

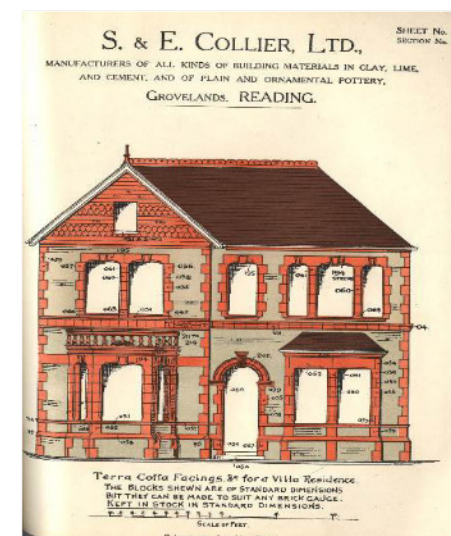
1.7 Historic research

Bricks and tiles have been made in Reading since the medieval period. In 2001, a medieval tile kiln was discovered at Jubilee Square, Silver Street. The name Tilehurst, derived from Old English, means "a wooded hill where tiles were made," indicating the area's early industrial activity.

In the 19th century, clay pits and kilns could be found in Katesgrove, Coley, Caversham, Calcot, and Tilehurst. Thomas Hardy re-christened Reading as "Aldbrickham," meaning "the old brick town," in *Jude the Obscure* due to the extensive use of locally produced brick, tile, and terracotta in Reading's Georgian and Victorian buildings. The Town Hall and Queen Victoria Street are notable examples.



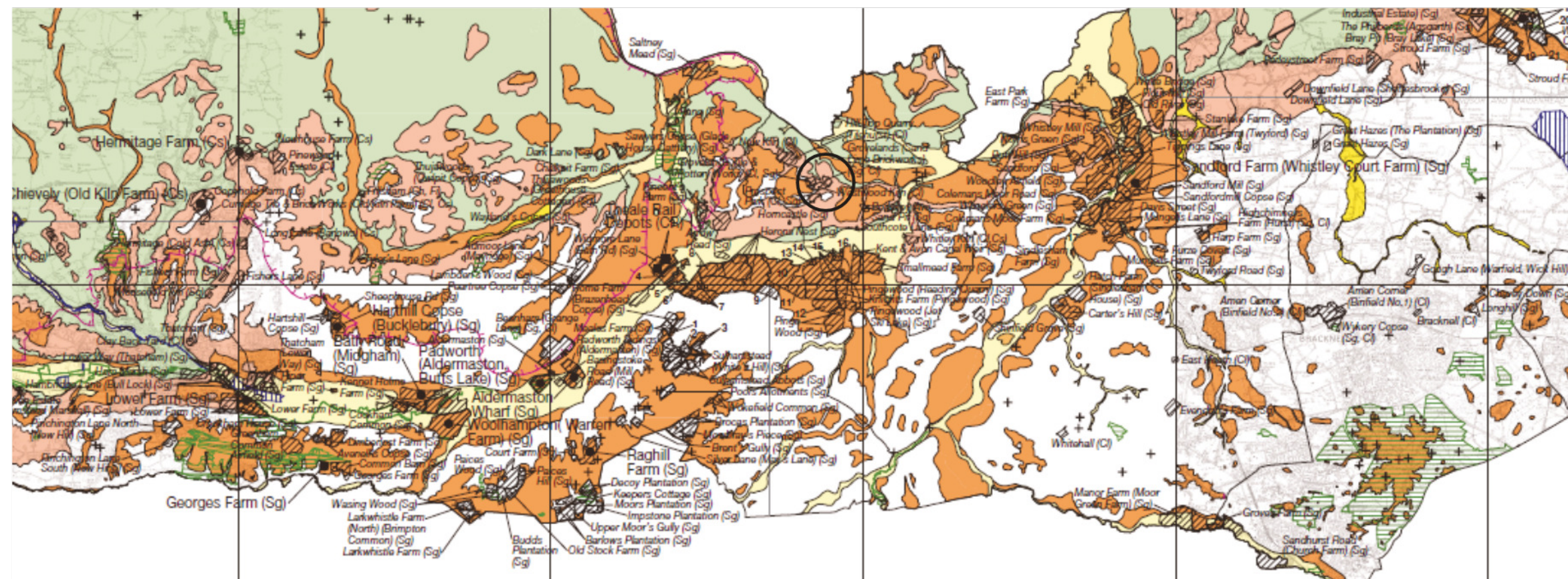
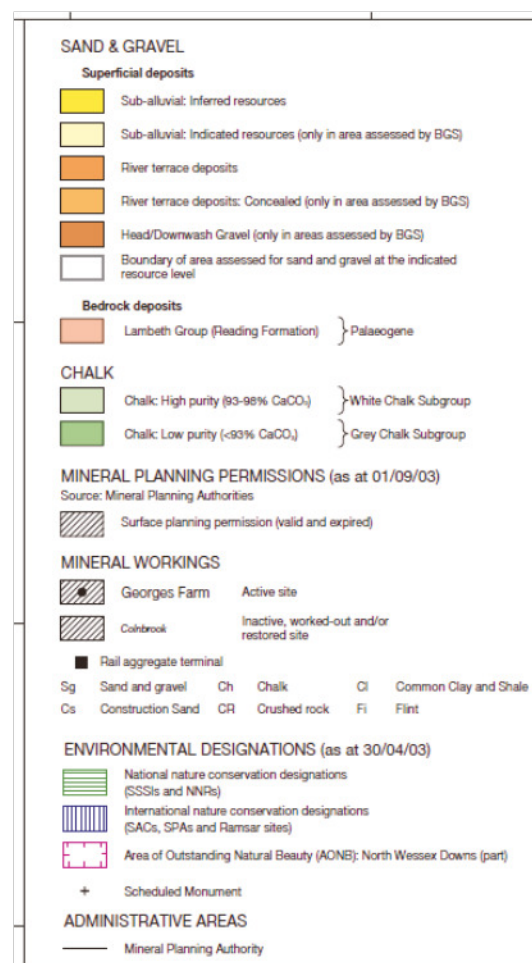
Reading Town Hall



S. & E. Collier catalogue, early 20th century



OS Six Inch 1888-1913



Geology map

1.8 Site history

The site is located near what was once Lyons Square, which featured public art referencing Reading's history as the "Biscuit Town" — including biscuit-shaped seats and a decorative arch.

The arch has been preserved and is currently in storage. The plan is to sandblast the arch, carry out any necessary repairs, and re-spray it for use as a feature in the new play area.

Surface designs could incorporate biscuit tin patterns or a colour palette derived from an historic biscuit tin, offering a playful nod to Reading's history as part of the proposed enhancements.



Lyon square arch and 'biscuit seats'



Lyon square 'biscuit seats'



Lyon square arch and 'biscuit seats'



Lyon square arch



A colour study of a Huntley and Palmers biscuit tin



Huntley and Palmers biscuit tins (photos from the Reading Museum)

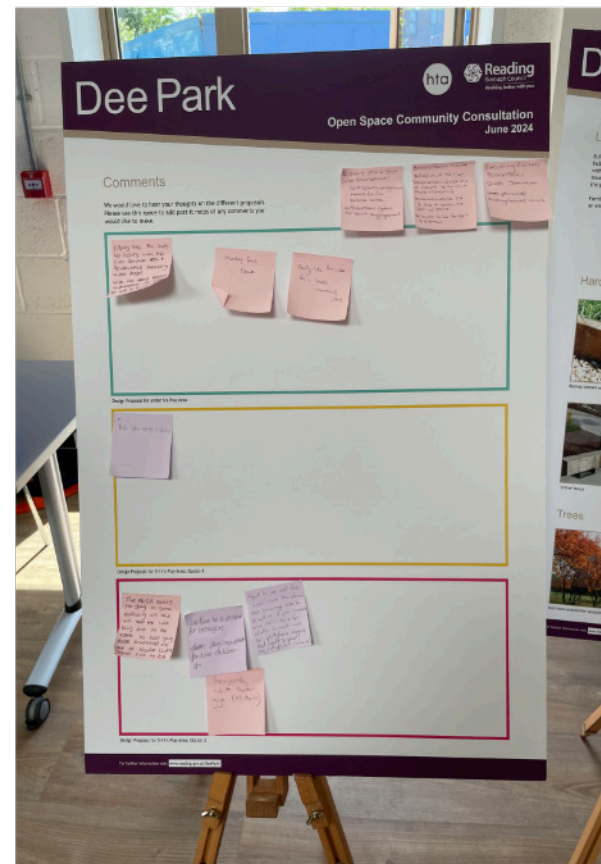


1.9 Consultation

As part of the design process, we have consulted with RBCs Highways and Parks departments, as well as ROSPA. We have also undertaken three rounds of public consultation, in March 2023, June 2024 and January 2025.

The consultation, both with RBC and the public, provided valuable feedback on the proposed park upgrades. A number of comments were received, and have been addressed where possible as part of the current proposals.

Key comments included the need for robust play equipment for older children and dedicated spaces for teenagers to keep them entertained. There was also support for maintaining a multi-use games area.



Photographs from public consultation, July 2024



Photographs from public consultation, July 2024



Can there be a provision
for teenagers
~~older~~ play equipment
for older children
11+

The MUGA needs
to stay in some
capacity as this
will help the work
being done on the
estate to keep young
people entertained and
out of trouble keeping
issues such as ASB

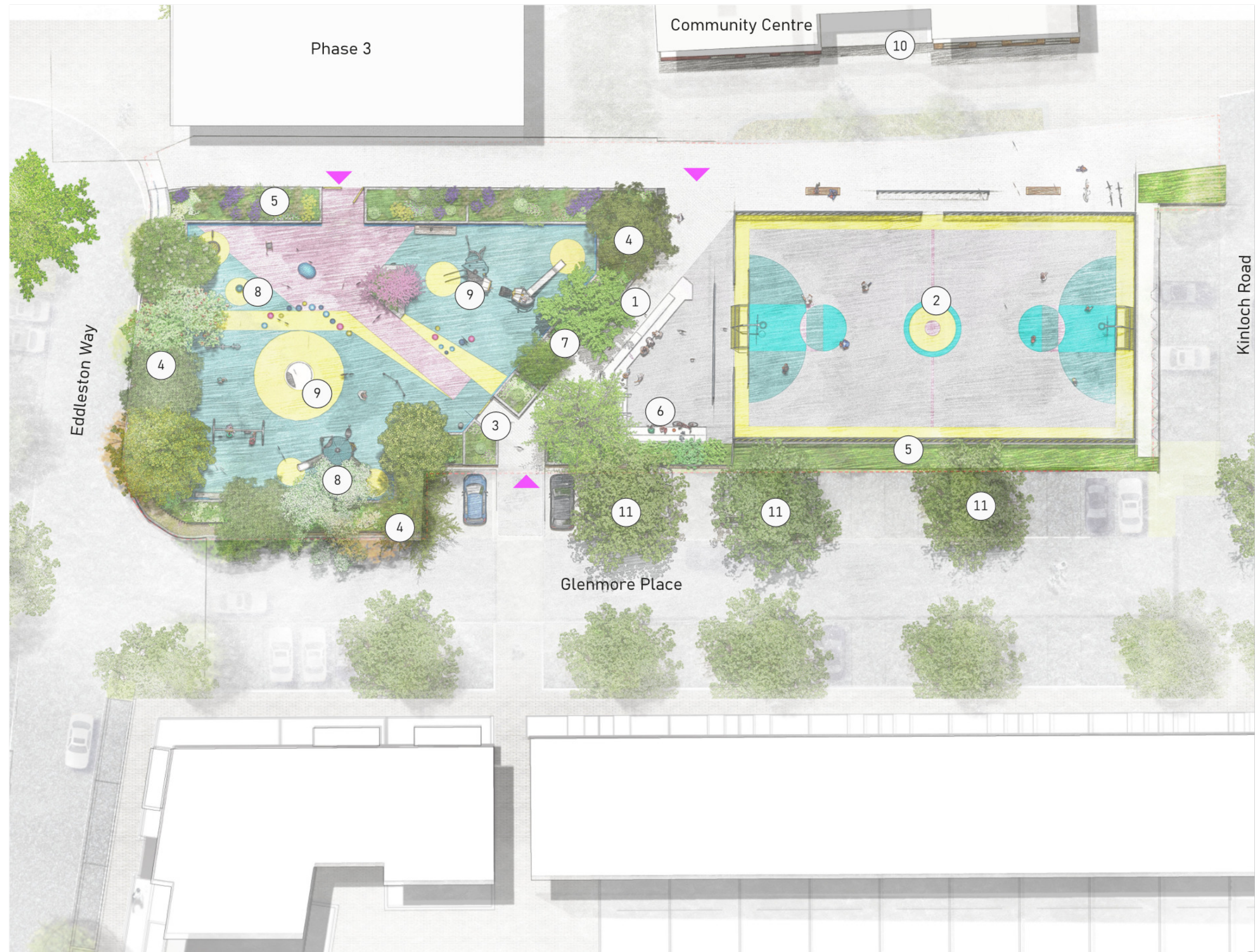
Comments from public consultation

Design Proposal

2.1 Illustrative masterplan

Key

- ① Permeable block paving to central route
- ② Multi-use games area (MUGA), with potential for bold surface graphics
- ③ Arch from Lyons square
- ④ Proposed tree planting
- ⑤ Proposed low shrub planting
- ⑥ Proposed seating area
- ⑦ Proposed planting between play area and MUGA with link path
- ⑧ Proposed play area for under 5's
- ⑨ Proposed play area for 5-11's
- ⑩ Community Centre entrance
- ⑪ Existing tree to be retained
- ▲ Entrance to park



2.2 Spatial strategy

The spatial arrangement of the Dee Park central open space remains largely as existing. The multi-use games area (MUGA) is located to the northern end, and the equipped play area to the south. The path that currently runs east-west dividing the two elements is proposed to be rotated, following a more direct route to the community centre entrance. A secondary route crosses the play area further to the south.

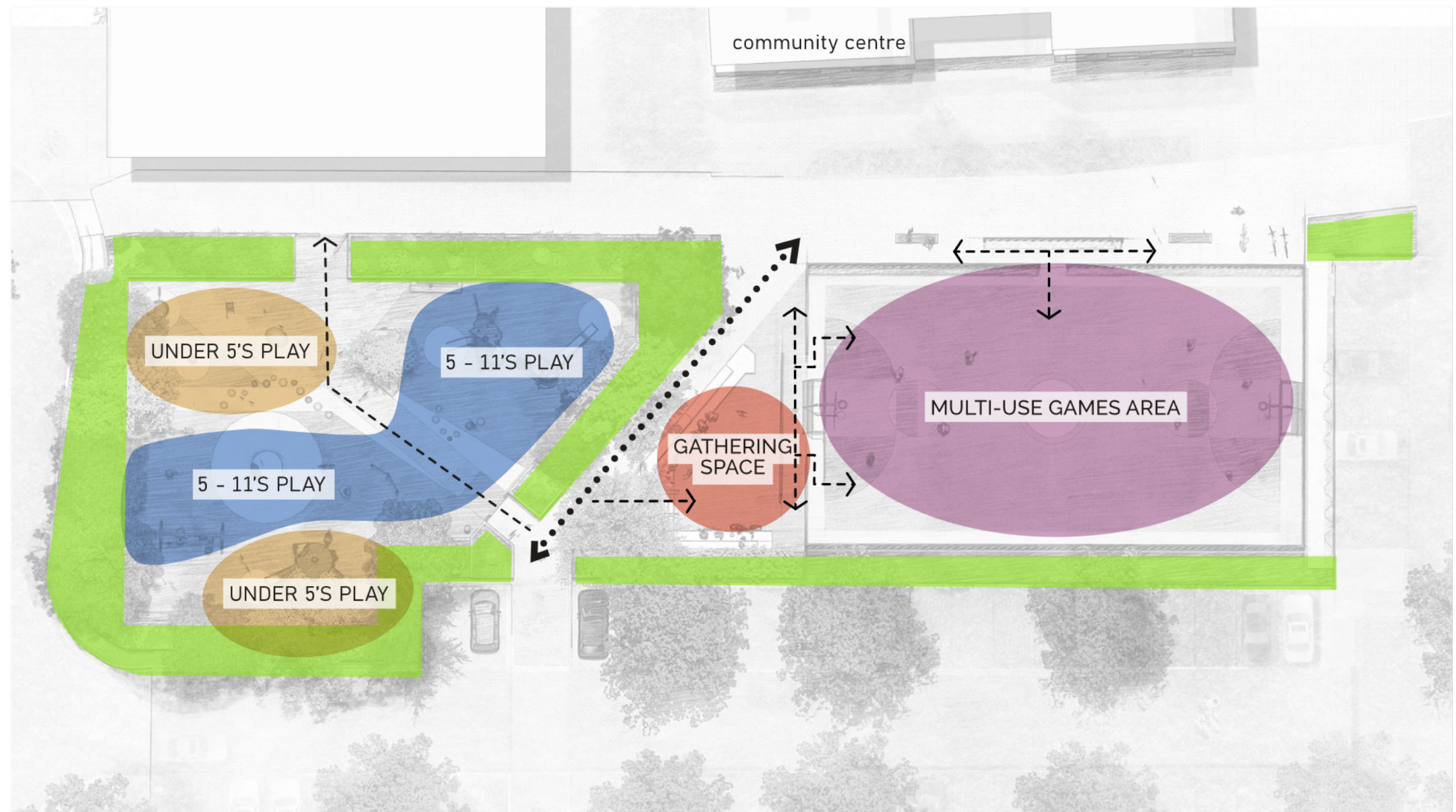
The spatial strategy includes the creation of a green 'buffer' or 'blanket' around the play area, providing separation, both physical and atmospheric, from the adjacent roads and parking areas. This will help to create a natural and more relaxing environment for play and improve the air quality.

The MUGA is shunted to the northern edge of the site creating an opportunity for a gathering space with seating to the southern edge. This space is intended as a place to watch the activities on the court, and as an informal space for older children to gather. The change in level across the site allows for seating steps in this location.

Within the equipped play area, the under 5's play is located to the south-western corner. This area will have good natural surveillance from the proposed phase 3 development and the adjacent path that borders the western side of the site.

The safety of the site has been given careful consideration. The planting buffer around the play space is proposed to have low level/ groundcover plant species, and the proposed trees have 2m clear stems or raised stems to ensure good visibility into the space.

The gathering space is positioned next to the main pathway through the site, ensuring natural surveillance to discourage anti-social behaviour.



Spatial strategy diagram

2.3 Artist's Impressions

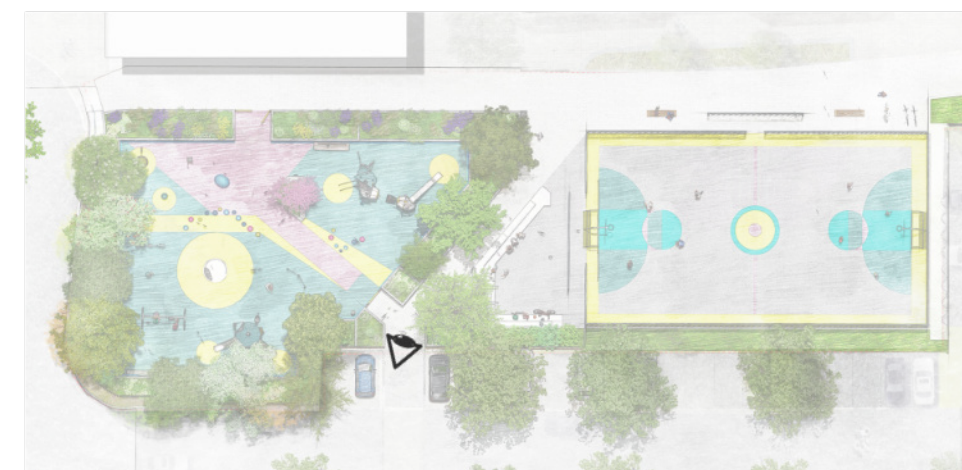


1) Bird's eye view of the play area and MUGA, looking south from the north-west corner



Key plan

2.3 Artist's Impressions



Key plan



2) Illustrative view looking towards the Community Centre

2.3 Artist's Impressions



Key plan



3) Illustrative view of the play area

2.3 Artist's Impressions



4) Illustrative view of the central route through the play area



Key plan

2.4 Proposed play Equipment

Play equipment that is robust, and well tested within other playgrounds, has been selected, with a range of pieces that cater for the main kinetic actions of climbing, balancing, swinging, spinning and jumping.

The items shown in blue are aimed at children aged under 5, and include a basket swing, carousel, spinner bowl, rocker and climbing structure (all of which are inclusive).

The items in yellow are aimed at children aged 5 and above and include a junior climbing structure, double somersault bars, swings, a see-saw and the MUGA.

The MUGA is sized in accordance with Sport England guidance to accommodate basketball and football. A seating area is located to the south of the court to allow groups of older children to watch and socialise.

The design of the play area aims to be inclusive to all, with smooth surfaces and level access, pieces that allow use by wheelchair users, quiet corners for those who want to avoid the busier spaces and perhaps sit and talk, and equipment to engage all genders.

Relevant checks in relation to fall zones etc. have been carried out as part of the consultation process, and discussions have been had with RBC's play officers. The play area design has been reviewed and approved by ROSPA.

Refer to the play area GA and play area equipment schedule for further details.



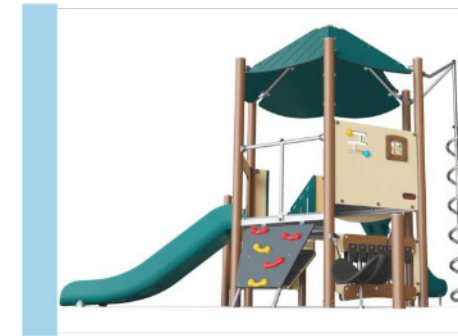
1. *Little Spider swing*



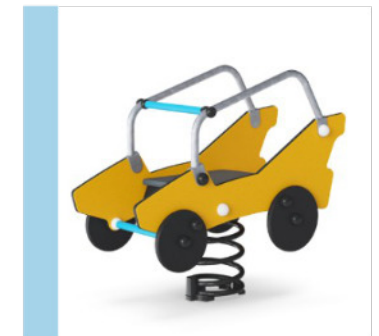
2. *Carousel*



3. *Bowl spinner*



4. *Mega deck*



5. *Dune Buggy*



6. *Somersault*



7. *Cliff rider Extreme*



8. *Seesaw*



9. *Swing Duo swing seat*



10. *MUGA Multi goal*

Key



Under 5's play



5-11's play



Equipment location plan