

GREEN STREETS AND GATEWAYS

Greening of the roads and gateways that surround and go through the Central Area would be transformative to the town centre that is currently severed from the surrounding areas by a busy 'concrete collar', unpleasant for pedestrians and cyclists with an inward looking, unwelcoming layout. Redesign of the 'concrete collar' to incorporate separate two way cycle paths, enhanced with rain gardens and planting strips and better, more frequent crossing points for pedestrians will humanise these roads and allow greatly improved permeability and legibility, welcoming and drawing people in to the town centre. Redesign of Commercial Road with tree planting, mini pocket parks and delineated parking (to prevent on pavement parking), cycle parking and separate cycle lane will enhance this independent shopping and eating street, allowing cafes and restaurants to use outside space for tables for customers. These routes can link up with key greenspaces such as Spring Gardens and the GWR Park. Connectivity, legibility and a sense of welcome and entrance can be enhanced by the creation of 'green gateways' at key locations- enhanced with planting, seating, signage and public art.

Aims and objectives:

- Enhance walking and cycling access, safety and links across central area, particularly address severance of 'concrete collar', making walking and cycling more pleasant and less stressful
- Link town centre with green spaces
- Create green corridors- increase tree planting and planting areas
- Include SuDS such as raingardens to prevent flash flooding and help clean water from roads
- Improve setting, surroundings and sense of welcome and entrance/ arrival to town centre
- Improve air quality, health and wellbeing
- Bring wildlife into central urban area
- Boost businesses in town centre and area

Feasibility:

Cost: medium/ high

Permissions: Some may need planning, public engagement with businesses and residents

Potential funding: UK Gov. active travel grants; Section 106; CIL. Maintenance costs: Medium. May reduce in some cases as reduce amount of bitmac road to maintain.

Delivery Timescale:

Could be phased over 0-10 years

Key projects/ sites include:

Roads: Commercial Road, Princes Street, Victoria Road, Faringdon Road, Great Western Way, North Star Avenue. Gateways: Regent Circus, Princes/ Beckhampton St, Princes St/ Fleming Way, Faringdon Rd roundabout, GW Way roundabout, GW Way/ Northstar Ave roundabout.

Precedent projects:

Sheffield Grey to Green

Addressed similar problems- severance caused by 1960s highways infrastructure (several traffic lanes in city centre), need to re-connect shopping area to rest of city centre. Also addressed problem of severe flooding in the area in 2007. Project is SuDS scheme with attractive wildlife friendly planting, cycling and walking infrastructure.



Has led to regeneration of the area, increased footfall, office redevelopment, food and drink offer; improved biodiversity, much nicer walking and cycling.

Photo: Alastair Johnstone/ Climate Visuals

Orford Road, Walthamstow

Incorporates modal filters. Part of the Walthamstow 'Mini Holland' scheme. Created space for outdoor seating. Led to regeneration of shops and cafes. Street greening with tree planting.



Sankt Kjelds Square and Bryggervangen, Copenhagen

Created to withstand 'cloudburst' heavy down pours resulting from climate change. Combines recreational spaces, biodiversity and improved cycling infrastructure. A 'gateway' feature.



Location of key project locations: green streets and gateways

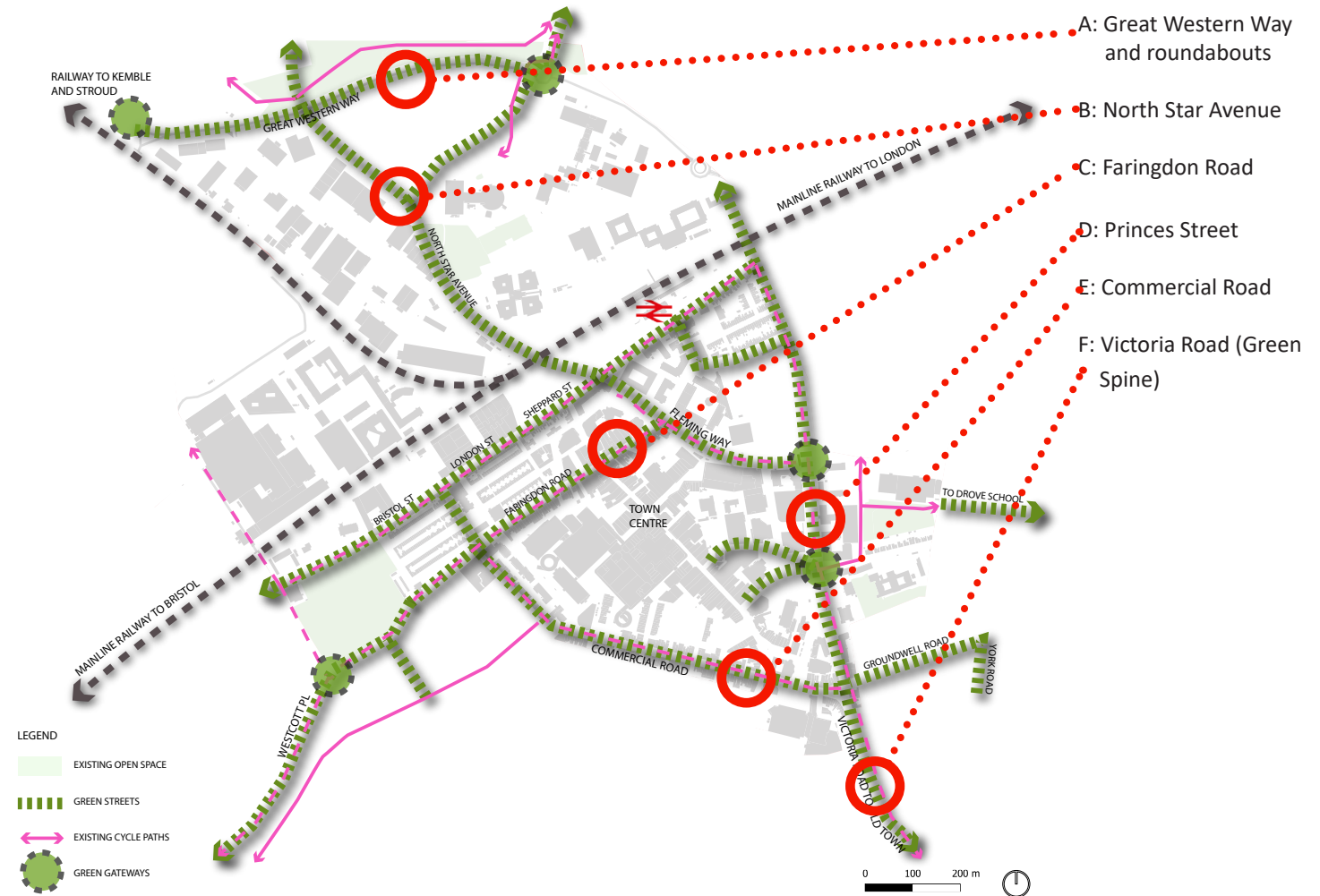


Figure 36: Central Area Key GI Project Locations: Green Streets and Gateways

GREEN OPEN SPACES TO ENHANCE

The Central area has low levels of access to green space. Ferndale Road Open Space, GWR Park and Spring Gardens are the only existing open spaces (apart from the Oasis site which is being redeveloped). The GWR Park is an historic town park, leased to South Swindon Parish Council. It has received investment and some refurbishment in recent years as part of the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ). There are further plans to enhance it with a natural play trail and additional ornamental tree planting. Spring Gardens has undergone some initial improvements in recent years and it is hoped will receive more investment as funds become available through regeneration of the central area. Some biodiversity enhancements are planned. Public engagement revealed that local residents would like to see provision for play, exercise, wildflowers and seating. Ferndale Road Open Space is currently mainly grass, with a small play area, and has great potential for enhancement. This should include pedestrian and cycling links across the Great Western Way which currently severs residential areas to the north from the Central Area. It should also be tied in to plans for the development sites around North Star.

Aims and objectives:

- Enhance multi-functionality of the green spaces for people-exercise and relaxation (inclusive and accessible for all residents including children, older people and people with disabilities);
- Enhance biodiversity in these green spaces for nature and for the enjoyment of people, include interpretation;
- Enhance walking and cycling access, safety and links across central area, making walking and cycling more pleasant and less stressful;
- Include SuDS such as raingardens if possible;
- Improve air quality, health and wellbeing;
- Boost businesses in town centre and area;
- Enhance appearance of parks.

Feasibility:

Cost: medium/ high

Permissions: Some may need planning, public engagement with businesses and residents

Potential funding: UK Government future play area grants; Section 106; CIL, BNG, Trees for Climate, Lottery grants, Sports England grants.

Maintenance costs: Medium/ Low.

Delivery Timescale:

Could be phased over 0-10 years

Key projects/ sites include:

GWR Park
Ferndale Road Open Space
Spring Gardens.

Maintenance:

Parish Councils with help from BNG and TfC monies.

Key project locations: green open spaces to enhance

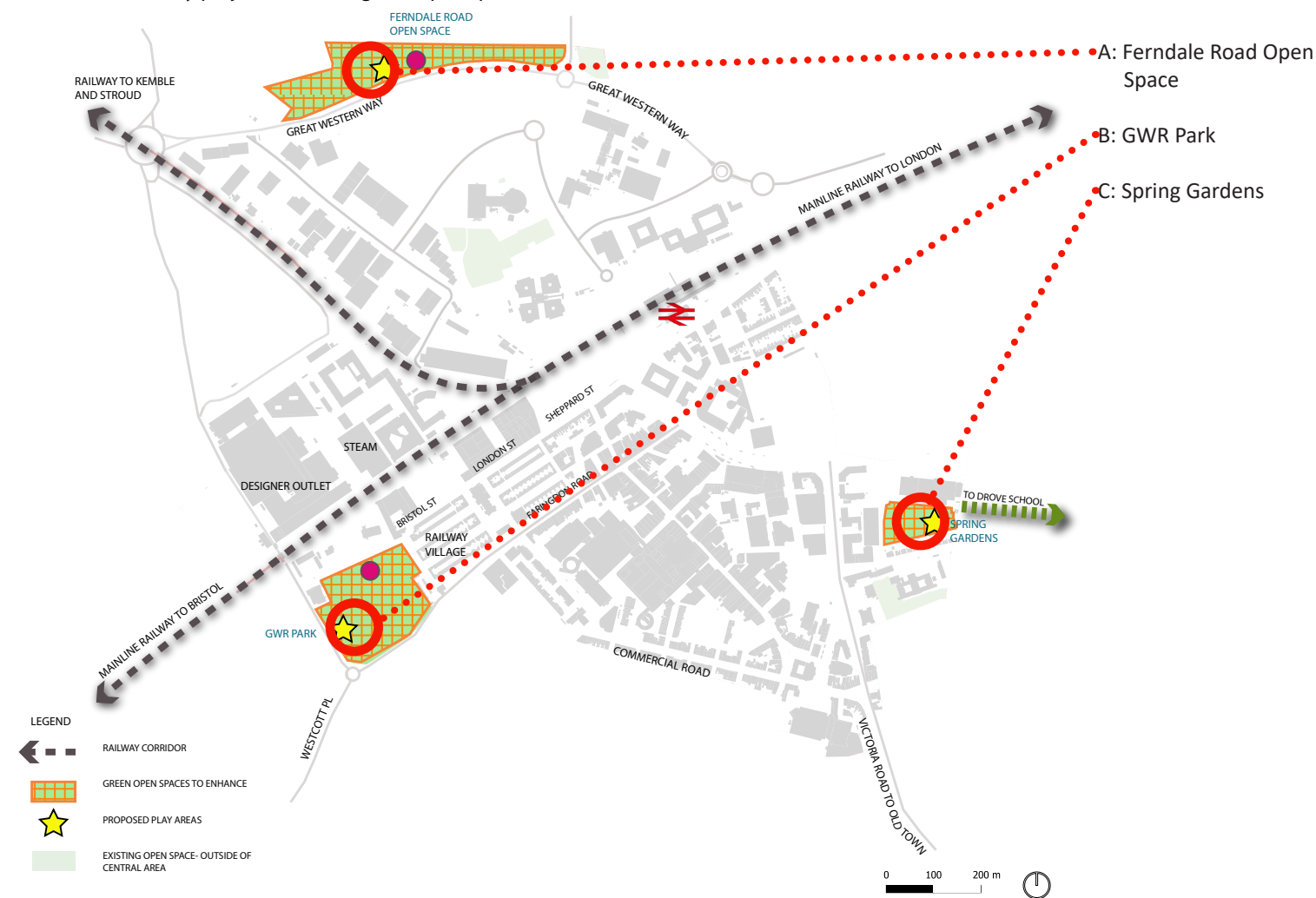


Figure 37: Central Area Key GI Project Locations: Green Open Spaces to Enhance

Precedent projects:

Claremont Park, Brent Cross, London

Unique play area set within exciting landscape of trees, mounding, planting and boulders, suitable for wide range of children. Basketball and play for teenagers and young people. Path network. Incorporates natural elements, planting and trees. Picnic tables and plenty of benches.



Photo: Duncan and Grove

West Gorton Park, Manchester

Natural timber play equipment set within landscaped park with wildflowers, buff coloured paths, boulders and logs and timber benches. Incorporates SuDs ('sponge park'). Equipment for all ages. Accessible paths, seating and picnic benches.



Sydney Gardens, Bath

Historic town park. Play area, basketball, table tennis, set within natural landscape and buff paths. Accessible and inclusive with elements for range of ages and abilities, in keeping with historic park.



POTENTIAL GREEN SPACES

The Central area has low levels of access to green space. Development sites within the Central Area should include green spaces and squares, applying Urban Greening Factor (UGF). This will help to ensure new areas are pleasant places for people to be in, are climate resilient, biodiverse and good for health and wellbeing. New green spaces will contribute significantly to greening of the town centre and wider Central Area. New green spaces can incorporate play, for the benefit of the new residents within the town centre in response to an increase in residential dwellings within the area, and to increase the leisure offer of the town centre, making it more attractive and increasing dwell time.

Aims and objectives:

- Address the deficit of green space within the Central Area;
- Enhance biodiversity in these green spaces for nature and for the enjoyment of people, include interpretation;
- Enhance the climate resilience of the area;
- Include SuDS such as raingardens if possible to prevent flash flooding and help clean water from roads;
- Improve air quality, health and wellbeing;
- Boost businesses in town centre and area;
- Enhance appearance and livability of Central Area.

Feasibility:

Cost: medium/ high

Permissions: Some may need planning, public engagement with businesses and residents

Potential funding: UK Government future play area grants; Section 106; CIL, BNG, Trees for Climate, Lottery grants, Sports England grants.

Maintenance costs: Medium/ Low.

Delivery Timescale:

Could be phased over 0-10 years

Key projects/ sites include:

Claire's site
Oasis site
Kimmerfields site
Granville Street Carpark
Wyvern Theatre

Maintenance:

Town centre maintenance team

Key project locations: Potential green spaces within development sites

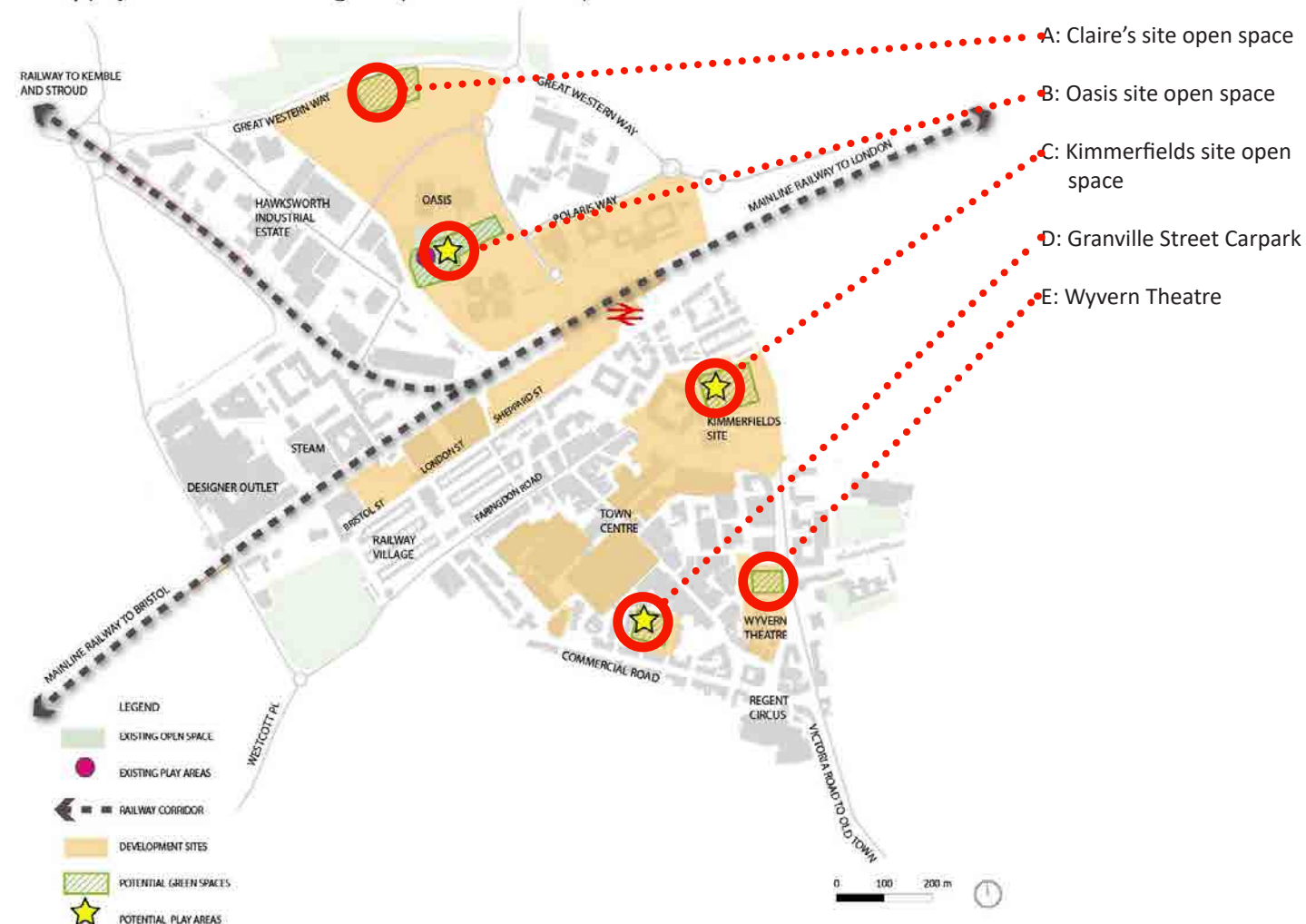
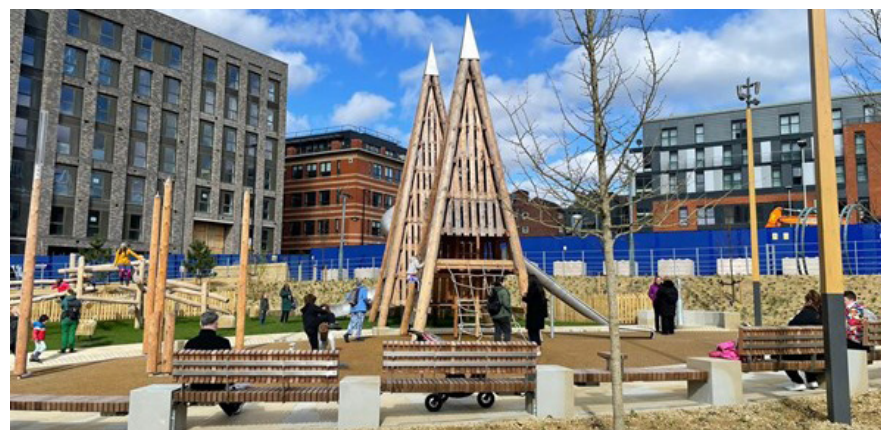


Figure 38: Central Area Key GI Project Locations: Proposed Green Spaces within Development Areas

Precedent projects:

Pound's Park, Sheffield

A city centre park on a former fire station site, this centrally located park provides a range of experiences with play at its heart - helping to attract families into the city centre and encouraging them to enjoy the city for longer periods.



Peace Gardens, Sheffield

City centre park and events space. Water- fountains, suitable for play. Formal, high quality materials, timeless (built in 1990s, still contemporary), well maintained planting and trees, and always a popular space.



Broadmarsh Green Heart, Nottingham

A new city centre park alongside mixed use regeneration. SuDs ponds, wildlife enhancements, seating, new paths, tree planting.

