



# Port Sunlight Landscape Condition Survey Report

Port Sunlight Village Trust

Prepared by Ryder Landscape Consultants

July 2017

**RYDER**  
LANDSCAPE CONSULTANTS



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Survey Sheets (Character Areas 2 - 13)
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Review of Previous Character Areas and Schedule of Significance and Vulnerability Tables.

# Introduction

Ryder Landscape Consultants were commissioned by Port Sunlight Village Trust (PSVT) in January 2017 to undertake a landscape condition survey of Port Sunlight village. The outcomes of the resulting survey report are to inform the village wide Conservation Management Plan as being prepared by PSVT.

The aim of this Landscape Condition Survey Report is to aid daily management activities and act as part of the evidence base for long term strategic planning objectives for Port Sunlight. The report considers the village's character and current condition before arriving at recommendations for restoration, management and maintenance works both in the short and long term. The 2007 Conservation and Management Plan Landscape Report prepared by Bureau Veritas, acts as 'Starter for Ten' base for this report, in terms of using the same character area rationale and highlighting key actions and objectives for PSVT.

The report is split into seven sections which discuss and evaluate the village in different ways;

- Section 1: Overall Statement of Condition and Character
- Section 2: Condition of Landscape Elements.
- Section 3: Landscape Policy and Character Area Actions
- Section 4: Access and Equality Compliance
- Section 5: Maintenance Activities Audit.
- Section 6: Overall Action Strategy for Port Sunlight
- Section 7: Summary and Conclusion

The separate appendix report contains:

- A copy of survey sheets from the fieldwork part of the study;
- A review of Previous Character Areas and Schedule of Significance and Vulnerability Tables.
- A short list of potential appropriate plant species for future use.





## Section I Overall Statement of Condition and Character

## Section I: Section Introduction and Scope

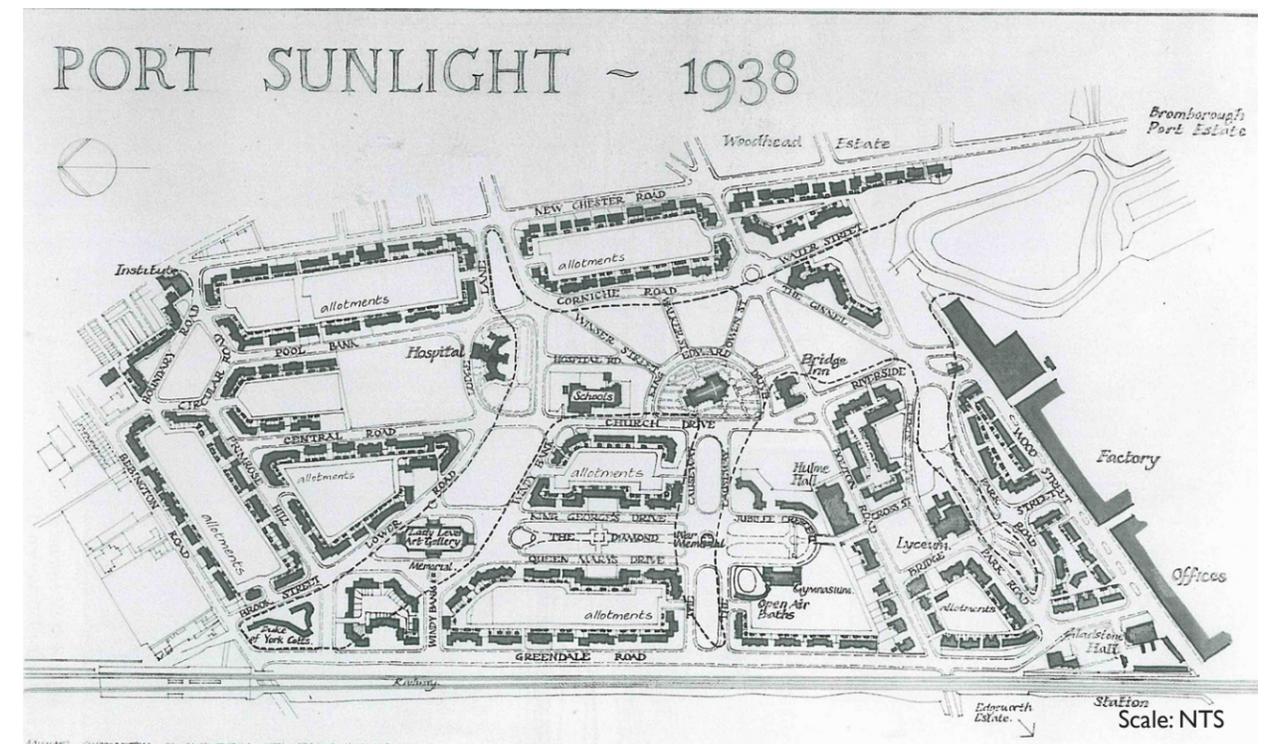
The statement of condition and character is intended to provide background and context for the subsequent report sections two and three; while underpinning the rationale for the maintenance and management recommendations made for each of the thirteen character areas (as defined in the Conservation and Management Plan Landscape Report prepared by Bureau Veritas – February 2007).

This is not a historical or academic study of Port Sunlight, it is merely a comment on the condition and character of each of the thirteen character areas in terms of form, character, legibility and complexity compared to all of the available archival material, including original plans, maps and photographs.

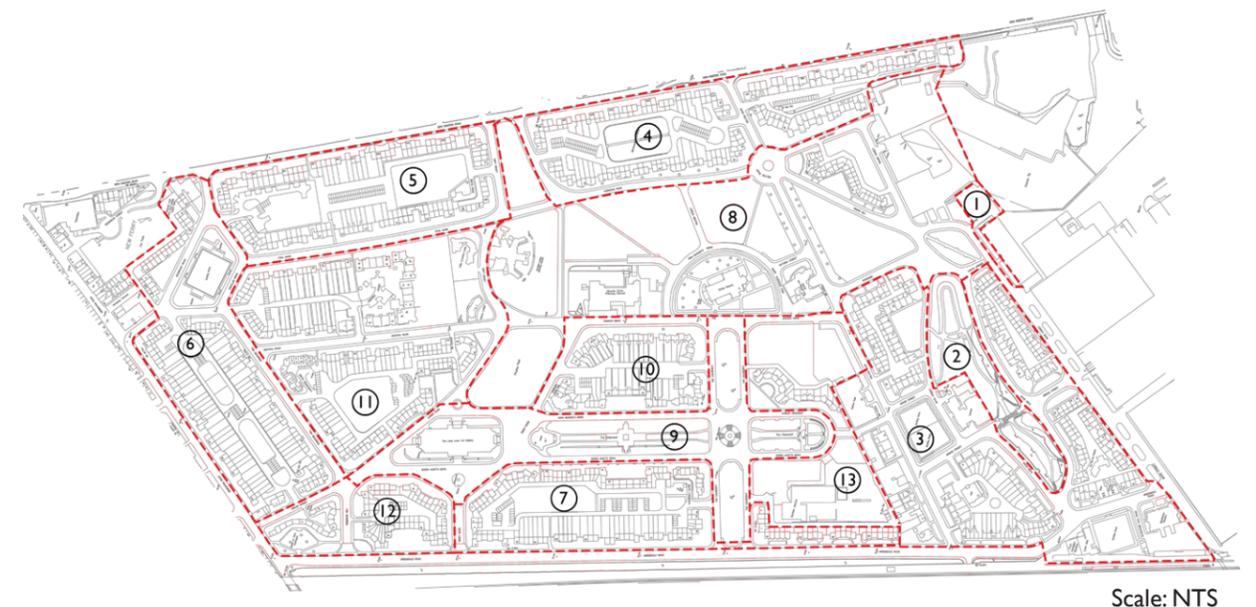
A 1938 Village Plan, as featured in 'A Guide to Port Sunlight', is shown here as an example reference point. This plan shows the Village in close to its current form, with all super blocks constructed and a road plan that is very similar to what we see today.

This section begins by describing how each of the character areas have changed over time since the founding of the village, and in particular highlights the alterations that have been made since the final development phase (as shown in the 1938 plan). This section concludes with the 'Character Plan of Significant Change', highlighting areas of the village which have undergone the most notable changes.

The subsequent 'Then and Now' Photographic Study, assists us with this review, drawing out the differences between conditions now and how it was at the time the photograph was taken. This allows us to judge the historic integrity of the landscape at key locations around the village.



Then: 1938 Village Plan from 'A Guide to Port Sunlight Village'



Now: The Bureau Veritas Village Plan form 2007 with 13 defined character areas

\* Hubbard, E. and Shippobottom, M. (2005) *A Guide Port Sunlight Village*. 2nd Edition. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press

# Statement of Condition and Character

## Character Areas 1-3

### **Character Area 1: Unilever Factory**

The Factory was completed by 1889. The majority of the landscape immediately outside of the factory development was a cobbled road with small sections of soft landscaping in front of Lever House, extending down Wood Street along the factory wall. It featured islands of turf, with small trees, (by the 1960s, these are visibly ornamental Cherry trees) planted as an avenue along the factory side of Wood Street. Today, we see a similar arrangement, with the addition of seasonal bedding areas (which can be seen by 1960) immediately outside Lever House. This area is still owned and maintained by Unilever, apart from a small section at the far North Eastern end of Wood Street, which is now owned and maintained by PSVT.

### **Character Area 2: 'The Dell'**

The Dell is the last surviving example of the sites original topography. The first phase of village development was built around this tidal creek. This set the scene for future developments' significant inclusion of open spaces. The Dell was drained and turned into a park, with a bridge linking the two sides opened in 1894 (by Douglas and Fordham, as highlighted in the "Then and Now Photographic Study" Figure 1).

The Auditorium was built in 1903 whilst the rest of the landscape remaining largely natural, with wildflower embankments evident along Park Road. The overall spatial form of 'The Dell' has remained the same since 1938, however its character has significantly changed. After the end of World War II, a Landscape plan was drawn up by the then Chairman of Lever Brothers, Mr George Nairn and his newly appointed Gardens Manager, Mr Charles Goldsmith. This plan had a dramatic impact on the style of Landscaping throughout the village, and it resulted in the Dell being formally laid out in the early 1950s, with new pathways, shrubberies, rockeries and herbaceous borders. This domestication of the Dell from an informal to formal planted space we see today has increased both the legibility and complexity of the area via designated pedestrian routes and the varied planting styles. The 1938 Village Plan does not show the Auditorium, demolished in 1937 (due to poor drainage and problems with the structure). Today it is a formal sunken grass garden that is used for

seasonal events, with sections of box hedging and shrubberies. As a result the focal point of the character area remains the Dell Bridge.

There have been various small, sometimes temporary, changes since this formalisation, with seasonal carpet bedding becoming a feature on the site of the Auditorium during the 1990s. Shrubberies have become overgrown in places, with some now requiring rejuvenation. In 2014, there were many new trees planted, which have the potential to dramatically alter the character of this area over the next few decades.

There have been several attempts to improve water drainage within the Dell, with French Drains being installed at the Western end in the early part of the 21st Century. As a natural tributary of the River Dibbin, however, flooding and water logging have been a long standing and continuing problem.

### **Character Area 3: South Village Housing**

The Southern area of the site, defined by Character Area 3, was part of the first development phase during the period 1888 – 1892. It included the first houses built on the site, whilst the rest of the area was predominantly marsh, divided by tidal inlets. There is little evidence for the planning of the Landscape at this time, but from early photographs (see Then and Now Photographic Study Figures 2 and 3), we can see evidence of grassed areas, divided by paths, and surrounded by railings. There are shrub beds planted within these grassed areas with Poplars planted along the pavement edge. In 1926, some of the roads in this area were widened and the Poplar Trees removed, this has resulted in the raised sandstone walls along the edges of the lawns in some sections of this area.

The overall form of Character Area 3 is the same as the 1938 Village Plan, with blocks of properties located around the Dell. The area is still defined by its close proximity to the Unilever factory along Wood Street. The most significant change is the removal of community allotments to the rear of block 16 (Greendale Road,

# Statement of Condition and Character

## Character Areas 3-7

and Bridge Street), resulting in larger back gardens to the residential properties and the introduction of a Church Hall (originally a Bakery). At the corner of Bridge Street and Bolton Road, the 'Employees Provident Stores and Collegium' was destroyed during WWII and not rebuilt; the space now acts as an additional car park for residents and an amenity green space. The legibility of the character area has changed over the last 79 years from tree lined streets with railings to open grass frontages, resulting in a reduction to the area's overall complexity as highlighted on Then and Now Photographic Study Figures 2 and 3. As in many areas around the Village, seasonal flower beds were introduced during the 1950s. The 1950s and early 60s was a period when many high maintenance features were introduced, swelling the number of Gardeners from around 12 to up to 40. During the 1960s, as part of a general cost cutting exercise that continued until the mid-1980s, many of these high maintenance features were removed in favour of open frontages and a more natural appearance.

### **Character Areas 4 and 5: South-East Village Housing and North-East Village Housing**

The development of Character Areas 4 and 5 were enabled by the opening of Victoria Bridge, with the Western side of Character Area 4 defined by the steep embankment of the tidal creek along Corniche Road, until it was filled and planted with trees in 1910 (creating the large green spaces of Character Area 8). Early photographs of New Chester Road show the railings (though there is evidence of white picket fencing in photographs dated 1900) along public footpaths, but without the current privet hedging. The railings are still present in parts, but are not visible as the hedge has grown around them. We can see early evidence of privet hedge planting from around the 1920s onwards (presumably due to increasing traffic, and a desire for privacy along these busier roads).

The form of both Character Areas 4 and 5 has remained the same since 1938. The most significant landscape change is the introduction of garages and car parking to the rear of the super blocks 1, 2, and 3 with the resulting reduction of resident allotment space, (yet still a key feature of character area 4) resulting in larger, longer back gardens to the residential properties. This was first suggested in a 1960 report for the Estates

department, and was implemented during a period of modernisation works. The legibility of both character areas has not notably changed over the last 79 years whilst the complexity has decreased from tree lined streets with railings to open grass frontages and some clipped hedging, as seen Then and Now Photographic Study Figure 4.

### **Character Area 6: North Village Housing**

This area, defined by its border, along Bebington Road and Boundary Road with New Ferry, was built between 1899 and 1905. The major public building in this area, Hesketh Hall (originally the Technical Institute) was built in 1902, and later become the home of the Port Sunlight branch of the Royal British Legion.

Similar to Character Areas 4 and 5, the form has remained the same since 1938, but the loss of public buildings (shops) during WW2 has left the north eastern edge disjointed and disconnected with the wider village and neighbouring New Ferry. This has been compounded by the lack of active linkages along Boundary Road. The bowling green along Circular Drive is not evident on the 1938 plan, yet is a notable feature today. It was 'de-commissioned' as a bowling green in the mid-2000s and now provides an informal green space for users.

The most significant changes are the introduction of car parking, open grass areas and longer private gardens to residential properties to the rear of the super block 7 following the removal of resident's allotment space. As with Character Areas 4 and 5, this was due to a declining interest in allotment gardening, and a concern that desirable modern housing should have a private garden and should provide for ever increasing car ownership.

### **Character Area 7: West Village Housing**

This area has a major boundary along the railway line, and the houses of Greendale Road were built with the intention of them being visible and attractive to the passing trains. The area around the western end of Windy Bank, where the Inspiration monument now sits, was redesigned in the 1920's, with several houses being

# Statement of Condition and Character

## Character Areas 7- 9

demolished, and the shape of the road altered to allow a view of the newly built Art Gallery. The removal of trees, planting and railings to the front of the properties has increased the area's openness but significantly reduced its complexity in terms of vegetation and street furniture.

Like with many other character areas around the village it has lost its residential allotments from the block back courts and replaced them with garages, car parking and general grass spaces. Access from Queen Mary's Drive to block 10's back court has been added since 1938, along with the restriction of vehicular access from Greendale Road into the village along Windy Bank, slightly altering the area's form in terms of vehicle and pedestrian accessibility.

### **Character Area 8: Core Buildings and Spaces**

This area saw major changes to the form of the landscape during the early development of the village. Victoria Bridge, continuing Bolton Road and spanning the ravine, opened up the Eastern side of the village and provided a link to New Chester Road. It was completed in 1897, and the major public buildings, the Bridge Inn (1900), Church Drive School (1903), Cottage Hospital (1907) and Christ Church (1904) all followed shortly after. However, from a Landscape perspective, the area was still very much defined by the ravine, that can be seen with wildflowers growing on rather steep embankments. The tidal inlets were drained after a dam was built in 1901, with the intent of them being developed into Parks (in a similar way to the Dell). However they were filled in 1910, and turned into an amenity green space, also allowing the later development of Water Street and The Ginnel.

The overall form and function of the area has not changed since 1938 yet the legibility has significantly altered through the conversion of Winser Street and Owen Street to public footpaths from vehicle road, along with access from Windy Bank to Corniche Road (at one point, called 'The Oval'), converted into a public footpath. The original open nature of the streets has been lost since 1938, through the introduction of street signage and additional planting areas that do not accord with the original design intent. The tree

planting on the fields directly behind the Christ Church is now overly mature. Upon entering the Village at the junction of New Chester Road and Bolton Road, there was an intended view of the Church that is now obscured by trees.

During the period of increased seasonal bedding in the 1990's and early 2000's, the shrubberies along Bolton Road were fronted by long thin flower displays in spring and summer, however, by 2009 these floral displays were no longer planted out.

### **Character Area 9: The Civic Cross (The Diamond and The Causeway)**

When the village was first developed, the streets very much followed the edges of the existing tidal inlets, however by 1910, the intention became to formalise the plan. A competition was launched for a redesign of this Character area. The winning design was by a Mr Ernest Prestwich, student of Thomas Mawson at the Liverpool School of Architecture and Civic Design. Though not all of the plan was ultimately implemented, the shape of The Diamond and The Causeway, with open Vistas of the Church and Bandstand are clearly visible on the original plans and on subsequent photographs.

The character has significantly changed since the 1938 plan, with tree planting along 'The Diamond' and 'The Causeway' becoming a prominent feature. The original Elms that formed the formal avenues along these axis were lost to Dutch Elm disease in the 1970s. The Tilia that were used to replace them were planted very closely and in double rows to create an instant impact (during this period, over 1000 Elms were lost, and 1,800 trees were planted). However, they have now grown to the point where the originally intended views across this area are now obscured. This was not the original design intent of open vistas to both the Lady Lever Art Gallery or Christ Church, as highlighted on Then and Now Photographic Study Figure 5. In spatial terms the form of the character area is the same, however it now has a dramatically different appearance.

# Statement of Condition and Character

## Character Areas 10 - 13 and Conclusion

### Character Area 10: Central Village Housing

After the building of the houses along King George's Drive, very little has changed to the form of this area. The primary change is the removal of residents' allotment space during the modernisation works, resulting in large back gardens to the residential properties. The legibility has not changed over the last 79 years, whilst frontages are now open after the removal of railings and most of the 'island' shrub beds. Planting is now predominantly directly in front of the houses or in spaces in between blocks, where there are cases of insensitively planted trees that are now overgrown.

### Character 11: North-Central Village Housing

The 1938 spatial arrangement of Character Area 11 has changed with the introduction of Manor Lodge (originally a Nurses Home, opened in 1940) and the recent apartment developments of Philip Leverhulme Lodge (2003) and Osbourne Court (on what was originally large playing fields, in 2000). These changes have disjointed the area, especially with the pedestrianisation of Lodge Lane, resulting in an awkward 'left over' green space between Manor and Leverhulme Lodge, and Osbourne Court. The removal of allotments has resulted in longer, larger back gardens. Car parking to the rear of the properties and concrete planters has cluttered the back court space of block 6. Whilst there is no communal back court space within the properties along Pool Bank and Central Road.

### Character Area 12: North-West Village Housing

In the main, the character area remains the same as the 1938 layout, but in comparison the simplification of the spaces as shown on the 1938 plan has been lost with back gardens of different shapes and car parking in the centre of the back court. The junctions of Greendale Road with Primrose Hill and Windy Bank, as well as the junction of Bebington Road and Brook Street were closed to traffic during modernisation works carried out in the 1960s and 70s. The Duke of York Cottages, seems lost at the edge of the village with little or no links to the wider village. Inappropriate planting and vehicular road closers along Brook Street and Primrose Hill from Greendale Drive and Bebington Road respectively are significant contributing factor in the loss of

legibility and street scene quality.

### Character Area 13: Central-South Area: Mixed Use

The last phase of building work was finished with the construction of Jubilee Crescent in 1938. The form has remained the same since then, but the land use has significantly changed, through the loss of the Open Air Baths and Gymnasium to develop the Port Sunlight Garden Centre opened in 1976. The character of the area is not consistent for such a prominent location within the village due to different building types and land uses reducing the legibility of the area whilst increasing visual complexity, but not necessarily for the better in terms of continuity or historical building form.

The green amenity space to the rear of Jubilee Crescent (now referred to as the Poplar field) has seen major changes since 2006. Jubilee Crescent is fairly unique in Port Sunlight, in that it is one of the few places where the rear elevation is clearly visible from the main road (as opposed to the super block system used elsewhere). This may be why this field was surrounded on all sides by a mixture of conifers and Poplars that had grown to obscure the view. The conifers that were directly behind Jubilee Crescent have now been removed and replaced with a mixed hedge, with mixed tree planting on the field (mostly Elms and various species of Prunus). The Poplars on the other boundaries of the field are still present.

### Conclusion

As the village developed, we can see a change from the original layout following the natural curves of the tidal inlets, to a more formally developed plan, implemented in the first few decades of the 20th century. The most significant change since the 1938 plan has been the alteration to the block back courts from small private rear gardens and allotments to longer larger private gardens, car parking, garages and open grass areas; which is more a comment on social changes and increase in car ownership within the past century than architectural, landscape or planning led change. As stated above this was implemented after a report in 1960 highlighted the importance of making the houses appropriate for a modern way of life.

## Statement of Condition and Character Conclusion

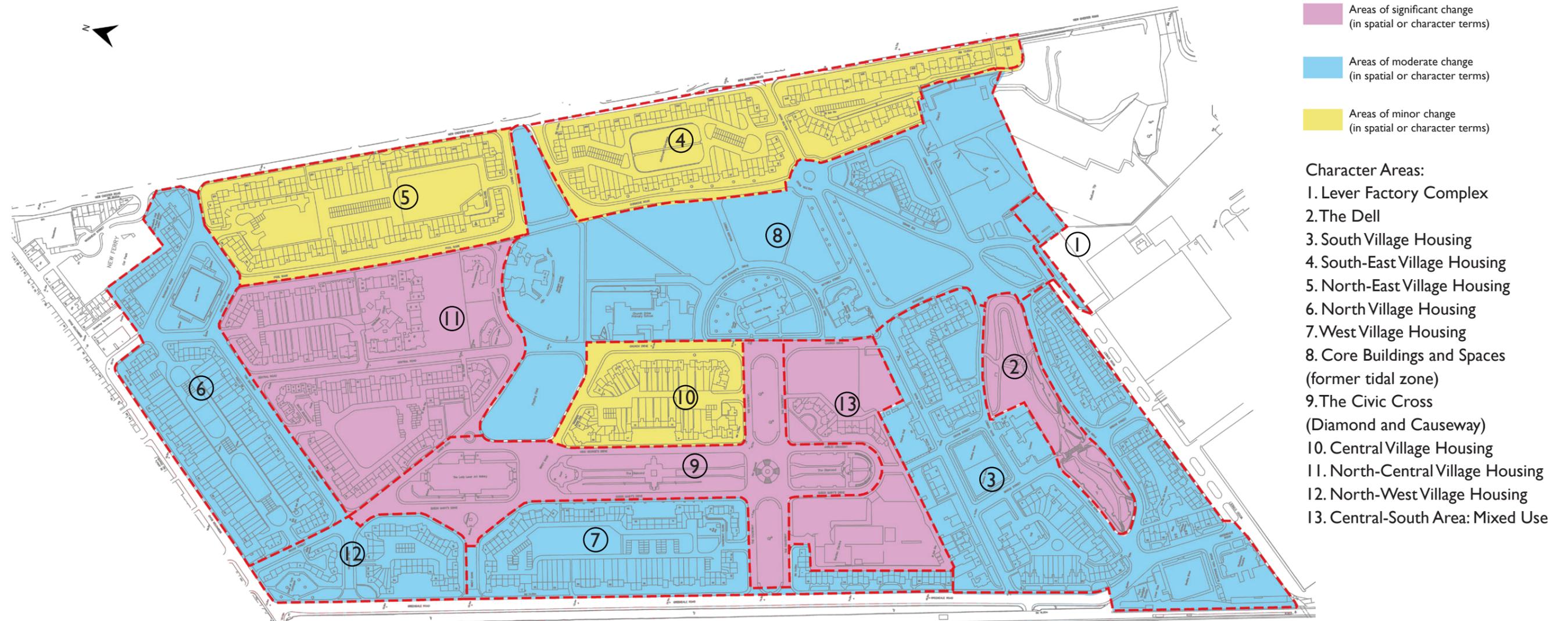
The loss of railings and tree lined streets (in some character areas) has generally simplified the street scene overall whilst insensitive planting, signage and street furniture has added a degree of contemporary visual clutter in certain areas.

Styles of planting have varied greatly since a change in the 1950s, introducing the seasonal bedding that Port Sunlight Village subsequently became famous for. The fashions, social changes and evolving levels of funding have dictated the alterations to the Landscape, yet its general form in the public frontages has remained remarkably similar.



# Statement of Condition and Character Plan of Significant Change

This plan highlights areas of the village which have undergone the most notable change in the past 79 years.



## Legend

- Areas of significant change  
(in spatial or character terms)
- Areas of moderate change  
(in spatial or character terms)
- Areas of minor change  
(in spatial or character terms)

## Character Areas:

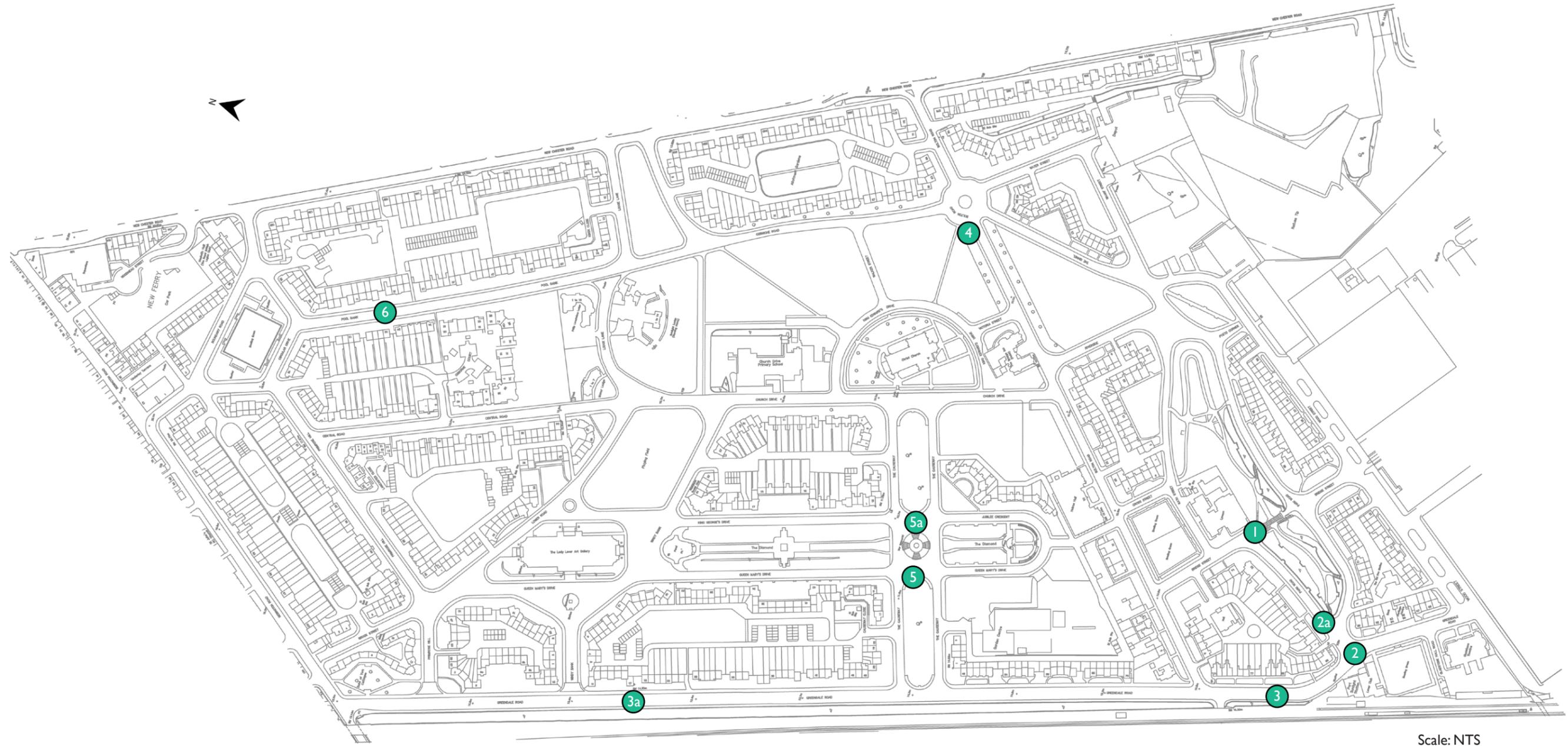
1. Lever Factory Complex
2. The Dell
3. South Village Housing
4. South-East Village Housing
5. North-East Village Housing
6. North Village Housing
7. West Village Housing
8. Core Buildings and Spaces  
(former tidal zone)
9. The Civic Cross  
(Diamond and Causeway)
10. Central Village Housing
11. North-Central Village Housing
12. North-West Village Housing
13. Central-South Area: Mixed Use

Scale: NTS

# Then and Now Photographic Study

## Introduction and Figure Location Plan

The Then and Now Photographic Study views points were selected based on relevant photographs within the original in Unilever Archives and their location within the village. Location section focused on either key junctions, primary roads or at central locations, including the Dell and the Diamond. The aim of the photographic study is to highlight key differences since the photograph was taken, comment upon the integrity of the view and recommend any future management either to restore or enhance the view.



Scale: NTS

- 1 The Dell Bridge
- 2 Park Road & Greendale Road Junction
- 2a Park Road & Greendale Road Junction
- 3 Greendale Road
- 3a Greendale Road
- 4 Bolton Road Roundabout
- 5 The Diamond & The Causeway
- 5a The Diamond & The Causeway
- 6 Pool Bank

# Then and Now Photographic Study

## Figure 1: The Dell Bridge

Then: 1896



Now: 2017



### Initial Design:

An informal open recreation space with paths snaked around trees.

### Differences:

The original photo shows more clear space immediately surrounding the bridge with limited associated vegetation. In the foreground view, there is more open grass space with occasional trees in comparison to today's view of mature trees, shrub and ground cover planting along with street furniture and the distant skyline is more open with less trees or built form. There also appears to have been a simplification of paths converging on the bridge with a reduction of three to one running up the Dell. The Dell was formally set out during the 1950s.

### Integrity of the view and future management recommendations:

In principal the ethos of the view has not changed, yet the significant increase in various planting initiatives does detract from the bridge. This is due to some of the planting being overly mature and possibly requiring renewal. A full survey and restoration programme for the Dell Bridge as a key historical asset of the village is proposed to make it more evident within the Dell once again (refer to Section 2 for more information).

Photograph reproduced with kind permission of Unilever PLC from an original in Unilever Archives.

# Then and Now Photographic Study

## Figure 2: Park Road and Greendale Road Junction

Then: 1898

Now: 2017



### Initial Design:

An open tree lined street with grass fronts lawns and railings\* along Park Road with a shop at the junction with Greendale Road.

\*Note:railing height of 450mm (18 inches) are more acts of boundary definition rather than security or enclosure.

### Differences:

Still an open junction but no longer a tree lined street or with railings to property frontages. Raised planters and street furniture outside The Tudor Rose Tea Rooms including a telephone box are now prominent features within the view. The road or footpath has moved in the intervening years, which is highlighted by the raised planter brick walls.

### Integrity of the view and future management recommendations:

Despite the character of the view being very different through the loss of street trees and railings, the new character works well with the properties overlooking the Dell.

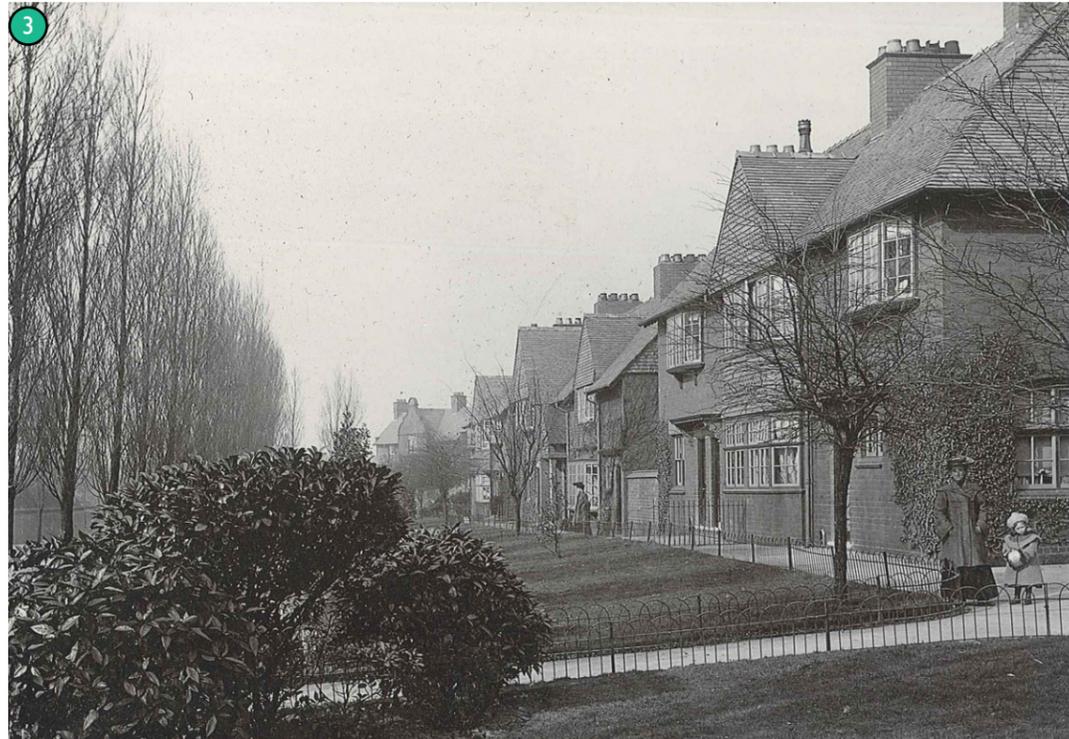
Overall management recommendation would be to maintain the status quo within this area, however a review and rationalisation of street furniture (raised planters, signs, phone boxes etc.) outside The Tudor Rose Tea Rooms would help in terms of legibility and maintain a clear street aesthetic and sense of space at this junction.

# Then and Now Photographic Study

## Figure 3: Greendale Road

Then: 1900c

Now: 2017



### Initial Design:

A tree lined street (likely poplars) with low railings, shrubs (laurel) and specimen tree species to property frontages.

### Differences:

No longer a tree lined street or with railings, shrubs and specimen tree species to property frontages. The road or footpath has moved in the intervening years, which is highlighted by the raised front garden brick walls.

### Integrity of the view and future management recommendations:

Even though the view focus is on the property, it is largely different from the original design or character through the loss of landscape features. Maintenance of this 'new' character along Greendale Road is recommended including infilling of the unfilled gaps. A long term aspiration could be the introduction of specimen tree species to complement the property frontages.

Re-introduction of boundary railings in 3a could be used to give a more accurate representation of the original street scene at certain blocks.

Photographs reproduced with kind permission of Unilever PLC from an original in Unilever Archives.

# Then and Now Photographic Study

## Figure 4: Bolton Road Roundabout Junction

Then: 1896

Now: 2017



### Initial Design:

A tree lined street with amenity planting, open property fronts and Bolton Road Roundabout acting as feature.

### Differences:

Essentially the same but subtle differences of hedges to the front of properties and increase in trees and road signage acting as more prominent feature.

### Integrity of the view and future management recommendations:

The view is mainly intact, with some additions over time slightly altering the character of the street including old to contemporary road signs. A wider review of the hierarchy of road signage across the village is recommended. Simple maintenance works to lighting columns and trees in front of properties is required.

Photograph reproduced with kind permission of Unilever PLC from an original in Unilever Archives.

# Then and Now Photographic Study

## Figure 5: The Diamond and The Causeway

Then: 1912/13c

5 East - West



Now: 2017



5a North - South



### Initial Design:

Open vistas either North - South along the Diamond to the future of Lady Lever Art Gallery or East - West to the Christ Church. Tree lined streets around open green spaces.

### Differences:

Now, maturing trees dominate and obstruct views towards Lady Lever Art Gallery and Christ Church.

### Integrity of the view and future management recommendations:

The views are no longer intact and are completely different both in character term and views due to dense tree planting. Tree management is proposed to open views and improve usability of the green spaces underneath.

Note: Photos taken as close to original locations as possible.

Photographs reproduced with kind permission of Unilever PLC from an original in Unilever Archives.

# Then and Now Photographic Study

## Figure 6: Pool Bank

Then: 1910



Now: 2017



### Initial Design:

A tree lined street with shrub planting and mid-height railings to property frontages.

### Differences:

Now, open grass frontages to properties with large mature street trees and the removal of railings. It is widely assumed railings around the village were removed for munitions efforts during WWII, with the remaining during the 1950's, except those still in existence. However there are other reports of some being removed in the 1920s.

### Integrity of the view and future management recommendations:

Even though the view focus is on the property, it is completely different from the original design or character through the loss of landscape features, primarily the boundary railings. Maintenance of this 'new' character along Pool Bank is recommended, as this mature and simplified character works well with the architecture of the properties. Tree management is required to sustain the current tree lined street character.

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## Section 2 Condition of Landscape Elements

## Section 2: Introduction and Methodology

This part of the study reviewed each of the five main area elements that combine to form the external landscape of the village. These areas are:

- Pavements
- Grass maintenance including weed control
- Planting
- Tree Cover
- Landscape Features: Benches, Lighting Columns, Litter Bins and Art and Monuments

The detailed survey was undertaken in early March 2017. A street by street survey was undertaken by two landscape architects using the survey sheet opposite (Figure 2.1). The survey allowed the various elements to be rated from A – E. These ratings were converted into a ‘traffic light’ rating system so the element overall condition could be assessed.

<b>A - Excellent</b>	<b>Excluded - No element rated Excellent</b>
<b>B - Good</b>	<b>Good/ Acceptable (Green)</b>
<b>C - Acceptable</b>	
<b>D - Less than acceptable</b>	<b>Less than acceptable (Yellow)</b>
<b>E- Poor</b>	<b>Poor (Red)</b>

For each separate landscape element the ‘traffic light’ rating system has been highlighted within the legend, an example for each rating is suggested below for reference:

- *Good/ Acceptable* – Little or no maintenance required;
- *Less than acceptable* - Some maintenance required e.g. cleaning or painting; and
- *Poor* – Maintenance required/ possible removal or replacement.

Figure 2.1 Condition of Landscape Elements Survey Sheet

Character Area No		Location				
SCALE	A <i>Excellent</i>	B <i>Good</i>	C <i>Acceptable</i>	D <i>Less than Acceptable</i>	E <i>Poor</i>	
Boundaries	Fencing	A	B	C	D	E
	Hedging	A	B	C	D	E
	Roads/ Railway	A	B	C	D	E
Boulevard (Frontages) <small>(including footpaths &amp; trees)</small>	Residential	A	B	C	D	E
	Public Buildings	A	B	C	D	E
	Pavements	A	B	C	D	E
	Trees	A	B	C	D	E
	Art	A	B	C	D	E
Landscape Features	Signage	A	B	C	D	E
	Street Furniture	A	B	C	D	E
Maintenance	Weed Control	A	B	C	D	E
Litter		A	B	C	D	E
Grass Cutting		A	B	C	D	E
Planting	Trees (Street)	A	B	C	D	E
	Formal Areas	A	B	C	D	E
	Informal Areas	A	B	C	D	E
	Bins	A	B	C	D	E
	Bus Stop	A	B	C	D	E
Other	Lamp Posts	A	B	C	D	E
	Post Box/ Electric Box etc.	A	B	C	D	E
	<b>DDA noncompliance</b> steps, lack of hazard warning paving, ramp needed, inappropriate route					
<b>NOTES</b>						

A copy of all survey sheets are located within associated Appendix.

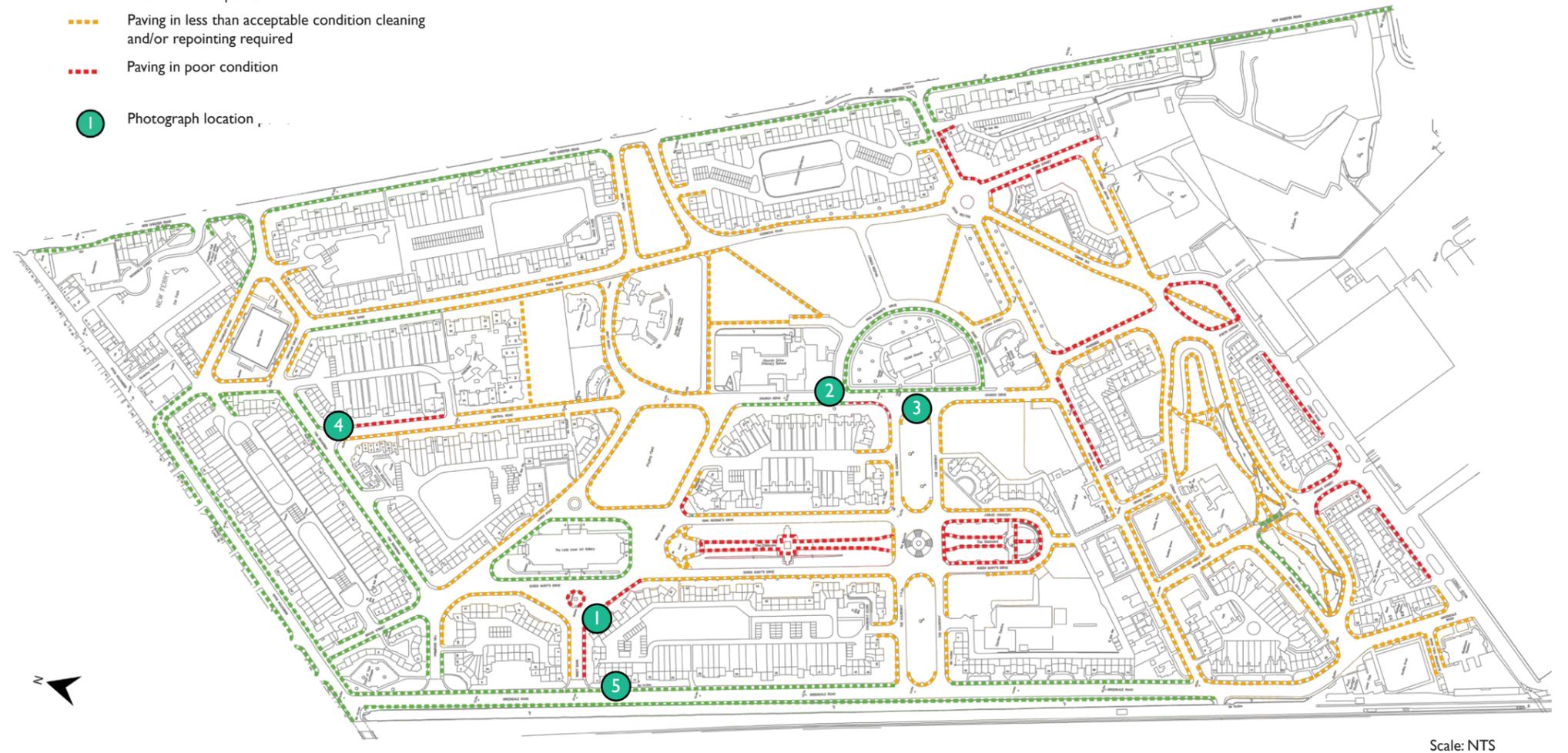
# Condition of Elements: Pavements

## Overall Condition

- York stone flags with tarmac strip or PCC flags with tarmac strip in most areas - poor to acceptable condition;
- Tegula blocks near Port Sunlight Museum entrance (Character Area 10) - in good/ acceptable condition;
- Tarmac cover in back courts of varying quality related to age of surfacing;
- Uneven and cracked footpaths due to root heave where trees have been planted and not managed;
- Left over tree stumps in some areas;
- Inappropriate paving in some areas e.g. between buildings in Character Area 13; and

## Legend

- Paving in good condition - little or no maintenance required
- Paving in less than acceptable condition cleaning and/or repointing required
- Paving in poor condition
- ① Photograph location



**Character Area 7**  
Uneven paving along Windy Bank



**Character Area 8**  
Paving outside the Christ Church.



**Character Area 10**  
Root heave damage to pavement, Church Drive.



**Character Area 11**  
Leftover tree stump, Central Road.



**Character Area 12**  
Acceptable condition paving along Greendale Road



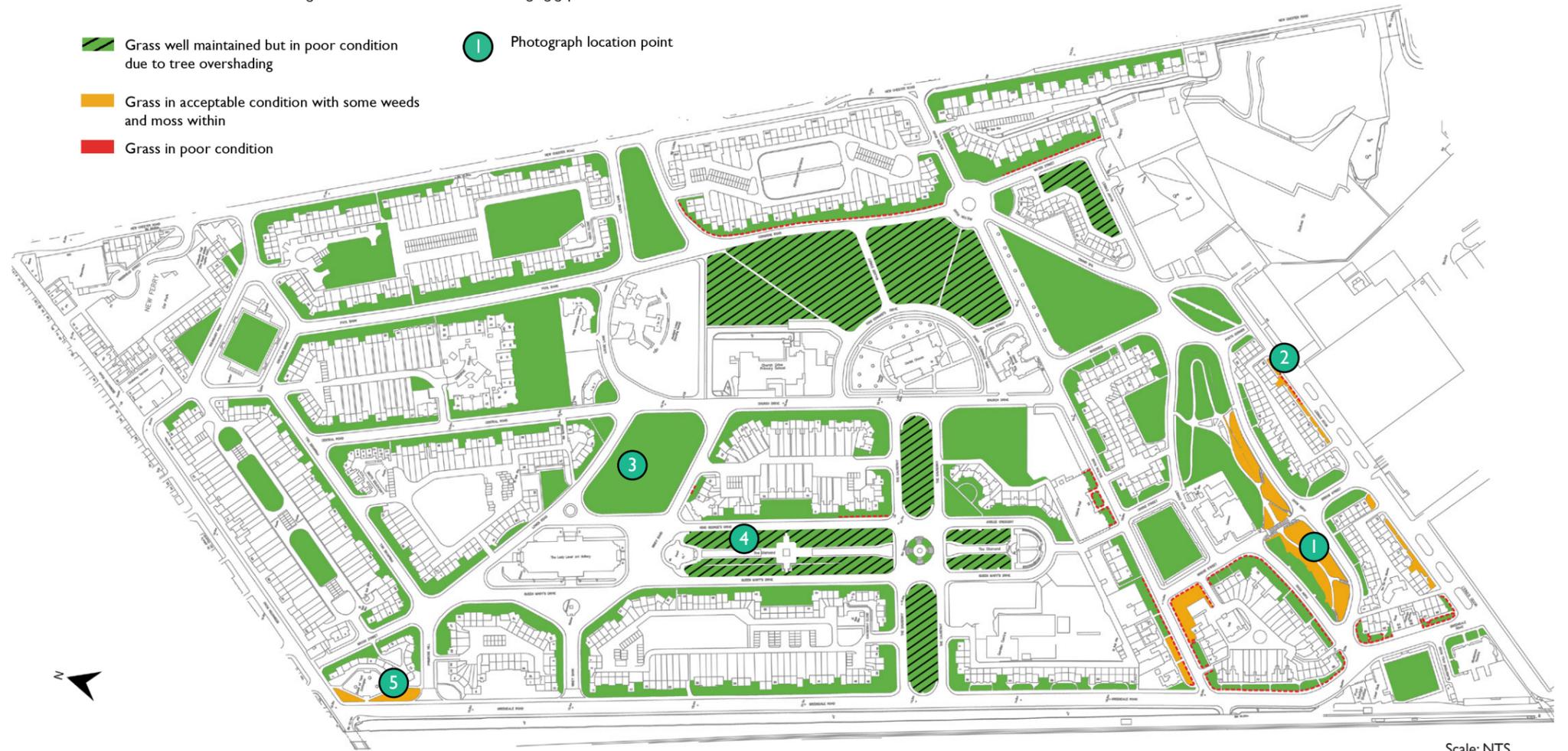
# Condition of Elements: Grass maintenance including Weed Control

## Overall Condition

- Grass generally well maintained across all formal/public areas - maintenance regimes could be reduced in some places e.g. parts of Character Area 2;
- Moss in grass near planting areas;
- Occasional daisies, dandelions and dry leaves in some areas but not a major issue;
- Seasonal interest in grass sward from bulb planting, left as longer grass until bulbs die back;
- Unfilled gap strips to many residential frontages; and
- Edging a large scale maintenance activity, some leading to over widening of soil areas.

## Legend

-  Grass well maintained and in good condition
-  Grass well maintained but in poor condition due to tree overshadowing
-  Grass in acceptable condition with some weeds and moss within
-  Grass in poor condition
-  Edging gap
-  Photograph location point



### Character Area 2

Weeds in grass in front of residential properties, Park Road.



### Character Area 3

Unfilled gap strip, Park Road.



### Character Area 8

Well maintained grass, playing field, the Ginnel.



### Character Area 9

Well maintained grass with crocus bulbs in the Diamond.



### Character Area 12

Moss in grass in front of residential properties.



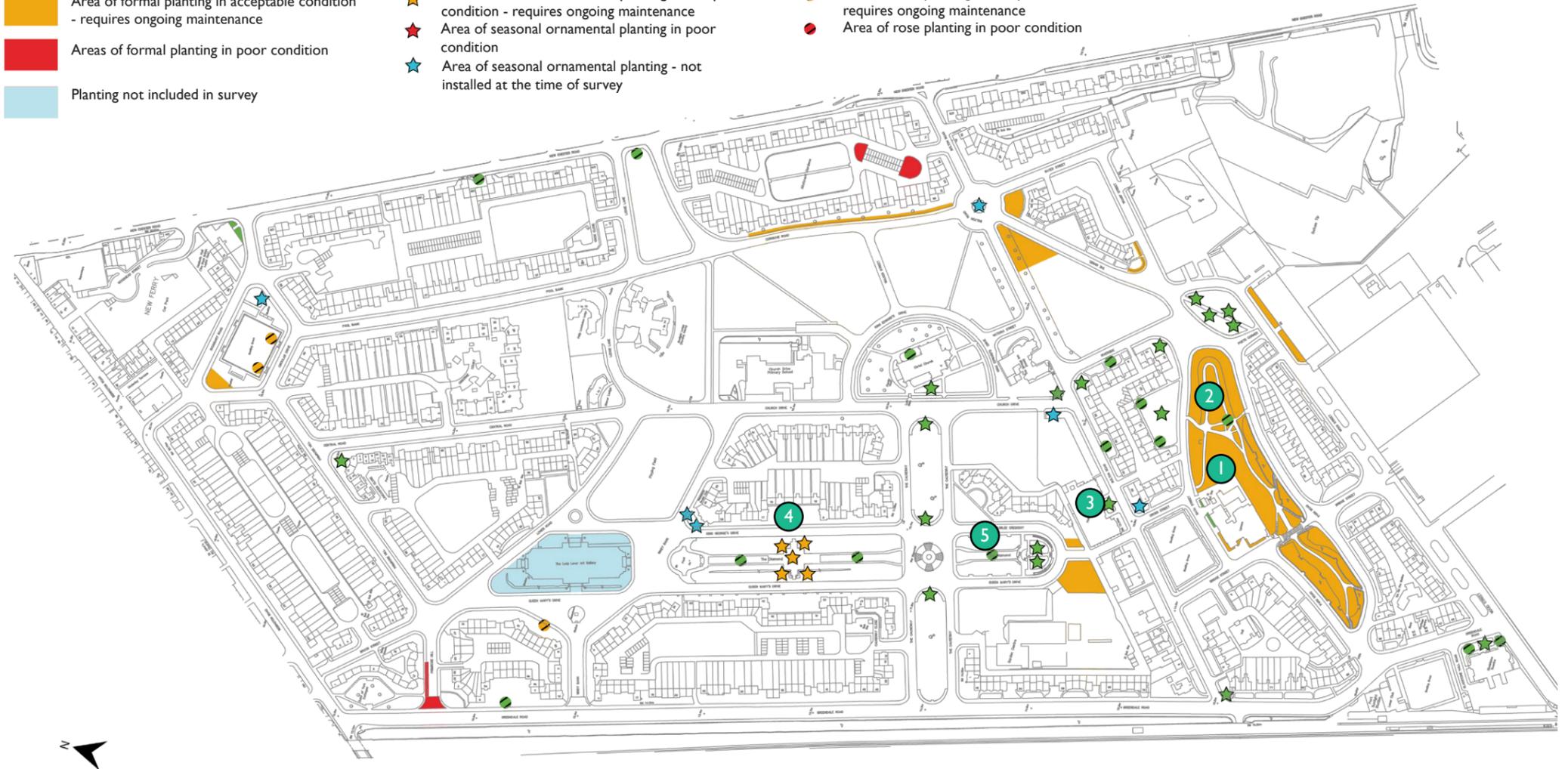
# Condition of Elements: Planting

## Overall Condition

- Rose beds well kept, but inappropriate in some areas and generate additional maintenance;
- Shrub planting inconsistent in places, more appropriate species could be selected;
- Bulb planting areas somewhat random and patchy - potential for extending those into more consistent planting areas; and
- Uncharacteristic concrete and timber planters in residential courtyard areas;
- Seasonal planting beds are still changed twice yearly; and
- Shrub planting by residents in front of properties managed well and the majority is appropriate to the village.

## Legend

- |   |  |   |   |   |  |   |                           |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|---------------------------|
|  | Area of formal planting in good condition / well maintained                    |  | Area of seasonal ornamental planting in good condition / well maintained                    |  | Area of rose planting in good condition / well maintained                    |  | Photograph location point |
|  | Area of formal planting in acceptable condition - requires ongoing maintenance |  | Area of seasonal ornamental planting in acceptable condition - requires ongoing maintenance |  | Area of rose planting in acceptable condition - requires ongoing maintenance |   |                           |
|  | Areas of formal planting in poor condition                                     |  | Area of seasonal ornamental planting in poor condition                                      |  | Area of rose planting in poor condition                                      |   |                           |
|  | Planting not included in survey  |  | Area of seasonal ornamental planting - not installed at the time of survey                  |   |  |   |                           |



Scale: NTS

### Character Area 2

Bulb planting in the Dell.



### Character Area 2

Formal shrub planting in the Dell.



### Character Area 3

Planting bed outside Hulme Hall.



### Character Area 4

Seasonal planting in the Diamond.



### Character Area 9

Rose planting in the Diamond.



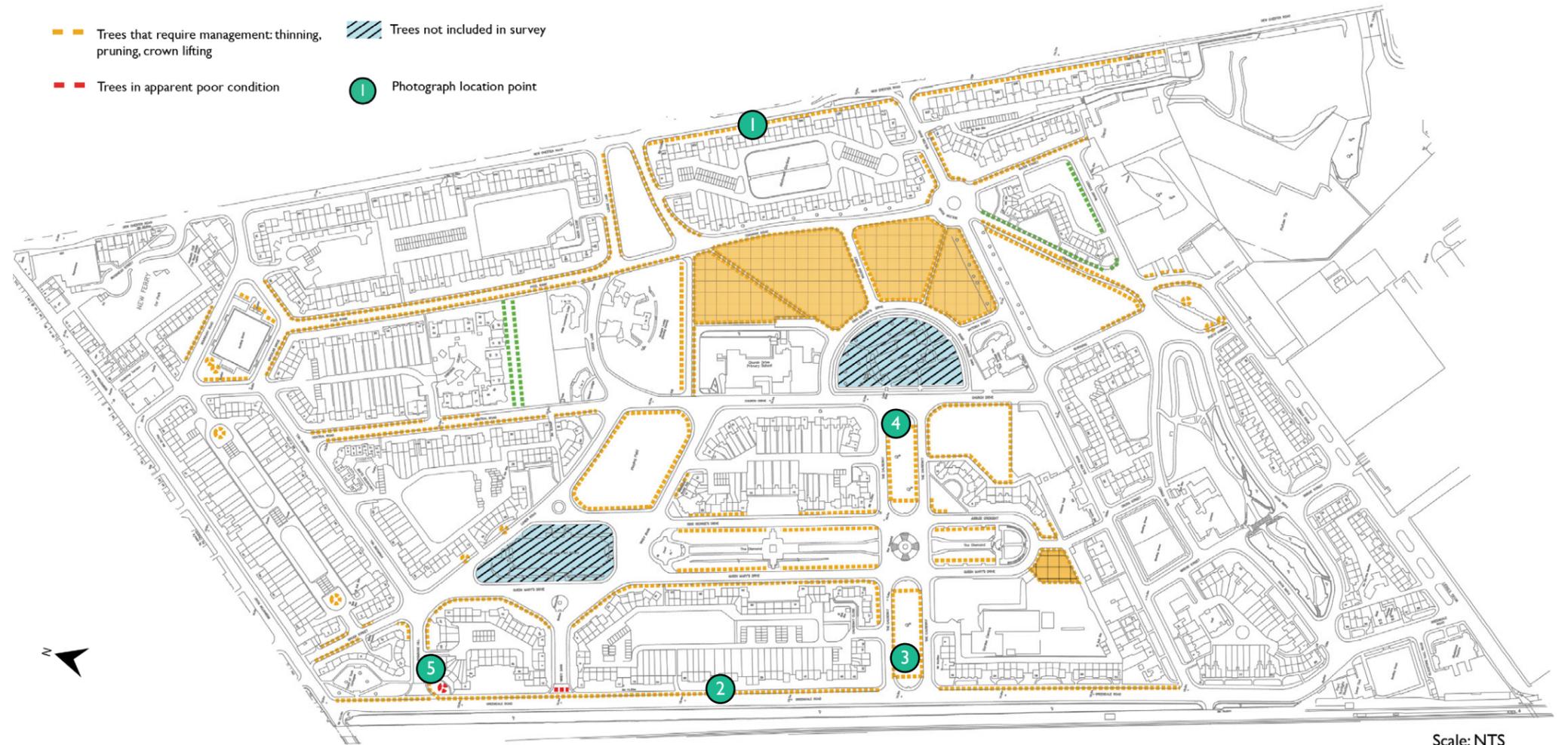
# Condition of Elements: Tree Cover

## Overall Condition

- Trees are planted too densely in most areas;
- Some trees are over mature and require careful maintenance;
- Most stock need thinning, pruning and/or crown lifting;
- Root damage to trees planted in hard landscape is commonplace; and
- There is a mixture of species throughout the village including:
  - Cherry (Prunus sp.)
  - Lime (Tilia sp.)
  - Sycamore (Acer sp.)
  - Aspen (Poplar sp.)
  - Birch (Betula sp.)
  - Beech (Fagus sp.)
  - Oak (Quercus sp.)
  - Rowan (Sorbus sp.)

## Legend

- Trees in apparent good condition
- Areas of overly dense tree planting
- Trees that require management: thinning, pruning, crown lifting
- Trees not included in survey
- Trees in apparent poor condition
- Photograph location point



### Character Area 4

Trees in soft landscape in front of residential properties.



### Character Area 7

Trees planted in hard landscape along Greendale Road.



### Character Area 9

Trees planted in grass, The Causeway.



### Character Area 11

Trees planted along pedestrian pathway near Osborne Court.



### Character Area 12

Tree in poor condition on the corner of Greendale Road.



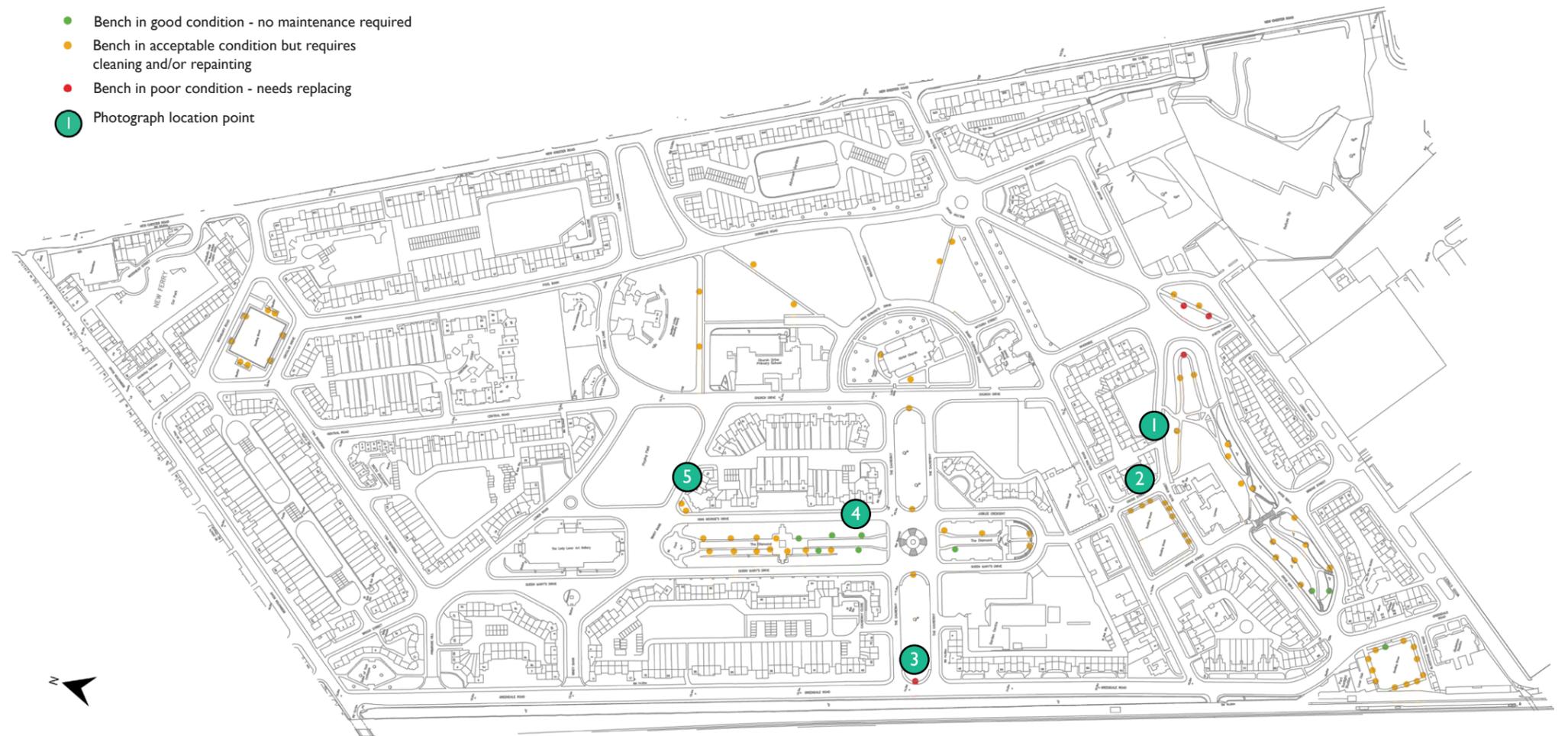
# Condition of Elements: Landscape Features A: Benches

## Overall Condition

- Standard Broxap cast iron and timber benches across the whole site;
- Generally in acceptable condition but most require maintenance (cleaning, repainting and re-varnishing);
- Some are not DDA compliant as placed on a raised plinth - also trip hazard;
- Proportion are memorial benches, estimated at: 30-40%;
- Benches largely restricted to core visitor areas;
- Lack of benches around Museum Green;
- Benches are not associated with bus stops;
- Lack of benches on general streets and general urban areas;
- General lack of vandalism or graffiti; and
- Bins generally positioned away from benches to reduce nuisance value.

## Legend

- Bench in good condition - no maintenance required
- Bench in acceptable condition but requires cleaning and/or repainting
- Bench in poor condition - needs replacing
- ① Photograph location point



Scale: NTS

### Character Area 2

Memorial bench in the Dell.



①

### Character Area 3

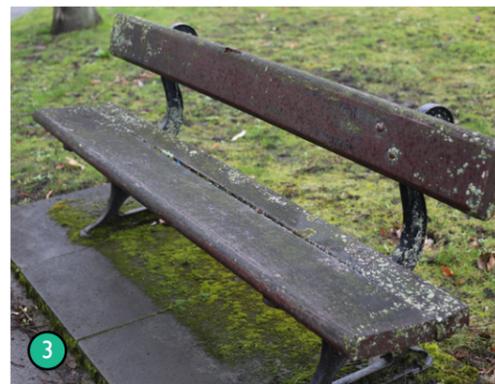
Bench at the bowling green, Bath Street.



②

### Character Area 7

Bench on raised plinth, The Causeway/ Greendale Road, causing access issues.



③

### Character Area 9

Memorial Bench in the Diamond.



④

### Character Area 10

Benches outside the PSVT Museum.



⑤

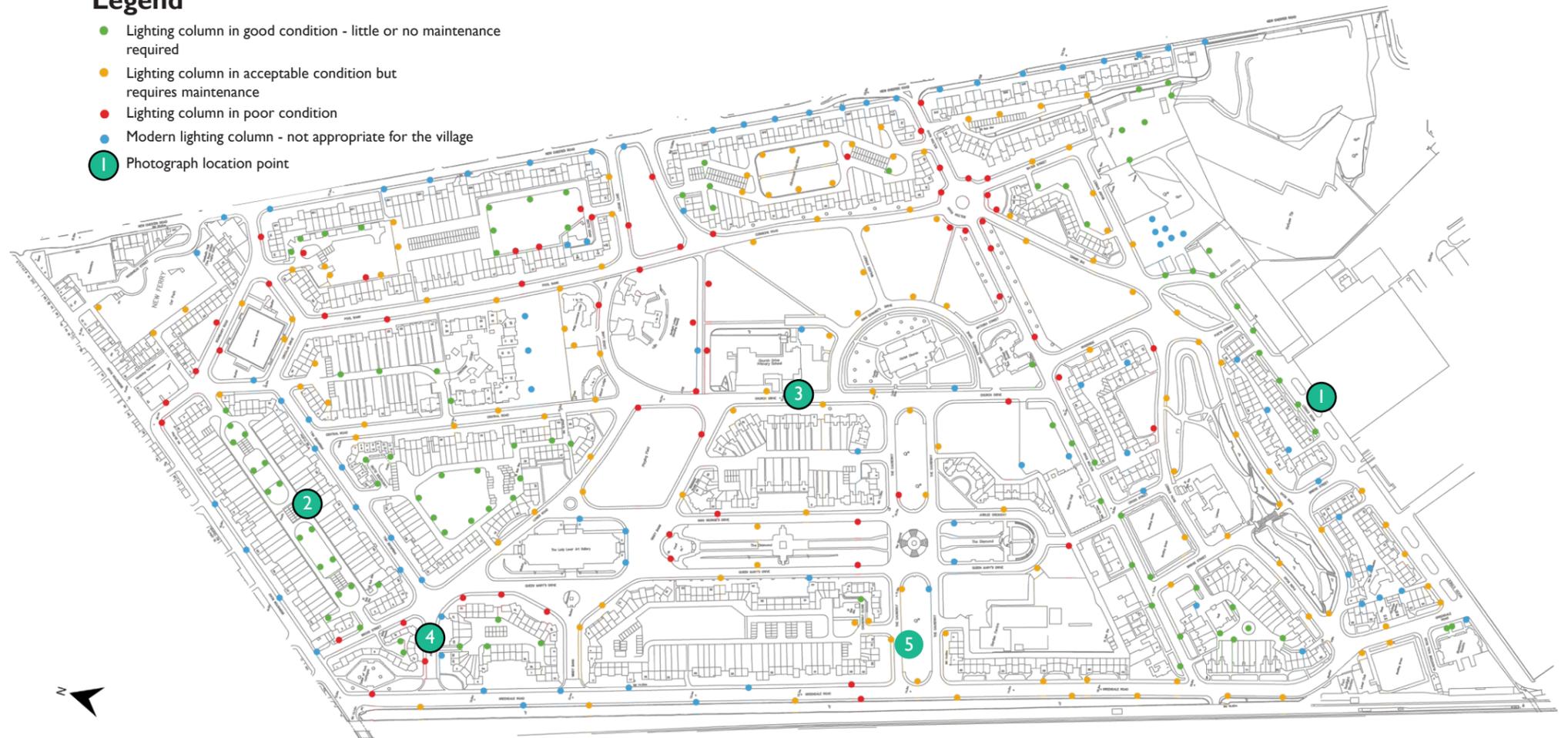
# Condition of Elements: Landscape Features B: Lighting Columns

## Overall Condition

- Mixture of traditional and modern;
- Generally in acceptable condition but require maintenance: cleaning and painting with consistency of luminaire;
- Some in poor condition and need replacing, e.g. broken lamp post in Character Area 12 in path along Primrose Hill. Any lamps due for removal to be reviewed for historical value before being removed or if to be retained appropriate interpretation is required;
- Best considered as two part features, appropriate post and appropriate luminaires;
- Concrete posts considered the most inappropriate in the village scene; and
- Linear luminaire also considered inappropriate.

## Legend

- Lighting column in good condition - little or no maintenance required
- Lighting column in acceptable condition but requires maintenance
- Lighting column in poor condition
- Modern lighting column - not appropriate for the village
- ① Photograph location point



Scale: NTS

### Character Area 3

Reproduction lights along Wood Street.



### Character Area 6

Back court lamp, rear of Bebington Road properties.



### Character Area 10

Modern post and luminaire, King George's Drive.



### Character Area 12

Lamp post base, Primrose Hill.



### Character Area 12

Street lamp, Windy Bank.

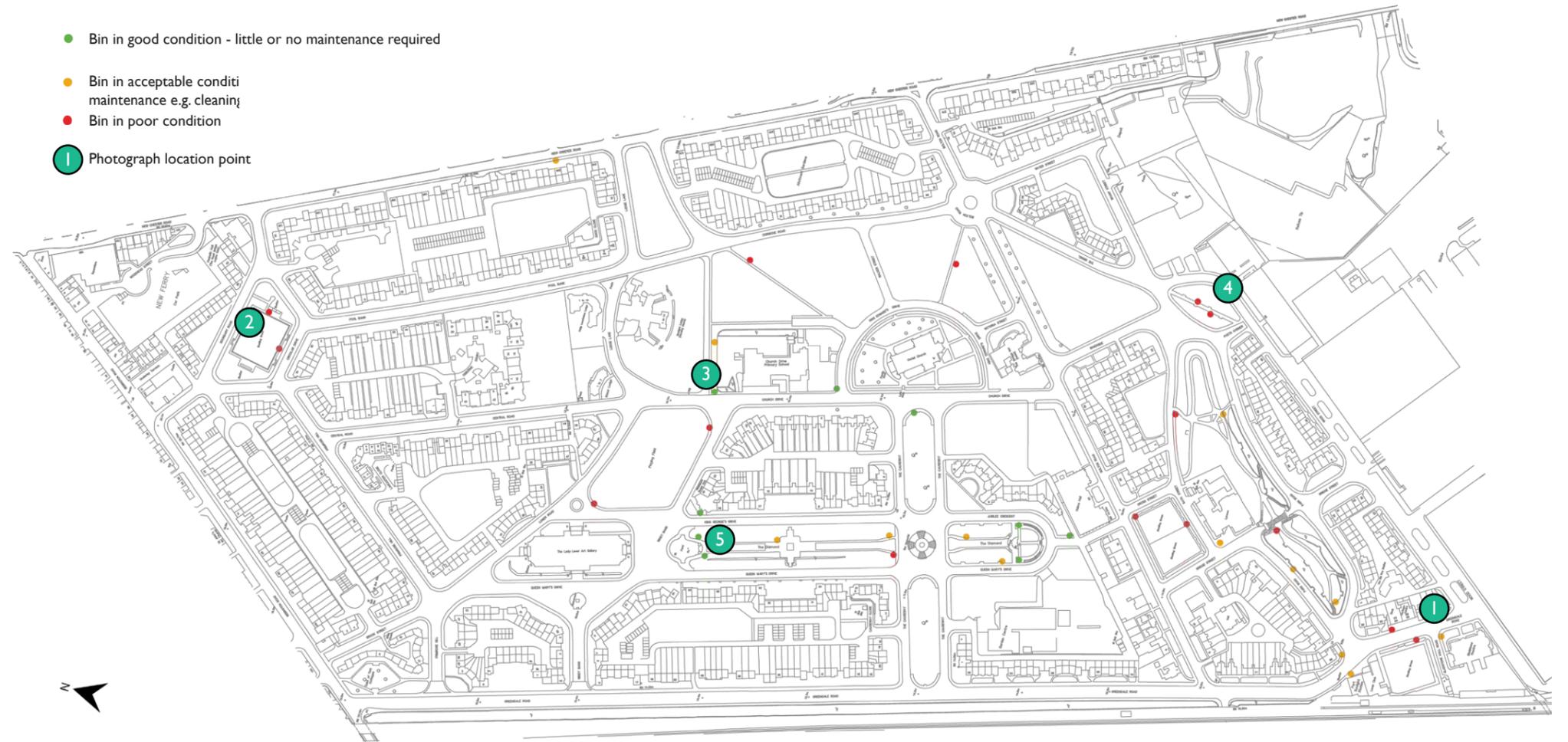


# Condition of Elements: Landscape Features C: Litter Bins

## Overall Condition

- Two types of Broxap bins identified across the village;
- Most common type was closed to the floor;
- Pole mounted type also present;
- All finished in traditional gloss black with gold banding;
- No designated dog bins observed, yet provision was within the pole mounted type;
- Bins generally are in acceptable condition but most require cleaning; and
- The number of the bins provided is sufficient for village use, yet rationalisation of some bin locations is suggested as some are in close proximity to benches.

- Bin in good condition - little or no maintenance required
- Bin in acceptable condition maintenance e.g. cleaning
- Bin in poor condition
- ① Photograph location point



Scale: NTS

**Character Area 3**  
Litter bin outside Gladstone Theatre.



**Character Area 6**  
Litter bin in in the bowling green.



**Character Area 8**  
Litter bin near Church Drive Primary School.



**Character Area 8**  
Litter bin, Poets Corner.



**Character Area 9**  
Litter bin in the Diamond.

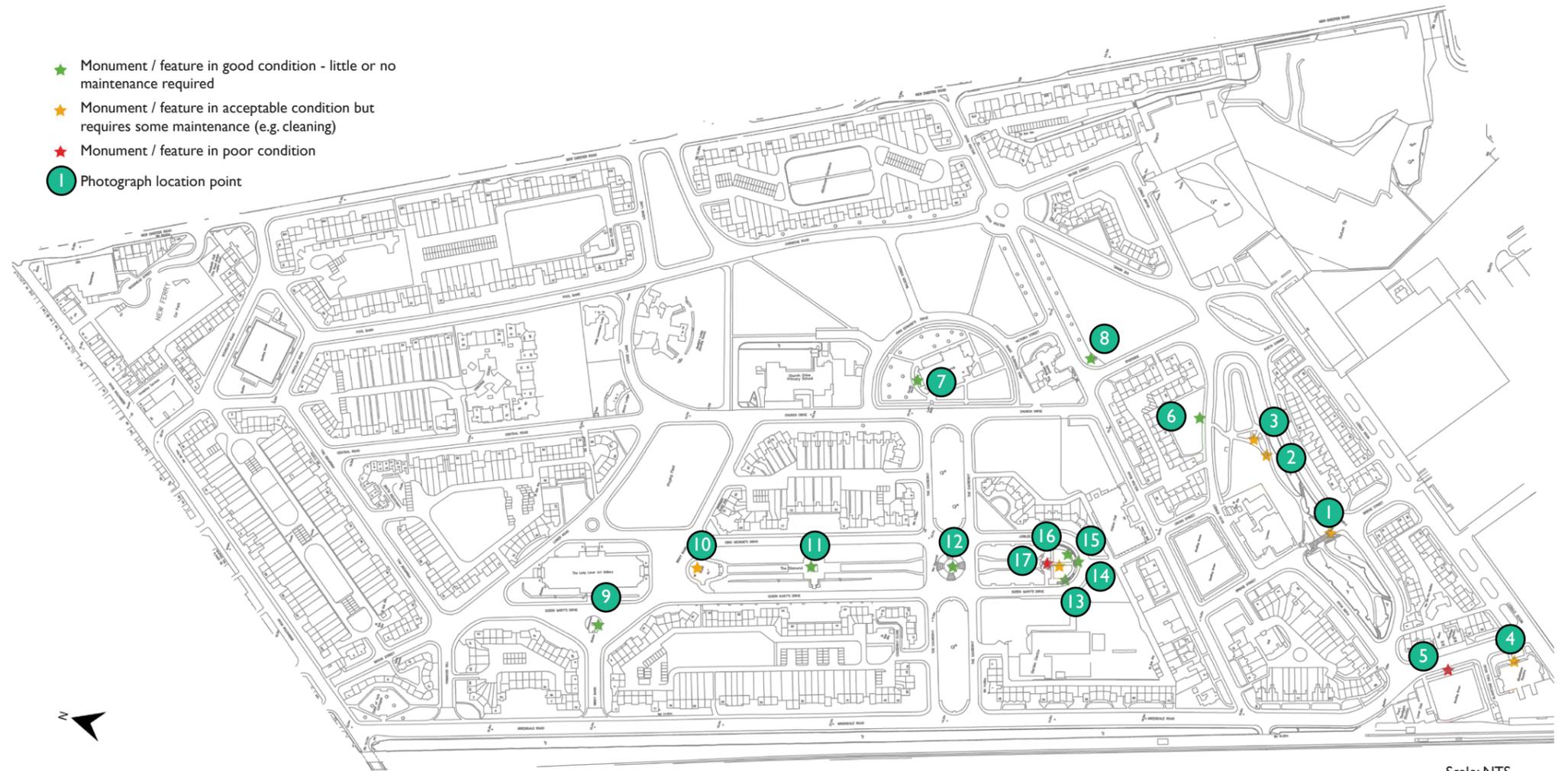


# Condition of Elements: Landscape Features D: Art and Monuments

## Overall Condition

- Historic monuments are in a good condition and well maintained although clearer access is needed;
- Former fountain at the edge of bowling green in Character Area 3 requires maintenance and a review into the bedding planting as the most appropriate solution;
- Fountain in the Diamond (Character Area 9) requires maintenance and repair;
- Ground mosaic in the Diamond (Character Area 9) in degraded condition;
- Artwork concentrated to the more active visitor core; and
- Wall features in Character Area 12 require maintenance.

- ★ Monument / feature in good condition - little or no maintenance required
- ★ Monument / feature in acceptable condition but requires some maintenance (e.g. cleaning)
- ★ Monument / feature in poor condition
- ① Photograph location point



**Character Area 2**  
The Dell Bridge



**Character Area 2**  
Mill Stone



**Character Area 2**  
Centenary Marker



**Character Area 3**  
Gladstone Theatre Bronze Plaque



**Character Area 3**  
Silver Wedding Anniversary Fountain



# Condition of Elements: Landscape Features D: Art and Monuments

**Character Area 3**  
Bath Street Spinx and Sundial



**Character Area 7**  
Founder's Tomb



**Character Area 8**  
Victoria Bridge Stone and Marker



**Character Area 9**  
Leverhulme Memorial



**Character Area 9**  
Sea Piece and Boating Pond



**Character Area 9**  
Annalematic Sundial, the Diamond



**Character Area 9**  
War Memorial



**Character Area 9**  
Balustrade



**Character Area 9**  
The Arch



**Character Area 9**  
Lion Mask Fountain



**Character Area 9**  
The Mosaic (Time Capsule)



**Character Area 9**  
The Hillsborough Memorial

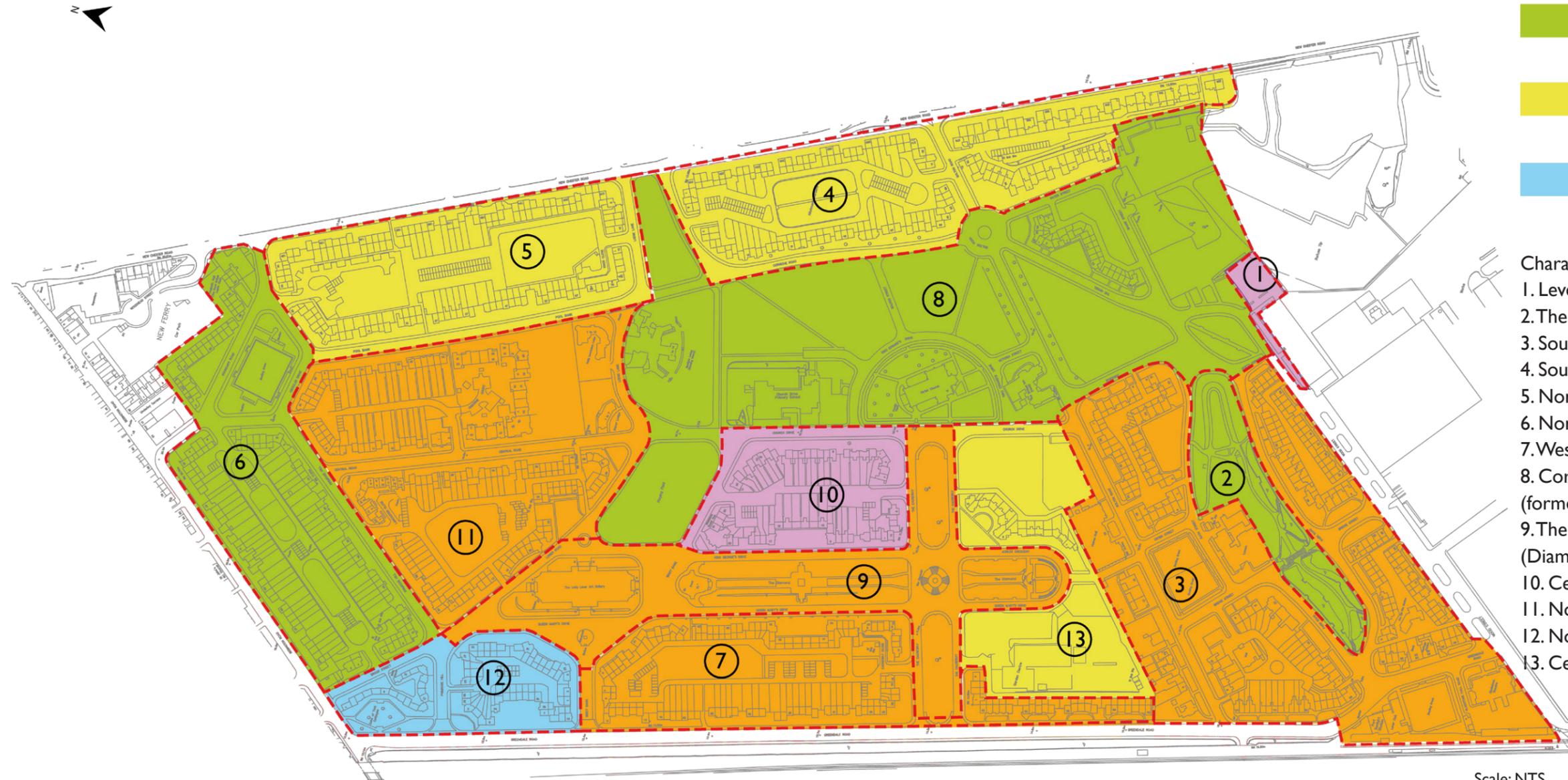


# Landscape Condition Ratings Plan

This plan highlights each character areas condition rating.

## Legend

- Area in acceptable condition  
*Little or no maintenance change required*
- Area in less than acceptable to acceptable condition  
*Little change in maintenance required*
- Area in less than acceptable condition  
*Some maintenance change required*
- Area in less than acceptable to unacceptable condition  
*Focused maintenance change required*
- Area in unacceptable or poor condition  
*Considerable maintenance change required*



- Character Areas:
1. Lever Factory Complex
  2. The Dell
  3. South Village Housing
  4. South-East Village Housing
  5. North-East Village Housing
  6. North Village Housing
  7. West Village Housing
  8. Core Buildings and Spaces (former tidal zone)
  9. The Civic Cross (Diamond and Causeway)
  10. Central Village Housing
  11. North-Central Village Housing
  12. North-West Village Housing
  13. Central-South Area: Mixed Use



**Section 3**  
**Review of Previous Character Areas including Schedule of Significance and Vulnerability**

## Section 3: Introduction

This section looks at the character areas as defined in the 2007 Bureau Veritas, Conservation and Management Plan Landscape Report and supplementary Schedule of Significance and Vulnerability Table.

This sections reviews each character area in terms of its integrity, changes since the Bureau Veritas report, issues for the Conservation Management Plan to *specifically* address, recommended management and maintenance actions; concluding with an overall list of actions which cover the whole village and specific actions for particular character areas.

**Note:**

The Bureau Veritas Schedule of Significance and Vulnerability Table review is located within the appendix, which looks at each character area in terms of actions undertaken since 2007, priorities moving forward and gives a short summary highlighting the key points raised in the table. In addition there is a Vulnerability Review Plan highlighting areas most in need of intervention to preserve character and improve condition.



Roses in the Diamond

# Landscape Character Area I: The Factory\*

A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

## Overall Character Integrity:

The factory footprint remains the same.

## Current Landscape Condition:

Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *Acceptable*.

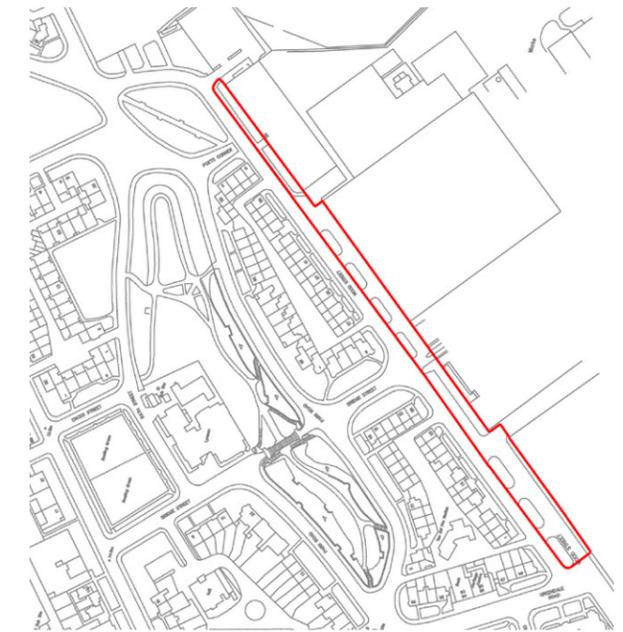
## Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

Character Area I was excluded from the Bureau Veritas Report, therefore no comment can be made.

## Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance /Tree Management

\* Note: This assessment only covers the landscape within PSVT control. The Unilever Factory Frontage & Lever House external landscape is managed by Unilever, this is carried out well and in keeping with the Village. Retaining this ongoing collaborative relationship will be for the long term benefit of the Village.



Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance



Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance



Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance



## Actions

### Short Term

**Planting Condition Review and Strategy:** A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Cut back or removal of overly mature stock;
- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation; and
- Infilling beds with less than 25% plants missing;

**Tree Management:** Tree Survey of all trees, ideally annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal.

### Intermediate Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion.*

**Pavements:** Review with WMBC into a strategic pavement improvement programme with particular regard to public Health and Safety.

### Long Term

*All above actions ongoing on a cyclical basis*

*All above actions ongoing on a cyclical basis*

## Landscape Character Area 2: The Dell

### A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

#### Overall Character Integrity:

The principal character of the Dell remains the same, providing the village a green finger and recreation space. The original scheme focussed on paths around specimen trees, however over time this simplicity has been lost through the formalisation of the park.

#### Current Landscape Condition:

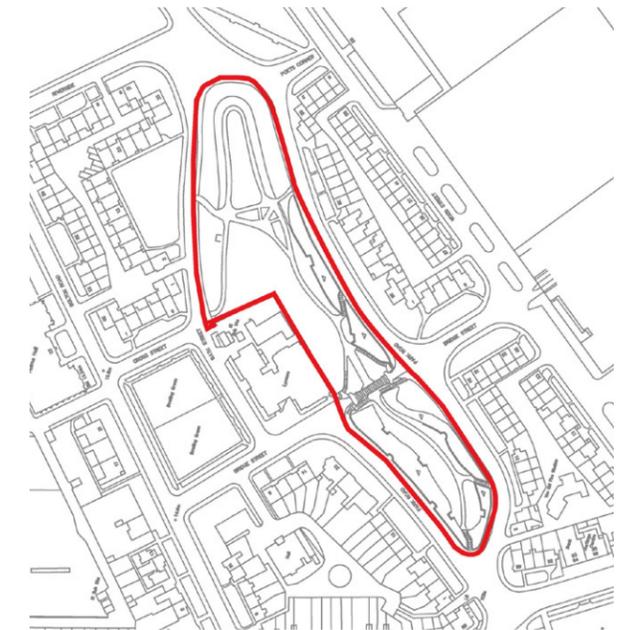
Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *less than acceptable*

#### Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

There has been no significant changes since the 2007 Bureau Veritas report apart from an increase in the number of memorial benches and trees. The Dell Bridge is a key feature of this Character Area; its maintenance and management is paramount for its longevity as an important historical asset. A structural restoration survey is required as a priority with funding for restoration sought based on its findings. Drainage and flooding is a major issue particularly around benches and low points throughout the park. The recommendation would be the introduction of varied plant species which can better tolerate wetter conditions and or the potential creation of a wetland habitat, perhaps within the former Auditorium site, now a grass sunken area aiding in reducing maintenance activities. Any future landscape and policy changes to 'The Dell' should be in consultation with Historic England given its Registered Park and Garden Status.

#### Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

The Dell Bridge/ Drainage and Flooding/ Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance/ Street Furniture/ Tree Management



The Dell Bridge



Drainage and Flooding/ Street Furniture



Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance



## Actions

### Short Term

**The Dell Bridge:** Removal of all planting, (except trees) within 2 metres of the bridge. Commission a full structural and condition survey for the upkeep, restoration and subsequent implementation.

**Drainage and Flooding:** Commission a full hydrological and drainage survey of the Dell to base recommendations to tackle flooding upon. Development of a plant species list which can withstand damp/ wet conditions for inclusion, where appropriate.

**Planting Condition Review and Strategy:** A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Identify any heritage planting;
- Cut back or removal of overly mature species;
- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation;
- Infilling beds with less than 25% missing; and
- Removal of small scale planting initiatives such as box hedging and roses beds.

**Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):** Initiate a strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning, painting or replacement if repair is not economically viable.

**Tree Management:** Tree Survey of all trees annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal.

#### Note:

An initial and subsequent ongoing discussion with Historic England regarding future policies and management of the Dell under its Registered Park and Garden Status. Particular issues to be raised include stricter policies within the CMP regarding memorial benches and trees.

### Intermediate Term

All above actions ongoing on a cyclical basis.

### Long Term

All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:

**Former Auditorium Area:** Redevelopment of space for future enjoyment. e.g. Wetland habitat and flood attenuation area to aid with drainage issues, meadow planting, alternative planting styles.

# Landscape Character Area 3: South Village Housing

## A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

### Overall Character Integrity:

Originally the streets were tree lined with railings and some shrub planting to the property frontages; the tree removal has relieved issues that other character areas are facing with root heave and plant spread into footpaths. The new character works well with mature trees located within the Dell and should be maintained as part of the status quo. Additionally, Character Area 3 is facing less issues within its back courts in terms of grass space and car parking than other character areas through the loss of communal allotment space.

### Current Landscape Condition:

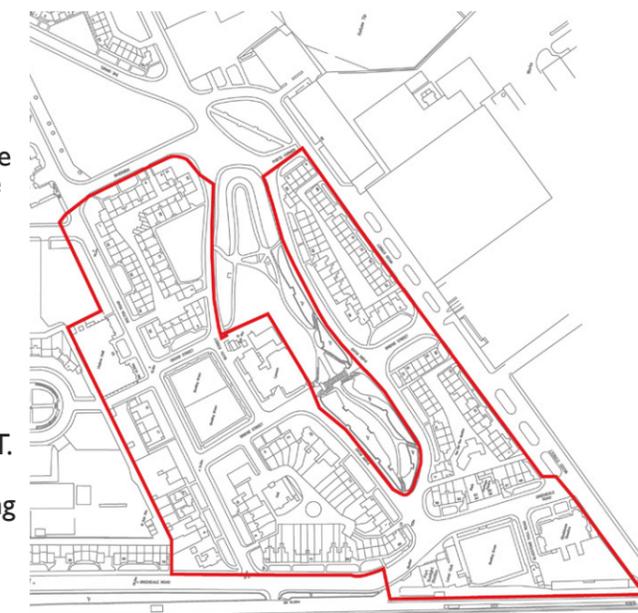
Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *less than acceptable to acceptable*.

### Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

There has been no significant changes since the 2007 Bureau Veritas report, except some reduction in bedding planting display management along Bolton Road. There is evidence of implementation of the village 15 year tree planting strategy along Bridge Street. Character Area 3 contains maintenance and management liabilities for PSVT. Removal or refurbishment of the dilapidated bus stop along Greendale Road and remediation of the space is highly desirable to improve train users 'welcome' to the village. A village wide review of all planting beds (bedding, herbaceous, shrub and rose planting) is required; despite not being part of the original design intent the planting beds along Bolton Road add to the status of a main route through the village. A rationalisation of the gaps within the planting, maintenance regimes and plant species is a high priority for the continuance of a high quality 'welcome' to the village. This area displays many unfilled edging strips, these need to be in filled for consistency and a reduction in long term maintenance.

### Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

Bowling Greens, Infill of Unfilled Edging Strips/ Planting Condition Review and Strategy/ Street Furniture/ Recognition of Lord Levers House; Tree Management



### Infill of Unfilled Gap Strips



### Bowling Greens



### Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance: Gladstone Theatre



## Actions

### Short Term

**Bowling Greens: Greendale Road** Discussions with Bowling Green clubs/users for additional funding for the maintenance of the greens – particularly Greendale Road, as used for league matches. Potential improvement to planted banks.

**Infill of Unfilled Edging Strips:** Strategy and implementation for the infill of unfilled gap strips along all roads. Example: infilled with top soil and grass turf. The area to be protected and watered regularly during establishment.

**Planting Condition Review and Strategy:** A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation;
- Infilling beds with less than 25% missing; and
- Removal of small scale planting initiatives such as rose beds and a rationalisation of box hedging at Gladstone Theatre.

**Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):** Initiate a strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning, painting or replacement if repair is not economically viable.

**Tree Management:** Tree Survey of all trees annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal.

### Intermediate Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Pavements:** Review with WMBC into a strategic pavement improvement programme with particular regard to public Health and Safety.

### Long Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Recognition of Bridge Cottage:** Formation of period garden to add further interest to this newly promoted building.

**Lady Lever Bowling Green:** Review into future use through resident consultation, previous suggestions included a tennis court space, wildflower meadow, and community space or memorial garden.

**Hulme Hall:** New railings around Hulme Hall and review into planting display to include slow growing low maintenance species to reduce maintenance costs.

# Landscape Character Area 4: South-East Village Housing

## A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

### Overall Character Integrity:

The frontages of Character Area 4 have not changed with the exception of the removal of railings to property frontages. The majority of changes has occurred within the block back courts with the reduction of communal allotment space and the introduction of garages and parking.

### Current Landscape Condition:

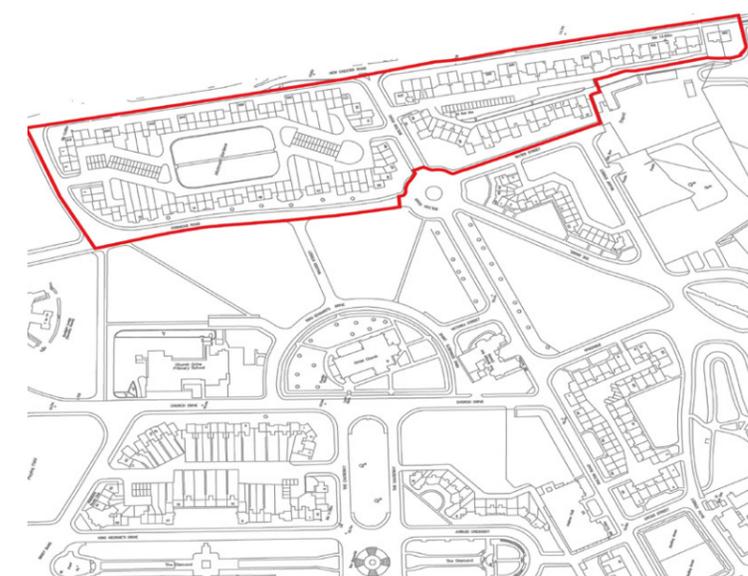
Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *less than acceptable to unacceptable or poor.*

### Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

There has been no significant changes since the 2007 Bureau Veritas report, except some reduction in bedding planting display management on the Bolton Road roundabout. Evidence of implementation of the village 15 year tree planting strategy along Corniche Road. Even though Character Area 4 is small in comparison to others, it is the main 'gateway' into the village from the east from New Chester Road. Strategic maintenance and management is essential to rejuvenate the area, through tree maintenance and management and the simplification of block back courts.

### Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

Bollards/ Infill of Unfilled Edging Strips/ Pavements/ Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance/ Tree Management



### Inappropriate Bollards



### Removal of inappropriate planters



### Allotments



## Actions

### Short Term

**Infill of Unfilled Edging Strips:** Strategy and implementation for the infill of unfilled gap strips along all roads. Example: infilled with top soil and grass turf. The area to be protected and watered regularly during establishment.

**Planting Condition Review and Strategy:** A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation;
- Infilling beds with less than 25% missing.

**Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):** Initiate a strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning, painting or replacement if repair is not economically viable.

**Tree Management:** Tree survey of all trees, ideally annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal.

### Intermediate Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Bollards:** Review with WMBC into suitable bollard to use throughout the village that is appropriate to the conservation area and heritage setting. Strategic replacement of inappropriate bollards, starting with the most obvious.

**Hedges:** Review and remove all miscellaneous items located within hedges to aid ease of maintenance activities.

**Pavements:** Review with WMBC into a strategic pavement improvement programme with particular regard to public Health and Safety.

### Long Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Allotments:** Review of all allotments to ensure suitable use. Installation of consistent fence and gates around allotments to increase security and aesthetic appeal.

**Boundary Fencing:** Tenant/ resident installation of the Donald Insall Associate fencing template where appropriate.

**Rationalisation of Block Back Courts:** Review of block back courts in spatial terms to benefit residents and reduce unnecessary long term maintenance or management activities.

**Removal of inappropriate planters:** Remediate with additional carpark spaces (if safe – liaise with Transport/ Highways), low maintenance ground cover planting or grass.

# Landscape Character Area 5: North-East Village Housing

## A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

### Overall Character Integrity:

Externally Character Area 5 has not changed, except the introduction of hedging along New Chester Road to property frontages. The majority of changes has occurred within the block back courts with the loss of communal allotments and the introduction of garages, car parking and open grass space.

### Current Landscape Condition:

Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *less than acceptable to unacceptable or poor.*

### Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

There has been no significant changes since the 2007 Bureau Veritas report. A review into Character Area 5 back courts in terms of functionality for future resident use and community ethos is proposed. PSVT and WMBC to assess the trees along pavements for selective removal to reduce trip hazards to the public but also ensure the future longevity of remaining trees and the overall character of the tree lined streets.

### Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

Pavements/ Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance/ Street Furniture/ Tree Management



### Tree Management: Root heave of footpaths



### Planting Review, Strategy and Maintenance



### Rationalisation of Block Back Courts



## Actions

### Short Term

**Planting Condition Review and Strategy:** A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation;
- Infilling beds with less than 25% missing; and
- Removal of aggressive hedge species is e.g. Rosa and replaced with slow growing low maintenance ground cover species – if appropriate.

**Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):** Initiate a strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning, painting or replacement if repair is not economically viable.

**Tree Management:** Survey of all trees ideally annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal. Review with WMBC into root heave along footpaths. Strategic removal and replanting to address public Health and Safety.

### Intermediate Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Bollards:** Review with WMBC into suitable bollard to use throughout the site that is appropriate to the conservation area and heritage setting. Strategic replacement of inappropriate bollards.

**Hedges:** Review and remove all miscellaneous items located within hedges to aid ease of maintenance activities.

### Long Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Car Parking:** Review into additional residential car parking within block back courts e.g. reuse of open grass space as formalised car parking.

**Boundary Fencing:** Tenant/ resident installation of the Donald Insall Associate fencing template where appropriate.

**Rationalisation of Block Back Courts:** Review of block back courts in spatial terms which benefit residents and reduce unnecessary long term maintenance or management activities.

# Landscape Character Area 6: North Village Housing

A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

## Overall Character Integrity:

Principally the same character but a reduction over time has led to the loss of coherent spaces within this character area. The loss of the northern bowling green and active linkages to surrounding areas and the wider village has disjointed the area. Hedging along Bebington Road adds consistency along the village's outer edge. As with many other character areas the majority of changes have occurred within the block back courts with the loss of communal allotments and the introduction of garages, car parking and open grass space.

## Current Landscape Condition:

Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *less than acceptable*.

## Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

There has been no significant changes since the 2007 Bureau Veritas report, except the removal of the Bowling Green Pavilion. Character Area 6 like many surrounding character areas, suffers from a lack of back-court activation and car parking. Inconsistent bollards, lighting columns and root heave other common village wide issues that occur here. The resolution of many of these highway matters that lie with WMBC would aid this area.

## Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

Bollards/ Pavements/ Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance/ Signage Strategy/ Street Furniture/Tree Management



## Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance



Bowling Green: Northern



Boundary Fencing



## Actions

### Short Term

**Planting Condition Review and Strategy:** A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation;
- Infilling beds with less than 25% missing; and
- Removal of aggressive hedge species is e.g. Rosa and replaced with slow growing low maintenance ground cover species – if appropriate.

**Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):** Initiate a strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning, painting or replacement if repair is not economically viable.

**Tree Management:** Survey of all trees, ideally annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal. Review with WMBC into root heave along footpaths. Strategic removal and replanting to address public Health and Safety.

### Intermediate Term

All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:

**Bollards:** Review with WMBC into suitable bollard to use throughout the site that is appropriate to the conservation area and heritage setting. Strategic replacement of inappropriate bollards.

**Hedges:** Review and remove all miscellaneous items located within hedges to aid ease of maintenance activities.

**Pavements:** Review with WMBC into a strategic pavement improvement programme with particular regard to public Health and Safety.

**Signage Strategy:** Review of signage survey and drafting strategy.

### Long Term

All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:

**Boundary Fencing:** Tenant/ resident installation of the Donald Insall Associate fencing template where appropriate.

**Northern Bowling Green:** Redevelopment of the decommissioned Bowling Green into community asset, creating an active space which can serve local residents and surrounding communities; suggestions include: Play space, wildflower meadow or an informal green space.

**Rationalisation of Block Back Courts:** Review of block back courts in spatial terms which benefit residents and reduce unnecessary long term maintenance or management activities.

# Landscape Character Area 7: West Village Housing

## A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

### Overall Character Integrity:

Externally Character Area 7 has not changed with the exception of the removal of railings to property frontages. The majority of changes have occurred within the block back courts with the reduction of communal allotment space and the introduction of garages and parking.

### Current Landscape Condition:

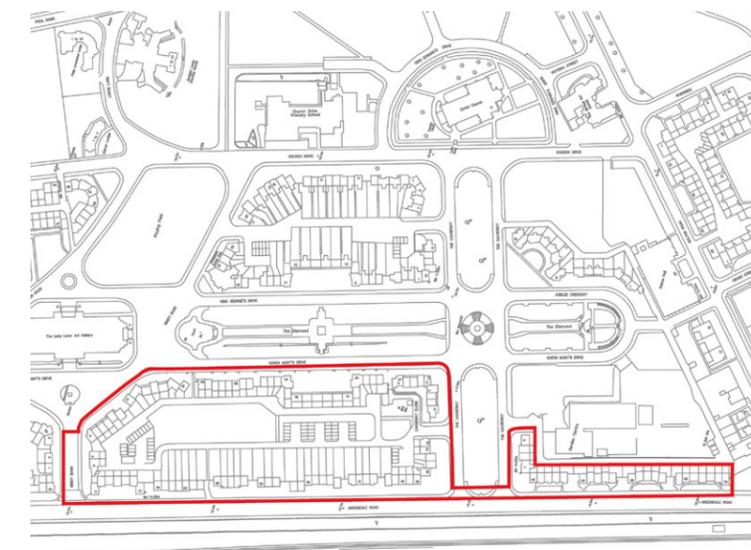
Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *Less than acceptable to acceptable*.

### Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

There has been no significant changes since the 2007 Bureau Veritas report. In addition to the dense tree planting within the Diamond, the main issue along Queen Mary's Drive is the mature tree planting within cotoneaster hedging. Tree removal and thinning of remaining trees is recommended along with regeneration of the hedging in terms of height and spread. Root heave along Greendale Road where remediation work was being undertaken by WMBC in March 2017, however this appears not to have been carried out to protect the trees leaving tree health at high risk. Other village wide issues of inconsistent and inappropriate bollards, lighting columns are also present within this area.

### Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

Bollards/ Infill of Unfilled Edging Strips/ Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance/ Tree Management



### Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance



### Infill of unfilled gap/ Tree Management



### Tree management: Greendale Road - urgent review needed



## Actions

### Short Term

**Infill of Unfilled Edging Strips:** Strategy and implementation for the infill of unfilled gap strips along all roads. Example: infilled with top soil and grass turf. The area to be protected and watered regularly during establishment.

**Planting Condition Review and Strategy:** A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation;
- Infilling beds with less than 25% missing;
- Removal of small scale planting initiatives such as box hedging and roses beds; and
- Removal of planting near garage blocks to increase public safety.

**Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):** Initiate a strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning, painting or replacement if repair is not economically viable.

**Tree Management:** Survey of all trees annually, to monitor decline for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal, particularly those along Queen Mary's Drive. Review with WMBC into root heave long footpaths. Strategic removal and remediation under public Health and Safety. An urgent review is required into the path remediation works along Greendale Road.

### Intermediate Term

All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:

**Bollards:** Review with WMBC into suitable bollard to use throughout the site that is appropriate to the conservation area and heritage setting. Strategic replacement of inappropriate bollards.

**Pavements:** Review with WMBC into a strategic pavement improvement programme with particular regard to public Health and Safety.

### Long Term

All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:

**Car Parking:** Review into additional residential car parking within block back courts e.g. reuse of open grass space as formalised car parking.

**Rationalisation of Block Back Courts:** Review of block back courts in spatial terms which benefit residents and reduce unnecessary long term maintenance or management activities.

# Landscape Character Area 8: Core Buildings and Spaces

## A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

### Overall Character Integrity:

Character Area 8 can best be described as a large area spreading across the Village. The road network within the area has significantly changed to pedestrian routes particularly around Christ Church.

### Current Landscape Condition:

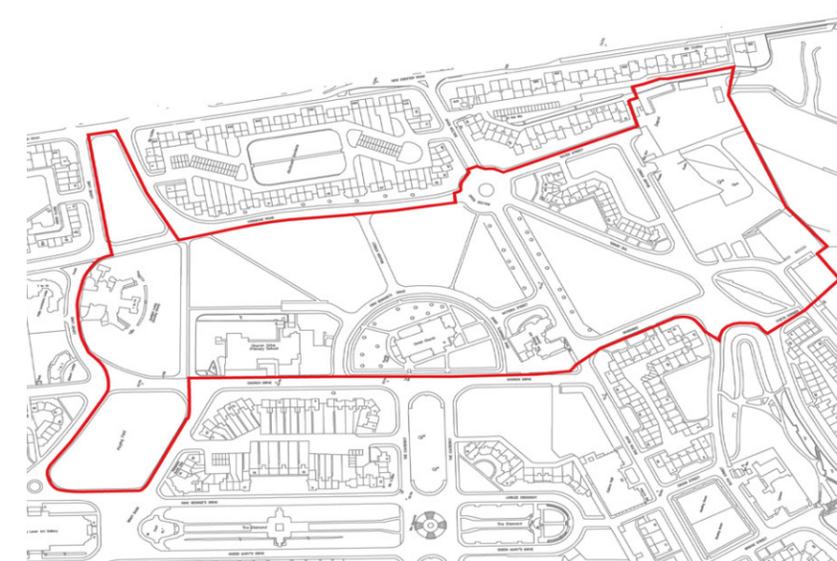
Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *Less than acceptable*.

### Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

There has been no significant changes since the 2007 Bureau Veritas report. The prime issue with Character Area 8 is the need for tree maintenance and management across the whole character area, particularly in term improving spaces for use and grass management. Improvements to Church Drive School railings would lift the area's appearance and tie into railings around the Leverhulme Spa and Hotel and Christ Church. Poets Corner pocket park should become a future of the area, rather than a left over space as it appears to be currently.

### Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

Bollards/ Lighting Columns/ Pavements/ Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance/ Signage Strategy/ Street Furniture/Tree Management



Lighting Columns



Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance



Tree Management



## Actions

### Short Term

**Infill of Unfilled Edging Strips:** Strategy and implementation for the infill of unfilled gap strips along all roads. Example: in filled with top soil and grass turf. The area to be protected and watered regularly during establishment.

**Planting Condition Review and Strategy:** A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Cut back or removal of overly mature species;
- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation;
- Infilling beds with less than 25% missing;
- Removal of small scale planting initiatives such as box hedging and roses beds; and
- Removal of planting near garage blocks to increase public safety.

**Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):** Initiate a strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning, painting or replacement if repair is not economically viable.

**Tree Management:** Survey of all trees annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal, particularly Poplar trees along Church Drive. Review with WMBC into root heave long footpaths. Strategic removal and remediation under public Health and Safety.

### Intermediate Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Bollards and Lighting Columns:** Review with WMBC into suitable bollard and lighting columns to use throughout the village that are appropriate to the Conservation Area and heritage setting. Initiate strategic replacement of inappropriate bollards and lighting columns.

**Church Drive School Railings:** Repainting and repair of railings.

**Pavements:** Review with WMBC into a strategic pavement improvement programme with particular regard to public health and safety.

**Signage Strategy:** Review of signage survey and drafting strategy.

### Long Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Hulme Hall Development:** Development of land next to Hulme Hall along Church Drive.

# Landscape Character Area 9: The Civic Cross (The Diamond & The Causeway)

A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

## Overall Character Integrity:

The character is principally the same, axis space flanked by Hulme Hall, Lady Leaver Art Gallery and Christ Church, all prominent features of the village. Aesthetically the character has changed a lot with the introduction of trees along the Diamond and the Causeway, with parked cars along the road and in front of Lady Leaver Art Gallery.

## Current Landscape Condition:

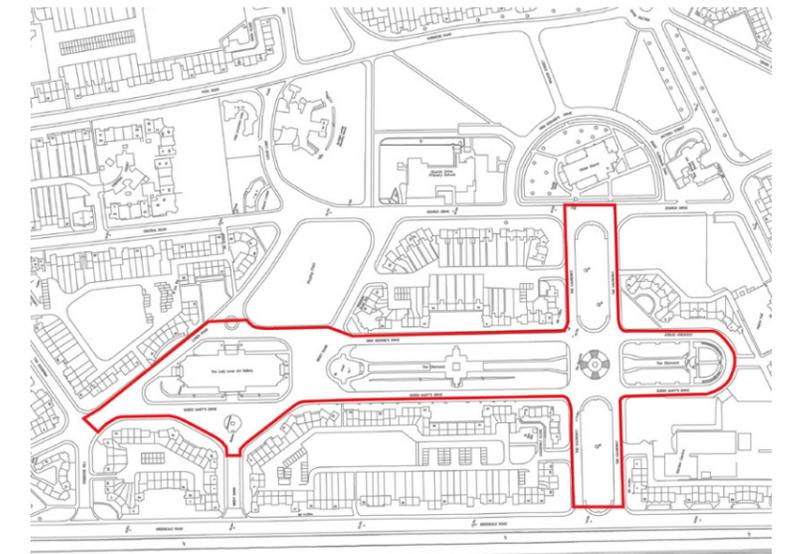
Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *Less than acceptable to acceptable*.

## Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

There has been no significant changes since the 2007 Bureau Veritas report, except for some tree removal to open up views, yet more is required. The inclusion of the sundial and mosaic feature have been positive additions. Trees are the main issue along The Diamond and The Causeway, restricting views to Lady Leaver Art Gallery or Christ Church. Strategic tree removal would open up the spaces and increase light. As with the Dell Bridge the Sea Piece fountain requires a full structural and mechanical condition survey to aid a detailed plan of restoration that will help to reduce ongoing maintenance costs and provide an all year round feature.

## Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

Lighting Columns/ Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance/ Tree Management



Lady Leaver Art Gallery Plaza



Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance



Sea Piece Fountain



## Actions

### Short Term

#### Planting Condition Review and Strategy: (The Diamond, Causeway and Hillsborough Memorial)

A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation;
- Removal of small scale planting initiatives such as box hedging and roses beds; and
- Infilling beds with less than 25% missing.

**Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):** Initiate a strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning, painting or replacement if repair is not economically viable.

**Tree Management:** Survey of all trees annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal, Review with WMBC into root heave long footpaths. Strategic removal and remediation under public Health and Safety.

### Intermediate Term

All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:

**Bollards and Lighting Columns:** Review with WMBC into suitable bollard and lighting columns to use throughout the village that are appropriate to the Conservation Area and heritage setting. Initiate strategic replacement of inappropriate bollards and lighting columns.

**Pavements:** Review with WMBC into a strategic pavement improvement programme with particular regard to public health and safety.

**The Diamond Paving:** Review with WMBC into crazy paving footpaths. Strategic remediation under public health and safety.

**Sea Piece Fountain:** Commission of a full structural and condition survey for restoration and subsequent implementation to maximise ease of ongoing maintenance and sustain it as an important feature of the area.

### Long Term

All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:

**Lady Leaver Art Gallery Plaza:** Initiate re-development of plaza space in front of the Lady Leaver Art Gallery, in association with WMBC. Proposals to include the removal of ad hoc paving, pedestrian hierarchy and a rationale for visitor parking.

# Landscape Character Area 10: Central Village Housing

## A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

### Overall Character Integrity:

Externally Character Area 10 has not changed with the exception of the removal of railings to property frontages. The majority of changes have occurred within the block back courts with the reduction of communal allotment space and the introduction of garages and parking. The change of use to Port Sunlight Village Trust office and Museum is also notable.

### Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

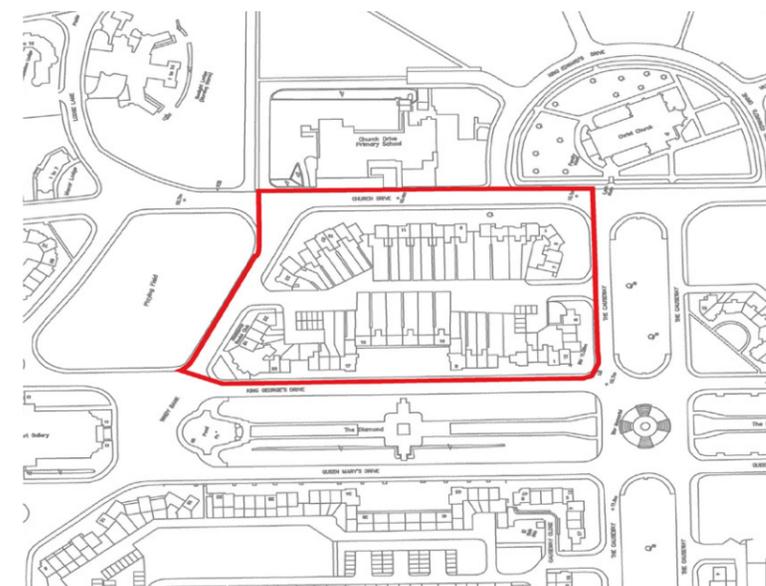
Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *Acceptable*.

### Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

There has been no significant changes since the 2007 Bureau Veritas report, except for some tree removal to open up views near Port Sunlight Village Trust office and Museum, yet more is required. In addition to the dense tree planting within the Diamond, the main issue along King George's Drive is the mature tree planting with cotoneaster hedging. Tree removal and thinning of remaining trees is recommended along with regeneration or re-planting of the hedging in terms of height and spread.

### Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

Lighting Columns/ Pavements/ Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance/ Street Furniture/Tree Management



### Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance



### Tree Management



### Tree Management



## Actions

### Short Term

**Planting Condition Review and Strategy:** A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation; and
- Infilling beds with less than 25% missing.

**Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):** Initiate a strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning, painting or replacement if repair is not economically viable.

**Tree Management:** Survey of all trees annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal, particularly Poplar trees along Church Drive. Review with WMBC into root heave long footpaths. Strategic removal and remediation for public Health and Safety reasons.

### Intermediate Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Lighting Columns:** Review with WMBC into suitable lighting columns to use throughout the village that is appropriate to the Conservation Area and heritage setting. Strategic replacement of inappropriate lighting columns

**Pavements:** Review with WMBC into a strategic pavement improvement programme with particular regard to public Health and Safety.

### Long Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Boundary Fencing:** Tenant/ resident installation of the Donald Insall Associates fencing template where appropriate.

**Rationalisation of Block Back Courts:** Review of block back courts in spatial terms to benefit residents and reduce unnecessary long term maintenance or management activities.

# Landscape Character Area II: North-Central Village Housing

## A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

### Overall Character Integrity:

As with many of the character areas the majority of change has occurred within the block back courts with the reduction of communal allotment space and the introduction of garages and parking. There is a lack of accessibility to Duke of York Cottages with Brook Street and Primrose Hill closed to vehicle access.

### Current Landscape Condition:

Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *Less than acceptable to acceptable.*

### Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

There has been no significant changes since the 2007 Bureau Veritas report. Character Area II like many surrounding character areas suffers from a lack of residential car parking within the back courts. A solution would be use of the existing grass space as an informal additional parking facility with suitable grass reinforcement system. This area has seen the most recent developments which do not abide by the Port Sunlight design ethos. Any future development within the village should ideally adhere to stricter design guidelines of both built form and landscape elements set out by PSVT.

### Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

Bollards/ Future Development Design Guide/ Lighting Columns/ Pavements/ Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance/ Street Furniture/ Tree Management



### Lighting Columns Review



### Tree Management - root heave pictured



### Removal of inappropriate planters



## Actions

### Short Term

**Planting Condition Review and Strategy:** A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation;
- Removal of planting near garage blocks to increase public safety, and
- Infilling beds with less than 25% missing.

**Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):** Initiate a strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning, painting or replacement if repair is not economically viable.

**Tree Management:** Survey of all trees annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal. Review with WMBC into root heave long footpaths. Strategic removal and remediation for public Health and Safety reasons.

### Intermediate Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Bollards and Lighting Columns:** Review with WMBC into suitable bollard and lighting columns to use throughout the village that are appropriate to the Conservation Area and heritage setting. Initiate strategic replacement of inappropriate bollards and lighting columns.

**Pavements:** Review with WMBC into a strategic pavement improvement programme with particular regard to public Health and Safety.

### Long Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Rationalisation of Block Back Courts:** Review of block back courts in spatial terms to benefit residents and reduce unnecessary long term maintenance or management activities.

**Car Parking:** Review into additional residential car parking within block back courts e.g. reuse of open grass space as informal car parking area.

**Removal of inappropriate planters:** Remediate with - Additional carpark spaces (if safe – liaise with Transport/ Highways) or low maintenance ground cover planting or grass.

# Landscape Character Area 12: North-West Village Housing

A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

## Overall Character Integrity:

The internal space within the block has changed from allotments to car parking. Other changes include additional trees planted in front of the Duke of York Cottages and planted areas at the end of Brook Street and Primrose Hill. As a consequence these planted areas prevent access from Brook Street onto Bebington Road and from Primrose Hill onto Greendale Road respectively.

## Current Landscape Condition:

Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *Less than acceptable*.

## Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

There has been no significant changes since the 2007 Bureau Veritas report. Character Area 12 feels isolated from the rest of the village with no physical connection, hindered by the closure of Brook Street and Primrose Hill. A review of trees, hedging and pedestrian accessibility within this area is recommended.

## Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

Bollards/ Lighting Columns/ Pavements/ Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance/ Tree Management.



Tree Management at planting pit



Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance



Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance



## Actions

### Short Term

**Planting Condition Review and Strategy:** A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation;
- Removal of planting near garage blocks to increase public safety. and
- Infilling beds with less than 25% missing.

**Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):** Initiate a strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning, painting or replacement if repair is not economically viable.

**Tree Management:** Survey of all trees annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal. Review with WMBC into root heave long footpaths. Strategic removal and remediation for public Health and Safety reasons.

### Intermediate Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Bollards and Lighting Columns:** Review with WMBC into suitable bollard and lighting columns to use throughout the village that are appropriate to the Conservation Area and heritage setting. Initiate strategic replacement of inappropriate bollards and lighting columns.

**Pavements:** Review with WMBC into a strategic pavement improvement programme with particular regard to public Health and Safety.

### Long Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Boundary Fencing:** Tenant/ resident installation of the Donald Insall Associates fencing template where appropriate.

# Landscape Character Area 13: Central-South Area: Mixed Use

## A Character Area Review & Conservation Management Plan Policy with Action Recommendations

### Overall Character Integrity:

Character Area 13 is the most significantly altered of all the character areas with the change of the open air baths and gymnasium to the Port Sunlight Garden Centre. The character area is the most disjointed within the village being made up a series of spaces of varied use and aesthetics.

### Current Landscape Condition:

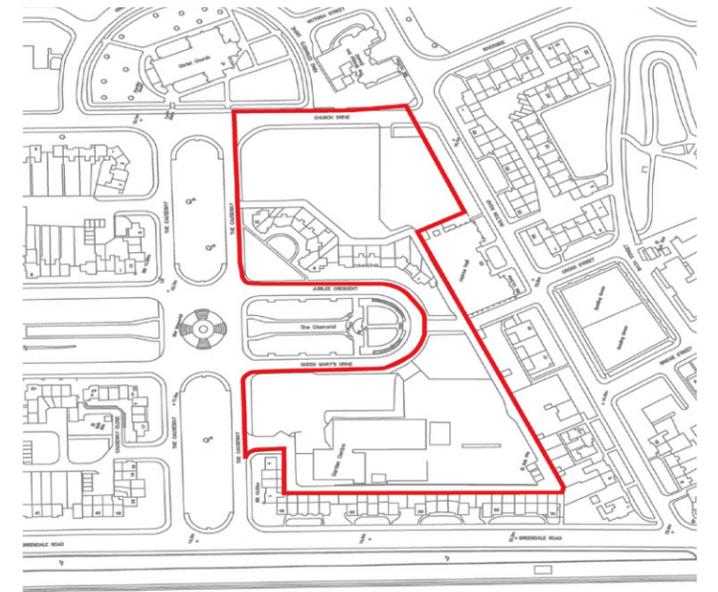
Based on survey assessment the overall condition has been rated – *Less than acceptable*.

### Changes since Bureau Veritas Report including Significance and Vulnerability:

There has been no significant changes since the 2007 Bureau Veritas report. Character Area 13 is a disjointed mix of different elements and land uses, as a result the area feels disregarded; yet it is actually one of the most prominent areas used daily by residents and visitors alike. Overly large mature trees have become a major issue, crown lifting and significant height reduction is required to create a more welcoming sense of arrival for users. A long term strategy would be the removal of the poplars which are out of character with the wider village and replacement with smaller or fastigate tree species. The Port Sunlight Garden Centre external surrounding landscape needs to be carefully considered as a key asset to the Village.

### Issues for the Conservation Management Plan to specifically address:

Bollards/ Pavements/Planting Review, Strategy & Maintenance/ Street Furniture/ Tree Management



### Tree Management



### Tree Management



### Pavements Review



## Actions

### Short Term

**Planting Condition Review and Strategy:** A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities:

- Removal of failing/empty beds (over 75%) and remediation;
- Cut back or remove overly mature species;
- Removal of planting near garage blocks to increase public safety. and
- Infilling beds with less than 25% missing.

**Port Sunlight Garden Centre:** An ongoing discussion with Port Sunlight Garden Centre about future developments, surrounding landscape and how to best integrate the centre into the wider village.

**Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):** Initiate a strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning, painting or replacement if repair is not economically viable.

**Tree Management:** Survey of all trees, ideally annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal. Review with WMBC into root heave long footpaths. Strategic removal and remediation for public Health and Safety reasons.

### Intermediate Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Bollards and Lighting Columns:** Review with WMBC into suitable bollard and lighting columns to use throughout the village that are appropriate to the Conservation Area and heritage setting. Initiate strategic replacement of inappropriate bollards and lighting columns.

**Pavements:** Review with WMBC into a strategic pavement improvement programme with particular regard to public Health and Safety.

### Long Term

*All above actions ongoing to completion, plus:*

**Hulme Hall Car Park:** Review into car park usage and role within the village. Redesign of car parking area into a useable asset as a central visitor parking and welcome space.

**Future Developments:** Redevelopment of open space behind Jubilee Court properties and along Church Drive.

# Recommended Village Wide Landscape Actions:

## 1. Bollards:

Review with WMBC into suitable bollard style to use throughout the village that is appropriate to the Conservation Area and heritage setting. Strategic replacement of inappropriate bollards.



## 2. Future Development Design Guide:

Commission/internally draft a Village Design Guide for future developments based on outcomes of CMP 2017. Considerations include: overall design ethos, surfacing and street furniture.



## 3. Infill of Unfilled Gap Strips:

Strategy and methodology for the infill of overly wide edging strips along all roads. Example: infilled with top soil and turf. Any works to be protected and watered regularly during establishment.



## 4. Lighting Columns:

Review with WMBC into suitable lighting columns to use throughout the village that are appropriate to the Conservation Area and heritage setting. Strategic replacement of inappropriate lighting columns.



## 5. Pavements:

Review with WMBC into a pavement improvement programme with particular regard to public health and safety. Clear definition of sweeping and salting responsibilities and costs. Attend to worst areas first.



## 6. Planting Condition Review and Strategy:

A full survey of all planting beds including condition, health, vigour and longevity for simplification of planting styles/ initiatives to reduce long term maintenance activities, such as weeding and fertiliser application.



## 7. Street Furniture (e.g. benches, bins, signs, etc.):

A strategy and programme of street furniture maintenance activities including cleaning and painting or replacement if maintenance/ repair is not economically viable.



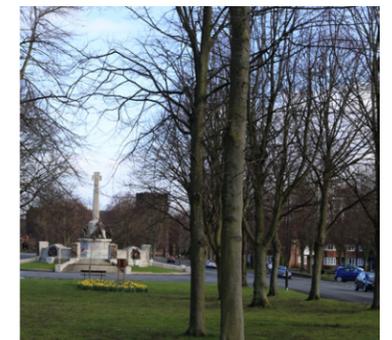
## 8. Signage Strategy:

Review of signage survey to help draft strategy to establish a hierarchy of signs and clearly define what is highway signage and what is village signage and how they can complement each other.



## 9. Tree Management:

Survey of all trees, ideally annually, for pruning, crown lifting, height reduction, thinning or selective removal. Review with WMBC into root heave along footpaths. Strategic removal and replacement within lawns.



# Recommended Character Area Priority Actions

## Character Area 2: The Dell

### **The Dell Bridge:**

A full structural and condition survey to define ongoing upkeep requirements and longer term restoration strategy for this key feature of The Dell.



### **Drainage and Flooding:**

A full hydrological and drainage survey of the Dell leading to recommendations to tackle issues with flooding. Along with the development of a plant species list which can withstand damp/ wet conditions for inclusion, where appropriate. Due heed must be given to the park's Registered status by any resulting works.



## Character Area 3: South Village Housing

### **Bowling Greens:**

Retain in use as an integral part of this Character Area and the wider village. Improving banks/ surrounds a priority action.



### **Recognition of Bridge Cottage:**

Formation of period garden, possibly surrounded by replacement railings, to add further visitor interest to this newly promoted building.



## Character Area 9: The Diamond

### **Lady Lever Art Gallery Plaza:**

Initiate re-development of plaza space in front of the Lady Lever Art Gallery, in full association with WMBC. Proposals to include the removal of ad hoc paving, creating pedestrian hierarchy and a rationale for visitor parking that allows the building and avenue views to be better appreciated.



### **Sea Piece Fountain:**

A full condition survey for the fountain and surrounding pool leading to restoration keeping the fountain as a key village feature and improving the ease of ongoing maintenance.





## Section 4 Accessibility and DDA Compliance

## Section 4: Introduction

Section 4, initially considers accessibility into and around the village in terms of entrances, nodal points, legibility, cycling and public transport. Each of these elements is marked on a plan highlighting these current provisions with suggestions for improvements or rationalisation.

Secondly, the section looks at the village's Equality Act compliance and a short Health and Safety Audit for public users, based on the village survey<sup>1</sup>.

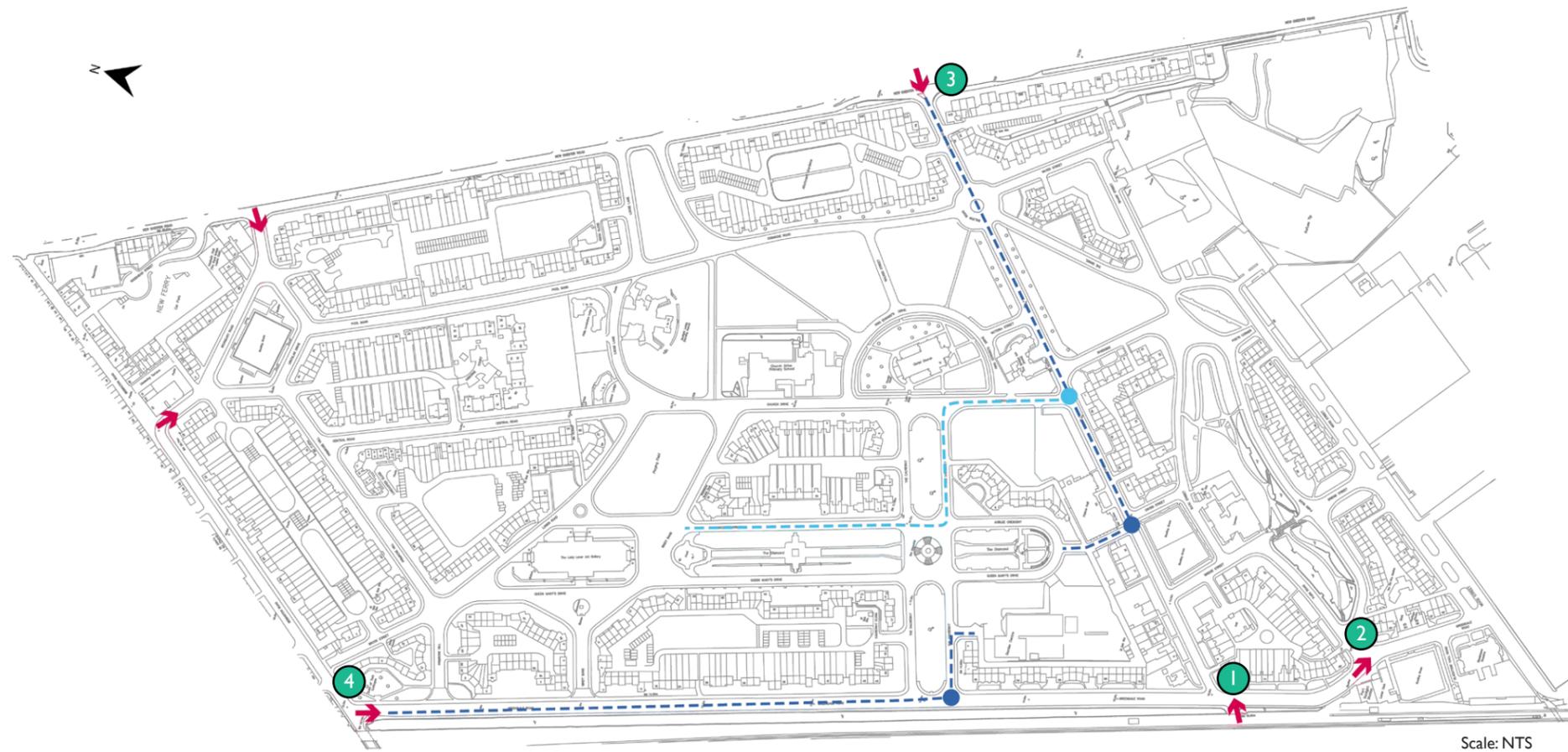
These two sections are to underpin future signage strategies, sustainable transport initiatives and the implementation of accessibility guidelines to benefit residents and visitors alike.

<sup>1</sup> Village Survey - highlighted in Section 2 and a full copy of the survey sheets in the Appendix.



# Entrance and Nodal Points

This plan highlights the existing access points and routes around the village as well as locations for potential access or route improvements.



## Legend

-  Existing main access points to the village
-  Existing pinch point to users
-  Existing access route to users
-  Potential improved main access/nodal point
-  Potential new main access route
-  Photograph location point

### Character Area 3

View towards Greendale Road entry point to the village, taken from outside the railway station



### Character Area 3

View towards Wood Street and the Unilever factory



### Character Area 4

View towards Bolton Road taken from New Chester Road



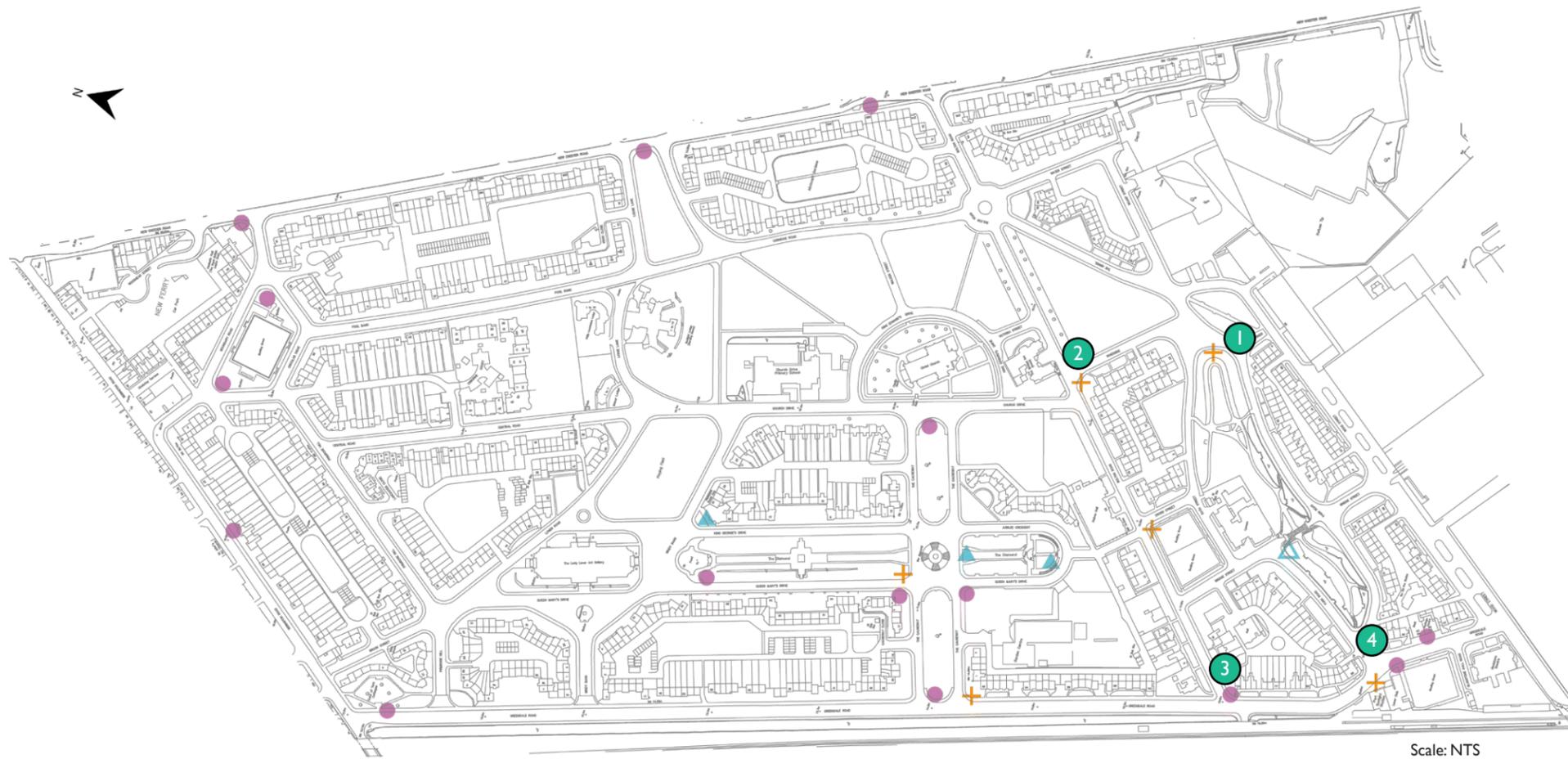
### Character Area 12

View towards Bebbington Road and Greendale Road junction



# Information Boards & Heritage Signage

This plan shows existing information boards located around the village and the suggestion for potential additional ones.



## Legend

- Existing heritage signage
- + Existing heritage signage - finger post
- ▲ Existing information board
- ▲ Potential new information board
- 1 Photograph location point

**Character Area 2**  
Finger post, the Dell



**Character Area 3**  
Finger post, Bolton Road



**Character Area 3**  
Incomplete name sign - otherwise in good condition, Green-dale Road



**Character Area 3**  
Damaged Lever Club sign



# Information Boards & Heritage Signage

**Character Area 6**  
Incomplete sign, New Chester Road



**Character Area 6**  
Incomplete name sign, Bowling Green



**Character Area 6**



**Character Area 7**  
Garden Centre navigation signs, Greendale Road/The Causeway



**Character Area 8**  
Incomplete sign in poor condition, New Chester Road



**Character Area 9**  
Recent generation of information boards in the Diamond



**Character Area 9**  
Village Watch sign mounted to lighting column, the Causeway

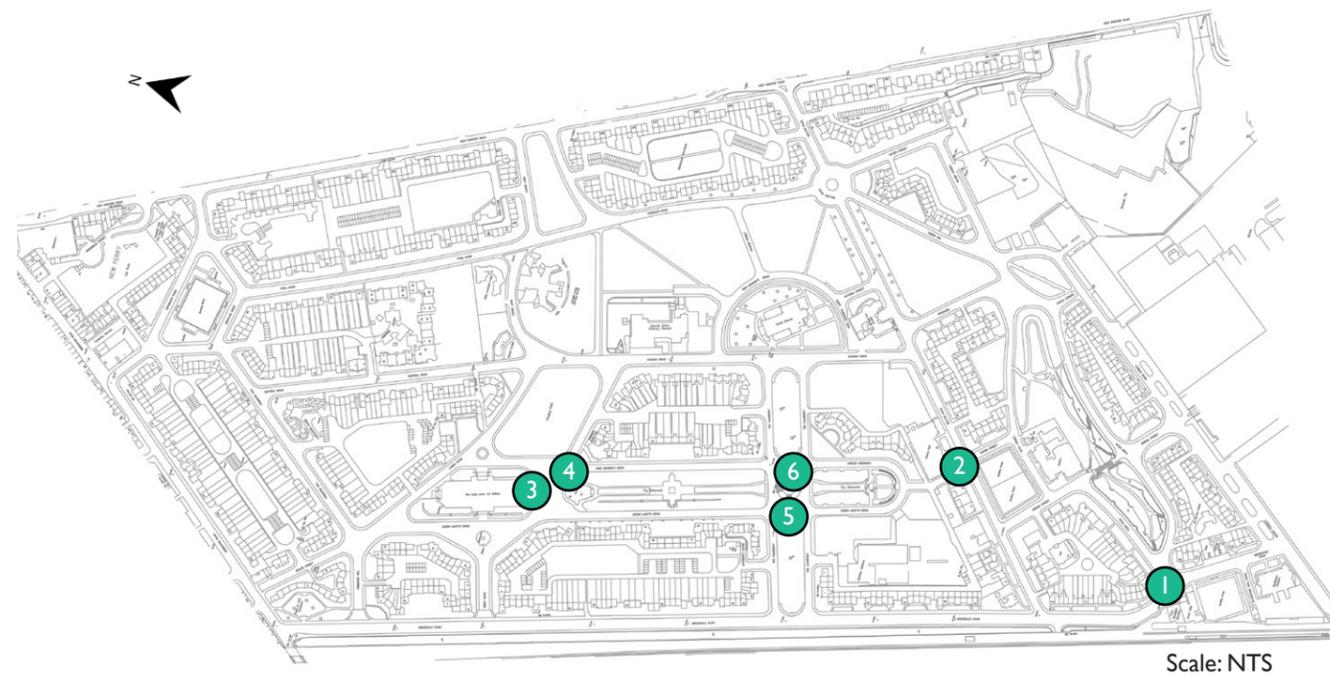


**Character Area 12**  
Incomplete name sign, Greendale Road



# Orientation

These photos indicate the lack of clear orientation or legibility around the site to key locations such as the railway station, Lady Lever Art Gallery or the Port Sunlight Village Trust Museum; and lack of orientation at main roads.



**Character Area 3**  
Pedestrian crossing point outside the railway station



**Character Area 3**  
Example of a good crossing point, inconsistent throughout the village



**Character Area 9**  
Informal parking in front of Lady Lever Art Gallery



**Character Area 9**  
Informal parking outside the Diamond



**Character Area 9**  
The Causeway - lack of pedestrian navigation (for road crossing) or road markings for vehicle users

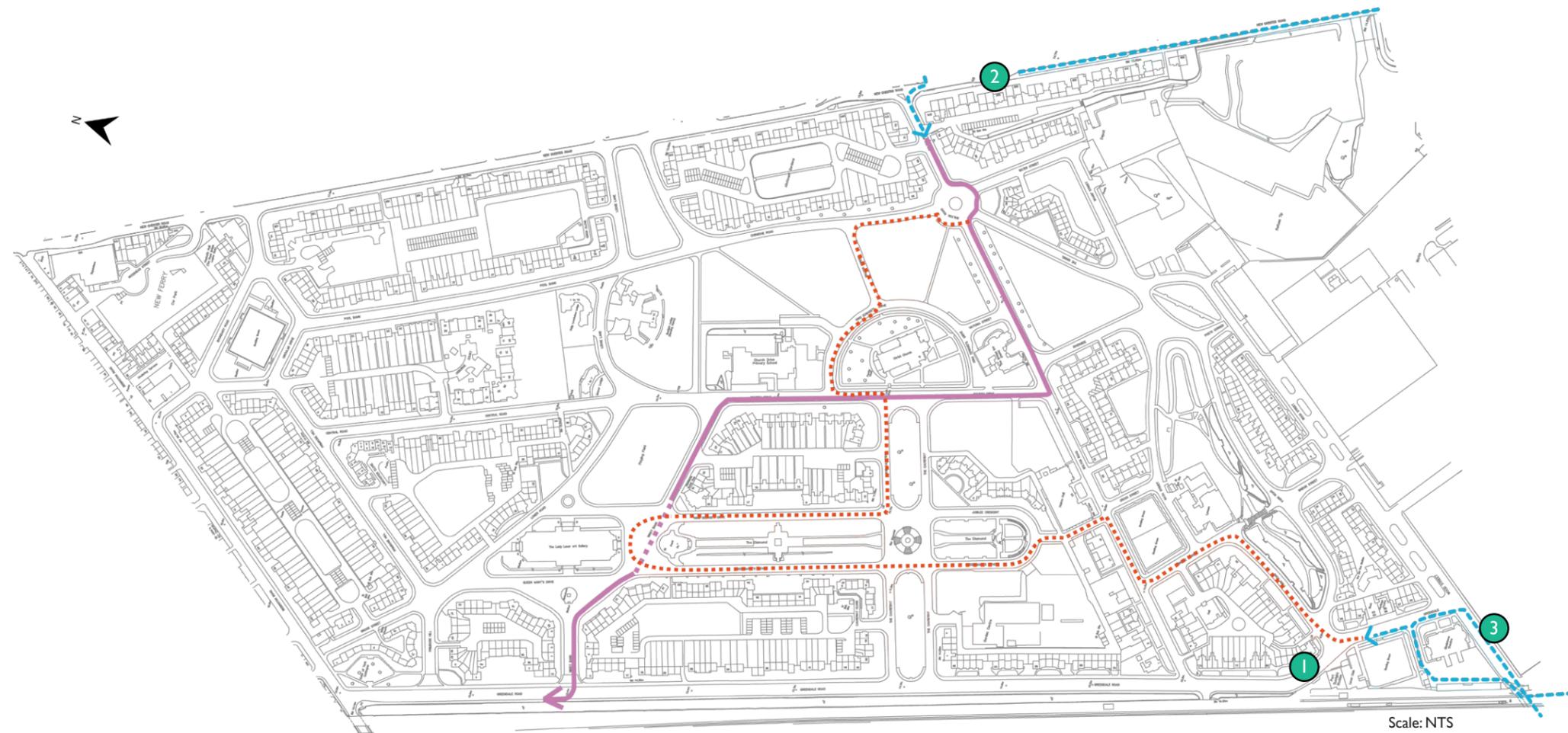


**Character Area 9**  
The War Memorial - lack of pedestrian navigation (for road crossing) or road markings for vehicle users



# Cycle Plan

The existing formal cycling path along New Chester Road offers an opportunity to extend the route into the village - appropriate cycle parking to be placed outside main public buildings and monuments.



## Legend

- - - Existing cycle routes
- Potential new cycle route
- - - Potential alternative new cycle route
- 1 Photograph location point

Character Area 3, Existing cycle route signage



Character Area 4, Existing cycle route, New Chester Road



Character Area 3, Existing cycle route road markings



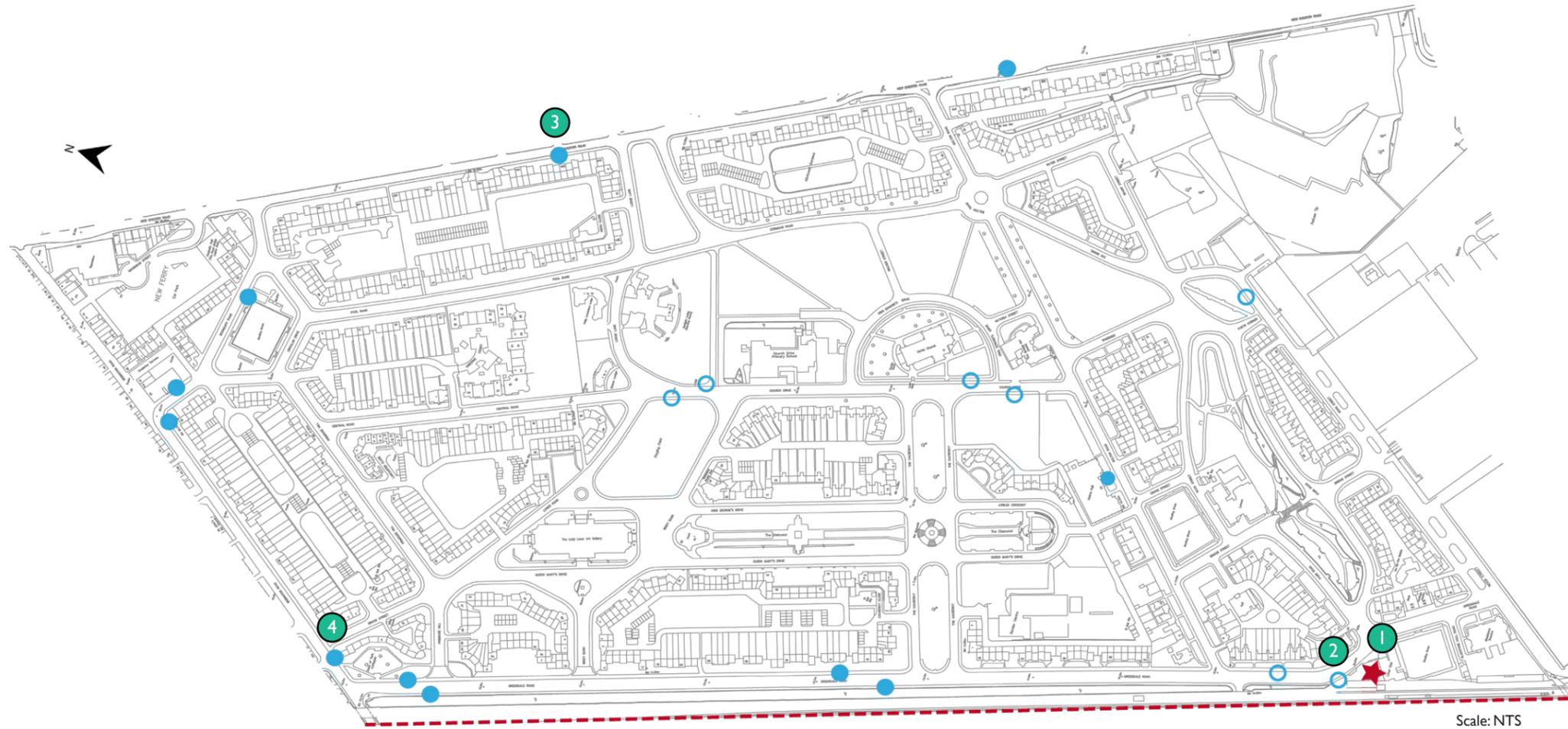
Example of potential new cycle stands to be placed near main public buildings/areas e.g. PSVT offices and Museum.



# Public Transport

Public transport serving the village is both bus and rail, operating very frequent services between Liverpool and Chester.

- The bus stops are standard issue Mersey Travel and most are in a good condition; and
- The railway station is also in a good condition with planting outside.



## Legend

- Existing bus stop (in use), links to Chester and Liverpool
- Existing bus stop (not in use)
- ★ Port Sunlight Railway Station
- Existing railway line (Chester - Liverpool)
- ① Photograph location point

**Character Area 3**  
Port Sunlight Railway Station



**Character Area 3**  
Disused Bus Stop next to the railway station, Greendale Road



**Character Area 5**  
Bus Stop, New Chester Road



**Character Area 6**  
Bus Stop, Bebington Road

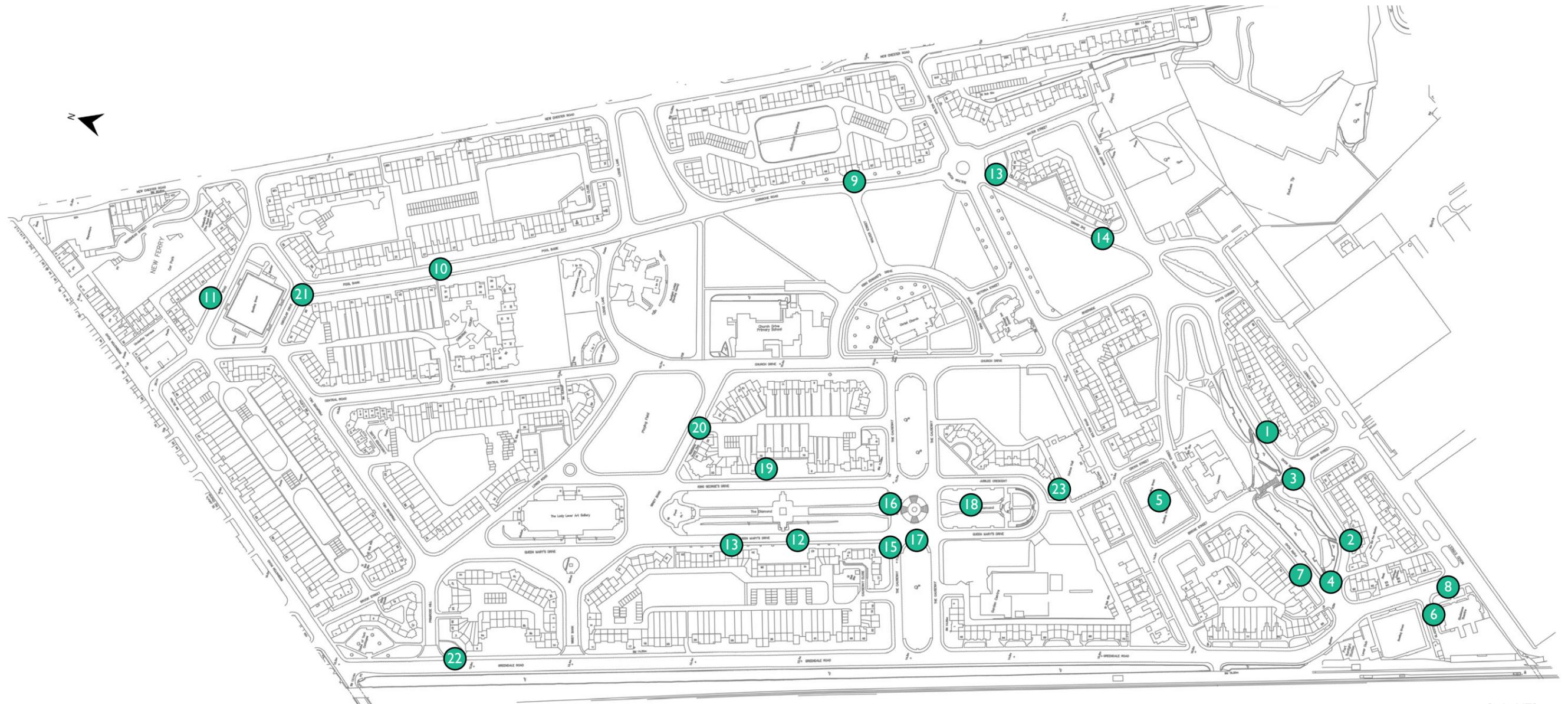


# Equality Act Compliance

The Equality Act (2010) replaced the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) but the short-hand DDA still largely exists to summaries access and accessibility. This plan shows the photograph locations of the Equality Act.

## General Points of Note:

- Most entry points to public areas, buildings and monuments have been provided with access ramps, however some are in poor condition and lack consistency (e.g. the Diamond);
- Steps need re-pointing in most areas, and are generally lacking handrails and visible edge markings;
- There are limited pavement markings to indicate vehicular or pedestrian circulation at road crossing points; and
- Some public areas and monuments entry points are not Equality Act compliant e.g. the southern part of the Diamond.
- Compliance with the Equality Act should be considered carefully, as some of the compliances will not be appropriate for the heritage and conservation of village character.
- PSVT needs to consider the appropriateness of the Act in keeping with the village age and aesthetic.



Scale: NTS

# Equality Act Compliance



**Character Area 2**  
Steps into the Dell - trip/slip hazard, characterful but no handrail



**Character Area 2**  
Steps into the Dell - trip/slip hazard



**Character Area 2**  
Steps into the Dell - trip/slip hazard



**Character Area 2**  
Strip of tactile paving at a pedestrian crossing point, acceptable condition but no hazard warning paving on other side of the road



**Character Area 3**  
Steps to the bowling green - trip hazard and non DDA compliant



**Character Area 3**  
Damaged clay paving strip at the ramp access point to Gladstone Theatre



**Character Area 3**  
Steps to properties along Greendale Road - trip/slip hazard



**Character Area 3**  
Steps to Gladstone Theatre - lack of visible edge markings or handrail



**Character Area 4**  
Steps to properties, Corniche Road - lack of nosing edges or handrail, trip hazard



**Character Area 5**  
Paving with root heave and uneven surfaces- trip/slip hazard



**Character Area 6**  
Paving with root heave and uneven surfaces- trip/slip hazard



**Character Area 7**  
Block paving at pedestrian road crossing point, Greendale Road - lack of visual distinction

# Equality Act Compliance



**Character Area 7**  
Steps to properties along Queen Mary's Drive - trip/slip hazard



**Character Area 8**  
The Ginnel - lack of hazard warning paving at pedestrian crossing point



**Character Area 9**  
Strips of tactile paving at non-marked pedestrian crossing points, sign pole obstructs the pathway



**Character Area 9**  
Access ramp to the Diamond - DDA compliant but crazy paving is a poor material choice.



**Character Area 9**  
Lack of DDA compliant pedestrian access to the western part of the Causeway



**Character Area 9**  
Lack of DDA compliant access to the southern part of the Diamond



**Character Area 10**  
Handrail to access steps to properties along King George's Drive - DDA compliant but in poor condition



**Character Area 10**  
Recently laid strip of tactile paving, Windy Bank - DDA compliant but in poor condition



**Character Area 11**  
Strip of tactile paving at a non-marked pedestrian crossing point, Pool Bank



**Character Area 12**  
Trip hazards along Greendale Road

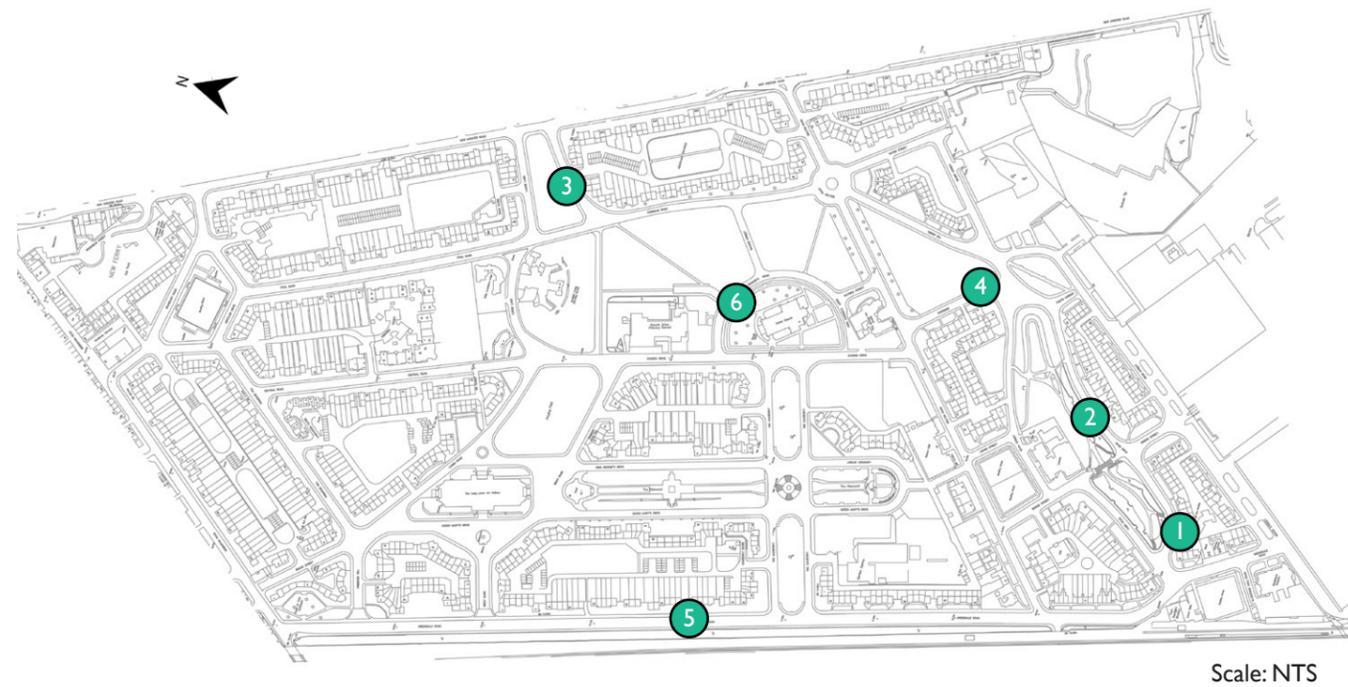


**Character Area 13**  
Lack of hazard warning paving at pedestrian crossing point

# Equality Act Compliance

## General Public Health & Safety Issues:

- Limited to none road line markings - pedestrian access to public buildings and monuments is not always clearly identified;
- Excessive informal car parking including outside of the Lady Lever Gallery's emergency exit;
- Tree stumps leftover in paving create a potential trip hazard; and
- Some fences, retaining walls and pavements are in poor condition and need re-pointing/ replacement to ensure safety.



### Character Area 2

Damaged paving outside the Dell - trip hazard



### Character Area 7

Damaged retaining wall, Queen Mary's Drive - collapsing blocks



### Character Area 8

Tree stump leftover in paving - trip hazard



### Character Area 8

Tree stump in paving - trip hazard



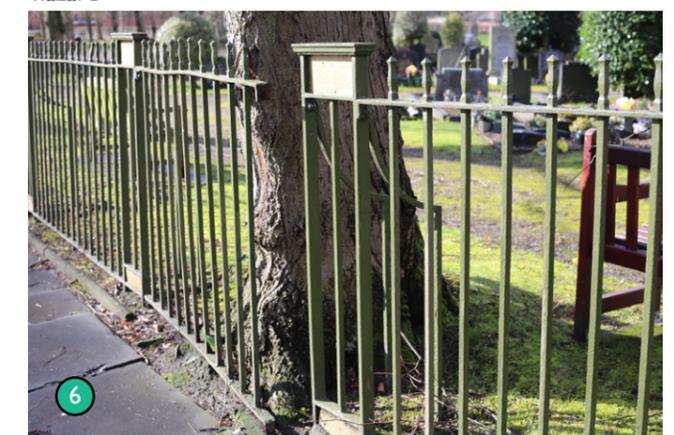
### Character Area 7

Damaged kerb edge - trip hazard



### Character Area 10

King Edward's Drive, Church railing damaged by trees - tripping hazard





## Section 5 Maintenance Activities and Biodiversity and Sustainability Audits

# Maintenance Activities Audit

A review of current maintenance activities and potential alternatives, including pros and cons of each, in order to reduce maintenance and associated costs. This table is enable PSVT to review current practices and potential alternative options available for future use within the village.

Item/ Activity	Site Photograph	Existing Positive	Existing Negative	Applicable Character Areas	Alternative Treatment	Positives of alternative treatment	Negatives of alternative treatment	Suggested Applicable Areas
<b>Trees</b> <i>(to be read in conjunction with 10 year tree replacement plan)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avenue aesthetic</li> <li>• Seasonal changes</li> <li>• Ecological habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Falling limbs/branches</li> <li>• Leaf litter and branches</li> <li>• Root heave</li> </ul>	Whole Village -specific Character Area of note: 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12	<i>Pruning/ crown lifting/thinning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will help longevity of tree in terms of health and vigour</li> <li>• Opening of vistas</li> <li>• More light and access to buildings and public spaces</li> <li>• Reduce risk of falling limbs/branches</li> <li>• Easier grass maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arboriculturalist required</li> <li>• Cost implications</li> </ul>	Whole Village -specific Character Area of note: 2, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12  Specific views include: Bolton Road The Causeway The Diamond The Dell Greendale Road
					<i>Selected tree removal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening of vistas</li> <li>• More light and access to buildings and public spaces</li> <li>• Remaining tree longevity in terms of health and vigour</li> <li>• Reduce hard landscape path damage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arboriculturalist required</li> <li>• Cost implications</li> <li>• Resident/ visitor reaction</li> </ul>	Whole Village -specific Character Area of note: 2, 8, and 9  Specific areas include: The Causeway The Diamond The Dell
					<i>Introduce root barriers following required removal and replacement tree in identical location</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent future hard landscape path damage without removal of tree</li> <li>• Will help longevity of tree in terms of health and vigour</li> <li>• Maintaining current landscape character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intrusive works to existing paths required.</li> <li>• Cost implications</li> </ul>	Specific streets with trees within the footway, such as Lodge Lane, Pool Bank and Greendale Road.
<b>Planting Beds (Shrubs/ Herbaceous including climbing species)</b>  Note: Residential shrub planting is covered within this maintenance activity, as an ad hoc requirement as yet the majority of plants are maintained by the resident.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All year seasonal interest</li> <li>• Screening between residential areas and key vehicular routes through village</li> <li>• Allows for volunteer involvement</li> <li>• Provides for habitat routes through village</li> <li>• Climbers link to village heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High number of Plant species</li> <li>• Constant maintenance demand</li> <li>• High number of beds</li> <li>• Gaps in beds</li> <li>• Inconsistent layout/design intent in some areas (i.e. Bolton Road near The Bridge Inn)</li> <li>• Climbers can potentially damage buildings if left unmaintained</li> </ul>	Whole Village -specific Character Areas of note: 2, 3 and 8	<i>Removal of small/ isolated beds. Depending on location replace with grass or slow growing low maintenance ground cover species</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced long term maintenance activities</li> <li>• Higher quality of remaining beds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial cost implications of the removal and remediation of the space</li> <li>• Establishment period</li> <li>• Resident/ visitor reaction</li> </ul>	Whole Village
					<i>Simplification of planting palette (See Note 2)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased biodiversity</li> <li>• Appropriate planting</li> <li>• Reduced long term maintenance activities</li> <li>• Creates clear design intent</li> <li>• Allows clear link to historical layout.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial cost implications</li> <li>• Resident/ visitor reaction</li> </ul>	Whole Village
					<i>Infill planting gaps – in key locations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uniform/ consistency</li> <li>• All year round planting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial cost implications</li> <li>• Establishment period</li> <li>• Potential additional maintenance activities</li> </ul>	Whole Village -specific Character Area of note: 2, 3 and 8 (The Dell and along Bolton Road)

# Maintenance Activities Audit

Continued...

Item/ Activity	Site Photograph	Existing Positive	Existing Negative	Applicable Character Areas	Alternative Treatment	Positives of alternative treatment	Negatives of alternative treatment	Suggested Applicable Areas
<b>Hedging</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All year seasonal interest</li> <li>Screening between residential areas and key vehicular routes through village</li> <li>Neat village edge</li> <li>Defensible boundary to resident gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance cost twice yearly cut</li> </ul>	Whole Village specifically Character Areas 4, 5, 6 and 12	<i>Review into consistent hedge heights e.g. 2ms around Port Sunlight Garden Centre and 1.2m to property frontages</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in long term maintenance activities</li> <li>Cost reduction</li> <li>Increased biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident/ visitor reaction</li> <li>Hedge height is establishment period</li> </ul>	Whole Village  Specific Character Areas of note: 4, 5, 6 and 12
<b>Rose Beds</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual display linked to village heritage: '...this monument will twine with the fragrance of roses...' (Lord Leverhulme)</li> <li>Popular with residents and visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance cost</li> <li>Loss of all year round planting interest</li> <li>Labour intensive, specifically on a small scale</li> </ul>	Whole Village -specifically Character Area 9  -Additional beds located around the Village, such as character Areas: 2, 3 and 6	<i>Removal of roses beds and replacement with grass from any other Character Area other than Character Area 9</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in planting design intent with Character Area 9</li> <li>Reduced long term maintenance activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial cost implications</li> <li>Establishment period</li> <li>Resident/ visitor reaction</li> </ul>	Whole Village -except Character Area 9
					<i>Removal of roses beds and replacement with shrub /ground cover planting from any other Character Area other than Character Area 9</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retains planted areas where grass is not appropriate</li> <li>Appropriate planting replacements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial cost implications</li> <li>Establishment period</li> <li>Resident/ visitor reaction</li> </ul>	Whole Village -except Character Area 9
<b>Bedding Planting</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twice yearly seasonal display</li> <li>Popular with residents and visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance cost</li> <li>Labour intensive</li> </ul>	Whole Village -specifically Character Area 9 and 10	<i>Review into the removal of bedding planting outside Character Areas 9 and 10 Except Bolton Road roundabout, and in front of Hulme Hall or PSVT Offices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced long term maintenance activities</li> <li>Higher quality of remaining beds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial cost implications</li> <li>Establishment period</li> <li>Resident reaction</li> <li>A move away for long standing historical planting design across village</li> </ul>	Whole Village  Except Character Areas 9 and 10
					<i>Introduction of low maintenance plant species or re-establishment of grass suggested location Lower Road roundabout</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced long term maintenance activities</li> <li>All year seasonal interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial cost implications</li> <li>Establishment period</li> <li>Resident/ visitor reaction</li> </ul>	Whole Village -except Character Areas 9 and 10
<b>Hanging baskets</b>  (Note survey undertake outside hanging basket season)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual seasonal display</li> <li>Popular with residents and visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance cost</li> <li>Labour intensive</li> <li>Visual impact of hanging basket tree</li> <li>Potential liability issues of visitor injury</li> </ul>	Whole Village -specifically Character Areas 3 and the hanging basket tree	<i>Reduction into the number of baskets – maintain baskets near to public buildings/ key nodal points only</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced long term maintenance activities</li> <li>Cost reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident/ visitor reaction</li> </ul>	Whole Village  -specific Character Areas of note: 3 and the hanging basket tree

# Maintenance Activities Audit

Continued...

Item/ Activity	Site Photograph	Existing Positive	Existing Negative	Applicable Character Areas	Alternative Treatment	Positives of alternative treatment	Negatives of alternative treatment	Suggested Applicable Areas
<b>Bulb Planting</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal interest: Spring &amp; Autumn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bulbs reduce over time, losing impact</li> <li>Can look unsightly and inconsistent when patches/ small clumps</li> </ul>	Whole Village	Regeneration of bulb planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased seasonal interest with bigger displays – more impact</li> <li>Reduced maintenance activities once implemented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial cost implications</li> <li>Establishment time</li> </ul>	Whole Village -specific Character Areas of note: 2, 3, 8, 9 and 13.
					Wildflower meadow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative seasonal display – especially under trees or large areas of grass</li> <li>Reduced maintenance activities once implemented</li> <li>Increased biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial cost implications</li> <li>Establishment time</li> <li>Public/ visitor perception</li> <li>Can look unkempt outside of flowering period</li> <li>No historical pattern of Wildflower planting that can be referenced to.</li> </ul>	Whole Village -except Character Areas 2 and 9  Specific Character Areas of note: 8 and 13.
<b>Grass Mowing</b> (Does not include Bowling Greens maintained to County Level)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uniform</li> <li>Consistent amenity grass for residents or visitors</li> <li>Provides foundation of landscape and green infrastructure across the village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constant maintenance demand</li> </ul>	Whole Village	Varied mown strips/edges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased biodiversity</li> <li>Reduced maintenance activities – less mowing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident reaction</li> <li>Visual effect</li> </ul>	Whole Village -except Character Areas 2 and 9 Specific Character Areas of note: 8 and 11 plus perimeter block back courts
					Selected pockets of space left to long grass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased biodiversity</li> <li>Reduced maintenance activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident reaction</li> <li>Visual effect</li> </ul>	Whole Village -except Character Areas 2 and 9 Specific Character Areas of note: 8 and 11 plus perimeter block back courts
					Wildflower meadow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative seasonal display – especially under trees</li> <li>Reduced maintenance activities once implemented</li> <li>Increased biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial cost implications</li> <li>Establishment time</li> <li>Can look unkempt outside of flowering period</li> <li>No historical pattern of Wildflower planting that can be referenced to.</li> </ul>	Whole Village -except Character Areas 2 and 9 Specific Character Areas of note: 8, 11 and 13 plus perimeter block back courts
<b>Unfilled Edging Gap Strips</b> (Left over sections from railing removal during WWII)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easier to cut the grass, as not along a stone edge</li> <li>Has link to the Village history</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could be perceived to look unsightly</li> <li>Inconsistent in width or some infilled by residents</li> </ul>	Whole Village	Hedges (Specific areas only - A review would be needed to establish the most appropriate locations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased biodiversity</li> <li>Uniform</li> <li>Added privacy for residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial cost implications</li> <li>Establishment time</li> <li>Potential long term additional maintenance activity</li> </ul>	Whole Village -Character Areas on village edge -not applicable to Character Area 9
					Bulb planting (would require filling to avoid increase maintenance cutting bulbs back)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative seasonal display – especially in key areas</li> <li>Reduced maintenance activities once implemented</li> <li>Increased biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial cost implications</li> <li>Establishment period</li> <li>Resident/ visitor reaction</li> </ul>	Whole Village -except Character Areas 2 and 9

# Maintenance Activities Audit

Continued...

Item/ Activity	Site Photograph	Existing Positive	Existing Negative	Applicable Character Areas	Alternative Treatment	Positives of alternative treatment	Negatives of alternative treatment	Suggested Applicable Areas
					Grass Infilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uniform</li> <li>• Consistency around the Village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial cost implications</li> <li>• Establishment period</li> <li>• Resident/ visitor reaction</li> </ul>	Whole Village -except Character Areas 2 and 9
<b>Pavements Sweeping / Gritting</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibility of WMBC occasional carried out by PSVT if needed</li> <li>• Resident/ visitor reaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional cost to the Trust</li> <li>• Resident/ visitor reaction</li> </ul>	Whole Village	Pavement sweeping/ gritting by PSVT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSVT Control and management</li> <li>• Agreement with WMBC</li> <li>• Consistent maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential additional cost to the Trust- unless funding can be agreed</li> <li>• Potential conflicts with WMBC</li> <li>• Additional maintenance activity to programme</li> </ul>	Whole Village

**Note:**

1. If any invasive species are discovered in the village, as listed under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=47>) contact relevant authorities for advice on safe removal. 'Landscaping without Harmful Invasive Plants' by Plant Life, is an informed guide on planting design without using invasive species can be viewed at <http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/publications/landscaping-without-harmful-invasive-plants>. No invasive species were found in the village during the site survey phase.
2. Simplification of planting palette: Refer to separate appendix for planting suggestions

# Biodiversity and Sustainability Audit

This section of the report is subject on consultation with residents.



Scale: NTS

## Legend

Following areas are excluded from this biodiversity audit, they are outside PSVT authority or not appropriate at this scale of assessment.

- 1. New Ferry
- 2. Lady Lever Art Gallery
- 3. Leverhulme Hotel and Spa
- 4. Church Drive School
- 5. Christ Church
- 6. Hulme Hall
- 7. Port Sunlight Garden Centre
- 8. Railway Line
- 9. Unilever Complex

Front gardens / amenity spaces area excluded from this biodiversity audit.

- Bowling Greens:
- A - Northern
- B - Lady Lever
- C - Greendale Road

High sensitivity areas with limited potential for biodiversity and sustainability:  
- space with limited / no intervention potential to increase biodiversity and sustainability.

Intermediate sensitivity areas with a moderate potential for biodiversity and sustainability:  
- space with some intervention potential to increase biodiversity and sustainability.

Low sensitivity areas with high potential for biodiversity and sustainability:  
- space with high intervention potential to increase biodiversity and sustainability.

**NOTE:**  
All the areas highlighted are existing green spaces located throughout the village.

Biodiversity and sustainability gradings red to yellow are to be read in conjunction with the subsequent explanatory text for each colour and the Maintenance Audit Table.

# Biodiversity and Sustainability Audit: Red

High sensitivity areas with limited potential for biodiversity:  
 - space with limited / no intervention potential to increase biodiversity or make sustainability improvements.



1 These five spaces are deemed to have a high sensitivity to biodiversity potential as they provide key social amenity space for tenants/ residents outside or adjacent to properties and should be maintained in this manner.

- Boundary Road Triangle
- Bath Street Triangle
- Jubilee Triangle
- The Ginnel Triangle
- Bolton Road Junction



Boundary Road Triangle



Bath Street Triangle



Jubilee Triangle



The Ginnel Triangle



Bolton Road Junction

## 2 Character Area 2

The Dell (West end): Formally laid out gardens prone to drainage issues more than the Dell mid-section or east end. Due to the proximity of social activities along Greendale Road and more established 'garden style' planting it is deemed to have less potential for biodiversity improvement.



## 3 Character Area 4

Allotments: Will already provide some limited biodiversity opportunities but primarily a community asset and should be generally maintained as such. If allotment demands ever reduce they could be rationalised to form a boundary block for wildlife planting.



## 4 Character Area 8

Village Amenity Space (Lower Road) & The Ginnel Amenity Space: These two areas provide key community green space for the local social activities or recreation, reducing potential for biodiversity enhancement within these areas, some seasonal bulb planting/ small scale wildflower interventions could be proposed but not to hinder use.



Amenity Space (Lower Road)



The Ginnel Traiangle Amenity Space

## 5 Character Area 5

Block 3 (Northern Area): Block 3 has two large open grass spaces. The northern space is more sensitive to biodiversity change is due to its close proximity to residential flats and properties with expectation of 'tidyness and order.'



## 6 Character Area 9

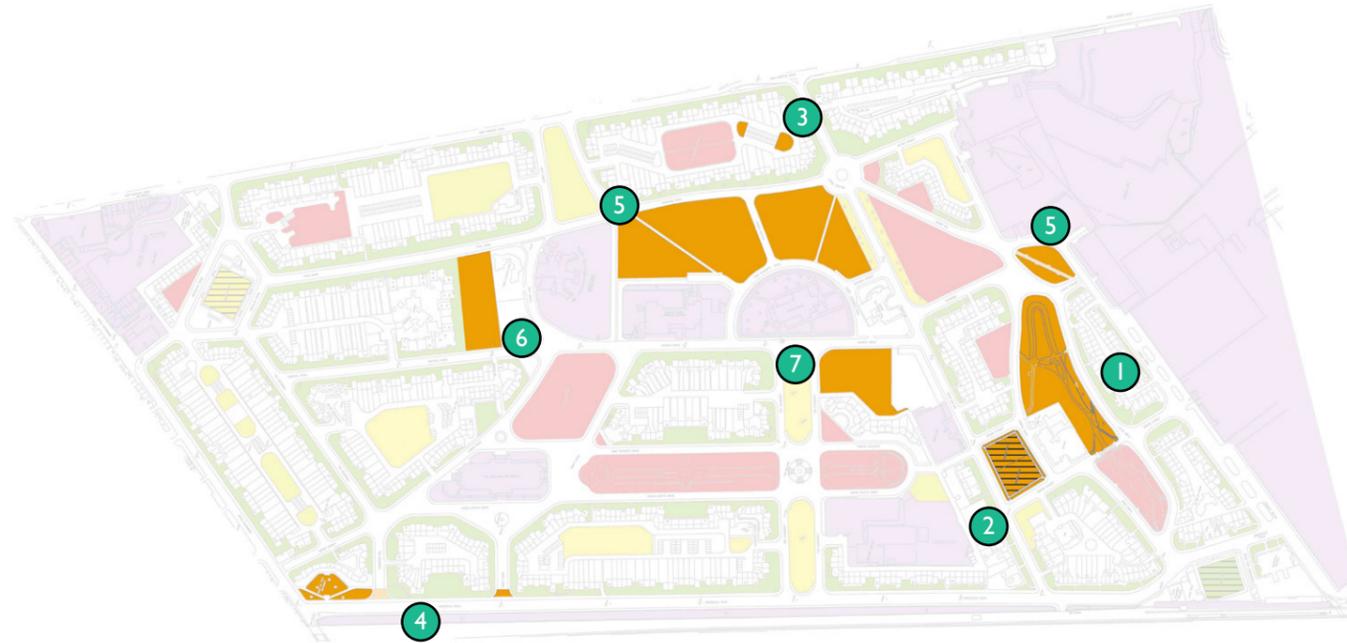
The Diamond: The key visitor and resident core of the village, the planting design should remain as is due to its status within the village and the social benefits it affords.



# Biodiversity and Sustainability Audit: Orange

Intermediate sensitivity areas with a moderate potential for biodiversity:

- space with some intervention potential to increase biodiversity and make sustainability improvements.



## 1 Character Area 2: The Dell

The Dell (mid-section): The lowest part of the Dell, prone to drainage issues with planting failings and/or large gaps.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Infill planting appropriate in wetter/ damp conditions to encourage wildlife habitat; and
- Still recognise its Registered Park status.

The Dell (east end): Centred around the large open grass space, which is used for summer/ seasonal social events. The areas surrounding this space requires positive re-activation for both social and biodiversity benefit.

Box hedging surrounds the space, is a high maintenance activity in terms of pruning.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Wildflower meadow (suitable for wet/damp conditions);
- Box hedging surrounds the space, is a high maintenance activity in terms of pruning;
- Infill planting (different species) within hedge gaps; and
- Reduction in hedge maintenance to encourage wildlife habitat creation.



The Dell (mid-section)



The Dell (east end)

## 2 Character Area 3: South Village Housing

Lady Lever Bowling Green: Currently not maintained to county level, yet a key historic feature within this prominent location., therefore can only afford small scale interventions for biodiversity enhancements.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- On the embankments only either bulb planting or annual wildflower display mix.



Lady Lever Bowling Green

## 3 Character Area 4: South-East Village Housing

Block 2 back court: Inappropriate raised planters with overly mature vegetation occupy these spaces. The two areas have the potential to become valued further for biodiversity/ sustainability and a positive community asset either through wildlife or planting interventions.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Removal of planters and hard surfacing and plant a few small fruit or street trees interspersed within:
  - a) long grasses;
  - b) wildflower meadow for seasonal interest;
  - c) sedum carpet; or
  - d) groundcover shrub palette.



Block 2 back court

## 4 Character Areas 7 & 12: West Village Housing & North-West Village Housing

Duke of York Cottages/ Greendale Road: Amenity planting in a poor condition with empty planting beds and heavily pruned shrubs.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity are:

- Infill planting that encourages wildlife habitat creation; and
- Wildflower meadow (suitable for shaded areas) to reactivate spaces until planting establishes.

To reduce maintenance of an area and therefore increase sustainability:

- Appropriate groundcover shrub planting.



Greendale Road

Duke of York Cottages

# Biodiversity and Sustainability Audit: Orange

Intermediate sensitivity areas with a moderate potential for biodiversity:

- space with some intervention potential to increase biodiversity and make sustainability improvements.



## 5 Character Area 8: Core Buildings and Spaces (former tidal zone)

Corniche Road: A high density tree planting area, which has been recommend for pruning, crown lifting, canopy reduction or selective removal to open up the space and increase potential use of the space.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Long grass or wildflower meadow within the trees; or
- tree diversification for encouragement of woodland creation within selected appropriate areas.

Poets Corner: A small pocket park on the southern edge of the village maintained to a high standard. The space has the potential to become valued further not just as an amenity asset but for biodiversity and sustainability either through wildlife or planting interventions.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Additional planting or alternative planting within selected appropriate areas for habitat creation;
- Additional bulb planting; or
- Wildflower meadow or annual display mix.



Corniche Road



Poets Corner

## 6 Character Area 11: North-Central Village Housing

Pool Bank-Central Drive: A large mown grass space, formerly part of the football playing field before Osborne Court was built.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Longer grass and mown paths; or
- Wildflower meadow to increase habitat potential and reduce grass mowing.



## 7 Character Area 13: Central-South Area: Mixed Use

Church Drive: An area noted for future development. Until such time the space requires reactivation, to benefit the local community socially and for biodiversity and sustainability enhancement of the village; especially with the significant poplar tree planting to the periphery along Church Drive and implementation of tree planting on the western edge to the rear of Jubilee Crescent properties.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Longer grass or wildflower meadows within the recently trees along the western edge, to increase habitat potential, reduce grass mowing and provide seasonal interest.



# Biodiversity and Sustainability Audit: Yellow

Low sensitivity areas with high potential for biodiversity:

- space with high intervention potential to increase biodiversity and make sustainability improvements.



## **A** Communal Back Courts:

Open mown grass spaces could be re-activated for biodiversity and sustainability in terms of maintenance reduction through the introduction of long grass, wildflower meadow with community involvement and education. Consider allotment demand.



Character Area 5: Block 3 (South Only)



Character Area 6: Blocks 7



Character Area 7: Blocks 10



Character Area 11: Block 6

## **1** Character Area 3: South Village Housing

Bolton Road/ Bridge Street: A small wooded section of amenity space with grass and bluebells. This space could become part of wildlife/ green corridor network within the village. Due to its central location it could provide educational benefits and community involvement into biodiversity and sustainability practices.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Additional bluebell planting;
- Long grass;
- Wildflower meadow; or
- Additional habitat encouraging planting.



## **2** Character Area 6: North Village Housing

Northern Bowling Green: Decommissioned bowling green provides additional green space for residents and visitors. This space has a high biodiversity and sustainability potential through the creation of a pocket park along the village's northern edge.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Additional bulb planting;
- Long grass;
- Wildflower meadow; or
- Additional infill planting to form more diverse habitat.



## **4** Character Area 9: The Civic Cross (The Diamond and the Causeway)

The Causeway: An open grass space with nearly mature trees, with limited public access or usability. Could provide small scale biodiversity opportunities which add interest.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Additional bulb planting;
- Removal of bedding planting;
- Long grass to central area with mown edge strip; and
- Wildflower meadow or annual wildflower displays.



# Biodiversity and Sustainability Audit: Yellow

Low sensitivity areas with high potential for biodiversity and sustainability:

- space with high intervention potential to increase biodiversity and sustainability.



## 3 Character Area 8: Core Buildings and Spaces (former tidal zone)

Warf Street/ Water Street: Potential for further development of this space as green corridor within the village, using existing trees, shrubs and ground cover.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- alteration of management regimes e.g. reduction in pruning;
- long grass;
- wildflower meadow; and
- additional habitat encouraging planting.



Warf Street/ Water Street

Lower Lane/ Corniche Road: An open space with significant tree planting at various stages, this could become a key biodiversity area through the various tree species in the form of a village arboretum.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Additional tree planting of exotic varieties;
- long grass and wildflower planting - reducing mowing maintenance activities.



Lower Lane/ Corniche Road

Bolton Road: Amenity planting verge with high maintenance demands, as a key access corridor through the village. These verges can continue to provide amenity value as well as biodiversity and sustainability opportunities.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Infill and simplification of planting and a reduction in maintenance of some species to encourage wildlife habitat.



Bolton Road

## 5 Character Area 13: Central-South Area (Mixed Use)

Hulme Hall/Queen Mary's Drive and Jubilee Crescent: Small woodland space with mown grass, which could become another village green corridor.

Potential interventions to increase biodiversity and sustainability are:

- Additional bulb planting;
- Long grass, with a mown edge strip; and
- Wildflower meadow.





## Section 6 Summary of Condition, Compliance and Maintenance

# Summary Table of Condition, Compliance and Maintenance

This summary table highlights the overall condition rating, key maintenance and general Equality Act Compliance issues for each of the different character areas. Please refer to the relevant section of the report for further information.

CHARACTER AREA												
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>Significance of Change Rating</b>	Significant change <i>In spatial or character terms</i>	Moderate change <i>In spatial or character terms</i>	Minor change <i>In spatial or character terms</i>	Minor change <i>In spatial or character terms</i>	Moderate change <i>In spatial or character terms</i>	Moderate change <i>In spatial or character terms</i>	Moderate change <i>In spatial or character terms</i>	Significant change <i>In spatial or character terms</i>	Minor change <i>In spatial or character terms</i>	Significant change <i>In spatial or character terms</i>	Moderate change <i>In spatial or character terms</i>	Significant change <i>In spatial or character terms</i>
<b>Landscape Condition Rating</b>	Area in less than acceptable condition <i>Some maintenance required</i>	Area in less than acceptable to acceptable condition <i>Some or little maintenance required</i>	Area in less than acceptable to unacceptable condition <i>Some or maintenance required</i>	Area in less than acceptable to unacceptable condition <i>Some or maintenance required</i>	Area in less than acceptable condition <i>Some maintenance required</i>	Area in less than acceptable to acceptable condition <i>Some or little maintenance required</i>	Area in less than acceptable condition <i>Some maintenance required</i>	Area in less than acceptable to acceptable condition <i>Some or little maintenance required</i>	Area in acceptable condition <i>Little or no maintenance required</i>	Area in less than acceptable to acceptable condition <i>Some or little maintenance required</i>	Area in unacceptable or poor condition <i>Maintenance required/ possible removal or replacement</i>	Area in less than acceptable to unacceptable condition <i>Some or maintenance required</i>
<b>Vulnerability Rating</b>	High Vulnerability	Moderate Vulnerability	Low Vulnerability	Low Vulnerability	Moderate Vulnerability	Low Vulnerability	Low Vulnerability	High Vulnerability	Low Vulnerability	Moderate Vulnerability	Moderate Vulnerability	High Vulnerability
<b>Equality Act Compliance</b> <i>General issues which cover the whole site</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steps pose a trip/slip hazard;</li> <li>• Trip hazards within paving;</li> <li>• Inconsistent tactile paving at pedestrian crossing points;</li> <li>• Some properties having step access, partially along Greendale Road, King George's Drive and Queen Mary's Drive.</li> </ul>											
<b>Character Area specific issues</b>	No handrails at key locations points.	Damage to paving at the access point to Gladstone Theatre. Lack of nosing edges or handrails.	Lack of nosing edges or handrail.	-	-	-	-	Street sign pole obstructs the pathway. Lack of DDA compliant pedestrian access points.	Recently laid strip of tactile paving, Windy Bank - DDA compliant but in poor condition.	Strip of tactile paving at a non-marked pedestrian crossing point, Pool Bank.	Trip hazards within paving.	-
<b>Maintenance Issues</b> The Whole Site covers: - Bulb Planting - Grass Mowing - Unfilled Edging - Gap Strips	Trees Planting Beds Rose Beds	Planting Beds Rose Beds Hanging Baskets	Hedging	Trees Hedging	Hedging Rose Beds	Trees	Trees Planting Beds	Trees Rose Beds Bedding Planting	Bedding Planting	Trees	Trees Hedging	Trees Hedging

**Key**

- Significant Character Change
- Moderate Character Change
- Minor Character Change

**Key**

- Less than acceptable condition
- Less than acceptable to acceptable condition
- Less than acceptable to unacceptable condition

**Key**

- High Vulnerability
- Moderate Vulnerability
- Low Vulnerability

**Key**

- Trees
- Hedging
- Bedding Planting / planting beds
- Rose Beds
- Hanging Baskets



## Section 7 Summary and Conclusion

## Summary and Conclusion

Port Sunlight Village is unique in terms of its history, architecture, planning and landscape. Over the last 129 years, some of the original elements have changed or been lost, yet the original design ethos of the village remains. The village, like most public realms, has been subjected to changes in fashion, and in recent decades has suffered from piecemeal initiatives by the various stakeholders, that detract from the original design intent and historic integrity.

Returning the landscape of the whole village to a particular point in time would be unachievable, inappropriate and undesirable. The challenge that PSVT now faces is how to manage this extensive public space in a sustainable way. It is essential that the village is kept relevant and liveable in the 21st century, whilst ensuring that the full history of Port Sunlight Village is honoured and its story told to a modern audience.

This report aims to break down the relevant landscape elements that the Trust should consider to ensure preservation of key landscape characteristics but also allow the development of the village over time. Using the data collected we can highlight five main drivers for change:

- Accessibility improvements in terms of removal of footpath obstructions such as tree stumps and a village wide equality compliance strategy, such as relaying footpath surfaces where appropriate for public health and safety reasons;
- Ratification of current maintenance strategies and use of alternative planting species to increase the village's biodiversity and amenity value;
- Replacement of existing, inappropriate landscape features within the Conservation Area with suitable, more appropriate alternatives;
- Restoration of monuments or key historical features to reduce ongoing maintenance activities or their potential permanent loss, such as the Dell Bridge, Sea Piece Fountain and the Diamond Mosaic;

- Unification of street furniture including benches, bins, signs through either a maintenance / repair programme or an ongoing rolling village wide replacement strategy.

There are many issues highlighted in this report that require action, either in the short or long term, to ensure that the village is fit for purpose and that this historic landscape is conserved and where appropriate, restored. The landscape of Port Sunlight Village is a unique space, with a unique story that has particular relevance to the modern world. Using this report and considering its recommendations can help to ensure that the integrity and legacy of this place lives on to educate and entertain future generations of residents and visitors, and to further promote the ideals of its founder, William Hesketh Lever.

