Grove Park Urban National Park

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Site Context & Assessment

Wider Context



Context

The site is located on the south-east part of London, at the border between Lewisham and Bromley borough.

It consists of a series of green spaces with a variety of characters.

The existing green lands are bordered by a railway with Grove Park Station and Elmstead Woods Station as the nearby train stations.

Characteristics

It includes public paths, pedestrian bridges, meadows, public parks, woodlands, cemeteries and green land with high recreational programming potential.

The site spreads over a distance of approx. 4.5 km long and has an area of approx. 7.21 ha. It will take one hour to walk across the length of the site once the areas are linked by a footpath or a trail.

Challenges

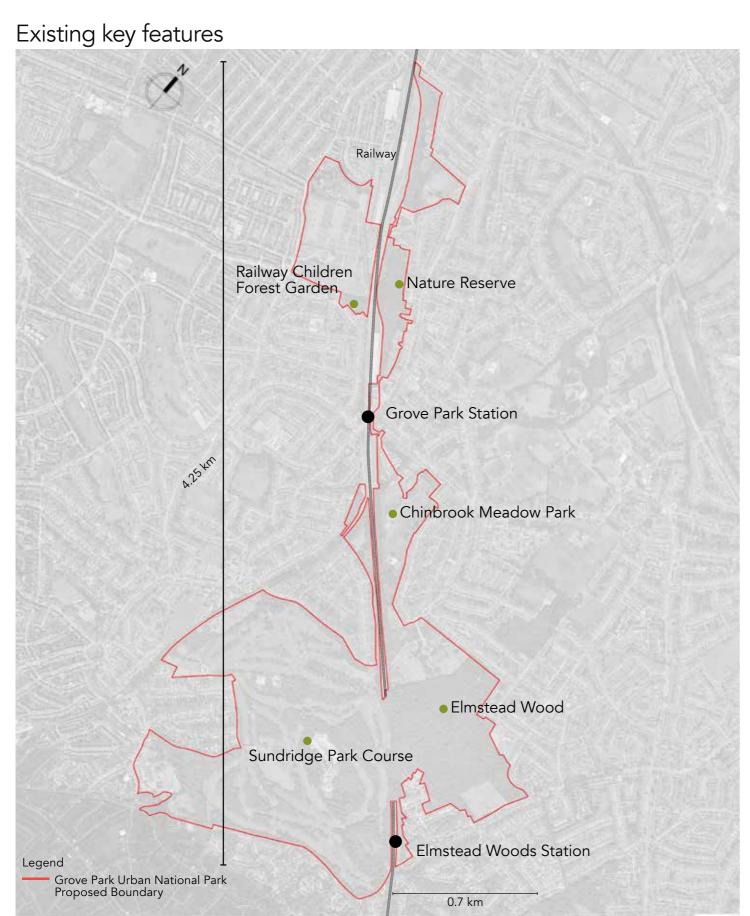
The main **challenges** for this project are creating a **coherent strategy** by including it in London's Green Infrastructure Plan, the various **lands ownership**, **funding**, and **involving the community**.

The **key factor** to consider is creating a **public accessible park** with a **trail linking** the different green areas.

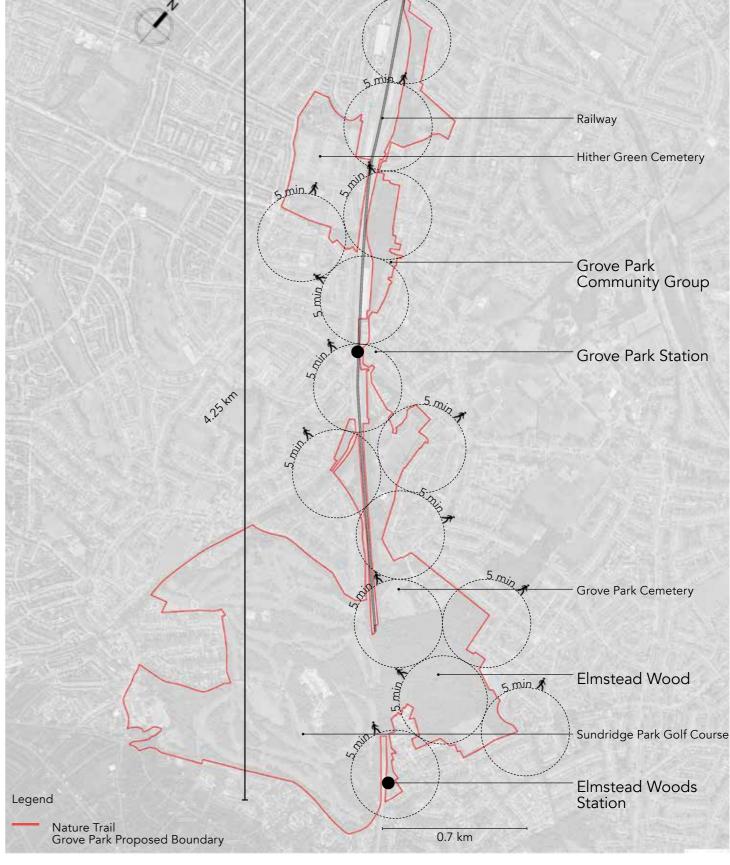
Vision

The vision is to create a regional park that provides various opportunities for recreation for users of all ages. By bringing the regional park into an urban setting, Grove Park could potentially extend by including other green areas in Greenwich borough and become an **Urban National Park**.

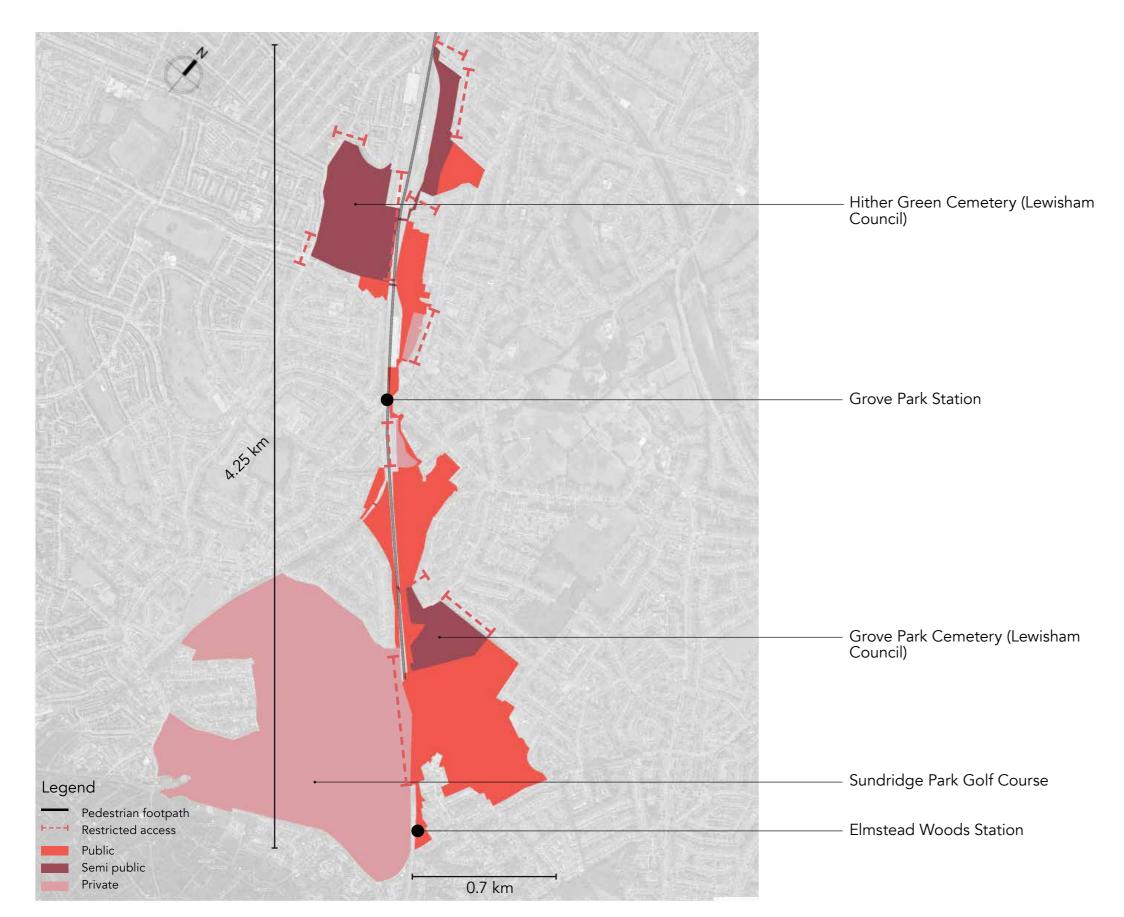
The green spaces newly opened to the public can and should be included into a wider green infrastructure network.



Distances



Ownership - accessibility and restrictions





Restricted access



Restricted access

The **biggest constraint** in the site represents the **restricted accessibility** due to ownership.

The diagram indicates the green space areas that are not open to the public. Giving the public right of way through these green spaces or opening them completely to the public will help Grove Park to achieve the potential of a regional scale park that could rival other national status parks.

By creating a national park within an urban setting, Grove Park could be an **outstanding precedent** for creating an **urban national park**.

Circulation





Nature reserve footpath connection



Children Railway Forest footpath

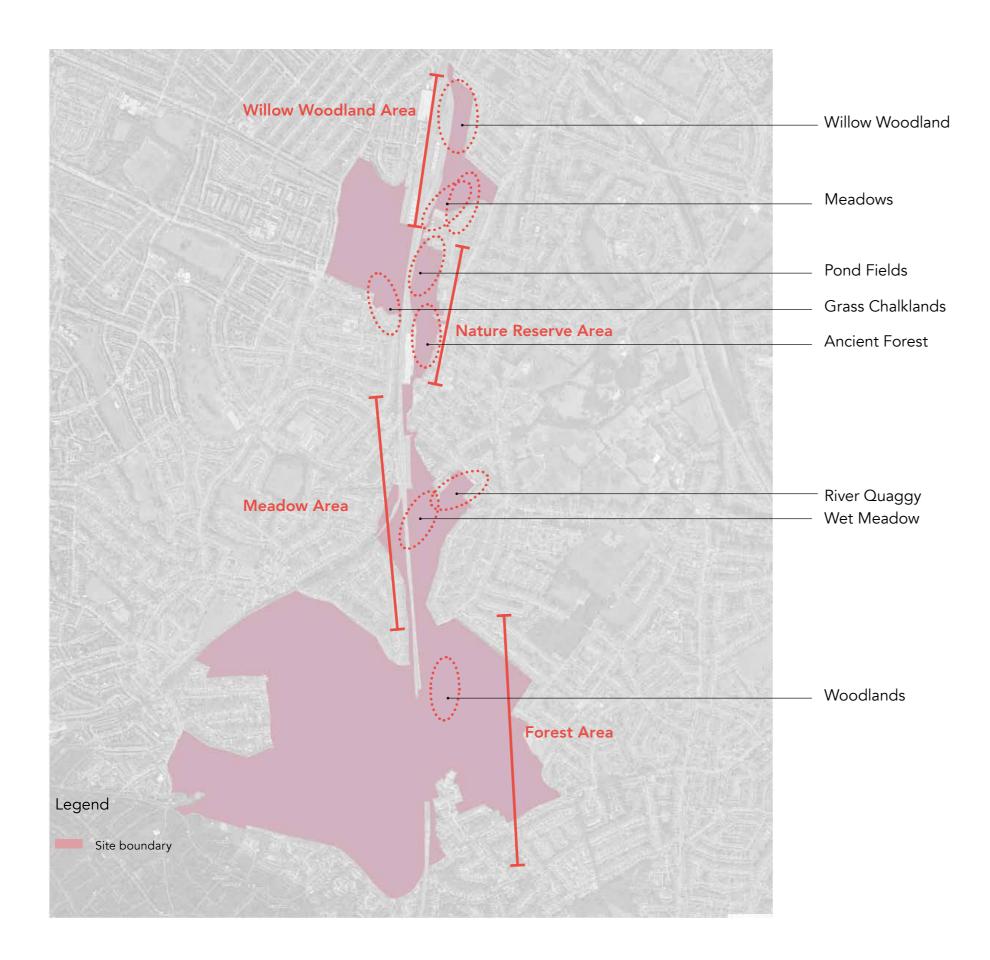


Missing access

Existing Amenities



Character areas





Wet Meadow



Grassland



Quaggy River



Woodlands

Existing condition - Willow Woodland





Nature Reserve Meadow





Woodland







Pond Area



Timber platform over wet area



Event Area Bench

Existing condition - Meadow Area

Chinbrook Meadow Park





Bridge



Dry Meadow



River Quaggy

Wet Meadow

Existing condition - Forest Area







Trails



Obstacles

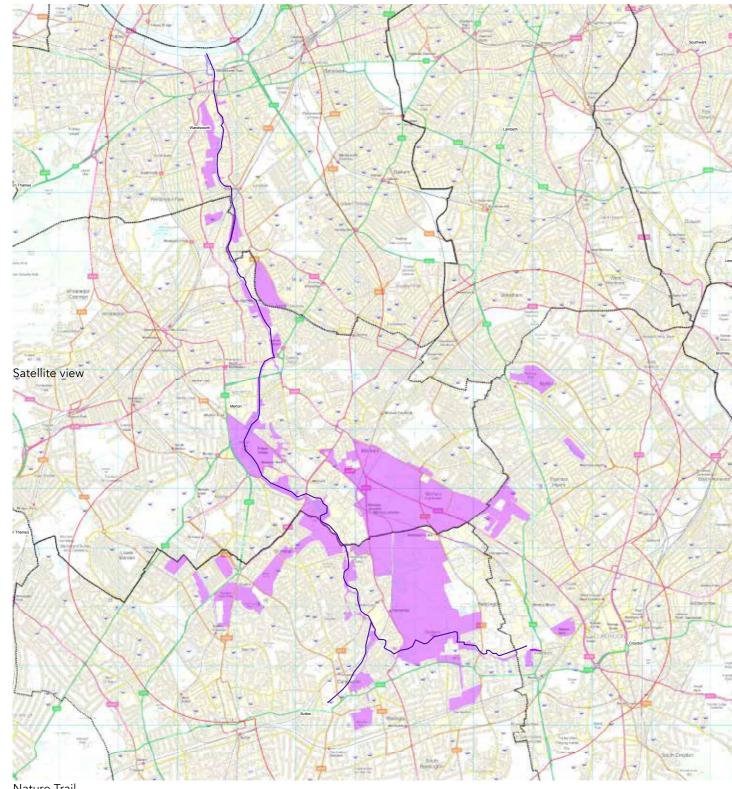


Hiking areas Woodland

Elmstead Woods



Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust



The Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust is part of the network of green spaces included in London other recreational opportunities. Green Infrastructure Plan.



Small scale allotments next to the river



River Wandle

The main green spaces: The Walks, Heritage & Culture, Wildlife & Natural Environment, King George's Park, Wandle Meadow Nature Park, 3 Kings Pond, Morden Hall Park.

Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust

What makes Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust special is it's "vision to be a coherent and vital part of London's green space network. It sets out to create a place rich in heritage, where people are proud to live, work and play, that contributes to the economic vibrancy of South London." Source: wandlevalleypark.co.uk

It focuses on these key aims landscape, culture, health, habitats, people and community.

Wandle Valley achieves it's potential by seizing the opportunity to become an entrepreneurial organisation delivering high quality and sustainable investment in the assets of the Wandle Valley for the long term with 6 key strategy directions:

- Business case & funding
- Promotion & Profile
- Infrastructure delivery
- Alignment and support
- Innovation and enterprise
- Subregional partnership & governance







Meadow habitat



Pond



Six key management aims



Gateway proposal



River habitat

16 Grove Park Urban National Park Strategy

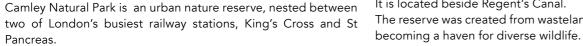
Camley Street Natural Park, Regent's Canal



Satellite view



Nature Trail





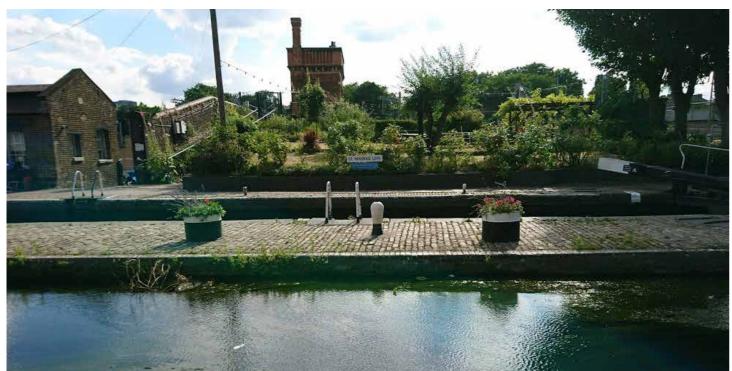
Small scale allotments



Crossing wetland area

It is located beside Regent's Canal. The reserve was created from wasteland. It achieved it's potential

Camley Street Natural Park, Regent's Canal





View from Regent's canal

Camley pond

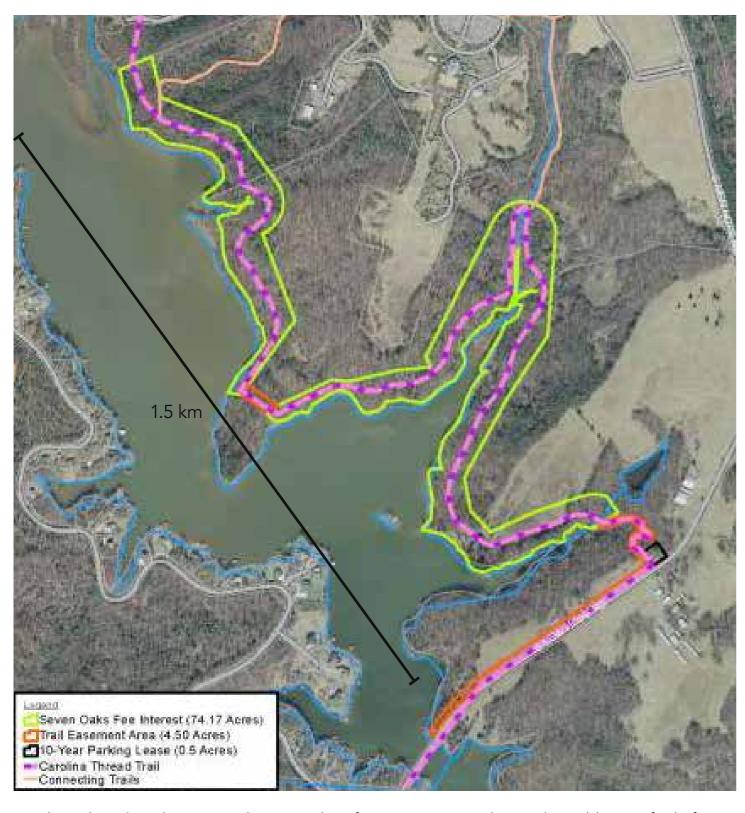


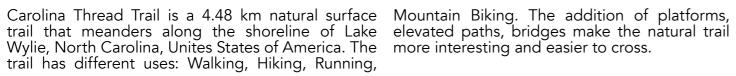


Wetland

View from Regent's canal

Carolina Thread Trail, Seven Oaks Preserve







Crossing woodland area



Woodland steps



Entrance welcoming platform

Carolina Thread Trail, Seven Oaks Preserve







Current wetland path



Bridge



Crossing wetland area



Mountain biking

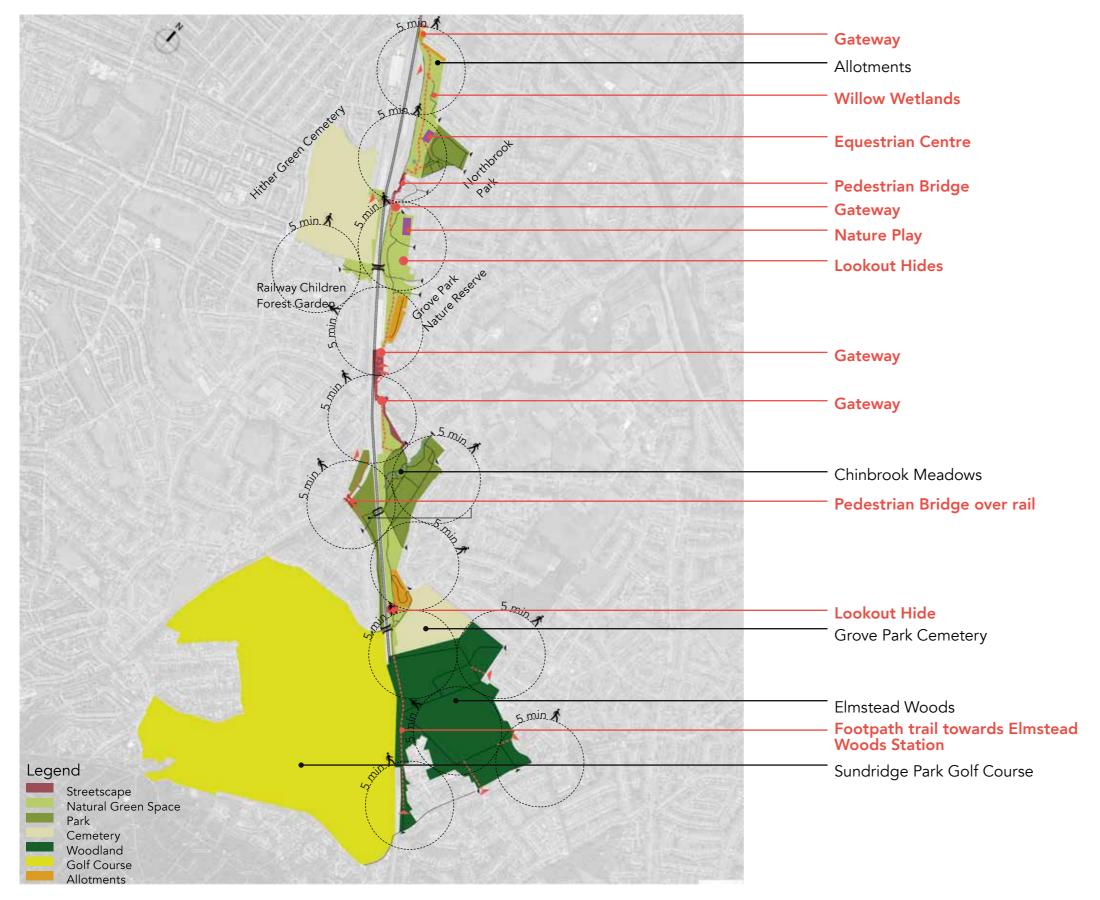


Elevated bike track



Meandering path floodable area

Landscape Vision



The landscape vision for Grove Park Green Infrastructure Masterplan is to create a sustainable transport route featuring footpaths, cycle paths and bridle paths.

Grove Park accommodates recreation, fitness, nature and transportation. The urban park needs to be safe and convenient for the people in the surrounding neighbourhoods to use it.

To reach these qualities the urban park needs firstly, to have a seamless footpath connecting important accesses, good connections over the railway, a good diversity of green spaces with different uses and programs. Secondly,

The urban park will consist of:

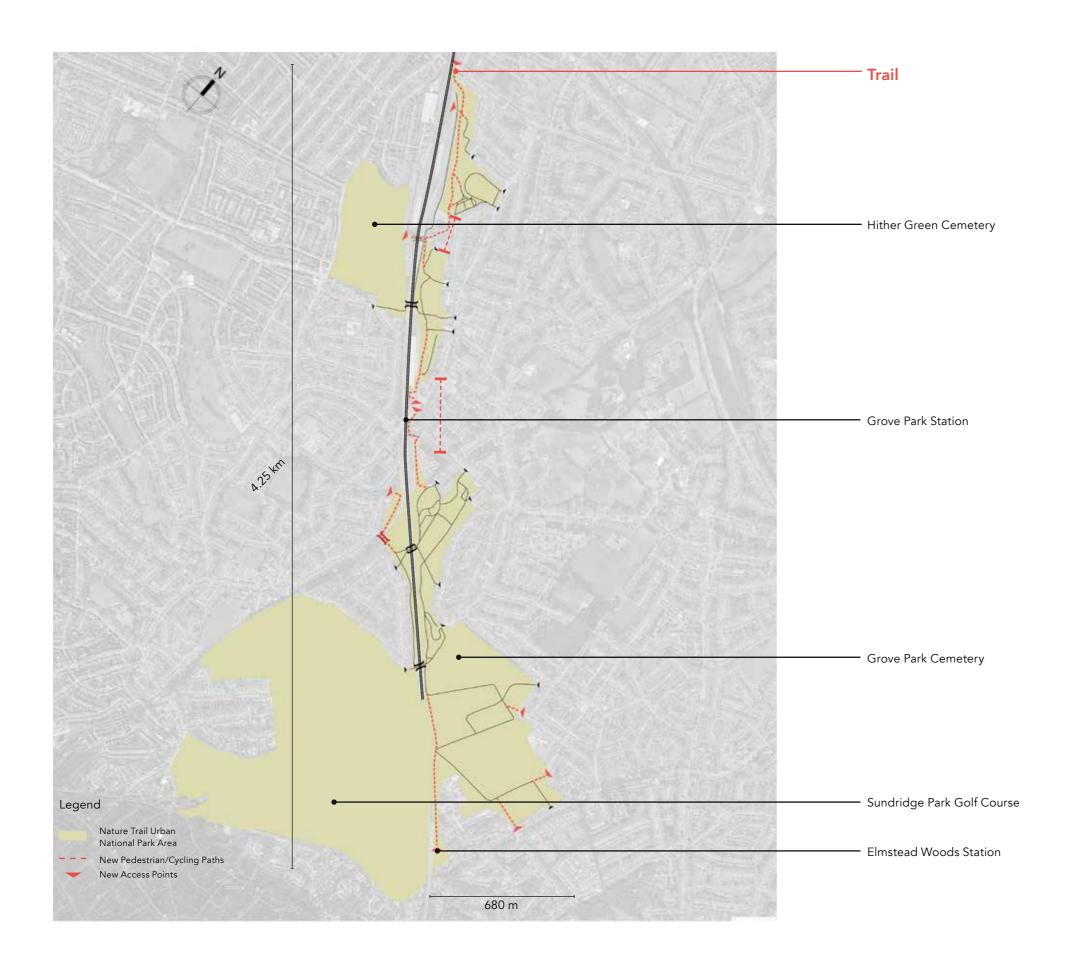
- Public Parks
- Sport Fields
- Cemeteries
- Pond field
- Allotments
- Habitats
- Willow woodland
- Wet Meadow
- Nature Reserve: Grass Chalkland, Camp Nesbit Outdoor educational site
- Woodland
- Equestrian Centre
- Nature Trail connecting unlinked areas
- Nature Play
- Cycling Paths
- Lookout Hides
- Pedestrian Bridges
- Gateways
- Willow Wetland
- Climbing and fitness areas

By adding these features, Grove Park can be experienced as a whole. The seamless transition through the park gives the park a high value trail experience.

Black text - existing features

Red text - new features

Grove Park Nature Trail





Natural Trail



Artificial Trail

Creating a seamless trail through the Nature Trail.



The urban park can be divided into 4 main areas.

Area 1 - Willow Wetland

Allotments, Willow Woodland, Wet Meadow, Equestrian Centre, gateway, wetland attraction, nature observing structure, elevated crossing platforms, Nature Play, wayfinding signage, additional pedestrian bridge, green buffer at the border with the railway corridor, trail connection.

Area 2 - Nature Reserve

Nature Reserve, Railway Children Forest Garden, Hither Green Cemetery, lookout hide, fitness area, green buffer at the border with the railway corridor, gateway.

Area 3 - Meadows

Chinbrook Meadows Park, Gateway, wayfinding signage, streetscape design, pedestrian bridge over railway, lookout hide.

Area 4 - Forest

Elmstead Woods forest, Forest paths, golf park, nature trail, station stepped access.

The trail will have interactive features and will be meant for users of all ages.

Black text - existing features
Red text - new features

Character sections



Willow Wetland Area



Wetland Meadow



Nature Reserve Habitat Education



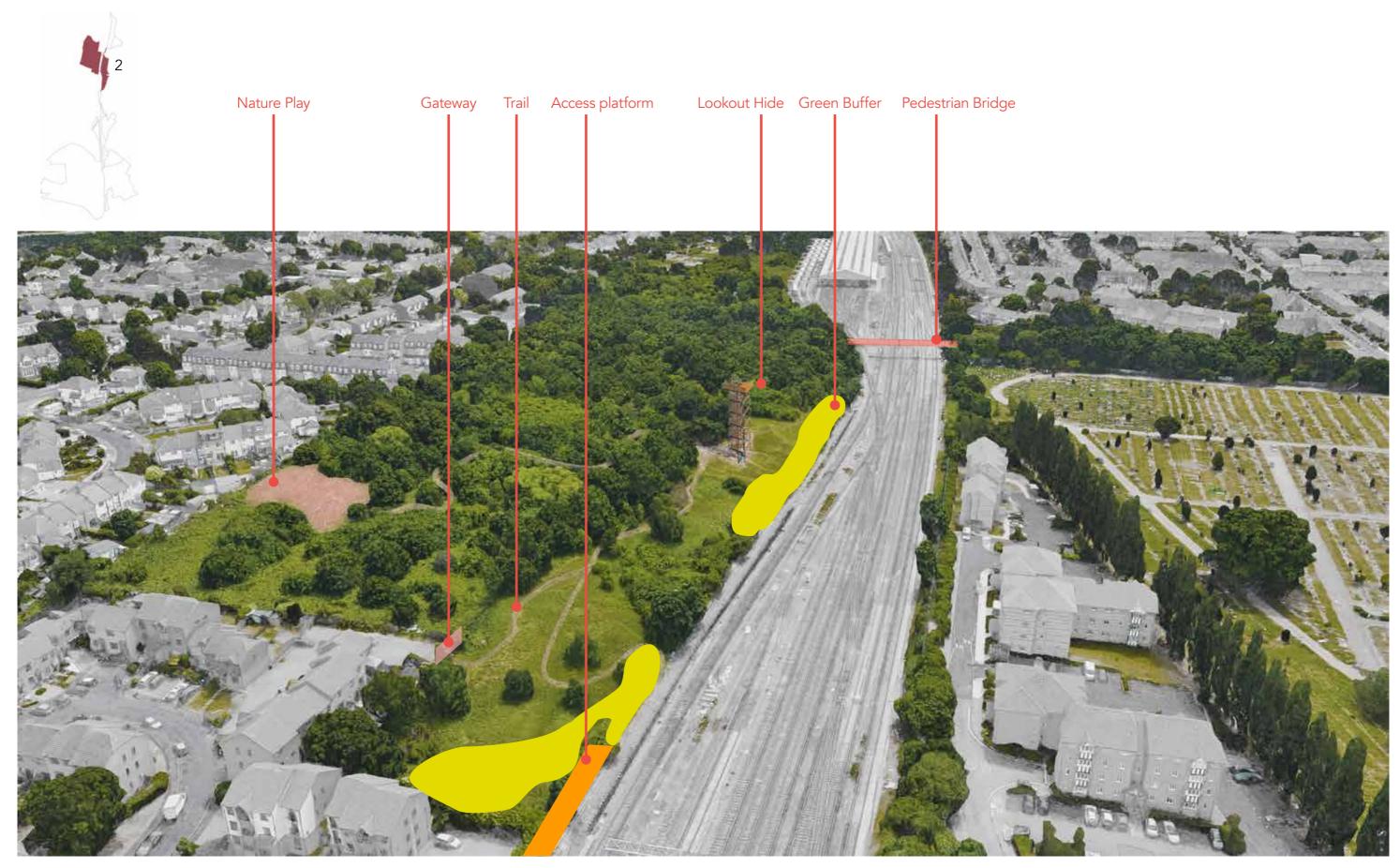
Forest Trail

Landscape Concept Image Sketches

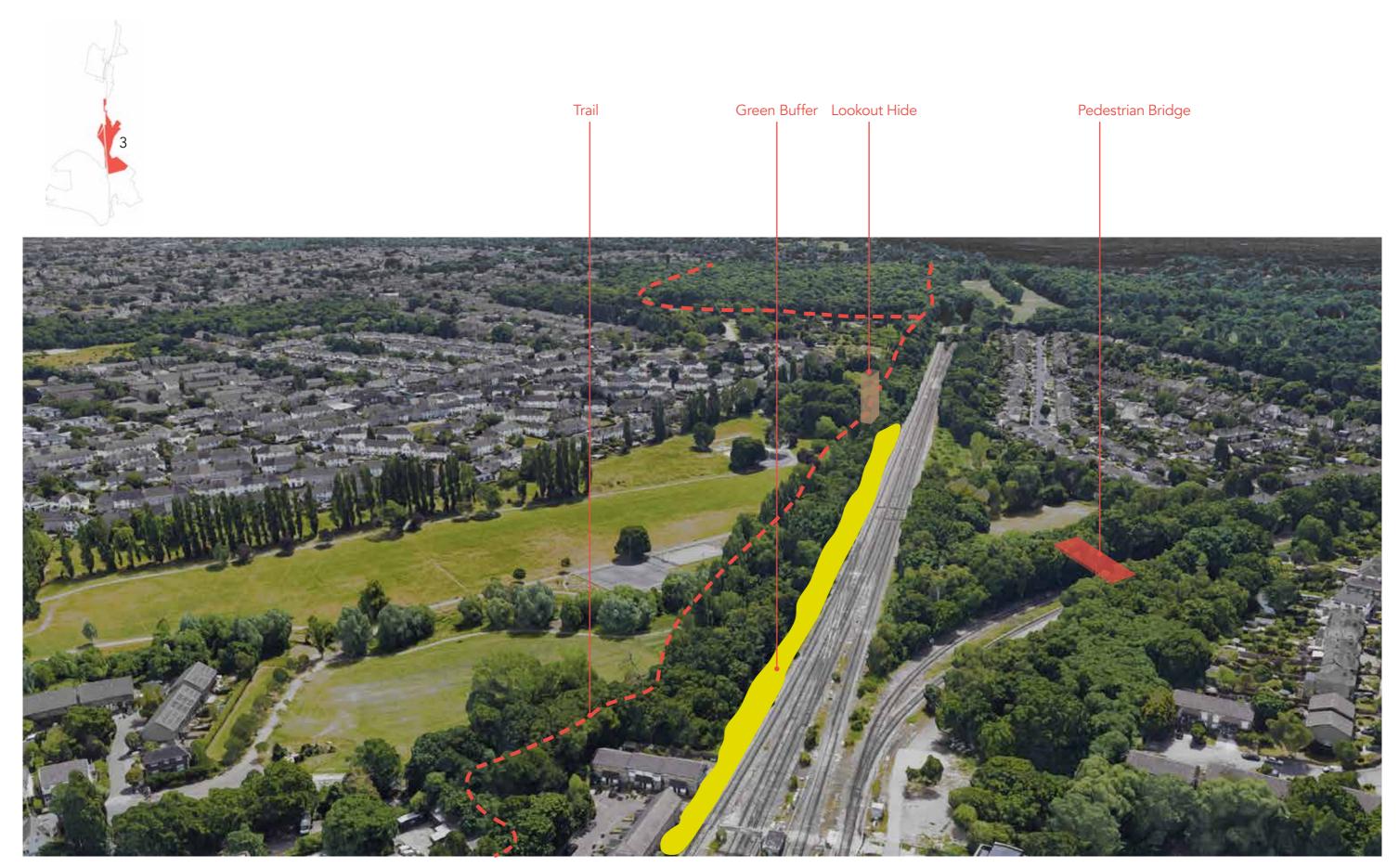
Grove Park - Area 1 Willow Wetland



Grove Park - Area 2 Nature Reserve



Grove Park - Area 3 Meadows



Grove Park - Area 4 Forest



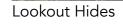
Landscape Concept Design Structures and Materials

Grove Park Structures











Tree top footpath



Nature observing platform



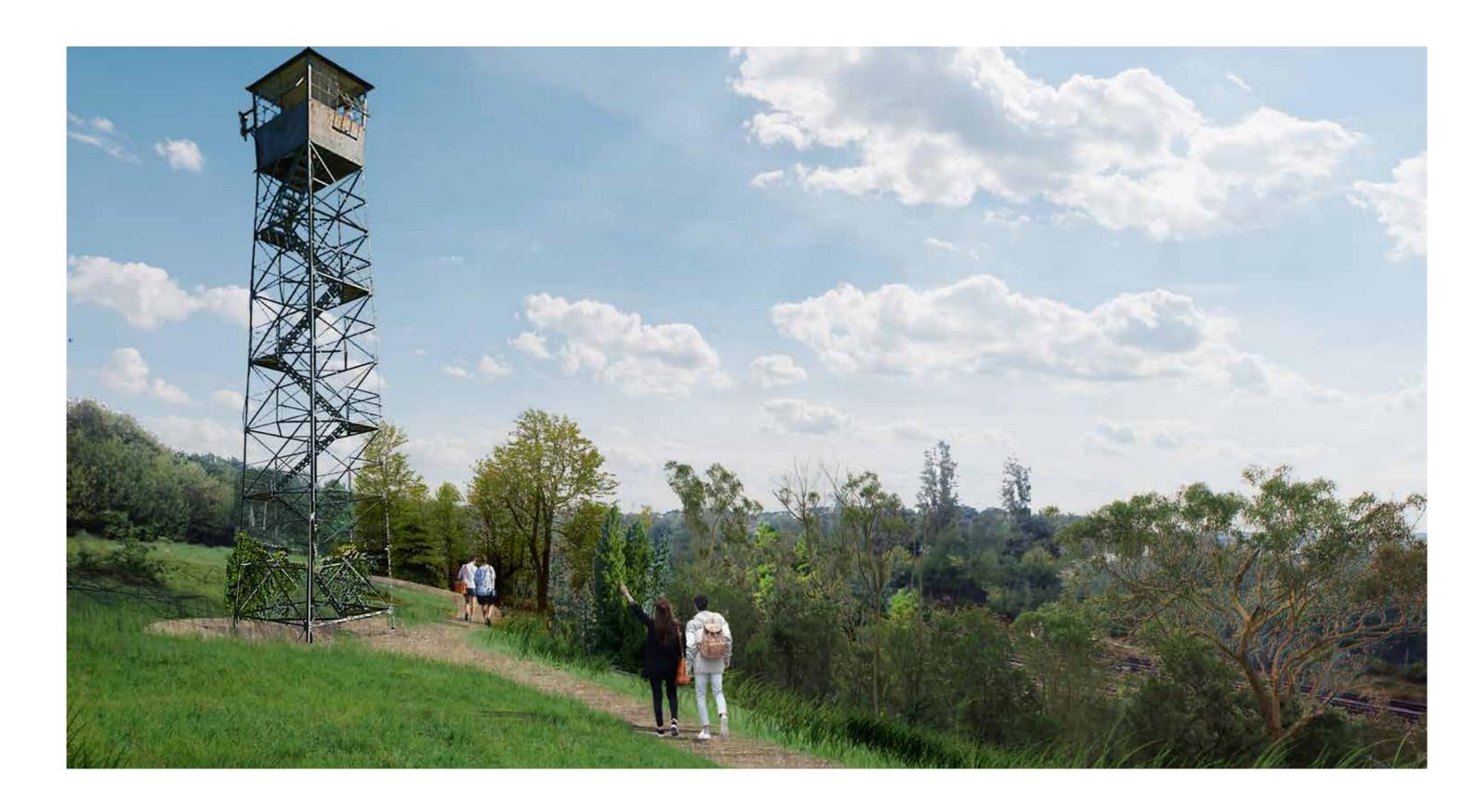
Crossing wetland area

Grove Park Structures - Pedestrian Bridge



Grove Park Structures - Pedestrian Bridge





Grove Park Furniture



Integrated natural seating

Gateway furniture



Natural amphitheatre



Minimal bench



Pond lounge bench



Reflected furniture



Simple bench



Grove Park Gateway







Gateway pavilion sculpture



Gateway obelisk



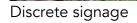
Gateway furniture



Gateway canopy

Grove Park Wayfinding









Nature signage



Colour wayfinding



Simple signage post



Embedded signage

Grove Park Recreation



Opened space for social fitness activities



Climbing



Nature treadmill



Natural material fitness bench

Interactive trail with fitness features.

Grove Park Equestrian Centre. Bridle Path



Equestrian Centre



Off Trail Horse Riding



Pony Riding



Bridle Path Horse Riding



Bridle Path Cycling