



Roseburn to Union Canal Path Link| City of Edinburgh Council

**Design & Access Statement | August 2020**

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# 01 | Introduction



# 1.1 City Context

The Roseburn to Union Canal Path link is a proposed strategic link for cyclists and pedestrians at the western side of Edinburgh city centre.

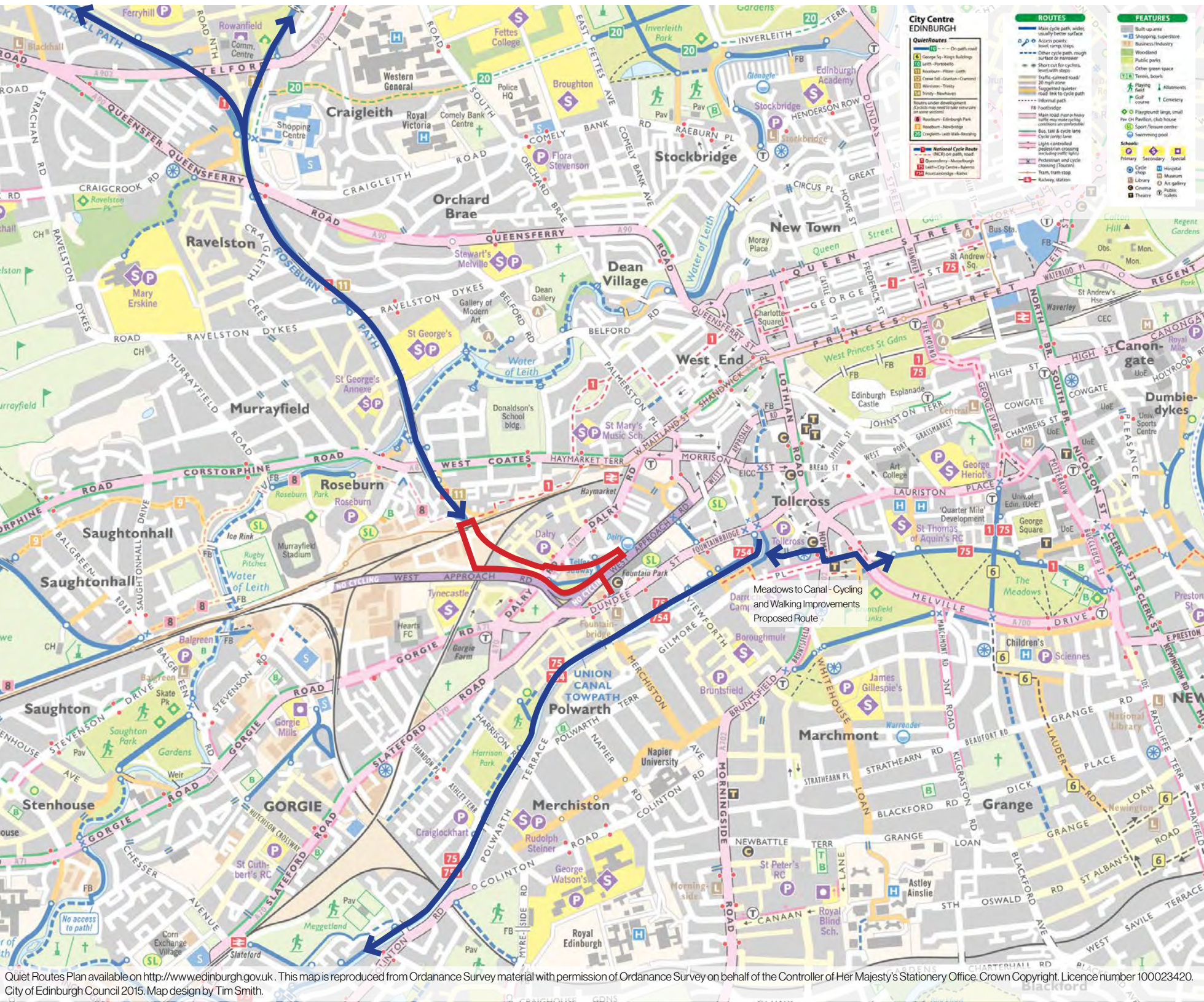
The Council is proposing a new walking and cycling route linking Roseburn to the Union Canal via a series of bridges over the existing railway line and Dalry Road as well as a new signalised crossing on West Approach Road. This will fill in a key missing link between the existing off road networks including the North Edinburgh path network via Roseburn Path (NCN1) and the Union Canal (NCN75). Also planned is a off road link along the north side of the West Approach Road as far as Morrison Crescent, allowing safer and more convenient access to the Morrison Street area avoiding the Haymarket junction.

# 1.2 The Project

Team of landscape architects, urban designers and engineers have been asked to aid the development of an integrated design strategy that both makes the clear connections from A to B and importantly maximise opportunities to re-energise existing outdoor amenity space that exists along the route.

The proposal includes the creation of a new shared pedestrian and cycle path including new bridge crossings and has been designed to:

- Deliver a high quality walking and cycling route.
- Improve connectivity across the city by completing an important missing link in the network.
- Integrate with the Council's proposals for a 'QuietRoutes' network.
- Provide safer, more direct and convenient access to key destinations by bike and on foot.
- Provide better access to green space and improve Dalry Community Park



Quiet Routes Plan available on <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk>. This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. Licence number 100023420. City of Edinburgh Council 2015. Map design by Tim Smith.



**Land Ownership**  
**Local Development Plan**

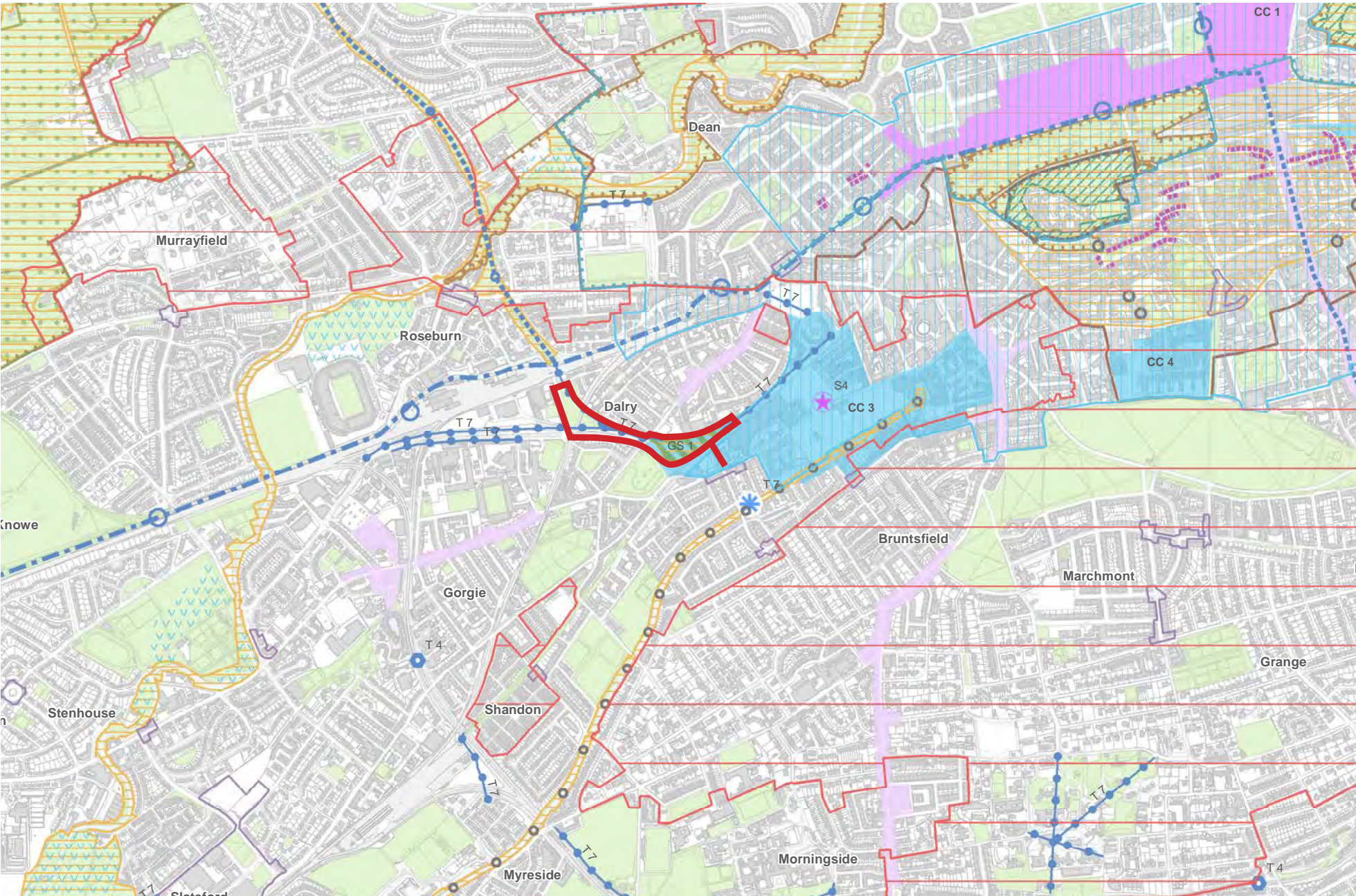
**Reference: T7**  
Name : Various off-road cycle/footpath links

The Proposals Map shows proposed and potential cycle/ footpath links and new access points. Many of these are included in the Council's Core Paths Plan and Active Travel Action Plan's 'Family Network'. The creation of these links will help meet climate change and sustainable development objectives. The proposed coastal footpath and cycle link at Joppa will only be supported if there are no adverse impacts on the nature conservation interests of the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area (see Policy Env13).

**Reference: GS 1**  
Name: Dalry Community Park

Proposal: Extension and enhancement of public park

Opportunity to enhance and extend an existing park to meet existing deficiencies in provision and as part of public open space requirements associated with the redevelopment of Fountainbridge.





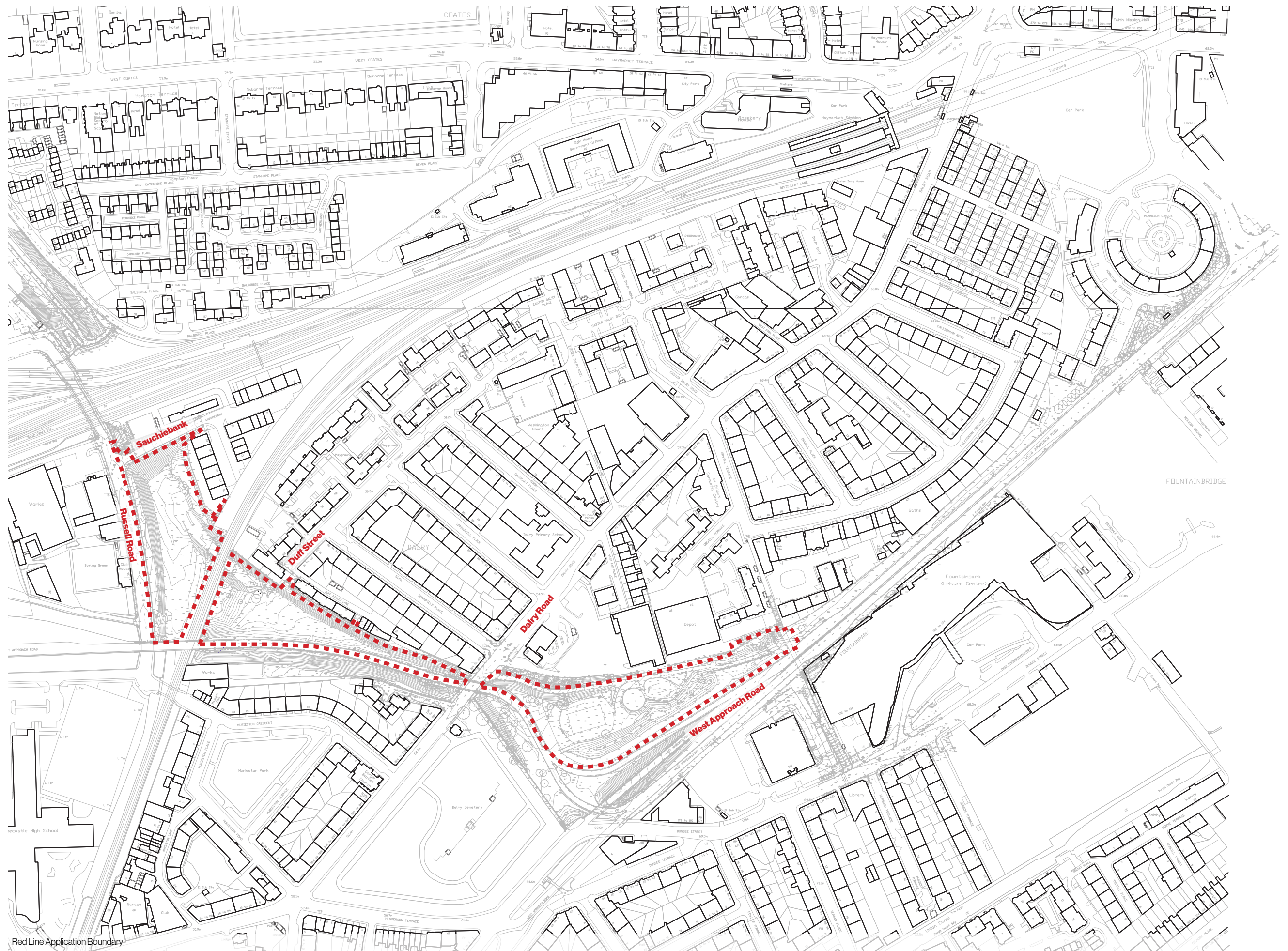
1.2 The Site

The site stretches along the West Approach Road, with a direct access points from the Dalry Road, Russel and and Sauchiebank.

Images of existing site conditions









### 1.3 Existing Trees

386 individual trees were surveyed and around 900 trees were recorded in groups:

- 11 of the individually surveyed trees were categorised as 'A'; 125 as 'B', 142 as 'C' and 104 as 'U'
- 4 trees could not be categorised
- 20 trees were classed as mature
- 209 as early-mature
- 140 as young and 10 as over-mature
- 7 trees were classed as dead
- 173 trees were rated as being in good condition
- 113 as moderate
- 90 as poor
- 7 as dead
- 4 trees could not be rated



The survey site is comprised of four distinct zones:

- Morrison Link to Orwell Terrace: recent road-side planting of Silver Lime and Norway Maple.
- Park between Orwell Terrace and Dalry Road: A mixture of mostly young and early-mature native trees; some larger trees border the park on the road-side, most notably a row of mature Railway Poplars. The section bordering the roadside is fairly overgrown.
- Dalry Road to the railway line: a fairly overgrown section with mostly native species of various ages; some notable larger trees are growing here.
- Railway line to Sauchiebank: mostly young and early-mature native species with some notable larger trees on the western and northern edges; the area has been fenced off and some areas are becoming overgrown.







## 02 | Landscape Vision and Framework



## 2.1 Landscape As Added Value

Studies have shown that contact with nature reduces stress levels, improves mood, enhances psychological wellbeing and improves attention and concentration. Places of calm where one can sit outside after a day of studying/ work or walk at the weekend can have a dramatic impact on people's overall feeling of wellbeing and attitudes, refreshing and refocusing the mind.

The definitive landscape vision is to support the local residents, visitors and commuters to Dalry Park, considering both the functional requirements of servicing and access, along with the social aspects of wellbeing and sense of place. To achieve this, we hope to improve contact with nature and the sharing of green space.

### Active Travel Value

Approximately 34% of all car journeys in Scotland are less than two miles in length and could be covered by bicycle or on foot instead. Increasing cycling levels for everyday travel brings significant benefits to all. The design objectives aimed in the enhancement and expansion of existing cycle networks to increase usage and activity levels within the local community as well as people commuting to work.

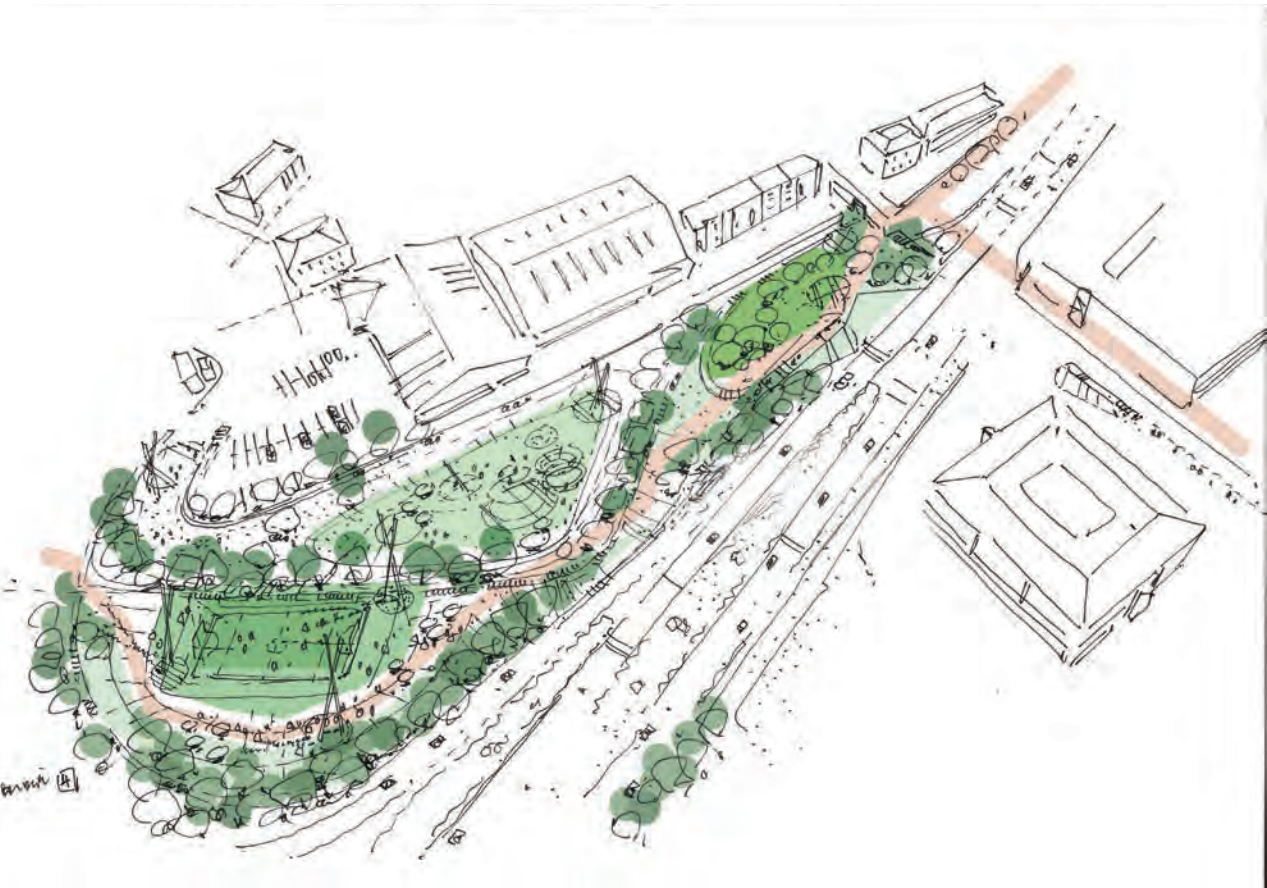
### Play Value

The scheme's goal is to provide opportunities for various types and forms to nurture an individual's child learning style. The play equipment is selected based on play value and innovation of unique products to help develop number of skills and encourage creativity and imagination.



## 2.2 Concept

The concept aims to create defined spaces within the route by utilizing the already existing zones. Sauchiebank and Duff Street's scattered woodland habitat is to be enhanced and restored, and connected to the Dalry Park's greenery. Those three habitats will form a unite network and series of unique character zones that will be linked by cohesive material palette.







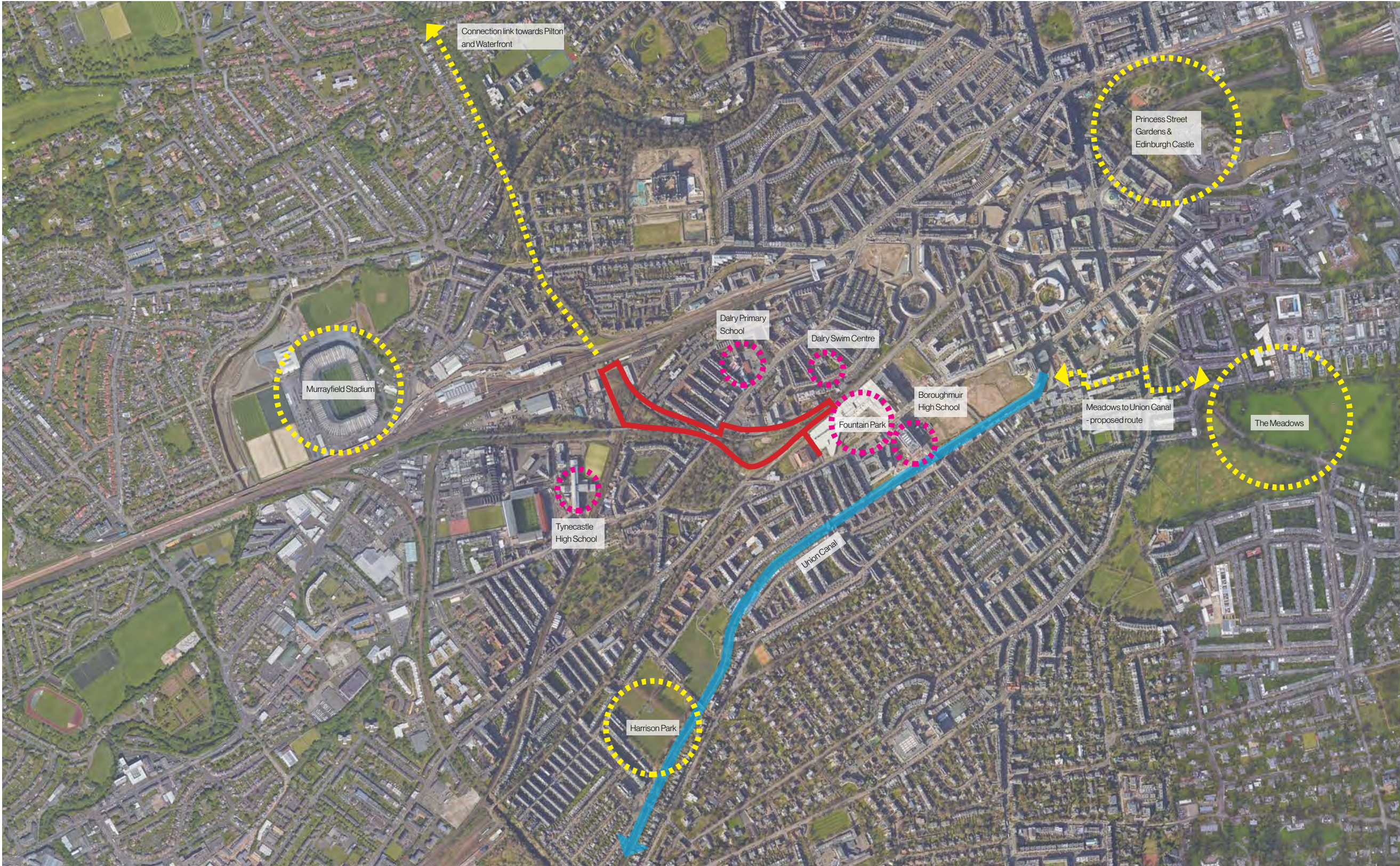
Project Masterplan







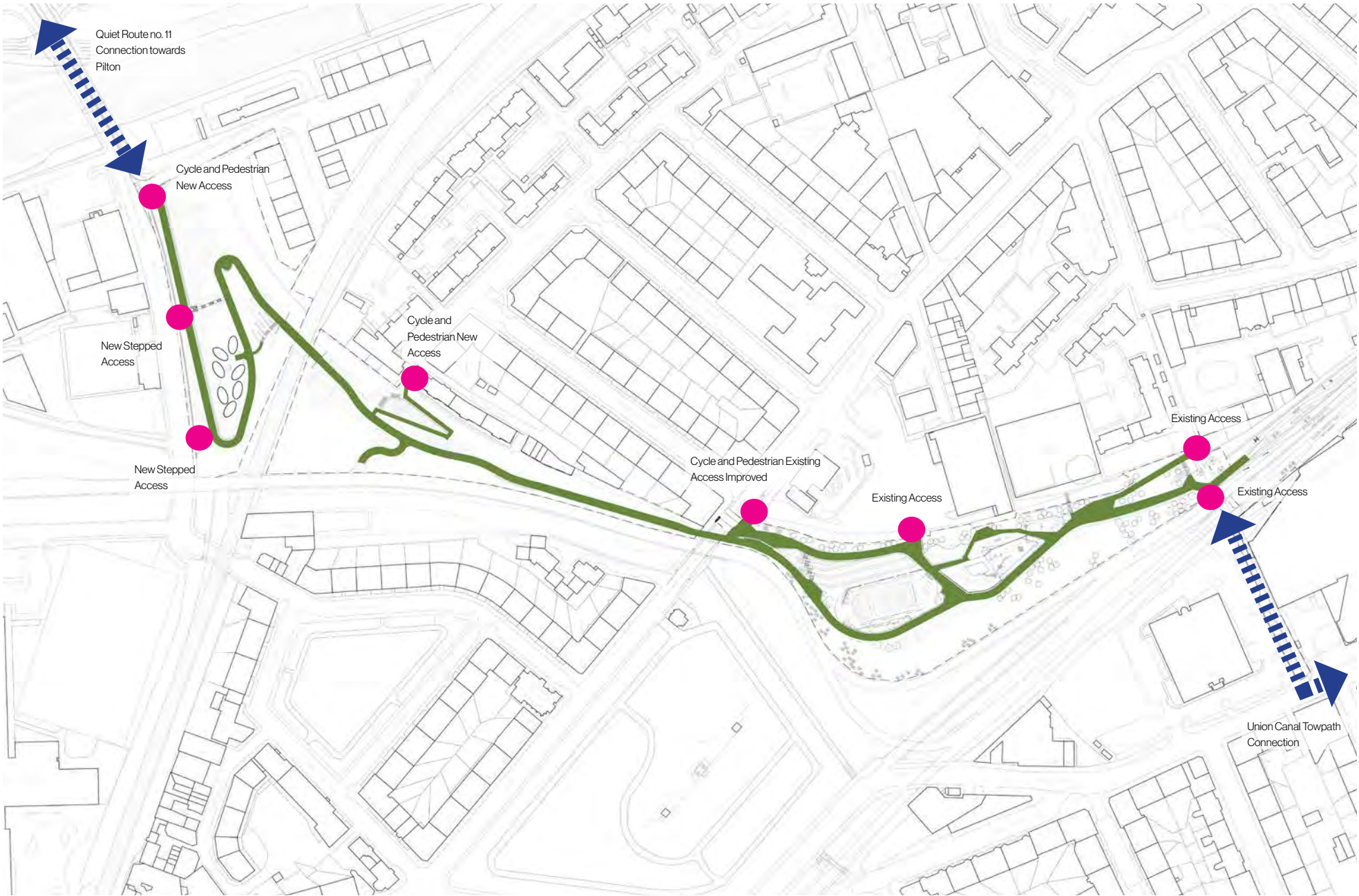
2.3 Wider City Connections





## 2.3 Space and Connectivity

The site sits by busy Western Approach Road and Dalry Road. The aspiration is to improve the cycle and pedestrian connection from Sauchiebank to Morrison Link through Dalry Park. The scheme will provide 4 additional access points, including step-free access, level footpaths and smooth terrain to accommodate people with all abilities.





## 2.5 Green Infrastructure

Roseburn to Union Canal Path Link fills in the missing link between already existing green infrastructure by enhancing the surrounding greenery, providing active travel opportunity and connect with wider city network.





