



SHANGANAGH PARK AND CEMETERY

Masterplan 2019

1.0 VISION

This masterplan seeks to integrate all of its components into a high quality, coherent design, avoiding a piecemeal approach.

The following design proposals and interventions are being considered in the review of the Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan;

Greenbelt

At a strategic level, Shanganagh Park acts as a vital green belt and a transition between County Dublin and County Wicklow. The overarching aim is to enhance the park as a strong green belt.

Regional Status

Due to its character, location and size, it is intended to upgrade Shanganagh Park from local to regional park status. The Masterplan proposes a series of co-ordinated, high quality interventions which will create an improved destination and public amenity. This will have several benefits which will be elaborated on below.

Passive Recreation

Approximately 40% of the total surface area of the park is dedicated to active recreation. The Masterplan seeks to develop the functionality of the park to allocate more space to passive recreational use and natural habitat.

Integrate all elements into the Park

At present, the park, castle and cemetery are 3 separate entities divided by strong boundaries. Consolidating these 3 parcels of land will create better opportunities for pedestrian/cycling permeability, wildlife corridors and greater space for a variety of activities.

Connection to the West

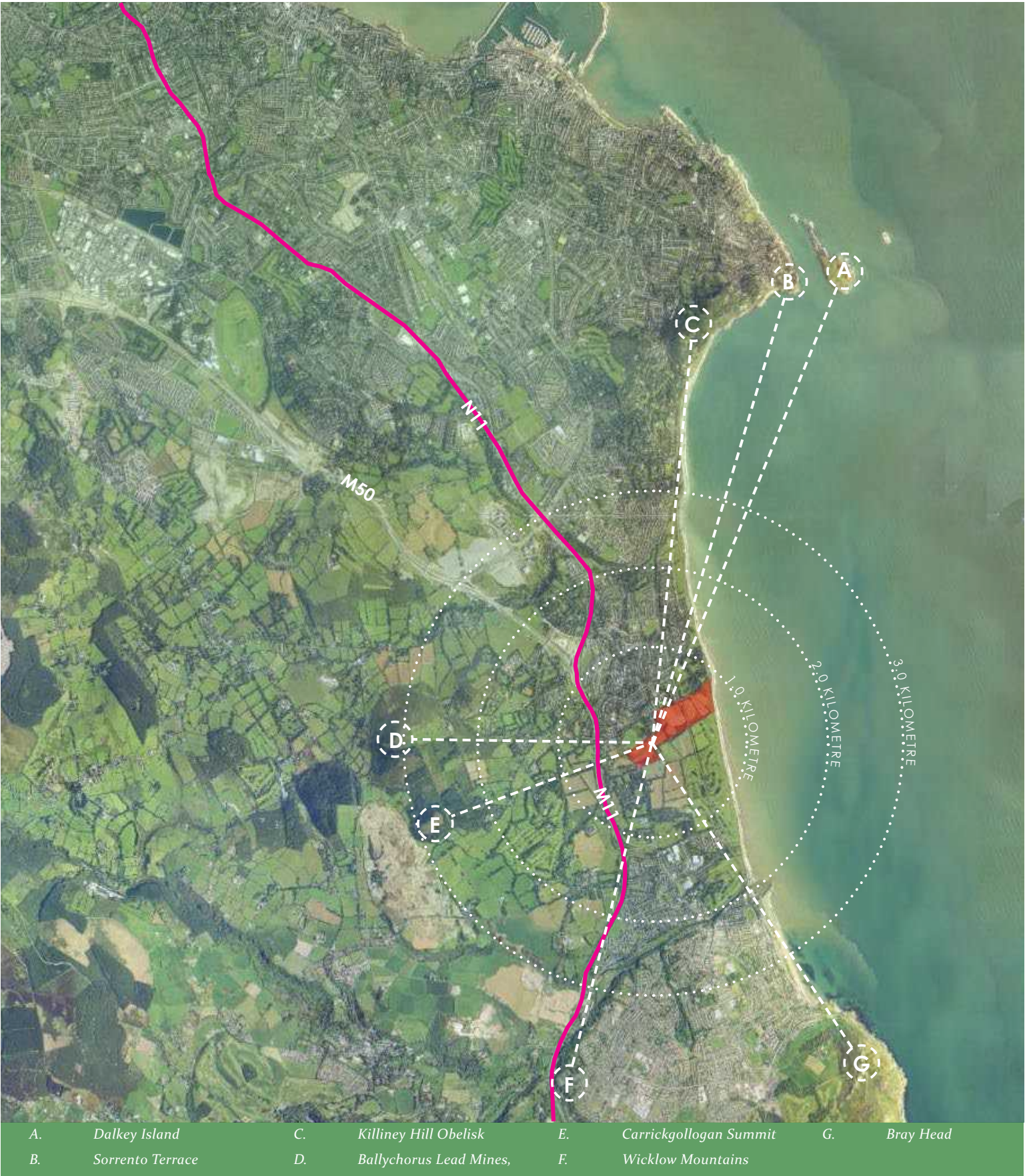
The opportunity to create a physical connection with the Wicklow Mountains is limited as the presence of the Old Dublin Road and particularly the M11 severely hamper any movements in a westerly direction. There are still opportunities to exploit the views of the mountains and the rising landscape with well-located viewing/seating spaces.

Coastal Connection

At present, there is access to the coastline. The Masterplan seeks to maintain and improve the pedestrian access between the shore and the park. In contrast to the visual connection with the mountains, the park has very restricted views of the coast. The bank of the old train line obscures views of the sea. The Masterplan proposes a sculptural mound, topped by a viewing terrace offering views up and down the coast bookended by both Dalkey Island and Bray Head. It will also facilitate dramatic views back inland capturing the views of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains.

Climate Change

DLRCC's Climate Action Plan sets out how the Council will make the county more resilient to climate change, The masterplan sets out to integrate these policies through a considered design approach.



PARK LOCATION



EXISTING PARK LAYOUT



PROPOSED PARK LAYOUT

2.0 NATURE AND HORTICULTURE

Ornamental Planting

The present planting palette within the park consists of established hedgerows, stands of mature and early mature trees. Colour is provided in the form of generous sweeps of spring bulbs and Summer meadow. The Masterplan proposes large sweeps of naturalistic perennial planting which will provide additional colour, texture and wildlife habitat. Shanganagh Parks depot has its own glasshouse facilities where plants are propagated and grown on. Contrived, annual bedding schemes are to be avoided and will be gradually phased out in favour of more biodiverse solutions within in the park.

Biodiversity

At present, the park provides generous space for active recreation. Space on the western side of the park is dominated by open areas dedicated to structured sport. The Masterplan seeks to create a mosaic of habitats (wetland, woodland, transition areas and corridors) that can sustain as wide a diversity of native flora and fauna as possible. This will require a redistribution of space in the park and a consolidation of park uses. Long term sustainable interventions will rely on natural features, existing vegetation and local conditions to encourage biodiversity. Nature driven solutions are being proposed which are informed by reading the landscape as well as the local conditions. The flooding that occurs in the existing tree planting along the southern boundary of the park is to be exploited. The proposal is to redirect the water into the lowest point of the park to create a wetland/lake area. This will help solve drainage issues and create a habitat. The existing pond in the castle grounds is home to a newt population. It is hoped that the proposed lake can encourage the population of newts to expand and spread.

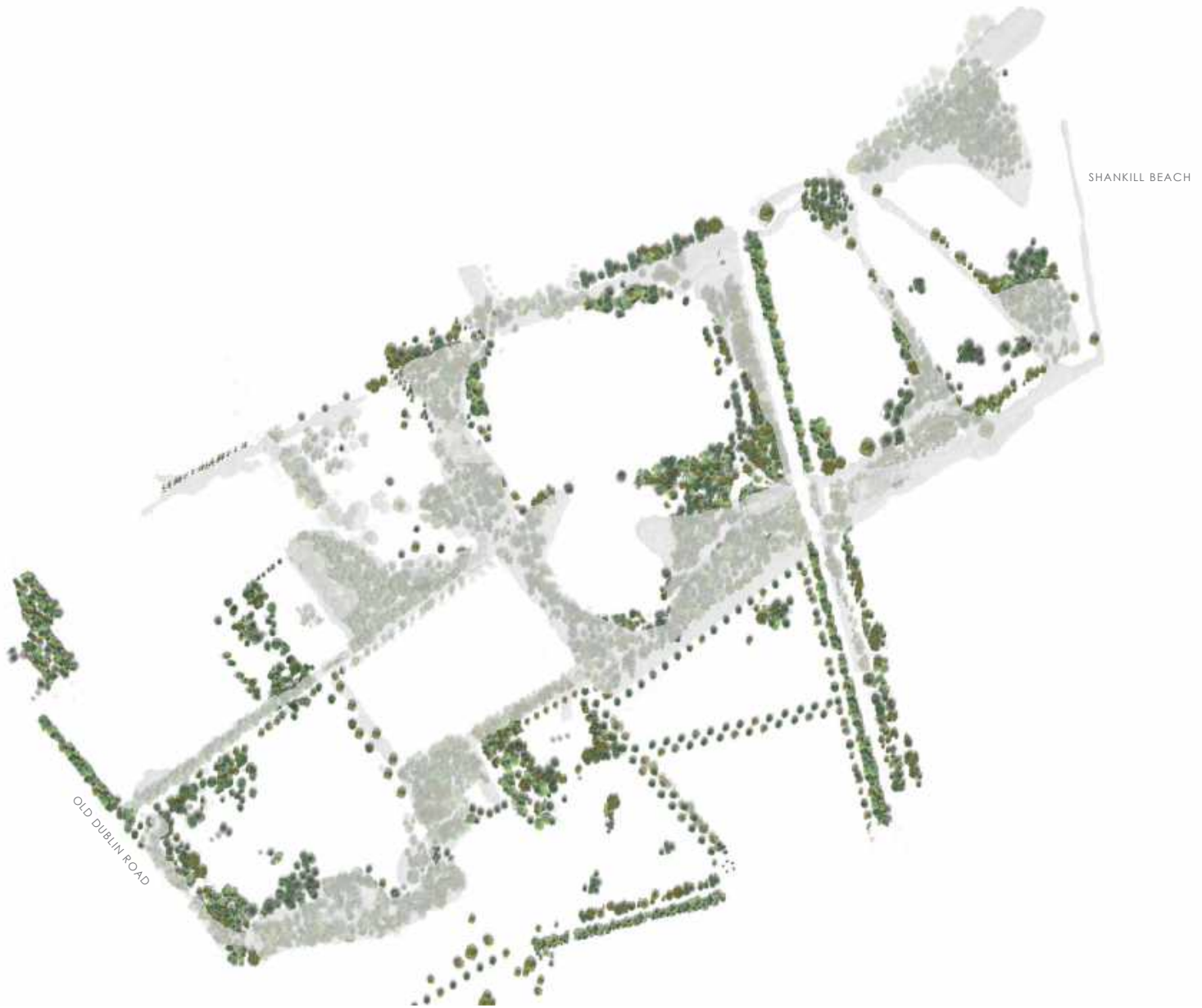
Increase Tree cover

This objective ties in with biodiversity but the benefits of increasing the percentage of tree canopy cover are multi-faceted. As detailed in the Climate Action Plan; expanded tree cover has the potential to sequester carbon dioxide, remove particulates from the air, provide noise mitigation from major transport arteries, positive impact on mental health and establish a strong visual green belt along the edge of Dublin. Tree cover has several scientifically proven benefits to society which are widely acknowledged. As a local authority, we are responsible for increasing tree canopy cover and the sustainable management of land through nature based solutions in the county. In terms of available space, the parks in the county have the greatest potential to contribute to increasing tree canopy cover. Climate change is a major challenge facing modern society and one of the best ways to combat it is by planting large numbers of trees. It is imperative that substantial tree planting is undertaken in Shanganagh Park & Cemetery. It is envisaged that much of this planting could be carried out in conjunction with local communities and schools.

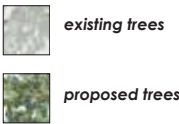
Tree cover will also contribute to maintaining the unique sylvan character that is present along the OLD DUBLIN ROAD. It is vitally important that the woodland character along the streetscape is retained and strengthened.

Working with Nature

The park is situated in a unique location. Located on the coast, sitting in a plain and with direct visual links to the mountains, the park has its own unique character and site conditions. The proposals in the Masterplan respond to these conditions to create a long term, resilient and sustainable park. Working with the existing landscape will have several benefits. Chemical application has been eliminated from parks maintenance programmes. The use of plants that will thrive in the local conditions will help in reducing long term maintenance and staff intervention. The intention is that any of the proposed interventions in the park will flourish and be self-sustaining



PROPOSED INCREASE IN TREE COVER



2.0.1 INCREASED TREE COVER IN SHANGANAGH PARK AND CEMETERY (IMAGES INDICATIVE)

Tree planting in Shanganagh Park and Cemetery should be sympathetic to its surroundings and enhance the rich amenity of the area. The existing trees within the parkland are recognised for having a positive influence on the appeal and park and an increase in tree planting within the Park is actively sought as part of the Masterplan that also proposes the reinstatement of historic trees.

Tree surveys within the park are on-going, using the best current practices to identify the management priorities of trees. Tree retention is favoured; however, DLRCC will ensure that any felled trees will be replaced by a replacement tree of a suitable size and species, having regard to their Tree Planting and Management Guidelines. Where suitable, more than one replacement tree will be considered to improve tree stock.

All trees shall be planted by suitably trained DLRCC staff, or in conjunction with local schools and communities, within the months of November and March. Those undertaking tree works will be given appropriate guidance and training, which will include an awareness of protected species within the park. As per the DLRCC Tree Strategy; 'Where tree works have potential to affect protected species or their habitat, the Council will have regard to legislative requirements and the procedures outlined in the Council's Parks Biodiversity Policy. Essential tree works will be undertaken in a way that minimises adverse impact and ecological advice will be sought where necessary.'

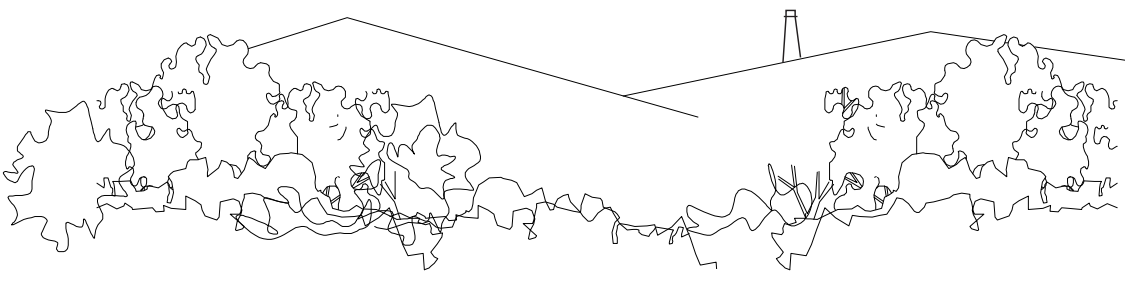
All tree planting works will be done in accordance with the best current Standard Codes of Practice:

- **BS 3882:2007** Specification for Topsoil and Requirements for Use.
- **BS 3936-1:1992** Nursery Stock specification for trees and shrubs.
- **BS 3998:1989** Recommendations for Tree Work.
- **BS 4043:1989** Recommendations for Transplanting Root-balled Trees.
- **BS 4428:1989** Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations (Section 7).
- **BS 5837:2012** Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction
- **BS 7370-4:1993** Recommendations for maintenance of soft landscape
- **BS 8545:2014** Young Trees: From the Nursery to Independence in the Landscape

I. FRAMING VIEWS OF MOUNTAINS FROM SHANGANAGH PARK

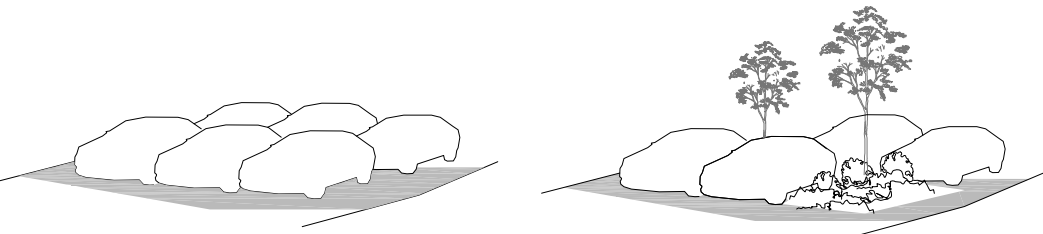


existing views of mountains from Shanganagh Park



historic views of mountains reintroduced

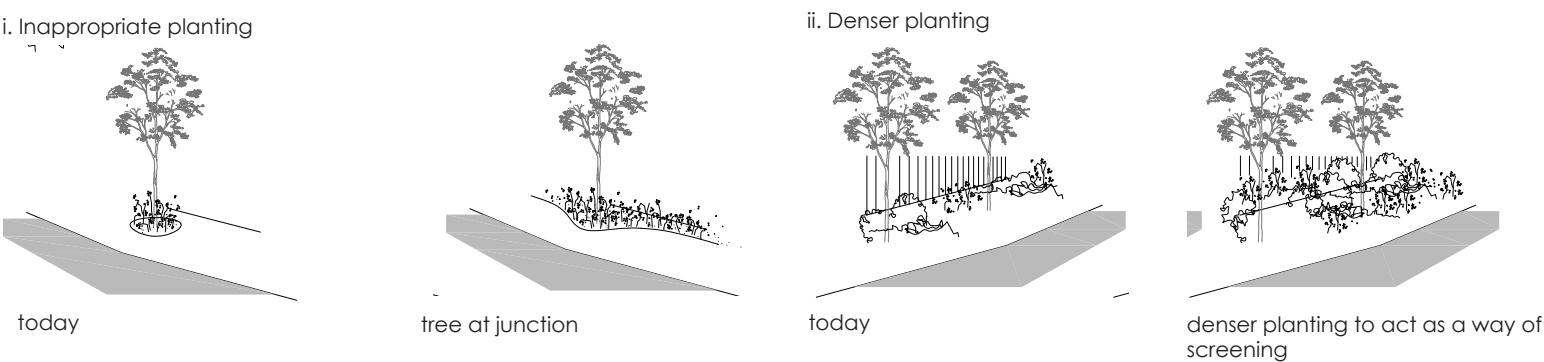
II. TREES IN CAR PARKS



today

trees and vegetation in car park

III. GROUNDCOVER & NATIVE HEDGEROW PLANTING STRATEGY



today

tree at junction

today

denser planting to act as a way of screening

3.0 LINKS AND PERMEABILITY

East to West movement across the DART line

The Dart forms a barrier through the middle of the park. The Masterplan seeks to create 3 crossing points rather than the present arrangement of 1. This will involve improving the existing accessibility to the pedestrian bridge at the northern end, creating a new green bridge half way along the line and re-commissioning the existing bridge at the southern, cemetery end. The northern bridge has accessibility issues due to the substantial change in level. The Masterplan proposes to replace the precarious ramped path with a set of steps and a zig-zagging ramp arrangement. The change in level and the ramp arrangement will also facilitate an incidental, natural play area. A viewing area is proposed which will take advantage of the sunny aspect and the expansive views inland towards the mountains. A green bridge will encourage a new wildlife corridor between the two areas of the park, create new pedestrian loops and encourage park users towards the coast line.

The existing bridge crossing at the cemetery requires the least investment. Unlocking the gates and installing 2m balustrading at either edge of the bridge will make it safe and useable.

Create stronger physical and visual connections with the coast

The bank of the old railway line forms a visual impediment along the coast. The Masterplan proposes an elongated pyramidal landform with a viewing terrace at its top to provide views up and down the coast and back inland. The landform will feature a line of timber piles which will function as a playful installation highlighting the steady march of coastal erosion.

Pedestrian and cycling movement through the park

Permeability and connectivity are key goals of the Masterplan. The plan seeks to facilitate both pedestrians and cyclists. This will require planning and design to create a layout that is both self-regulating and avoids the need for a large volume of signage and barrier clutter. This will be achieved through the use of a co-ordinated suite of surface details and materials. Rumble strips and surface contrasts will help direct park users and reduce user conflicts.

East Coast Greenway

The east coast greenway is a strategic level project to create a cycling route connecting Dublin City with Rosslare in the south of Wexford. This route will pass through the south of Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford hugging the coastline as much as possible. The Masterplan seeks to facilitate this strategic route through the network of paths in the park and the coordinated connections with existing and proposed developments around the park. The proposal to create 3 crossings along the railway line as well as the retention of a 20m corridor of space running north south paralleling the railway will have the potential to offer various options for the East Coast Greenway route.

Pathway Lighting

The park will be open on a 24 hour basis to maintain the pedestrian and cycling permeability at all times. This will mean that the park will be in use during night time hours. Park user security will be an issue so lighting will be an important feature of the future park. The requirement for security will have to be balanced with night-time light pollution. An over specification of light can have a detrimental impact on nocturnal wild life. The lighting plan will have to be a disciplined and precise arrangement. Light fixtures will be dimmable and offer only the minimum amount of required light. Robust, low level ground washers are preferable as opposed to high level flood lighting which generate unwanted light spill.



PROPOSED LINKAGES IN SHANGANAGH PARK AND CEMETERY



EXISTING VIEW OF ROUTE A



EXISTING VIEW OF ROUTE B



EXISTING VIEW OF EXISTING BRIDGE A



EXISTING VIEW OF BRIDGE C

4.0 SPORTS AND PLAY

Large scale centralised sports pavilion

At present, there are two GAA clubs, a soccer club, a cricket club, a baseball group and an athletics club using Shanganagh Park. Demand for use from other sports clubs is always a challenge. The development of the local area will place increased pressure on the park as the local population grows. Rather than have a haphazard arrangement of individual sports club buildings it is preferable to consolidate all sport into a single building. This will help to manage carparking, circulation within the park and create synergies between clubs.

Acquisition of Shanganagh Castle has created the opportunity to create a large scale facility to manage all the sports teams. Attached to the Castle is an existing gymnasium building which is a ready-made facility. It requires renovation but it has the potential to cater for all the sports teams as well as additional community facilities.

Consolidate all the sports pitches into a centralised zone

The aim of the Masterplan design is to impose a logic and discipline on the park to allow the amenity to cater for the complex demands of nature, horticulture, active and passive recreation. The existing arrangement of sports pitches sprawls out across the entire west side of the park. A suggestion to move the baseball facility to the east side of the railway line would have had a detrimental impact on the nature value of that section of the park. The Masterplan seeks to cluster the pitches and other sports facilities together. This will have several benefits. It will create space for habitat and other passive facilities, it will maintain all the pitches in close proximity to the proposed sports pavilion and it will establish distinct user zones in the park.

Sharing of field space amongst sports clubs

Space is finite within the park and the best way to utilise it is through shared use. Cricket and baseball are minority sports with a small window of play during the calendar. A more efficient use of the land can be reached by doubling up these sports facilities together. Two sports utilising the same plot of land can justify a greater investment in the surface and other features.

A long term sustainable use of the park will require all the pitches to be shared amongst different clubs. It would be unfeasible and unrealistic for a single club to have sole use of any area of land in the park. Careful management of time allotments and pitch maintenance is needed to ensure it is run in a satisfactory way.

Intensive use dual pitch facility

The Masterplan proposes the creation of 2 sand based, grass 'prunty' GAA pitches which will feature cutting edge flood lights. These sand based grass pitches will be carefully managed and will cater for the high intensity use weekend matches during the year.

Complimentary Sports facilities

Other local council owned sports facilities will help to alleviate the pressure on pitch allocation in Shanganagh Park. A new all-weather facility is to be developed in Woodbrook College which is in close proximity to the park on the Old Dublin Road. Stonebridge Road and pitches at The Cliffs in Rathsallagh facilitate local matches also.

Relocation of the playground

The recently completed LAP for Shankill highlighted the potential to move the playground from its present location adjacent to a roadway into the woodland belt along the access road. The Masterplan is proposing a natural play-space in the belt of trees which will exploit the trees and the undulating shape of the ground. The existing playground will be converted into a band of trees and the boundary fence will be set back in amongst the trees to disguise it. This proposal will tie in with the sylvan character of the streetscape between the park and down to the Bray roundabout.



PROPOSED DEDICATED ACTIVE SPORT LANDS



5.0 PARKING AND ACCESS

Processional Route from the Old Dublin Road into the Park & Cemetery

The existing route from the Old Dublin Road into the carpark and cemetery is an over scaled carriageway (in excess of 8m wide). On busy days it fills up in a haphazard arrangement with cars parked on both sides of the road. The cemetery side of the road features a footpath and a random rubble clad 2.4m wall. This hard boundary treatment is at odds with the tree belt on the park side. Overall, this approach into the cemetery lacks the dignity needed to service the cemetery and the proposed crematorium. The Masterplan proposes a formalised avenue. This will involve creating formal parking spaces on the cemetery side with tree pit build outs at intervals. The introduction of the parking bays will squeeze the road down to an appropriate width and a line of trees will create an avenue effect. There are a continuous line of fine cherry trees on the park side and it is the intention to mirror this with an appropriate selection of cherry varieties on the cemetery side. A mini roundabout at the cemetery entrance and a new set of piers entering the carpark will create an improved sense of arrival and threshold. Eliminating the slip lane on the Old Dublin Road and tightening the radius of the corners entering the access road will enhance and upgrade the pedestrian crossing at this point.

Reconfigure the existing carpark and expand the capacity

The present carpark is a sprawling area with a configuration of parking bays that fails to maximise the space available. The proposed arrangement rotates the existing layout by 90 degrees. This arrangement has several benefits. An increase in parking spaces is the primary advantage, the new arrangement create 135 parking spaces compared with 105 in the existing carpark. The proposed arrangement allows for safer pedestrian movements between the carpark and the park and cemetery. Each parking bay block is book ended by a large soft landscape area. Each one of these bookends will feature a specimen tree and a block of herbaceous underplanting. These bookends tie in with the concept of a processional route by continuing the avenue from the main road all the way to the gates of the crematorium.

Create a new carpark area on the Castle grounds

The new sports facility will create a demand for convenient parking adjacent to the building. The proposed carpark will create 70 additional parking spaces. Access to this will be provided through the proposed Castle development. The curtilage of the Castle is historically and arboriculturally sensitive. The proposal is for a long linear carparking area that hugs the boundary with Castlefarm. Earthworks and additional tree planting will further mitigate the proposed facility.



PROPOSED PARKING LOCATIONS

- A New car park at Castle grounds
- B Reconfigured car park
- Processional route



EXISTING VIEW OF CAR PARK B



PROPOSED LOCATION FOR CAR PARK A



EXISTING VIEW OF PROCESSIONAL ROUTE

Re-establish historic entrance point into the rear of Shanganagh Castle

During the development of the Masterplan, it became apparent that an entrance point to the rear of the castle was required to address several aspects of permeability through the park. The analysis process highlighted a historic entrance point to the rear of the house at the same location. The 6 inch and 25 inch maps show a direct link with a network of farm buildings and a walled garden. Presumably, it was decommissioned and blocked off during the development of the Castlefarm housing estate. Re-establishing this historic entrance will create pedestrian and cycling access into the Castle and the proposed sports complex. It will also service the proposed link across the park linking with Woodbrook and eventually servicing the proposed DART station there. The park will act to encourage people to walk and cycle on safe, peaceful routes connecting up the residential blocks in the local area.

Relocate the historic piers from the south west corner of the Park

The granite piers and the metalwork contained within the entrance at the south west corner of the park on the Old Dublin Road is all historic material but the location of the piers is not historically authentic. It is proposed to move the entire entrance to a new location half way along the boundary with the Old Dublin Road. This will create a folly entrance which will frame a view into the park, centered on the proposed viewing deck and pond. The existing location will be replaced with a smaller more appropriate arrangement that will service this entrance.



POTENTIAL REESTABLISHMENT OF OLD PARK ENTRANCE



HISTORIC PLAN OF ACCESS TO SHANGANAGH CASTLE 1837



EXISTING VIEW OF GRANITE PIERS



EXISTING VIEW OF PLAYGROUND



POTENTIAL ACCESS ROUTES TO SHANGANAGH PARK

- Existing/potential pedestrian access
- Relocation of granite piers
- Relocation of playground

6.0 BALANCING ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION

For the sake of the Masterplan, it is suggested to rationalise the park by subdividing it into parcels. This subdivision is based on two distinct park usages.

The Masterplan sets out to consolidate active recreation to the centre of the park. This will improve overall management/maintenance of the facilities and provide users with a better location to gain immediate access to parking and the proposed sports pavillion at Shanganagh Castle.

Additional benefits include the introduction of a mosaic of interconnected habitats which are vital for the protection and nuturing of flora and fauna within the park.

As a starting point, it is suggested to label these two distinct areas as:

- The Active Landscape
- The Passive Landscape

Further subdivision of the park into more manageable parcels helps identify particular features to be addressed, prioritising certain projects and for scheduling all of the proposed work.



THE ACTIVE LANDSCAPE



THE PASSIVE LANDSCAPE

Interpreting the Landscape

The park has been broken into five distinct zones. These are as follows:

- A. Park Gateway
- B. Shanganagh Castle, Sports Pavillion and Surrounding Woodland
- C. Sports Pitches
- D. Meadow Fields
- E. New Linkages





PROPOSED PLAN

RELOCATION OF HISTORIC PIERS TO
CREATE A FOLLIE ENTRANCE WITH
FRAMED VIEW

ATTENUATION POND AND WETLAND
WITH VIEWING DECK

MEADOW PLANTING WITH LARGE SWEEPS OF
ORNAMENTAL PLANTING

SPECIMEN TREE PLANTING AND
NATURALISTIC MOUNDING

RELOCATION OF THE PLAY AREA TO
THE WOODLAND WITH A FOCUS ON
NATURAL PLAY



THE PARK GATEWAY

ZONE A

This zone currently contains two senior GAA pitches and a children's playground along the boundary of the park. The area suffers from poor drainage and is susceptible to waterlogging.

With increasing challenges arising from climate change it is proposed to introduce an attenuation pond which will serve to provide better drainage and stormwater management for the park. This area will encourage greater biodiversity and form an attractive entrance to the park while serving an important role in flood mitigation.

It is proposed to relocate the children's playground further from the busy Old Dublin Road and re-establish it within the woodland area. This will allow for the development of natural play opportunities and high play quality.



EXISTING VIEW OF WOODLAND AREA



EXISTING PLAN



PROPOSED PLAN

PROPOSED SHANGANAGH DEVELOPMENT

CASTLE AND SPORTS PAVILLION PARKING
(70 SPACES INC 4 DISABLED AND BUS
PARKING)

GRASS BERMS AND INCREASED
PLANTING TO SCREEN PARKING
AREA

FORMAL LAWN

EXISTING BUILDING RENOVATED AS A MULTI-
SPORT COMPLEX WITH NEW FACADE TO
INCLUDE PUBLIC TOILETS

REINSTATED HISTORIC PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE
FROM CASTLE FARM & ST. ANNE'S PARK
RESTORATION OF SHANGANAGH CASTLE
FOR COMMUNITY GAIN

FORMAL GARDEN WITH SEATING AREA,
HERBACEOUS BORDERS AND ACCESS TO
SHANGANAGH CASTLE

SHARED-USE PEDESTRIAN LINK FROM
PROPOSED WOODBROOK DART STATION

NEW ACCESS TO FLOODLIT PITCHES



SHANGANAGH CASTLE AND SPORTS PAVILLION

ZONE B

This zone is currently an underused resource within Shanganagh Park. To meet the increasing pressure to provide quality open space and facilities within the park the plan seeks to convert this area into a multi-use zone that forms another attractive gateway to the park while providing multifaceted community opportunities.

The restoration and development of the existing castle and disused sports hall will provide a focal point of intense usage and local benefit. The surrounding gardens will be designed to feature a large lawn area, walks, specimen trees, seating areas and herbaceous planting as well as a screened parking area. A focal point will be created at the end of the proposed avenue linking with the Woodbrook development and DART station. It will lend itself as a desirable destination point within the park.

Re-establishing historic linkages from the castle will allow for easier access between the playing pitches and the sports pavillion.



EXISTING VIEW OF CASTLE LANDS



EXISTING PLAN



PROPOSED PLAN



SPORTS

ZONE C

This zone is currently a meadow area with a scattered arrangement of pitches and playing facilities. To meet the increasing pressure to provide quality sports facilities within Dún Laoghaire Rathdown the plan seeks to convert this space into a high intensity active recreation zone. It will be designed to meet the demands of a wide variety of sports. Alternative meadows will be provided to compensate the loss of wildlife habitat within the area.

The introduction of floodlights with minimal light spill will allow for usage outside of daylight hours, additional trees will be planted in close proximity to the floodlit areas to further reduce light spill.



EXISTING VIEW OF PLAYING FIELDS



EXISTING PLAN



PROPOSED PLAN



MEADOW FIELDS

ZONE D

Wildlife corridors will be improved and created in this zone. The historic field patterns will be reinforced with additional planting. This will possibly include a community garden within the existing community orchard.

An enlarged dogs-off-leash area is proposed with additional interventions to maximise the space.

In an effort to improve the park's sustainability and self sufficiency the possibility of renewable energy generation on site will be explored.

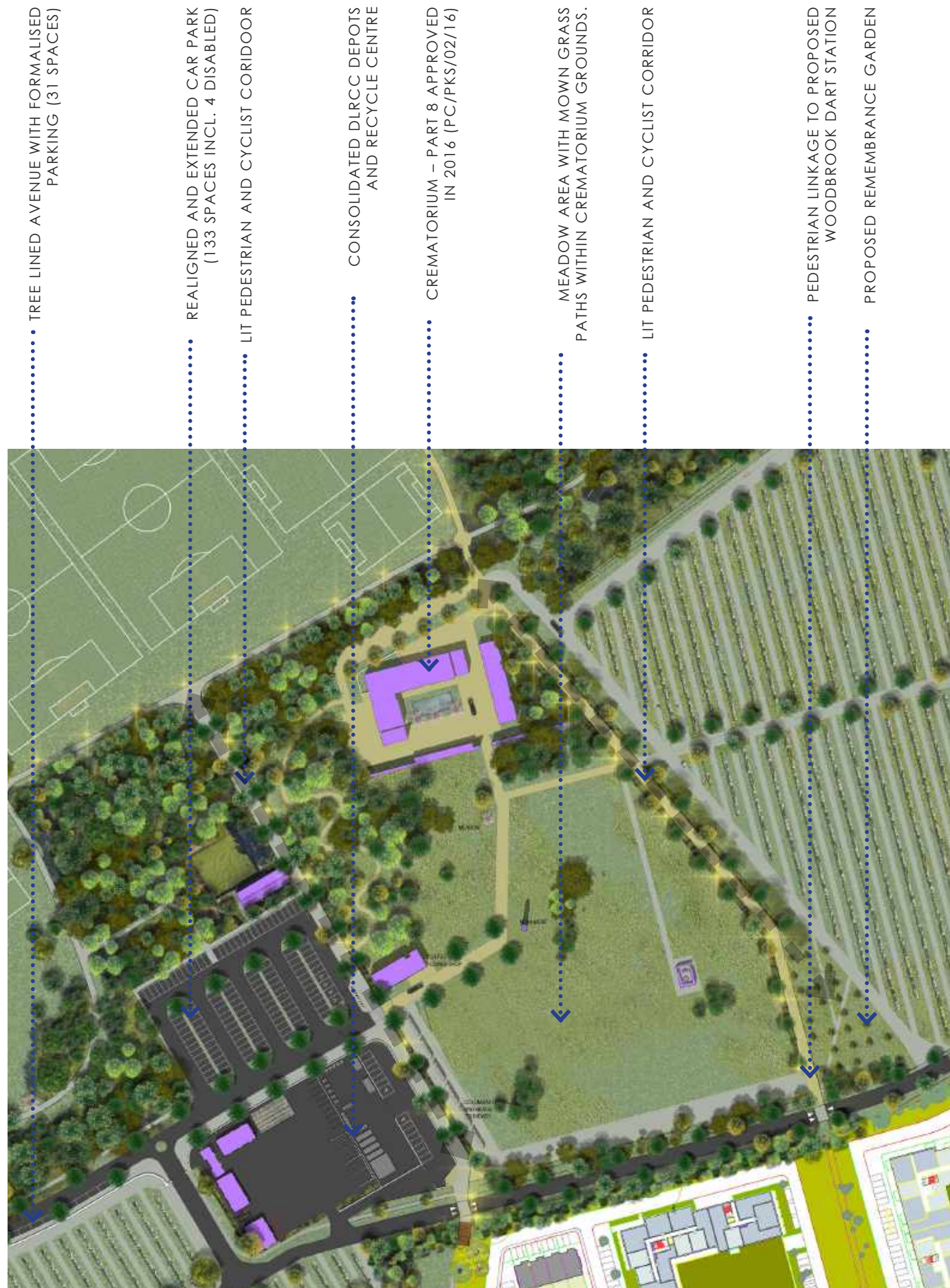
A viewing area will offer views of the coast from Dalkey to Bray and towards the Dublin and Wicklow mountains



EXISTING VIEW OF DOGS OF LEASH AREA



EXISTING PLAN



PROPOSED PLAN



NEW LINKAGES

ZONE E

This zone will form an important transition and links between the proposed developments at Woodbrook, including the proposed DART station and Shanganagh Park and Cemetery.

As the park will remain open 24hours it is proposed that these links are lit for use outside of daylight hours.



POTENTIAL LINKAGE TO CASTLE



EXISTING PLAN

2.5 DESTINATION POINTS

REFERENCE IMAGES OF DESTINATION POINTS WITHIN PUBLIC PARKS



NATURALISTIC MOUNDING



WILDFLOWER MEADOWS AND GRASS PATHS



WOODLAND TRAILS



FEATURES AND HERBACEOUS BORDERS



NATURAL PLAY



destination points

DESTINATION POINTS/ RESTING LOCATIONS

