Scheme Review

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Public Open Space

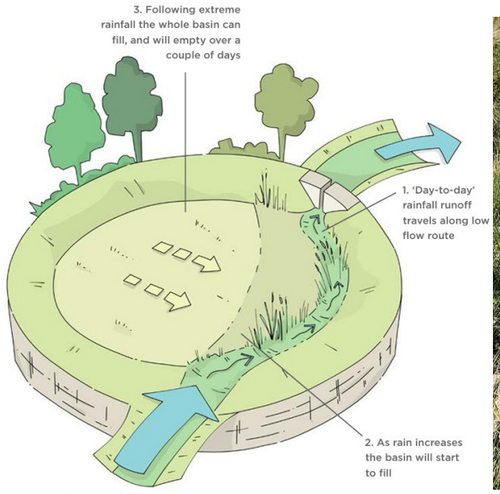
The public open space is conceived as a multifunctional landscape that combines recreation, play, biodiversity, and surface water management, forming a central component of the site's green infrastructure network. A kick-about space provides informal recreational use for a wide range of age groups, supporting everyday activity and social interaction within a flexible and robust landscape setting.

The attenuation basin is designed as an integral and usable part of the open space rather than a residual or fenced feature. The base of the basin is deliberately graded to fall towards a defined low-flow channel, ensuring that surface water is directed efficiently during rainfall events. This approach allows the basin to remain generally dry and usable for the majority of the time, becoming active only during larger rain events. As a result, the basin contributes positively to everyday amenity, safety, and usability while continuing to perform its primary drainage function.

A low-flow channel is incorporated within the basin to manage frequent rainfall events, improve legibility, and enhance ecological value through planting and habitat creation. This water feature also introduces visual interest and seasonal variation to the landscape, reinforcing the multifunctional role of the SuDS design.

Play is a key component of the public open space and is integrated throughout the landscape. The design incorporates ten LEAP play elements, as requested by the SDCC Parks Department, distributed as part of a wider play trail that encourages movement, exploration, and engagement with the landscape. The play provision includes a combination of formal play equipment and nature-based play, using landform, planting, and natural materials to create informal and imaginative play opportunities. This layered approach supports a range of ages and abilities while embedding play naturally within the open space rather than concentrating it in a single location.

The open space is framed by a woodland boundary, which softens the edges of the site, provides screening to adjoining land uses, and contributes to biodiversity and habitat creation. This woodland structure reinforces green infrastructure links across the site and connects to the wider landscape network, including the Whitestown Stream corridor to the south.



Low Flow Channel

Low Flow Channel

Nature Play

Formal Play Equipment

Scheme Review

Street Frontage

The street frontage is conceived as a pedestrian-priority public realm that functions as a social and spatial spine within the development. The design prioritises walking, accessibility, and lingering, creating a comfortable and legible environment that supports everyday movement while encouraging social interaction and activity. A generous paved width allows for flexible use, accommodating pedestrian movement, informal gathering, and spill-out activity in a robust and uncluttered streetscape.

Cycling is accommodated via an existing dedicated north–south cycle lane adjacent to the site, allowing the new street frontage to focus on pedestrian comfort and placemaking rather than through-movement. This establishes a calm street environment with a clear hierarchy and improved safety for users.

SuDS planting islands are integrated along the length of the street to manage surface water at source while breaking up the hard landscape and introducing greenery at regular intervals. These planting islands are aligned to reinforce east–west pedestrian movement, incorporate integrated seating, and create sheltered areas for rest and social interaction. In addition, the planting islands and associated tree planting provide an important buffer to traffic along Whitestown Way, improving comfort, reducing visual and acoustic impact, and contributing to a more pleasant microclimate.

A structured framework of street trees and planting beds defines the character of the street, softens built edges, and reinforces a strong sense of place. The landscape design supports the activation of the commercial units fronting the street, allowing for spill-out onto the public realm and strengthening the relationship between buildings, landscape, and street life.

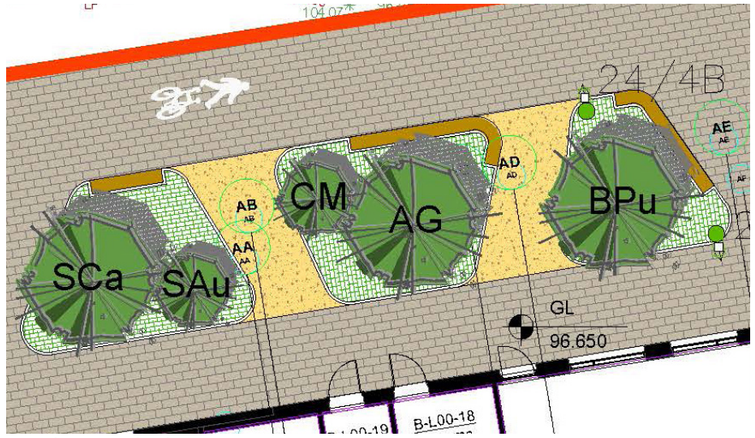
New Street Frontage

Arrival Spaces

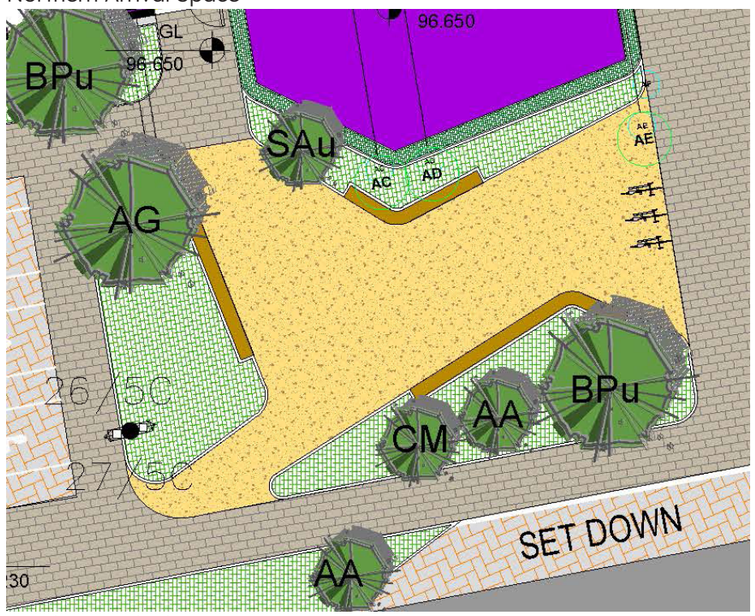
The arrival spaces at the northern and southern entrances are designed to provide a welcoming, legible, and safe sense of arrival to the development. These spaces act as clear thresholds between the surrounding urban context and the internal landscape network, helping users to orient themselves and understand how to move through the site.

The spaces are deliberately open and well overlooked to promote passive surveillance and a strong sense of safety. Planting islands are used to soften the hard landscape, frame views, and create visual interest, while maintaining clear sightlines for accessibility and wayfinding. Integrated seating is provided to encourage pause, informal meeting, and everyday use, reinforcing the plazas as social spaces rather than purely transitional areas.

Together, the arrival spaces establish the landscape character of the development, signal entry points for pedestrians, and connect directly to the wider open space and movement network within the site.



Northern Arrival Space



Southern Arrival Space