls.

D03 Play landscape – Ensure opportunities for informal play, building upon current usage. Analysis indicates that the Shawlands area has very limited play opportunities (**Section 5.16**). Landscapes that support play are considered important according to current national play strategies. The landscape associated with the poetry garden is already popular with younger children; they use the rose garden as a maze and the level paths for scooting, among other activities. A detailed area assessment could identify spots where subtle interventions could maximize play and learning opportunities in a low-key and inclusive manner. Over 20% of respondents to the questionnaire prioritized improved play.

D04 Horticultural improvements – Create horticultural improvements based on remaining elements of walled garden - including wall and ruins of former summerhouse. Historically, the Langside Avenue landscape was a designed landscape associated with Camphill House. This designed landscape included a walled garden, summerhouse, arboretum, and possible pinetum, as well as a 'leafy walk' (**Sections 5.09, 7.10 – 7.12**). The landscape is enclosed (**Section 5.19**). According to the questionnaire, almost 33% of people considered this area one that they particularly liked. The Friends of Queen's Park already undertake volunteering work in the rose garden and hold events there. The proposals would seek to further enhance and protect that landscape character as a contemplative, high-quality space.



Zone – Wilderness

The following projects were included within the long list for consultation in March 2024:

E01 Bluebell woods – Manage beech dominated woods to remove rhododendron etc. Create a bluebell understory.

The suggestion to remove vegetation in key locations to improve security was highlighted in the 2023 questionnaire. Safety was regarded as a growing concern, particularly among females, as noted in the consultation report. The location identified was referenced in **Section 5.19**, an area with poor natural surveillance where anti-social behaviour was noted. The main shrub species are the invasive *Rhododendron ponticum* and *Prunus laurocerasus*. Planting native bluebells would offer biodiversity advantages.

E02 Wetland creation – Create/expand wetland pockets within hillside to manage water run-off and enhance bio-diversity.

Drainage and water management were highlighted as issues for improvement in the questionnaire. SEPA mapping (**Section 5.05**) indicated a high risk of flooding downhill from this area, particularly near the Langside Avenue entrance, close to the Bothy. The positive impact of small wetland pockets within this area was noted, including the expansion of orchid colonies. Implementing positive ecological management could enhance the biodiversity of the SINC.

E03 Viewpoint Restoration – Manage woodland to ensure filtered views from key locations retained / enhanced. Improve access towards earthworks following original alignment. Nearly 76% of respondents to the questionnaire noted the flagpole area and associated views as a standout feature of Queen's Park. The filtered views from the adjacent encampment area offer panoramic views further west and southwest compared to the flagpole viewpoint and are considered complementary. Paxton's original vision (**Section 5.01**) included a path around the encampment to provide a 400m circuit with a succession of views. The importance of expansive views was frequently mentioned in questionnaire comments. The locations of these viewpoints are identified in **Section 5.08**. The looped path around the encampment appears to have a sealed surface with associated drainage, though this has deteriorated over time (**Section 5.10**).

E04 Path - steps to earthworks – Improve access towards earthworks following original alignment

Clear on the 2nd Edition OS map (**Section 8.05**) was an arching pathway in a key location, linking to the earthworks. The original stone steps exist; however, the path itself is an unsurfaced desire line that is eroding, often saturated, and limits accessibility. There would be an opportunity to restore this path to its original alignment to improve year-round use. A sensitive consideration of surface material would be recommended.

E05 Habitat Improvements – Reduction in non-native species - positive planting / encouragement of native species.

Fifty-five percent of respondents indicated that the wilderness area is a park feature they particularly like, and 35% highlighted biodiversity improvements as a priority for park enhancement. **Section 5.18** refers to the current habitat and highlights invasive and non-native species within this SINC area. Undertaking habitat improvements is likely to require an incremental approach over a long period to achieve defined goals.



Zone – Meadow

The following projects were included within the long list for consultation in March 2024:

F01 Play Improvements – Reappraise play offer and location when play area requires replacement

Play areas typically have a life expectancy of approximately 15-20 years, concerning both equipment and safety surfaces. The existing toddler play area replaced an earlier design in a nearby location constructed around 1991. Analysis suggests that maintaining a play area in this section of the park is beneficial (**Section 5.16**).

F02 Localised Habitat Improvements – detailed assessment of ecological value of grassland with targeted enhancement.

The meadow area in the park is the largest grassland area, predominantly unmown except for edges and pathways. Generally, the soil is relatively fertile given the species present. Therefore, careful consideration is needed to maximize ecological benefits in terms of meadow species diversity. Improved biodiversity was identified as a priority by 35% of respondents to the questionnaire, and this area presents an opportunity to meet that goal. Likely techniques could include planting yellow rattle, removing arisings for composting (to be used elsewhere), creating wetter areas to reduce water runoff toward Langside Road, and conducting a detailed assessment of the grassland to evaluate potential for targeted wildflower plug planting. This potential project is likely to provide opportunities for community participation, volunteering, and environmental education.



Zone – Courts and Games

The following projects were included within the long list for consultation in March 2024:

G01 Reimagine bowling greens – Provide new sporting activity based on community demand. Observations indicate that the former bowling greens are currently being informally used by several organized sports and fitness groups (**Section 5.15**). This usage is likely due to the enclosed and level nature of the greens. While there were some suggestions in the consultation comments for either restoring the greens or exploring other uses, these were limited. The inclusion of these spaces in the March consultation was aimed at generating more debate and ideas for their future use.

G02 New Ball Court – Provide new court - suitable for basketball. There is high demand noted for the existing multi-use ball court (**Section 5.15**). Specific requests for a basketball-specific court were prevalent in the consultation comments and face-to-face discussions. Subsequent observations confirmed that demand for both basketball and football regularly exceeds availability. Since courts provide freely accessible space and cater to a younger and ethnically diverse demographic, providing this facility may be crucial for inclusion.

G03 Remove fencing to pitch and putt and improve connection with farm – retain as open space. Changes in park management have rendered the pitch and putt area unused for its original purpose. The tall ball stop fencing on two sides and estate fencing on the others create barriers to access. However, it has become increasingly popular with dog-walkers and those engaging in passive recreation (**Section 5.17**). Anticipated high-density residential developments near the former Victoria Hospital and former Queen's Park school will likely increase demand for this area as open space and its adjacent path network. There were requests in the consultation for this area to be designated for dog exercise and some advocating for the reinstatement of the pitch and putt course. Its inclusion in the long list of projects allows for future debates on its use.





Zone – Flagpole and Encampment

The following projects were included within the long list for consultation in March 2024:

H01 Landmark reimagination – Refurbishment / reimagination of flagpole area - possible including sculptural element as park landmark.

Nearly 76% of respondents to the questionnaire highlighted the flagpole area and its associated views as a standout feature of Queen’s Park. However, the flagpole area itself is in relatively poor condition and requires repair. The walling and terrace structure are not original but rather a later addition. This presents an opportunity to consider whether a simple refurbishment suffices or if reimaging this viewpoint could attract more visitors to this iconic location.

H02 Path improvements and interpretation – Improve circuit around earthworks and provide interpretation.

While the consultation identified the flagpole area as a highly appreciated feature by respondents, only 20% highlighted the directly adjacent encampment area. The path around the encampment was originally envisioned by Paxton and offers significant views. Despite its historical significance, this area appears underappreciated. Enhancing the path and providing interpretation would likely complement improvements to the flagpole area. Comments during the consultation also touched on the area’s archaeology, suggesting that innovative interpretation could enhance appreciation of this landscape feature.



Zone – Recreation Ground

The following projects were included within the long list for consultation in March 2024:

I01 New skatepark – create new skate facility - consider locating closer to New Victoria Hospital.

The skatepark was identified as being at the end of its useful life (**Section 5.15**). The current site is adjacent to an area subject to flooding (**Section 5.05**). Consultation, particularly in the comments section, articulated considerable demand for a new skatepark. Through these comments and face-to-face discussions, this project was included with the aim of further understanding design preferences and potential location options.

I02 Environmental play area – Provide an exciting environmental play area - potentially incorporating existing woodland / embankment.

The lack of significant play opportunities within the areas to the northeast, east, and southeast of Queen's Park and Recreation Ground was identified in **Section 5.17**. Over 20% of respondents to the questionnaire considered improvements to play a priority. Additionally, specific requests for play within the recreation ground and for environmental play were noted in the comments section. Utilising embankments would provide the opportunity for a complementary play experience to Balvicar Street.

I03 Path network including entrance from Mount Florida – Formalise desire line paths from Mount Florida and New Victoria, whilst also adjusting levels to improve accessibility.

Improved paths were considered a priority for 15% of respondents, increasing to approximately 30% for those from Mount Florida. Analysis (**Sections 5.10 and 5.11**) indicated poor-quality access to greenspace and clear desire lines from Mount Florida and New Victoria Hospital. The embankment is an access barrier that could be addressed through careful design.

I04 Feature Entrance – Create strong feature entrance to east.

Unlike Queen's Park, the recreation ground lacks any strong welcoming entrances (**Section 5.11**). The recreation ground is associated with several areas of multiple deprivation (**Section 5.03**). A welcoming and bold entrance would both improve the setting of the park from the east and could reflect the significance of the recreation grounds in terms of sporting heritage.

I05 Entrance and connectivity Landside Avenue – Create strong design feature that clearly links and integrates the park and recreation ground together.

The junction of Landside Avenue and Grange Road is currently being revised by the extension of the South City Way. Paxton's original plan (**Section 8.01**) integrated the two spaces via a pond and bridge. Currently, the relationship between the two sides has been altered by pedestrian crossings that do not relate to existing park paths. Having two access points to both sides and linking paths designed to a high standard could greatly improve linkages and the status of this key location.

I06 Pond and wetland creation – Create pond and wetland within low lying areas close to skatepark.

Through both observation and reference to SEPA mapping (**Section 8.05**), this location is associated with waterlogging, with some wetland species evident. It is also associated with young woodland and the green corridor of the railway line. Therefore, it would provide an ideal location for the creation of wildlife ponds that would help manage water and provide biodiversity and educational opportunities.

I07 Purpose designed event space as centrepiece of reimagined park

The proposals would seek to recognize the use of the recreation ground as a location for large-scale events and develop designs that would both facilitate that function and ensure improvements to the space during events and at all other times. The recreation ground is considered a space less intensively used than some areas of Queen's Park. Analysis suggests, however, that it is within a five-minute walking zone of several communities further from the facilities of Queen's Park (**Section 5.04**). Some of these are areas of multiple deprivation (**Section 5.03**). There was evidence from the October 2023 questionnaire suggesting that increased activities, including events, may increase park use.



Zones – Allotments

The following projects were included within the long list for consultation in March 2024:

J01 Expand allotments southward – Provide additional allotment space - possibly associated with community growing/accessible plots. The space between the allotments and the yard of the glasshouses appears underutilized. Himalayan balsam is currently growing there, and the area is wet (**Sections 5.05 / 5.18**). Interest in community growing was expressed in the consultation comments. Community growing is supported by national policy, as outlined in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Expanding opportunities into this challenging area would help achieve positive change.

J02 Path south of allotments – Create path between rear of glasshouse complex and allotments to improve connectivity. This proposal suggests an alternative use for the space between the allotments and the yard. A constructed path, along with remaining avenue planting illustrated on the 1935 OS map (**Section 8.09**), appears to have been a significant design element enhancing pedestrian circulation and enjoyment within this section of the park. Constructing the path would also address issues related to invasive species and water management in this location.



Zones – Glasshouses

The following projects were included within the long list for consultation in March 2024:

K01 Form new grand entrance from Battlefield Monument – Steps and ramps to provide dramatic and accessible access to Glasshouses.

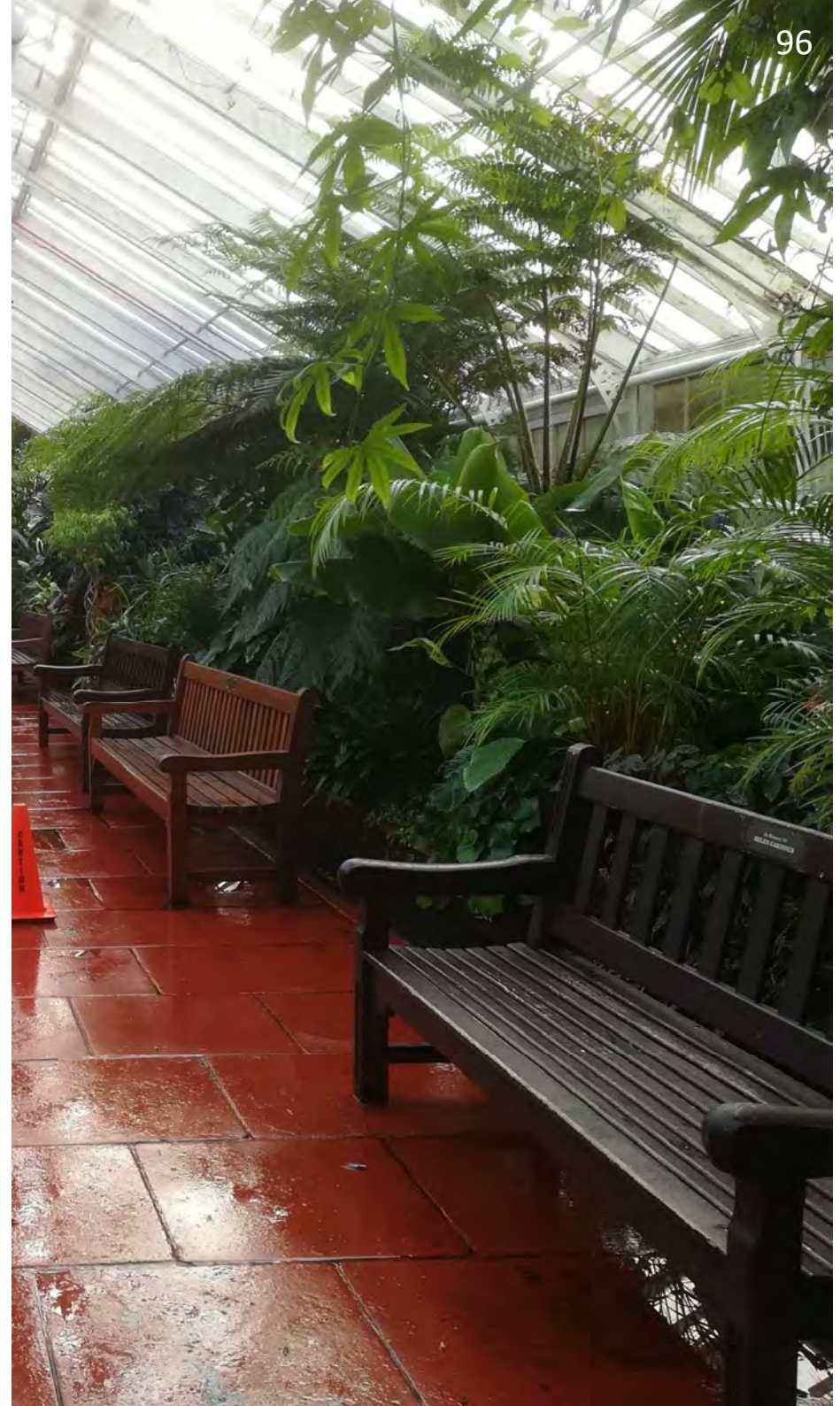
Access to the park from the Battlefield monument roundabout is currently challenging for pedestrians (**Section 5.11**). There is potential that the roundabout may be redesigned as a signalised junction as part of the “Connecting Battlefield” project, improving access to the park and potentially repurposing existing road space. This could create an accessible entrance with steps and ramp leading directly to the glasshouses.

K02 Refurbish and reimagine Glasshouse to provide high quality visitor experience and opportunities for evening use – Consideration of the use and functionality of Glasshouses to provide enhanced daytime experience and create flexible space and facilitate more potential use - functions / events etc.

Almost 52% of respondents viewed the glasshouses as a feature they particularly liked in the park. Over 75% noted that additional facilities such as play areas, toilets, cafes, and improved glasshouse use would encourage more park usage, as mentioned in many individual comments. Including the glasshouses in the long list of potential projects aims to initiate discussions about future use possibilities.

K03 Repurpose yard space – Potential for building expansion / exhibition space / education space / community growing - all benefiting from enclosure. Could be an access to section of glasshouse for evening use or flow through park

The yard space behind the glasshouses originally served as a nursery and growing area (**Section 8.05**). Refurbishment and discussions about the buildings' long-term future should also explore opportunities to repurpose some or all of this space. Inclusion in the long list of projects allows for public comment and potential community-driven suggestions.



Zone – Pathhead Farm

The following projects were included within the long list for consultation in March 2024:

L01 Repurpose farm buildings to provide park facility – Potential for public or other use of some element of farm buildings - possibility of commercial use.

The suggestion aims to initiate dialogue about whether there is an appetite for changing the function of the buildings and yard, and if so, to gather community ideas or suggestions for future use. Public toilets were specifically mentioned by 54 respondents in the questionnaire, and repurposing the buildings could facilitate this. Historically, the buildings did provide public shelter and toilets.

L02 Create public face to eastern pathway – Improve setting / open out views across pitch and putt to improve pedestrian movement and safety.

This pathway was identified as having poor natural surveillance and low levels of use (**Sections 5.13 and 5.19**). Safety concerns were particularly noted for female park users. Improving the character of this path would provide better pedestrian opportunities and eastern views. Mapping from 1892 indicates it was part of the designed landscape and included rockeries (**Section 8.03**).





First Phase of Development Plan -
Provides a list of potential projects, that were inspired by community consultation then refined and prioritised following further engagement. This creates the basis of a broad supported brief – which will be developed in a second phase in a manner subject to client input, review and agreement.

Discussion

Through a comprehensive process of survey, analysis and public consultation a vision for Queen's Park and Recreation Grounds, together with a list of potential project interventions that appear to be community supported have emerged. This gives the ability to explore these interventions further and produce a graphic masterplan that meets those aspirations.

Work to date also allows for consideration of priority projects for action, associated with factors such as need to retain asset and / or reflect community demand / aspirations. As such these conclude Phase 1 of the project as outlined in this report and as per the Project Implementation Plan.

Queen's Park Working Group has secured funding for Phase 2 of the project. This is anticipated to largely follow the Project Implementation Plan and will be informed by priorities, issues and opportunities identified in Phase 1 and through discussion with Queen's Park Working Group.

This information requires to be interpreted and articulated as a fully coloured and drawn Development Masterplan for the park to 1:500 scale, as a single A0 sheet. Visualisations of key design elements would also be required.

This drawing, with associated outline specifications would give sufficient information to allow costings to be articulated.

The emerging proposals require more detailed work to ascertain the feasibility of these emerging proposals.

Detailed stakeholder discussions with GCC and other major stakeholders will therefore be an important element of Phase 2. Of particular interest will be regarding current buildings and associated space within the park – notably Glasshouses and Pathhead Farm. This will include any updates to reporting associated with Glasshouses prepared by others.

- In addition, as the proposals develop, consideration of other elements may be given emphasis. These could include the following:
- Specialist Conservation Architect input may be required in consideration of any proposals associated with buildings.
- Specialist archaeological input into any elements likely to be proposed. This is likely to be focused within the encampment area in particular.
- Consideration of funding opportunities and requirements that the Development Plan might meet criteria for.
- Consideration of means to support enhanced community development / training and small-scale projects – noting the interest in these types of interventions identified during the consultation.
- Consideration of the best means of continued public consultation.