

ST PAUL'S FIELD, LEE VALLEY Landscape and Path Network Design

12th April 2022



ST PAUL'S FIELD, LEE VALLEY

Landscape and Path Network Design

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Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

1. Landscape Context

1.1 Lee Valley Regional Park

The Lee Valley Regional Park ('The Park') was created on the 1st January 1967, through an Act of Parliament: the Lee Valley Regional Act 1966.

The creators of the Park wanted to provide a destination for the growing populations of London, Essex and Hertfordshire to enjoy recreation and leisure activities unavailable elsewhere. The corridor alongside the River Lee was at that time a mix of derelict and operational industrial land, undeveloped marshlands, water supply reservoirs, farmland, glasshouses and municipal parks. The new Regional Park was designed to transform these areas to create a continuous corridor of open space and built leisure and sports facilities that would provide a wide range of recreation and leisure opportunities.

Much has been achieved since the Park was created. The Park now includes 10,000 acres (over 4,000 ha) and winds its way 26 miles: along the banks of the River Lee from Ware in Hertforshire, down through Essex, North London, and through parts of the Olympic Park to East India Dock Basin on the River Thames.

The Park is a fantastic mix of world class sport and leisure venues, heritage sites, gardens, nature reserves and riverside trails; offering an endless range of things to do. It is easy to reach by bike, car, train, or on foot, and visitors can spend anything from a few hours to a few days enjoying and exploring.

1.2 Site Location

St Paul's Field ('the Site') is located within the Lee Valley Regional Park. The site consists of a parcel of land extending to approximately 38 acres, which is situated within the Lee Valley approximately 5 miles south west of Harlow town centre and 2.5 miles east of Broxbourne. The Site is located to the south of Dobb's Weir Road and to the north of Meadgate Road. Nazeing Meads sits immediately to the west of the Site. The Site was historically used as a sand and gravel extraction pit that has been subsequently backfilled with landfill. It currently comprises rough scrubland vegetation with a number of informal tracks across it.



Location of St. Paul's Field



2. The Site

2.1 St Paul's Field

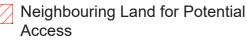
St Paul's Field is situated to the north of Meadgate Road and south of Dobb's Weir Road Nazing, Essex. The area has been in possession of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority until recently when part of the land was sold. The Site has history of being ex-industrial land which has since then been taken over by nature. The site has also suffered from contamination in the past and levels of current contamination are unknown but not considered to be high risk.

Access to fishing swims on Nazeing north lagoon have been kept open by the Authorities fisheries department and the fishing rights are in the process of being contracted out to a new company to manage.



Lee Valley Regional Park Boundary

Extent of Site

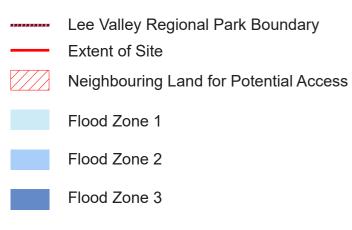


Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

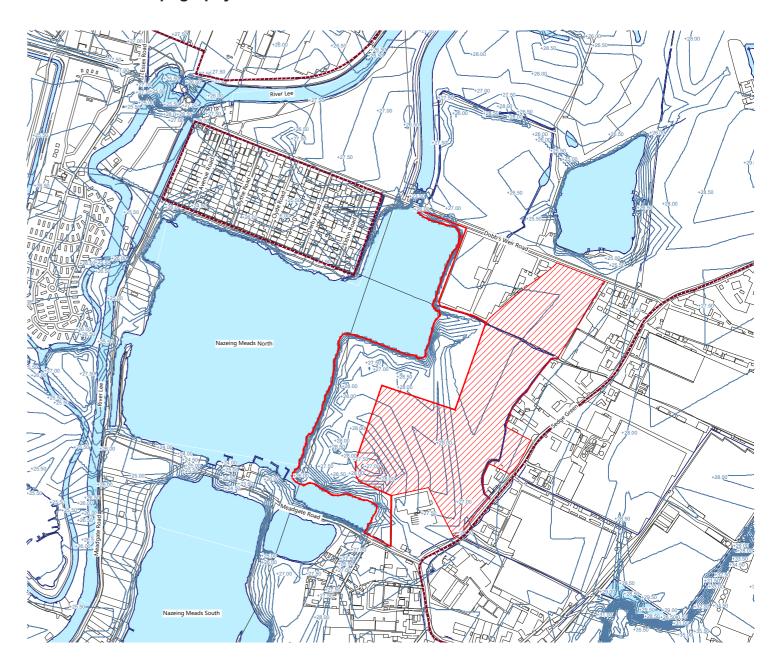


3.1 Flood Risk from Surface Water

R5



3.2 Levels and Topography



- Lee Valley Regional Park Boundary
- Extent of Site
- Neighbouring Land for Potential Access

____ 0.5m Contours

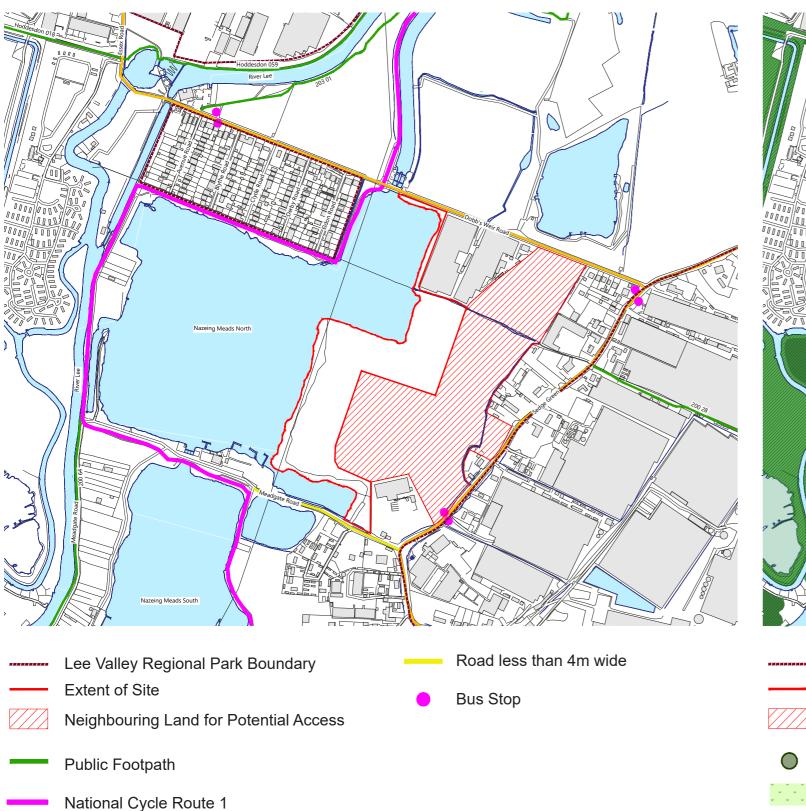


3.3 Circulation and Connectivity

B road

3.4 Existing Vegetation





Reeds

Extent of Site

Existing Trees

Shrub & Unimproved Grassland

Unimproved Grassland

Neighbouring Land for Potential Access

Shrub



- Broadleaf Woodland
- Broadleaf Woodland & Shrub
- Coniferous Woodland
- Coniferous Woodland & Shrub
- Mixed Woodland



4. Site Assessment

4.1 Intervisibility (1)

Key locations along the waters edge provides direct lines of sight from one position to another providing opportunities to create a strong wayfinding strategy.

4.2 Sightliness/Orientation (2)

Views of landscape features within the local context of the Lee Valley Regional Park, (Pylons, Chimneys, Steeples & other architectural features) aid in orientation within St Paul's Field while reinforcing the landscape character of the Lee Valley Regional Park.

4.3 Landscape Nodes (3)

A number of landscape nodal spaces have been identified along the waters edge. These spaces occur at transitional points and provide opportunities for design features, creating a hierarchy of landscape spaces.

4.4 Specimen Trees (4)

A number of specimen trees of high quality have been identified. These specimens provide enhanced landscape amenity value within St Paul's Field.

4.5 Evidence of Muscles within Nazeing Meads (5)

Discarded muscle shells were found along the waters edge. Opportunities to integrate design elements that reflect the local flora and fauna of St Paul's Field to ground the Site in its local context.

4.6 Connectivity (6)

Opportunities to connect to existing Lee Valley recreational routes (Tale of Two Rivers & Rye Meads Discovery Cycle Routes, Fishers Green Foray Walk & Peddlers Paradise Running & Cycle Routes), enhancing overall local connectivity.

4.7 Opportunities for Landscape Features Beneath Pylons (7)

The National Grid Pylons are a dominant landscape feature within the Site. The locations of the pylons provide a unique perspective of these structures that are typically inaccessible. These structures are become synonymous within the Lee Valley Regional Park and provide opportunities to create unique landscape features within the site.

4.8 Landscape Rest Area Adjacent to Dobbs Weir (8)

An area in the northwest corner of the site, adjacent to Dobbs Weir has potential for a landscape nodal/gateway space to mark potential entrance into St Paul's Field. This space has significant intervisibility within Nazeing Meads North elevating this portion of the site within the landscape hierarchy to act as a significant gateway space.

4.9 Potential Route Along Waters Edge (9)

Potential for a route along the waters edge to keep visitors away from the Glass House boundary fence and plant a native hedge along existing fence line as defensible boundary.







4.10 Potential Additional Route (10)

Potential for an additional link route above existing drainage ditch (ditch to be culverted) to link into existing informal route along Nazeing Meads South northern edge to connect to existing recreational route Fishers Green Foray Walk & Peddlers Paradise Running & Cycle

4.11 Improve Quality of Existing Stream (11)

Clean up existing stream to be clear of pollution and plant with species that will improve water quality.

4.12 Create Attractive Gateway to Site (12)

Improve quality of site entrance to create attractive gateway by tree planting, pollution clean up and improving quality of existing ditches.



1. Strong intervisibility within Nazeing Meads North



2. Sightline to landscape features within the local context of the Lee Valley Regional Park



3. Landscape nodal spaces providing opportunities for design features and interpretation



5. Evidence of muscles within Nazeing Meads. Opportunities to integrate design elements that reflect the local flora and fauna of St Paul's Field.



6. Connection to existing Lee Valley recreational routes via existing infrastructure



7. Opportunities for landscape features beneath pylons



9. Potential for a route along waters edge to keep visitors away from the Glass House boundary fence



10. Potential for an additional link route above existing drainage ditch (ditch to be culverted) to connect to existing recreational route



11. Clean up existing stream to be clear of pollution and plant with species that will improve water quality



4. Existing specimen trees provide enhanced landscape amenity value within St Paul's Field



8. Landscape rest area adjacent to Dobbs Weir



12. Improve quality of site entrance to create attractive gateway by tree planting, pollution clean up and improving quality of existing ditches



5. Constraints & Opportunities



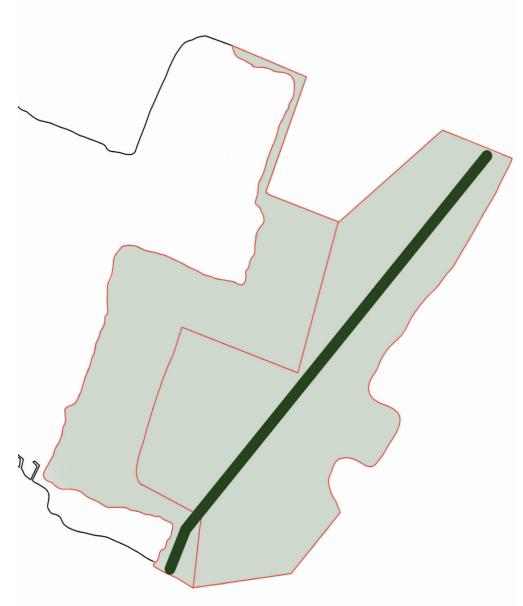


View Across 'Nazeing Meads North' Looking South



6. Concept Diagrams

CONCEPT 1 - DIRECT ROUTE



CONCEPT 2 - MEANDERING ROUTE

ADVANTAGES

O Opportunities to enhance existing landscape on site

LIMITATIONS

ASSESSMENT

- O Does not utilize views on site.
- O Requires permission from Lignacite to access through their site
- Northeast of site ,prone to medium to high extent of flooding
- O No footpath on Dobb's Weir Road

ADVANTAGES

- O Opportunities to enhance existing landscape on site
- O Utilizes a portion of existing maintenance route on site
- Views across Nazeing Meads North fishing pond

LIMITATIONS

- O Requires permission from Lignacite to access through their site
- O Northeast of site, prone to medium to high extent of flooding
- No footpath on Dobb's Weir Road

ADVANTAGES

LIMITATIONS

maintenance issues

ASSESSMENT

Option recommended to be disregarded due to lack of pedestrian footpath along Dobb's Weir Road

ASSESSMENT Option recommended to be disregarded due to lack of pedestrian footpath along Dobb's Weir Road

CONCEPT 3 - DESIRE LINE ROUTE



O Opportunities to connect to Dobb's Weir Road O Opportunities to enhance existing landscape on site O Opportunities to connect to National Cycle Trail Route 1 O Utilizes existing Maintenance track on site O Utilizes views across Nazeing Meads North fishing pond O Has footpath access from Dobb's Weir Road O Opportunities to connect to existing Lee Valley recreational routes via footpath along Dobb's Weir Road

• Fishing platforms could be used by recreational visitors causing

Option reccomended to be progressed

7. Viable Options

VIABLE OPTION 3A

VIABLE OPTION 3B

VIABLE OPTION 3C





- O Provides connectivity to existing Lee Valley Recreational Routes
- O Enhancement to Nazeing Meads North waters edge
- O Provides connectivity to National Cycle Trail Route 1
- O Utilizes existing maintenance track on site
- O Utilizes views across Nazeing Meads North and beyond
- O Provides design features at key nodal spaces along waters edge
- O Proposed route along waters edge enhances user experience

LIMITATIONS

- Fishing platforms potentially used by recreational visitors causing maintenance issues
- O Pylon structures along recreational route

ASSESSMENT

Recommended Option





- Provides connectivity to existing Lee Valley Recreational Routes
- O Proposed route does not bring visitors near existing Pylons
- O Proposed route does not bring visitors near existing fishing swims

LIMITATIONS

ADVANTAGES

- O Mundane user experience
- O Disregarding unique site features

ASSESSMENT

Not favourable

- LIMITATIONS O Does not utilise views across Nazeing Meads and beyond the site
- O Mundane user experience
- O Disregarding unique site features

ASSESSMENT

Not favourable



• Provides connectivity to existing Lee Valley Recreational Routes O Proposed route does not bring visitors near existing Pylons O Proposed route does not bring visitors near existing fishing swims

O Requires permission from Lignacite to access through their site O Does not utilise views across Nazeing Meads and beyond the site



8. Landscape Proposals

8.1 Northern Gateway Entrance (1)

Northern entrance to Site, visible from multiple locations in the local vicinity and within St Paul's Field therefore it is a space of high value. This space create a contemporary seating area including a simple bench and area of hard landscape, providing rest area with views over Nazeing Meads North, with high quality surface materials to reflect significance of the space within the overall landscape strategy.

8.2 Realignment of Recreational Route (2)

The intent is to keep visitors away from the site boundary and bring them closer to the waters edge. The proposed route will weave between the existing trees creating a better relationship between the new recreational route and Nazeing Meads North. Planting native hedge species as a defensible edge along the glass house site boundary should not create overshadowing while implementing a defensible edge.

8.3 Feature Bridge (3)

Implementation of a feature bridge to replace the existing bridge. New feature bridge will provide a design feature along the route and a viewing location over Nazeing Meads North.

8.4 Landscape Rest Areas (4)

Provision of a number of simple bench features at strategic locations along the route, provides a rest and viewing area along the waters edge will enhance the recreational value of the route and provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy the landscape.

8.5 Landscape Recreational Area (5)

To aid the integration of the Pylons into the landscape, provision of recreational areas beneath these structures is proposed. These recreational areas will consist of formal and informal seating opportunities with swathes of wildflower planting and a bird hide to encourage bird watchers and simple activities such as boules courts that wont effect maintenance.

8.6 Access Restrictions (6)

To prevent mopeds and guad bikes and other forms of anti-social behaviour, kissing gates will be provided to restrict access.

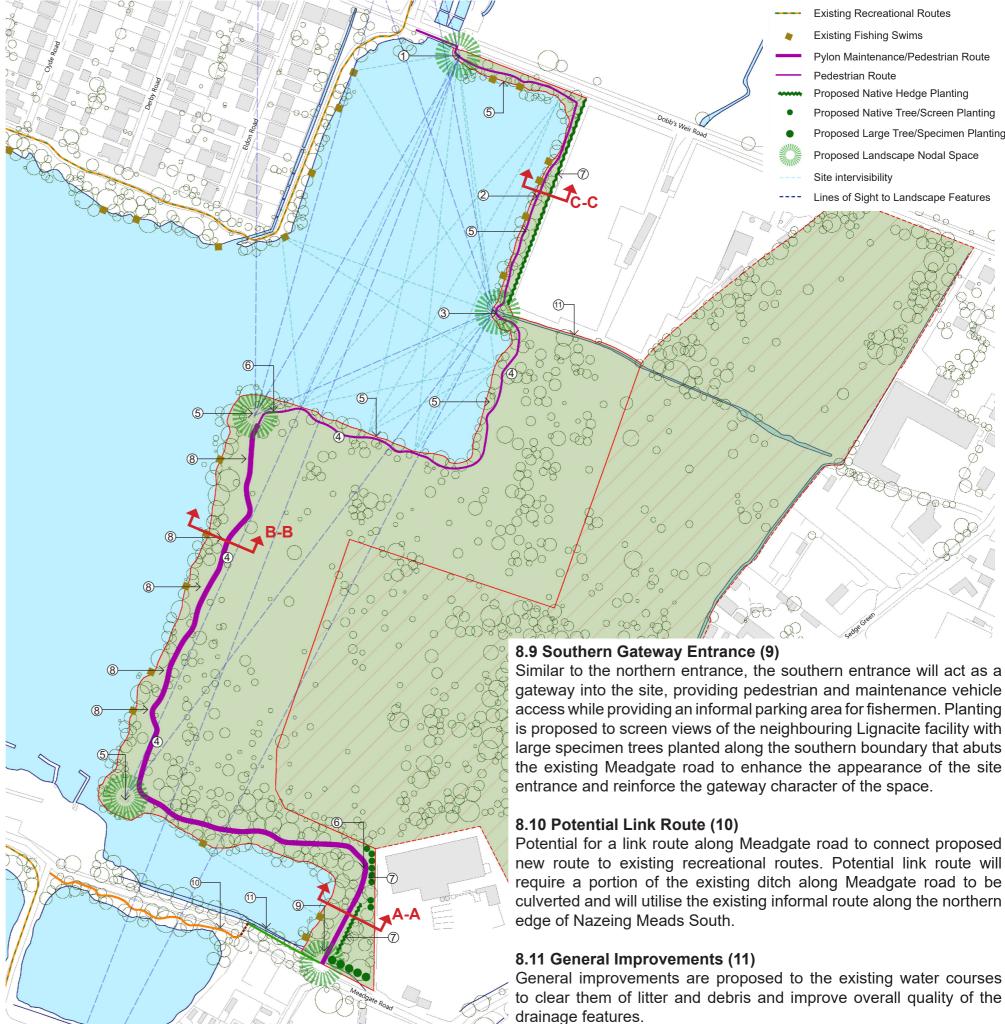
8.7 Defensible Planting (7)

Defensible planting is proposed along the glasshouse site and Lignacite boundaries. The intent for the planting proposals is to keep users away from these boundaries and screen the facilities as much a practical.

8.8 Enhancement Planting (8)

The intent for the planting proposals is to enhance the rural character of the site with a focus on attracting wildlife, and enhancing biodiversity. Planting proposals will consist of existing native species found on site used along the route to enhance the character of the site and reflect its new function as a high value recreational resource.



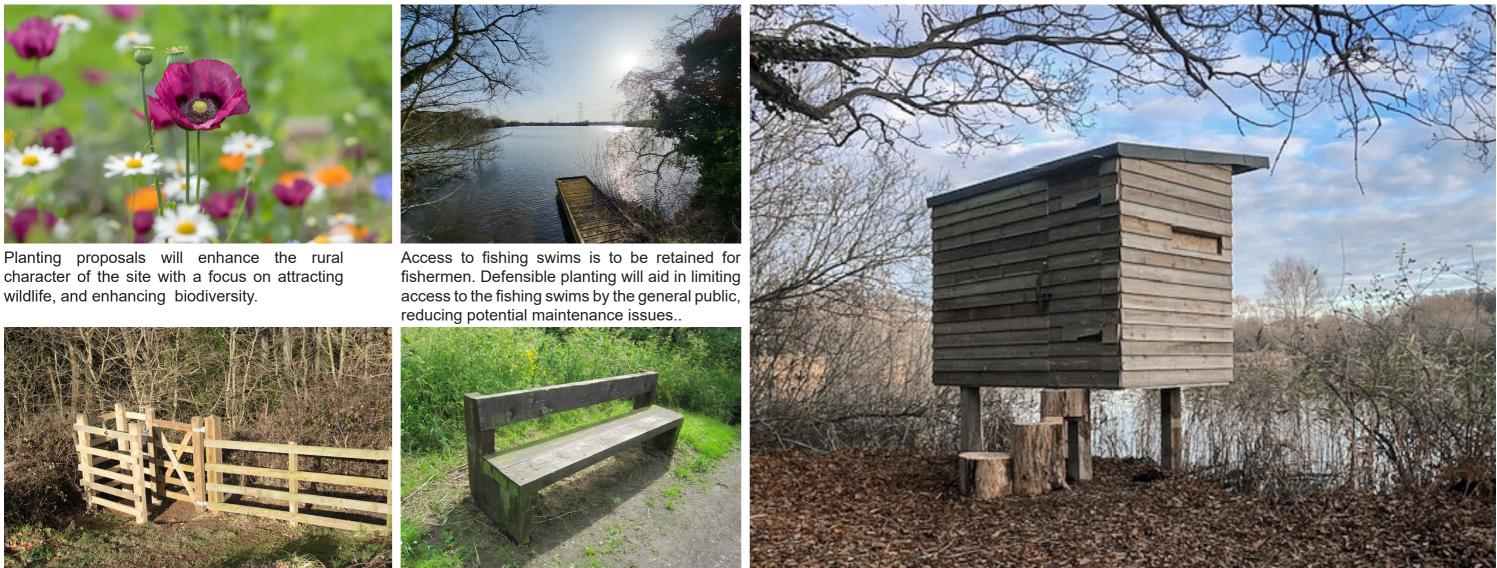


Existing Trees Ο

- Proposed Large Tree/Specimen Planting



Using live willow structures to create New feature bridge will provide a design feature along the route and a New recreational route of compacted gravel in buff tones. New route will be universally landscape features that will encourage viewing location over Nazeing Meads North. assessable and create a new recreational assets within the Lee Valley Regional Park. interaction and attract visitors to the site



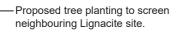


behaviours.



Timber vehicular and pedestrian kissing gate to restrict Timber bench to reinforce the rural character Feature bird hide to encourage bird watchers to the site to reinforce the creation of an active, multi-functional access for mopeds, quad bikes and other anti-social located along the new route to provide rest and recreational route. viewing areas.





 Proposed tree planting to screen neighbouring Lignacite site.



 Proposed maintenance and management of existing vegetation (pollarding parctices) to improve quality and amenity value. Proposed vehicular gate and kissing gate (to reflect rural character) to provide service vehicle and pedestrian access while restricting ATV/scooter/moped access

Proposed native shrub planting screen neighbouring site and enhance entrance to St Paul's Field



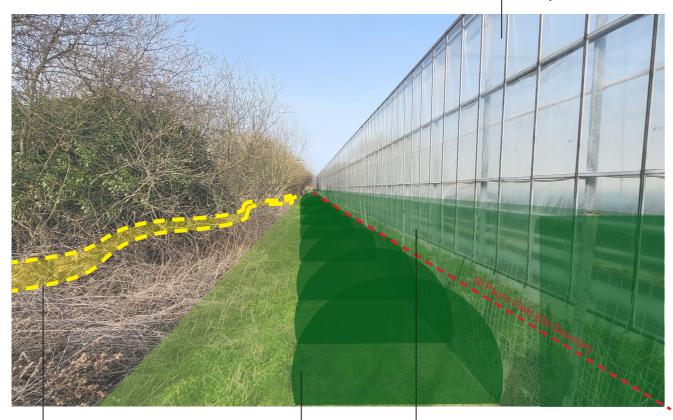


 Proposed maintenance and management of existing vegetation (pollarding parctices) to improve quality and amenity value.



Existing glass house in adjacent site

Landscape Section B-B



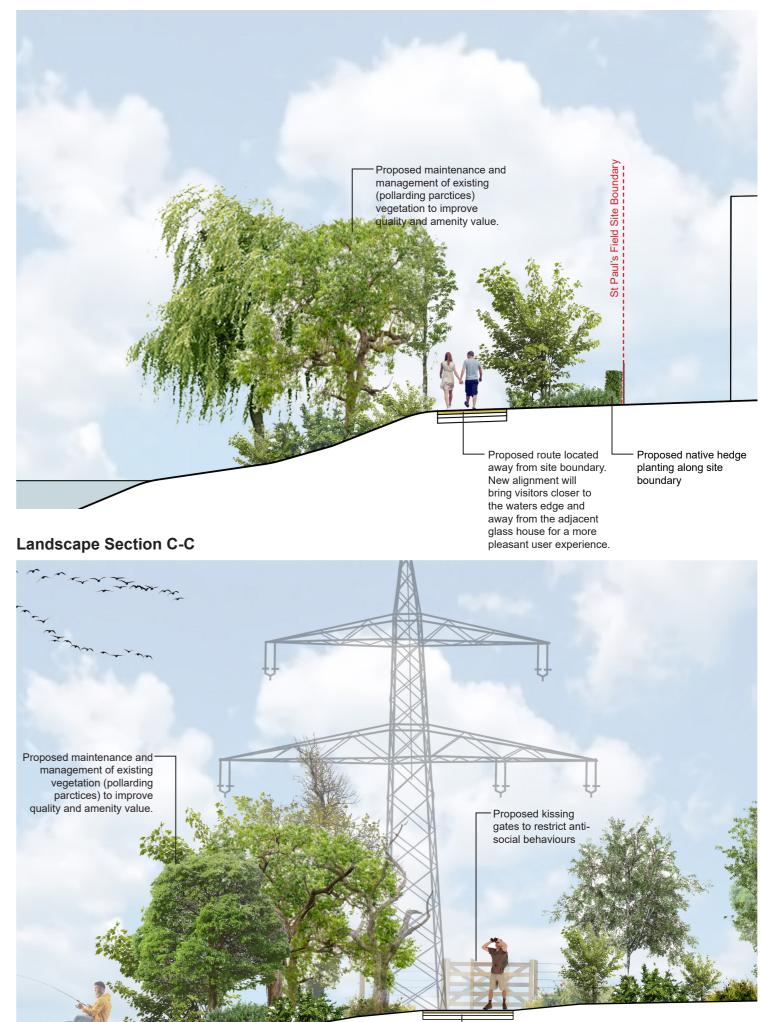
 Proposed route located away from site boundary and realigned between existing trees. New alignment will bring visitors closer to the waters edge and away from the adjacent glass house for a more pleasant user experience.

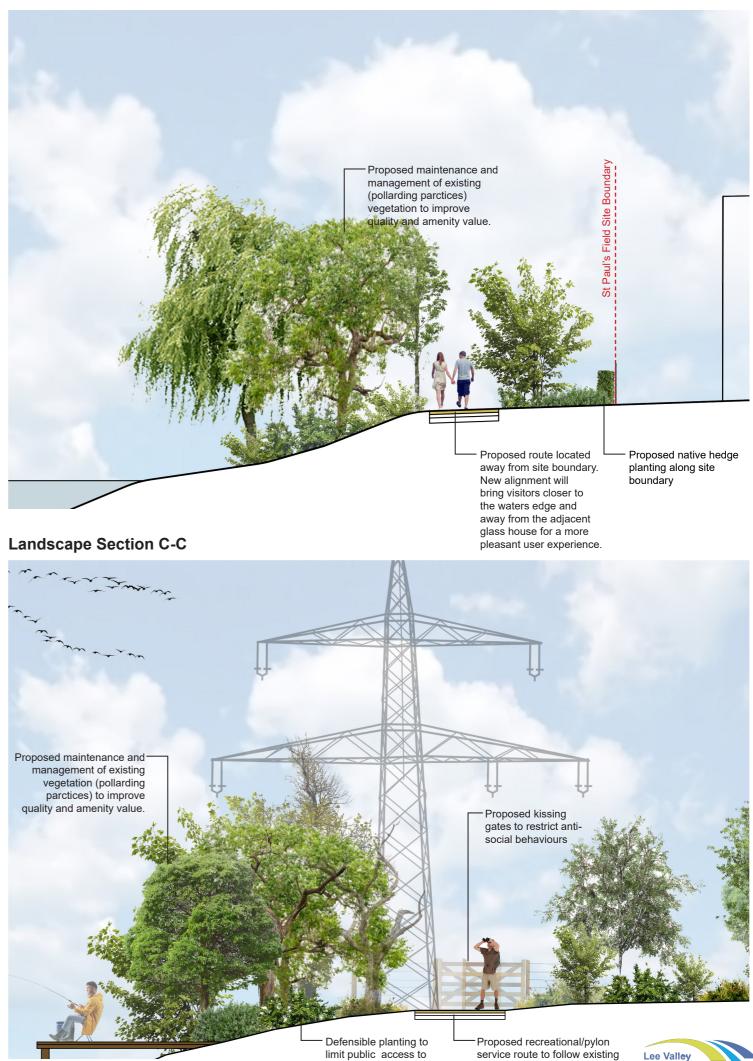
Proposed native Proposed native . shrub planting to . hedge planting create defensible along site edge boundary



Proposed recreational/ pylon service route to follow existing alignment as far as practical.

Proposed native planting along recreational/service route to create defensible edge to fishing swims access and enhance amenity of the Site.

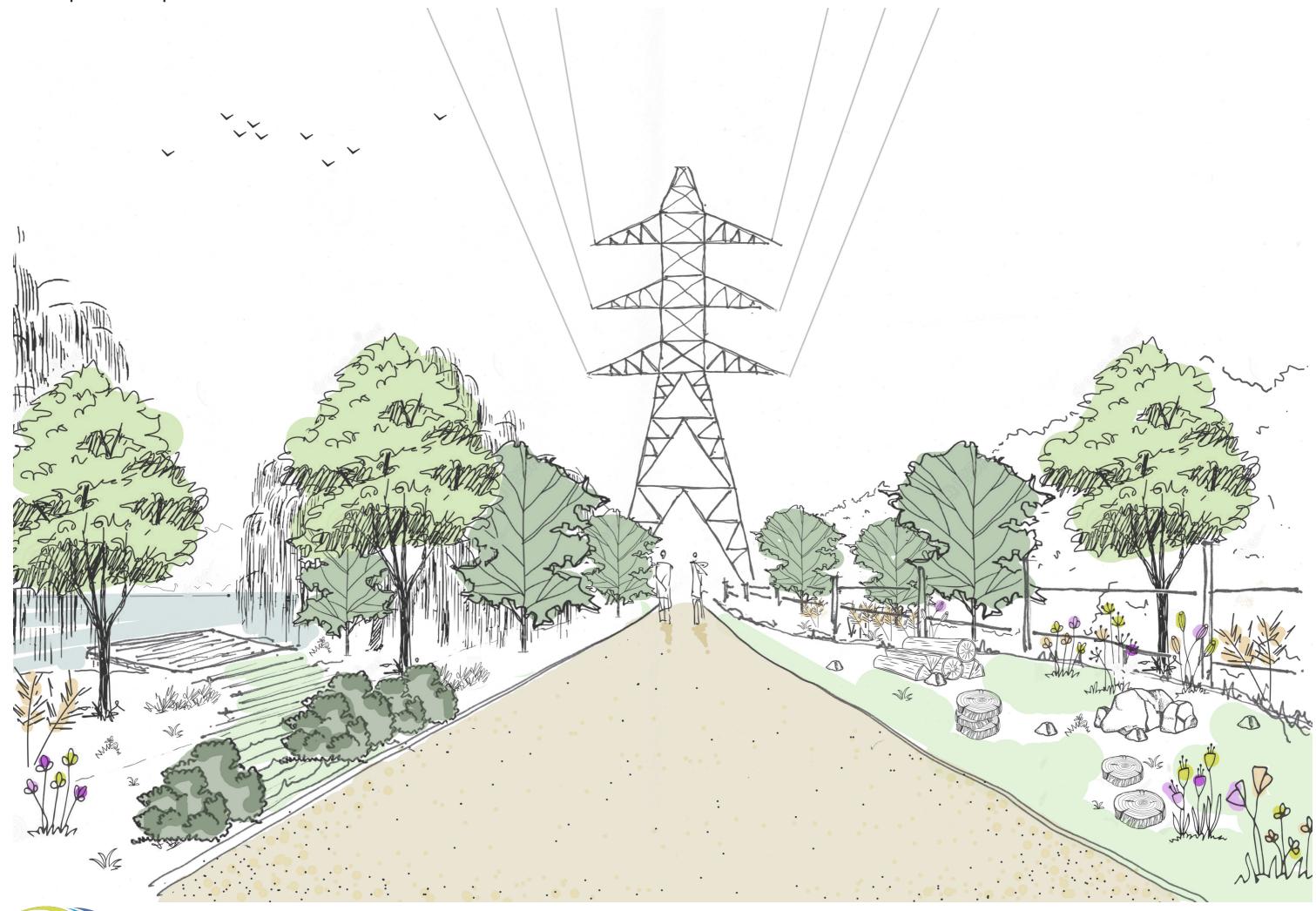




fishing swims.

Proposed recreational/pylon service route to follow existing alignment as far as practical.



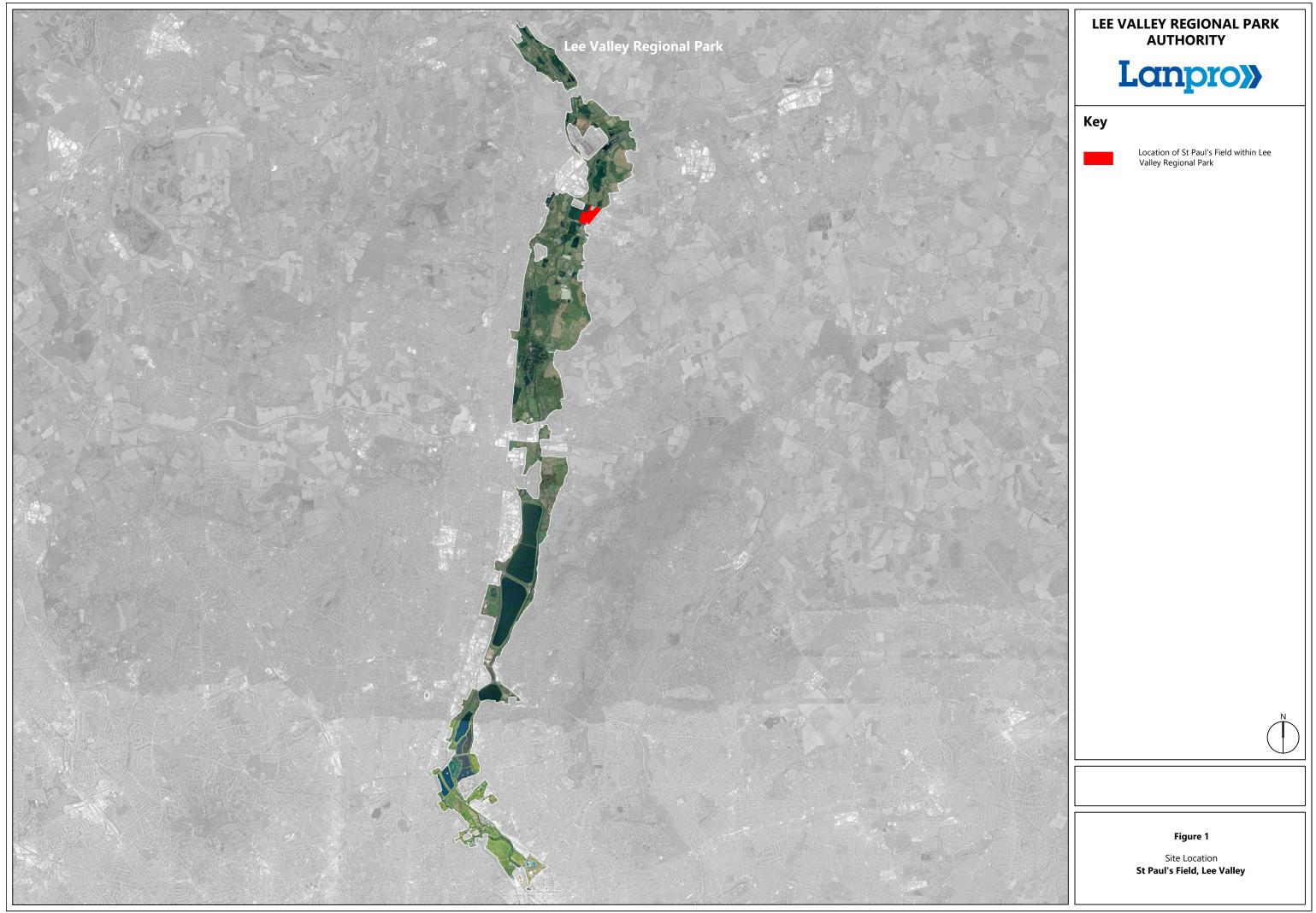






9. Appendix A - Baseline Drawings and Constraint & Opportunities Drawing







LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY



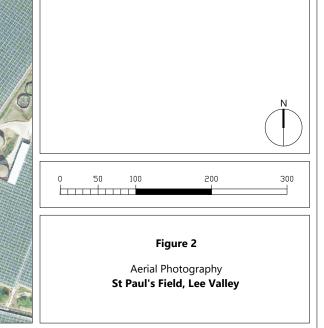
Key

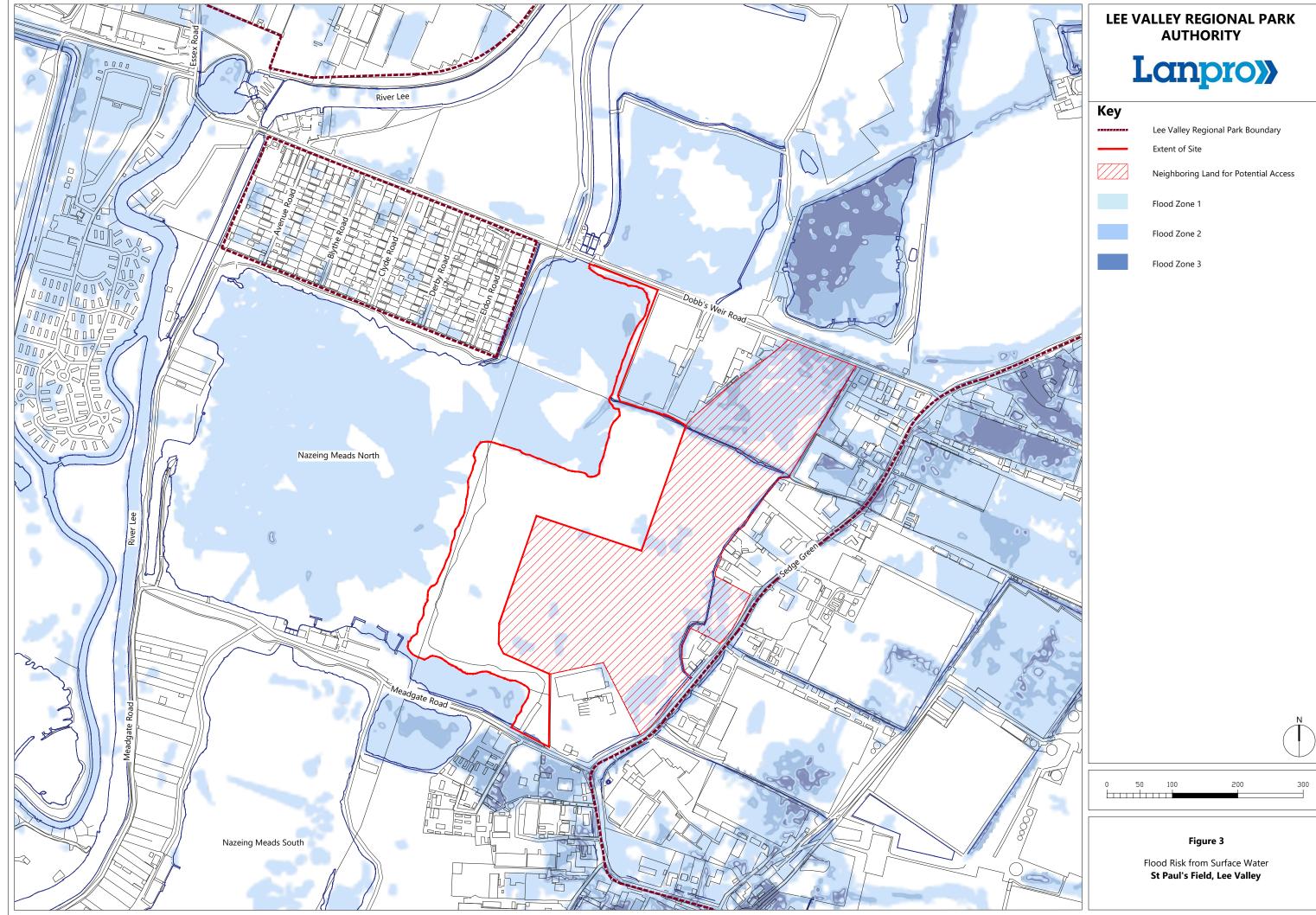


Lee Valley Regional Park Boundary Extent of Site

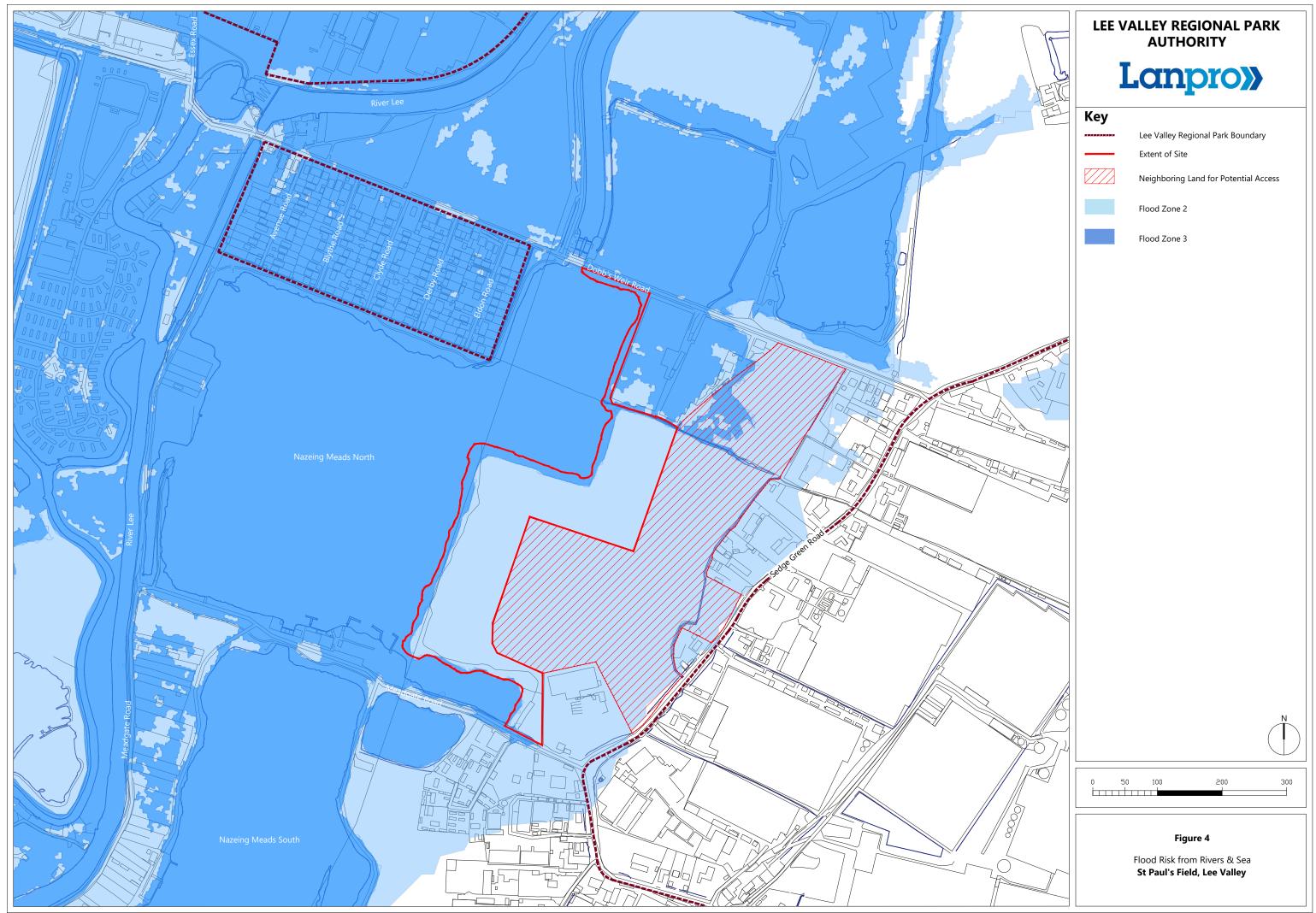


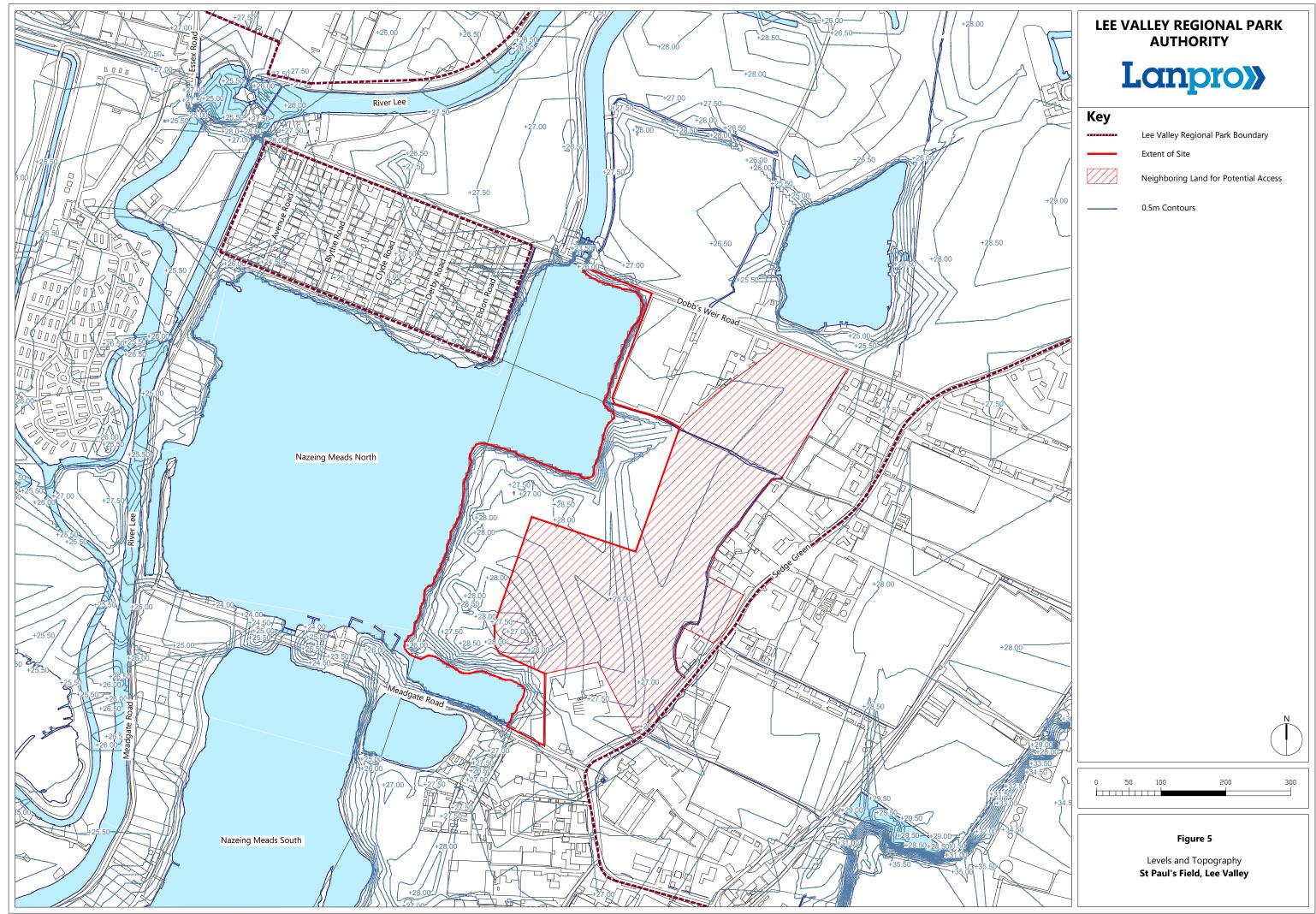
Neighboring Land for Potential Access

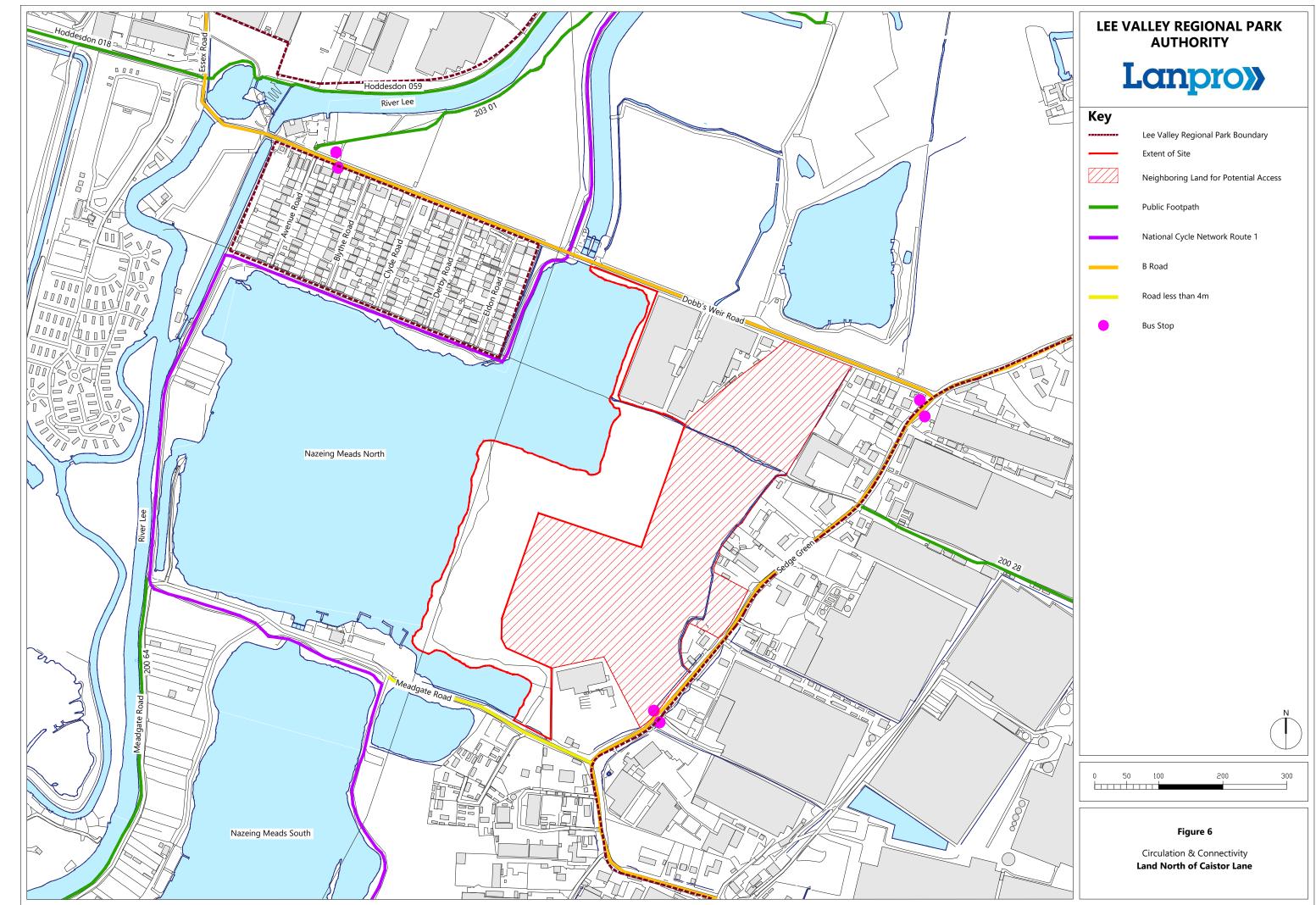


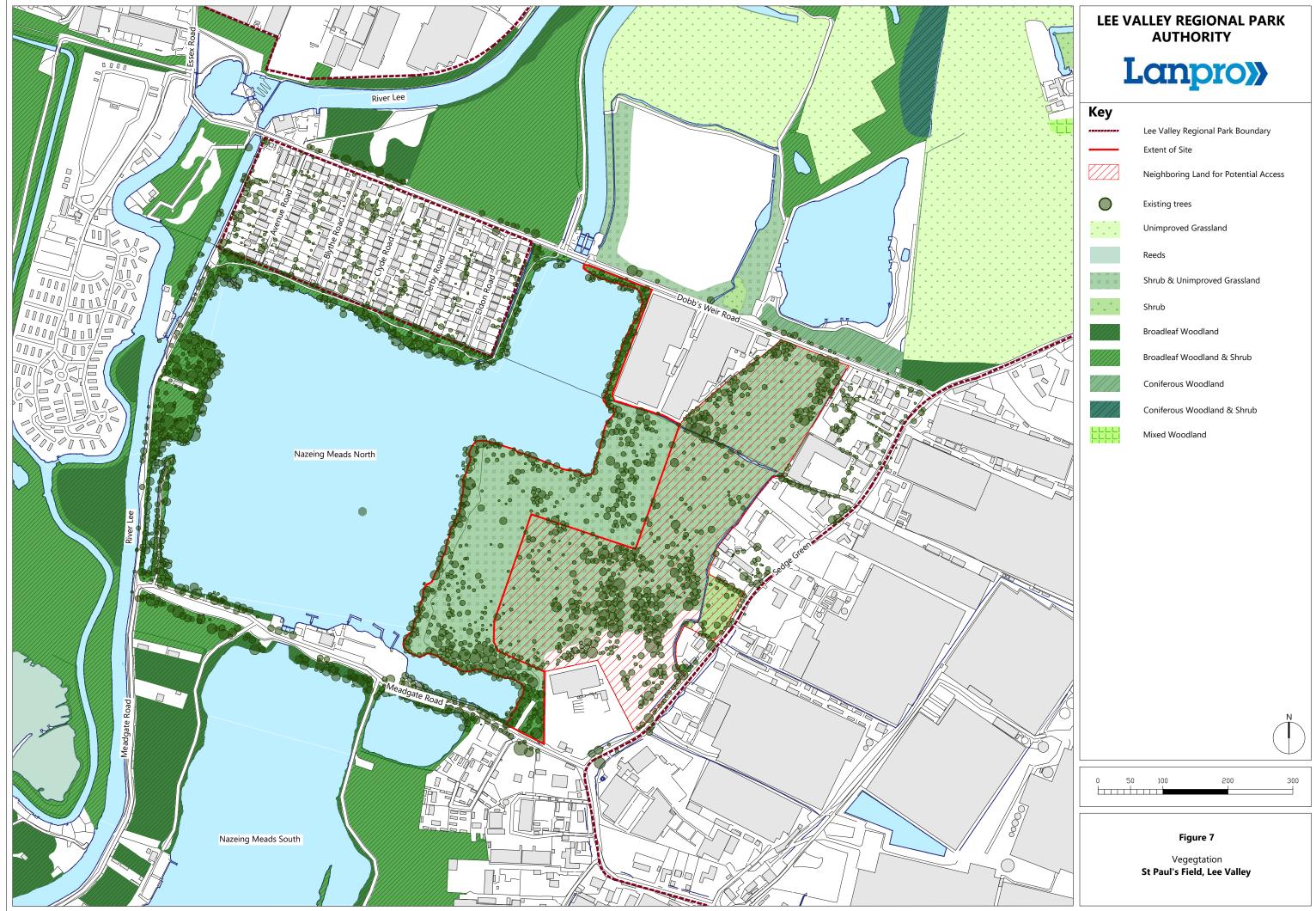












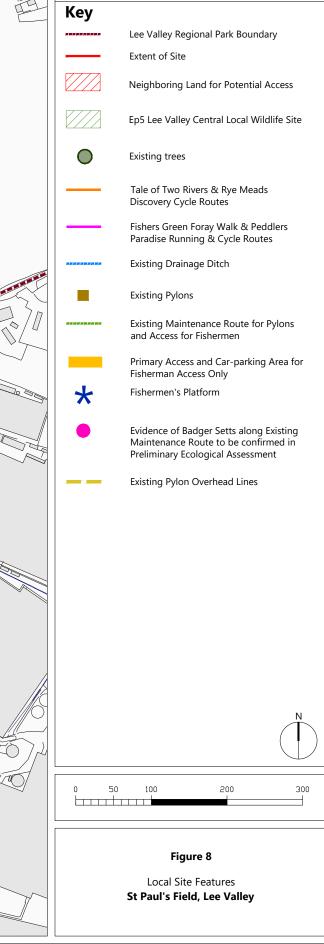






LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY







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