

One Path BS5

Designs March 2022



One Path BS5 Bristol and Bath Railway Path

Introduction

One Path BS5 is a collaborative design project for the Bristol and Bath Railway Path. It seeks to address issues that sometimes arise on the very busy 1.5 mile stretch of the path between Clay Bottom and Trinity Street.

The Bristol and Bath Railway Path has been meeting the needs of the local BS5 community for over 40 years. It provides a much-loved inner city greenspace to enjoy, travel, rest, socialise and reflect in.

In recent years, the popularity of the path has led to issues of conflict between some path users. Some people have been put off using the path as it's not felt accessible to them.

Sustrans has been working in partnership with Bristol City Council and the communities using and local to the railway path, to find solutions through this project. It is funded by the Department for Transport.

Through a series of workshops, surveys, online and in-person sessions, we have been working with different communities on the changes they want to see on the path.

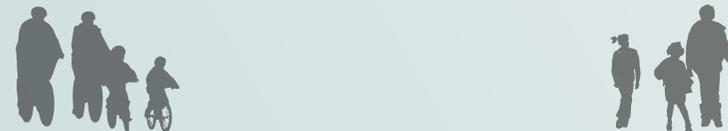
The aim of this project is to make the path a safer, more inclusive space, where no one is excluded.

Community Vision for the Path



“We are committed to a Bristol and Bath Railway Path that is a safe space: a park, path and place for all users, by foot or by wheel, enabling healthy lifestyles in a green and biodiverse corridor linking the two cities and communities across the West of England Combined Authority.

We will work with all of the communities who use the Bristol and Bath Railway Path to redesign and reshape it so that its value to people, wildlife, its localities and the region as a whole is enhanced and protected for generations to come.”



One Path BS5 Bristol and Bath Railway Path

Context

The Bristol and Bath Railway Path and its associated land in BS5 is an extremely sensitive and challenging location.

As an important green corridor that passes through a dense area of the inner city, the path has many important functions and uses. All of these functions are valuable, they must be understood and respected in any changes made to the path.

The route of the path has seen many layers of history, change and development that contribute both to its value and its complexity.

The land has been reprofiled extensively since its function as a double-track railway, allowing accesses to be made at more friendly gradients. Physical development and boundary changes make an impact on the land, constraining options for improving the path in certain locations.



One Path BS5 A community approach to design

Prioritising

The path welcomes a range of people for many different purposes – from leisure and socialising to neighbourhood journeys and longer commutes. This means that we've had to finely balance the designs to make the path more welcoming for all.

Throughout the engagement for this project we've shared various different design options. We've listened to what the engaged communities told us is most important to them to help us narrow down the options. This means that the designs we're taking forward will deliver the most important elements at the different sites along the path.

We have worked hard to make sure that the improvements help the path to be more welcoming for everyone. They include better accessibility, signage and wayfinding, extra width at some of the busier sections and new, open sociable spaces.



Pattern and place

We invited children at schools within BS5 to show us what makes their local area special through artwork, stories, photos and other creations.

The contributions we received informed the design of signage and other path features. We were able to reflect the diversity, values and identity of the areas surrounding the path in the new designs.



One Path BS5: A consistent approach to design

A consistent design language

It is important that changes to the path help guide how the space is used.

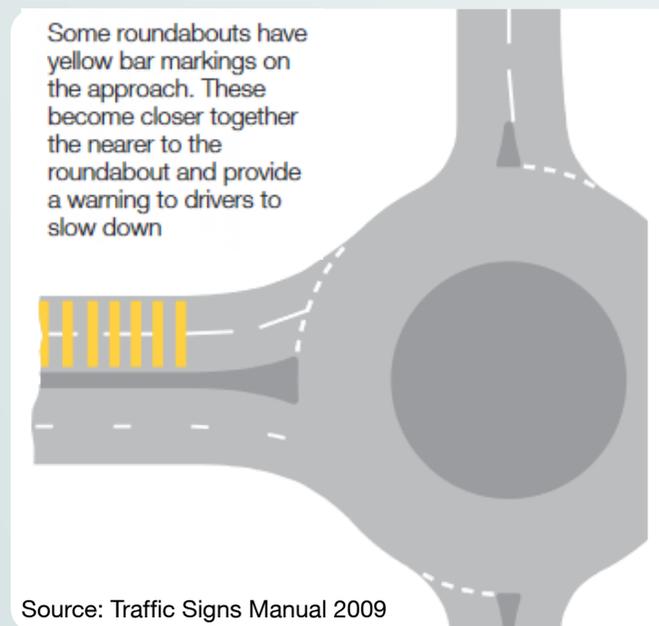
From what we learned through speaking to local people, we have developed a 'design language' that is used consistently throughout the project area. This is to indicate how a space works and where extra awareness and slower speeds are especially appropriate.

Places where people join and leave the path are often busy, so they will be highlighted with a lighter surface colour. This may also help some people with visual impairments to navigate the path. Separate space for walking and cycling will be marked with colour at Clay Bottom and the St. Philip's Causeway Underpass.

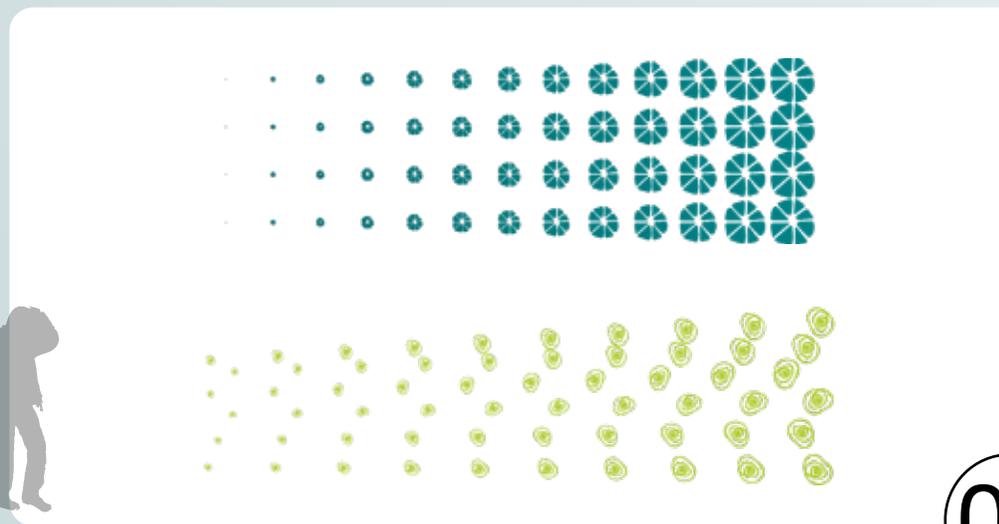
Sections of the path leading up to key junctions will have an 'intensifying pattern' arranged on the ground to help people understand their speed and encourage them to slow down on approach to the busiest areas.



A sign to welcome people to the BS5 area.



Above right and below: A visual intensifying graphic can be used on surfaces helping people be more aware of their speed. We will use conventional design principles in a creative way.



One Path BS5 Bristol and Bath Railway Path



Ecology: plants, trees and wildlife

We have worked hard to ensure that there is an overall improvement to ecology (plants, trees and wildlife) through this project.

The 19 trees removed in February 2021 have been replaced by 250 new trees as part of the project. Removal of trees has been kept to a minimum. We have only removed them in locations where physical safety, personal safety or accessibility required it.

Elsewhere, any construction that makes changes within the root zone of a tree will involve a 'no dig' construction method, ensuring the tree remains undisturbed.

No-dig construction is the term used for building above the ground level to leave tree roots undisturbed. This is important both for the trees and for the habitat that they accommodate.

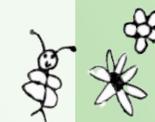


Habitat creation

Sustrans has sponsored the planting of a new area of woodland by One Tree Per Child Bristol. The 250 tree whips form part of the mitigation planting for the wider path improvement works.

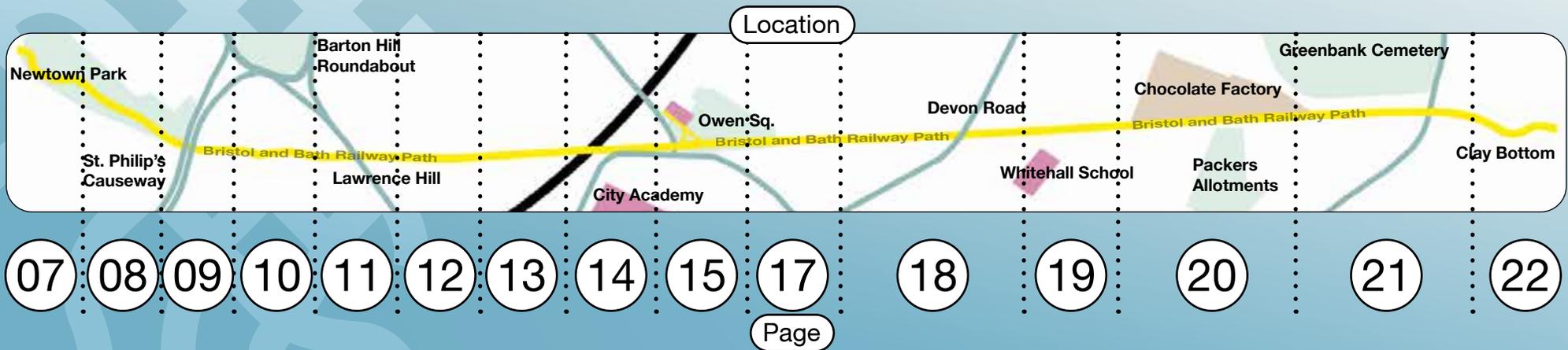
This is over three times as many replacement trees than are required by the Bristol Tree Replacement Standards.

The woodland planting connects the linear woodland along the Bristol and Bath Railway Path to Coombe Brook Nature Reserve. This improves the green corridor connectivity across the landscape. The new area of woodland has been planted with a mixture of native species.



One Path BS5

Designs - Map Index



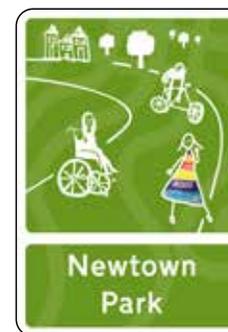
Newtown Park - west



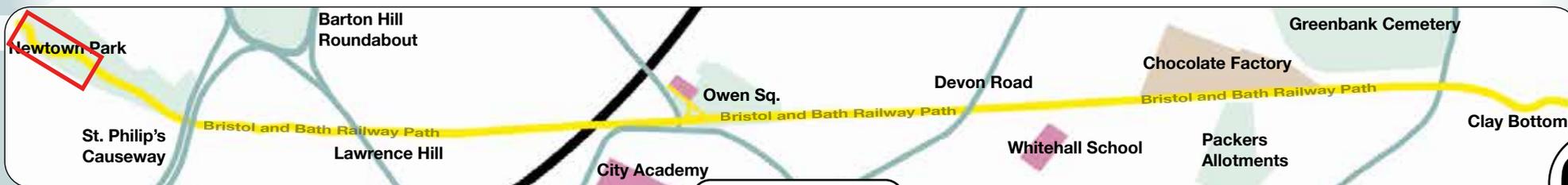
To welcome visitors and passers-by to the park, we will trim back the hedges at the gateway. This will improve visibility and useable width in this busy space.

Further into the park, a new bench and adjacent hardstanding for wheelchair users or pushchairs will provide an accessible stopping and resting place.

We will highlight junctions with colour changes to indicate to people that more complex movements are likely at these locations, so extra care should be taken. We will also include intensifying patterns that are designed to slow people down at junctions.



An example of zone signage - to help people know where they are within the area.



Location finder

Newtown Park - east

Key:	
	Shared use path (path widening)
	Light coloured surfacing to highlight access/transition zones
	Intensifying graphic pattern to encourage slower speeds (pattern detail TBC)
	Existing greenspace
	Existing tree
	Seating
	Vegetation boundary



Intensifying Pattern

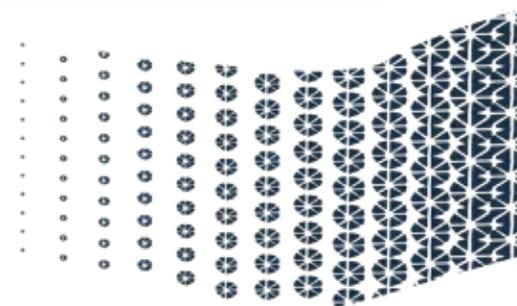
Highlighted Junction

Highlighted transition between shared path and separated walking / cycling

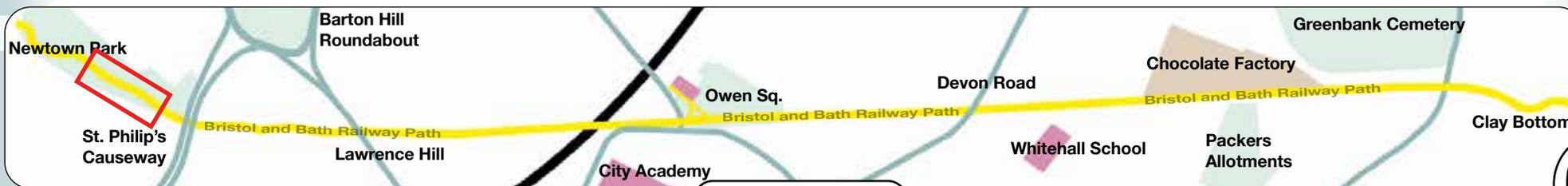
The eastern end of Newtown Park will be treated in much the same way as the western end, with highlighted junctions and intensifying patterns.

the path mix and separate from people continuing along it.

These changes within Newtown Park are part of a consistent approach in the project area. They will help to indicate where extra care should be taken, as people joining and leaving

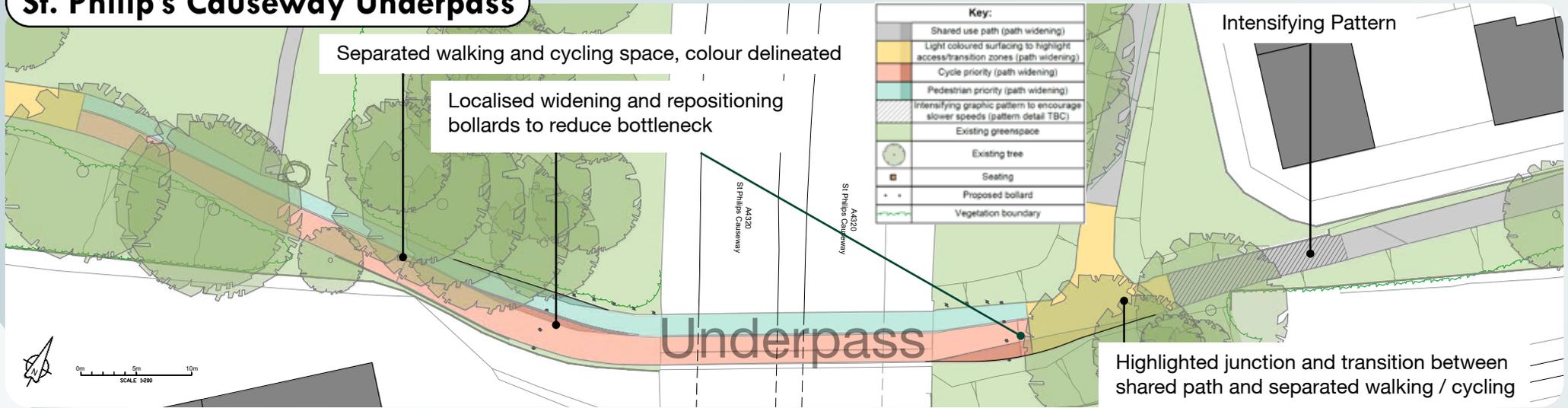


An example of an intensifying pattern



Location finder

St. Philip's Causeway Underpass



This section of the path avoids the busy main road above with an underpass. The path dips down for the underpass, with a bend either side. This compromises visibility.

The underpass section of the path is currently separated into a raised pavement section and a lower 'cycleway'.

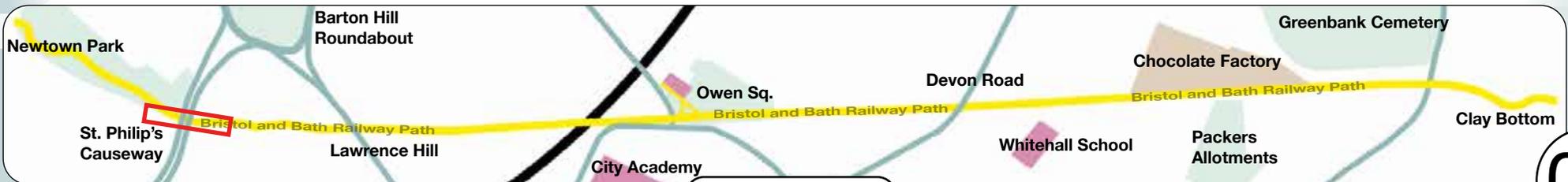
We will widen the eastern approach to the underpass to improve the line of vision into the tunnel.

Either side of the underpass, the existing bollards will be relocated to reduce the bottleneck issue on approach.

As with other parts of the path, the walkway and cycleway will be delineated more clearly with the use of contrasting coloured surfacing. Junctions will be highlighted to show where people are joining and leaving the path.

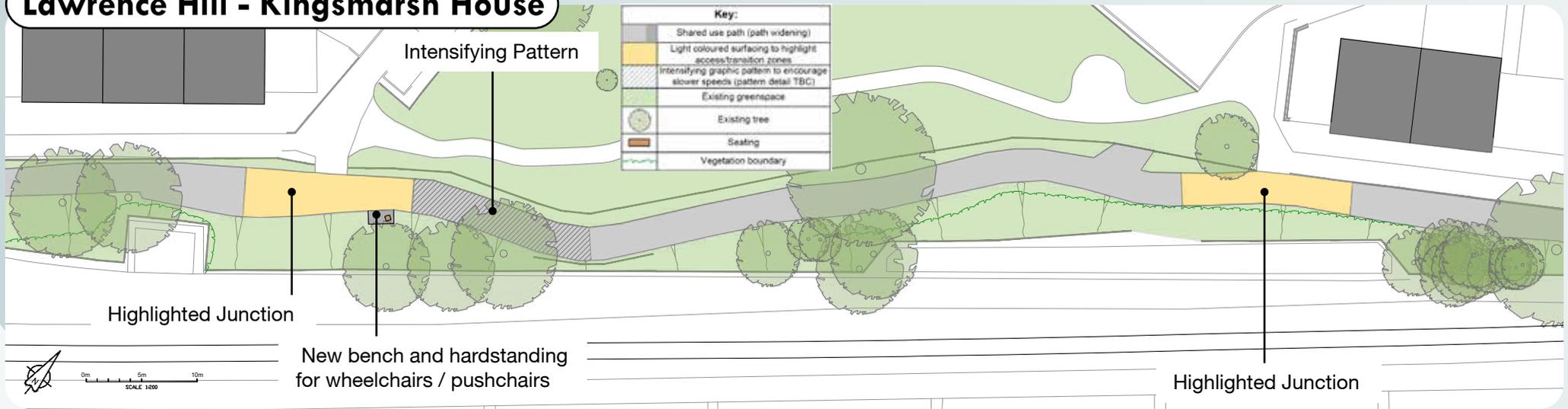


People told us that the current arrangement of bollards at St. Philip's Causeway underpass cause a bottleneck.



Location finder

Lawrence Hill - Kingsmarsh House



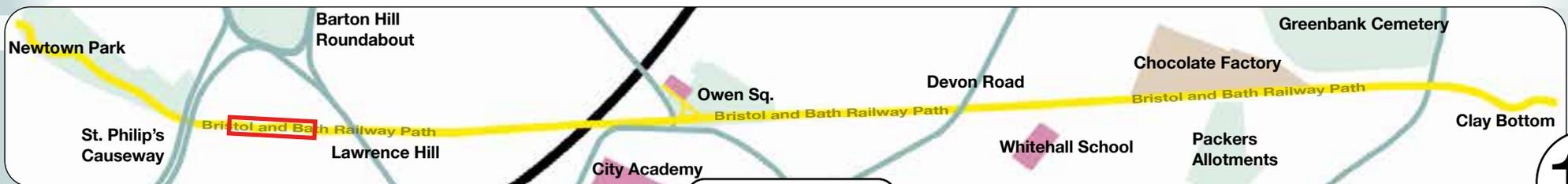
This section of path is heavily constrained by tight boundaries, the proximity of private housing and undulating land. These factors limit the changes we can make here.

We will add a new bench and accessible hardstanding for wheelchair users and pushchairs. This will provide a stopping and resting space, set back from the path.

Highlighted junctions and intensifying patterns will indicate areas where people join and leave the linear path, helping people to be more aware of their speed.

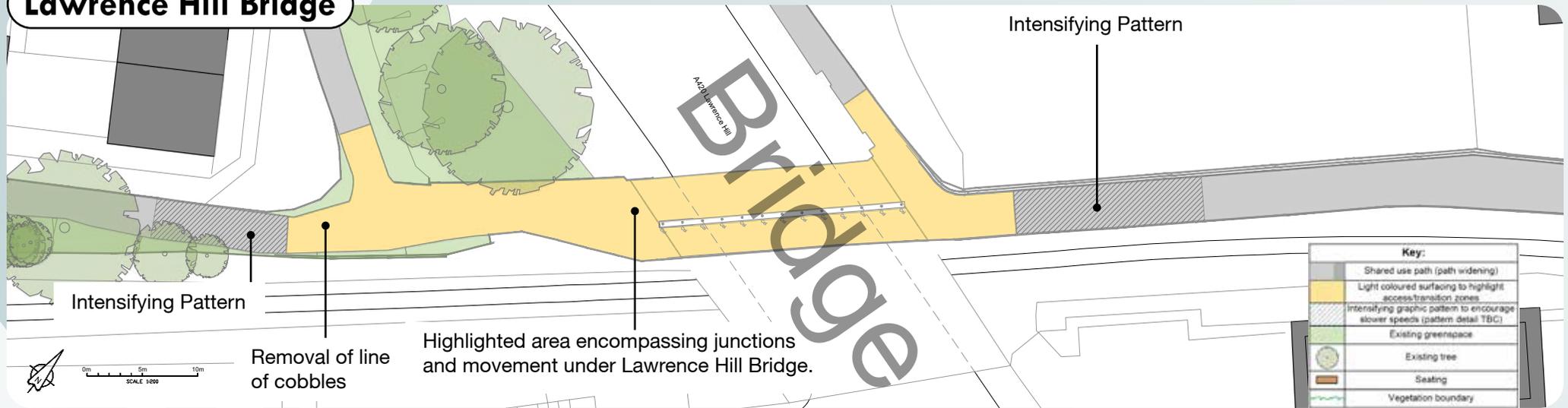


New surfaces will be of high quality, improving accessibility for everyone.



Location finder

Lawrence Hill Bridge

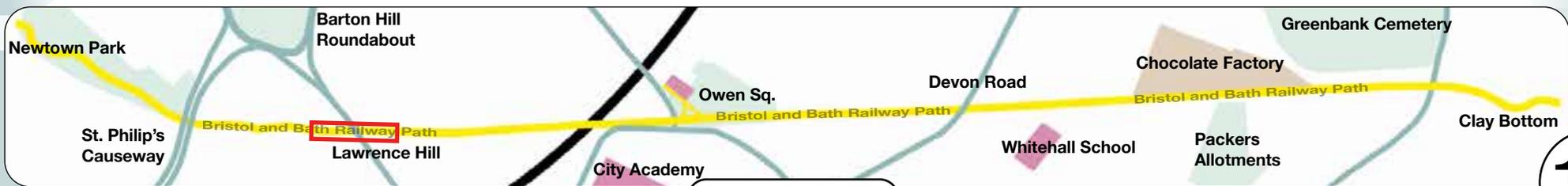


Here, a very constrained section of the path passes under a road bridge. Either side of the bridge, junctions link the path with the road above.

These junctions and the section beneath the bridge will feature a light-coloured surface. This will make people aware that care should be taken of others joining and leaving the path, changing direction or making unexpected movements. The intensifying pattern will be used to remind people travelling at speed to slow down.

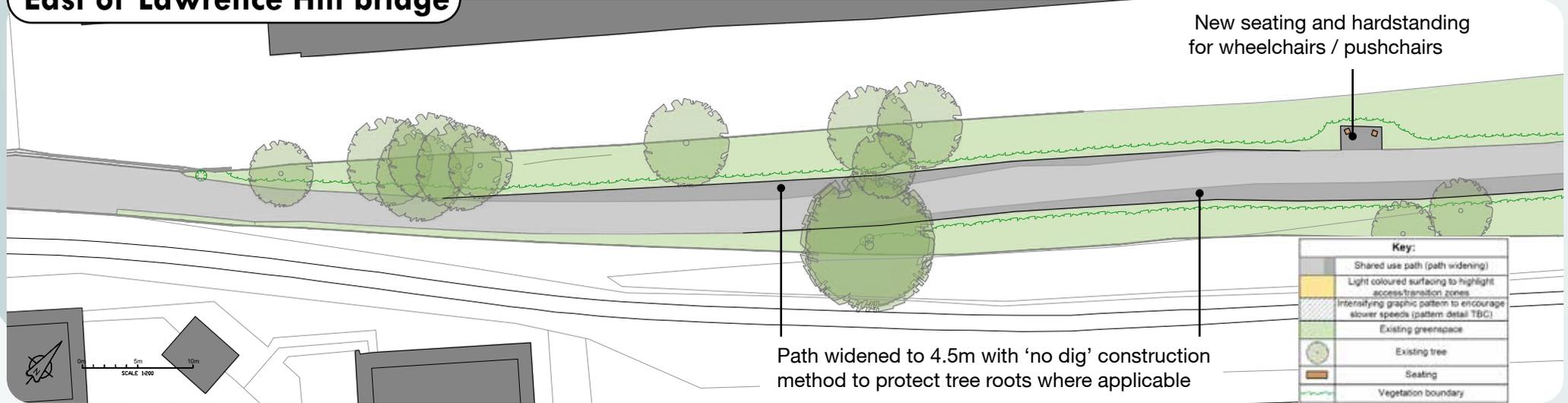


The path under Lawrence Hill Bridge is gloomy both in daylight and darkness, despite effective under-bridge lighting. The new lighter coloured surface linking the junctions will help to reduce the gloominess of the location.



Location finder

East of Lawrence Hill bridge



East of Lawrence Hill bridge, we will widen the path to 4.5 metres, creating extra space that increases comfort for people using the path at busy times.

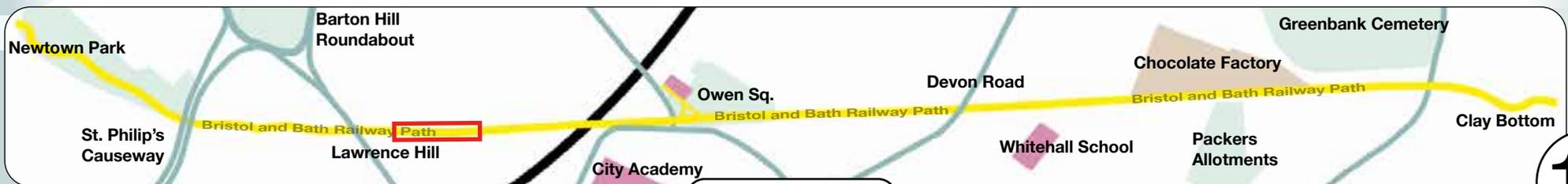
We will use a no dig construction technique to widen. This will protect the tree roots that are present underneath substantial portions of the path's current verges.

Widening achieves a delicate balance of capacity improvement and protection of existing ecology. We will trim hedgerows and trees won't be affected.

We will construct another accessible place to rest and stop, including space for wheelchairs and pushchairs.



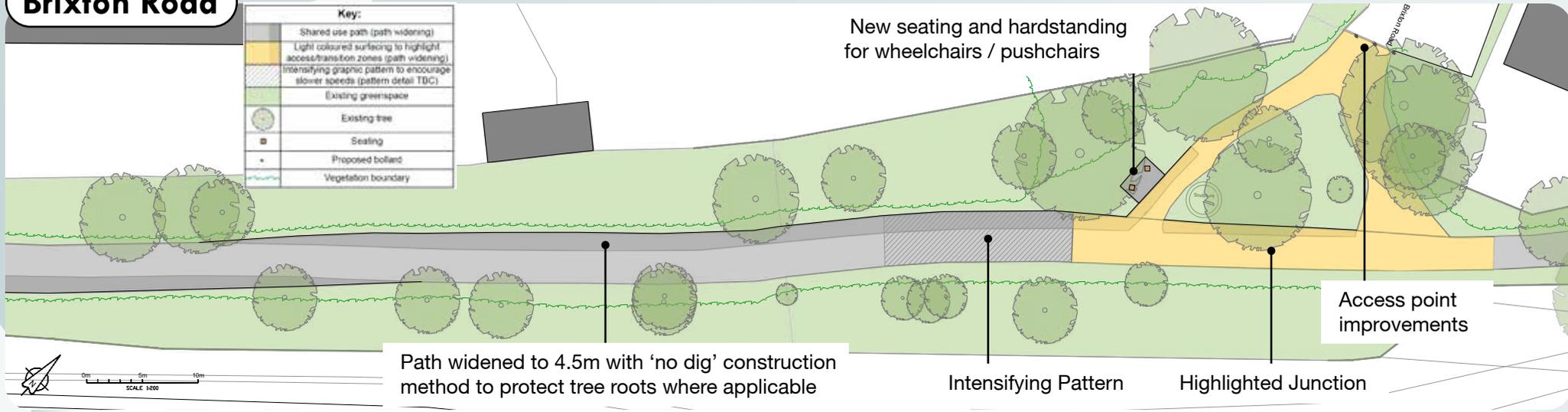
An above-ground no-dig construction method will be used to protect existing trees. Image source: Geosyn.co.uk



Location finder

Brixton Road

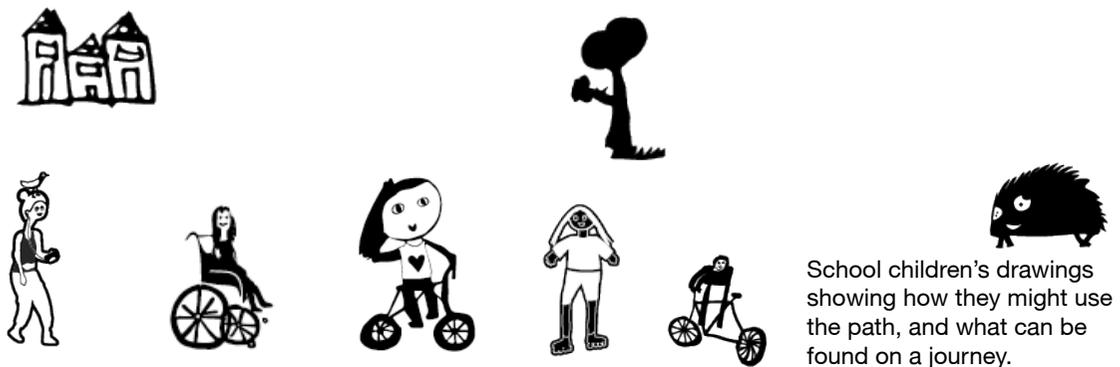
Key:	
	Shared use path (path widening)
	Light coloured surfacing to highlight access/transition zones (path widening)
	Intensifying graphic pattern to encourage slower speeds (pattern detail TDC)
	Existing greenspace
	Existing tree
	Seating
	Proposed bollard
	Vegetation boundary



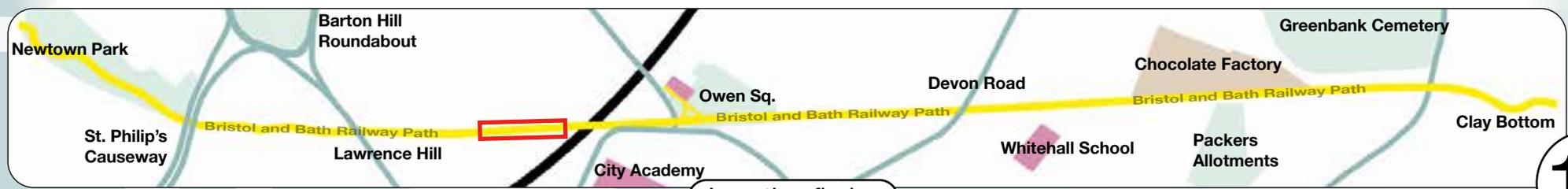
We will widen the section at Brixton Road, to ease capacity issues during the busiest times. We will use the consistent approach of highlighted junctions, to indicate people are joining and leaving the path here.

We will also use intensifying patterns to help people be aware of their speed and encourage them to slow down.

An accessible place to stop and rest, with space for wheelchairs and pushchairs will provide another opportunity to pause in a series of well-spaced benches.

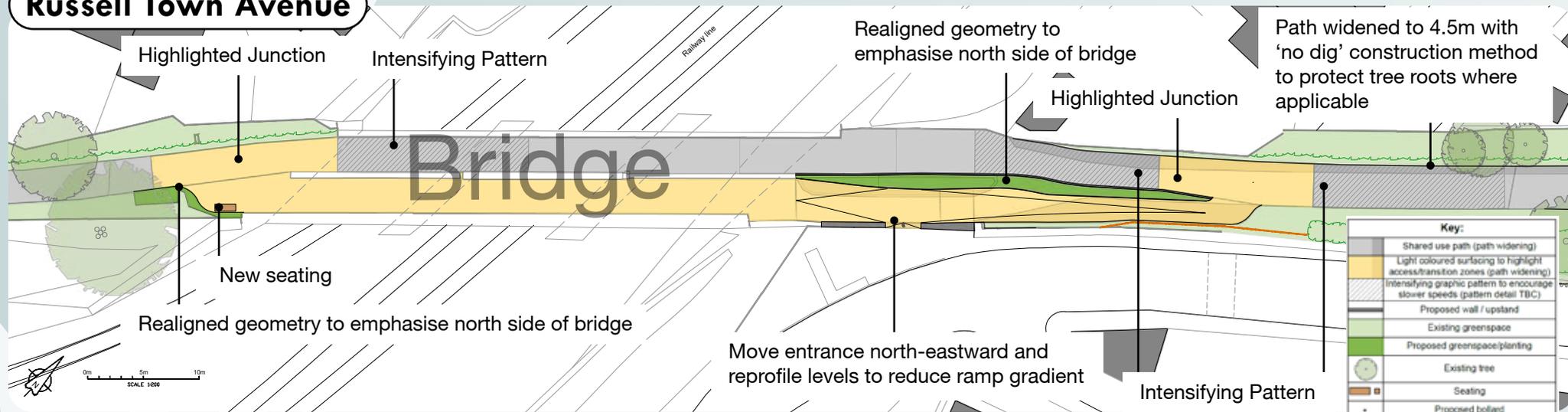


School children's drawings showing how they might use the path, and what can be found on a journey.



Location finder

Russell Town Avenue

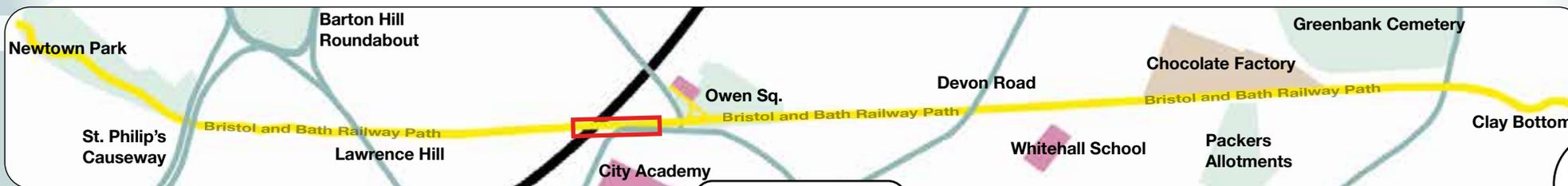


Changes to the section at Russell Town Avenue are constrained by the bridge infrastructure crossing a live railway. This defines the width of the path and limits the spatial changes we can make.

Although we can't change the bridge structure, we can make changes to colour surfaces and the angles of the path at either end of the bridge span. This will help direct people continuing on the path to the northern half of the bridge, and transform the southern half to be a more suitable access point.

We will rebuild the access connecting Russell Town Avenue to the path. This will reduce the steepness of slopes between street level and the path. This should particularly help people using a wheelchair, people with mobility impairments, people with pushchairs and people for whom steep gradients are a barrier.

The ramps and junctions will be visually highlighted to indicate that more complex movements are likely and extra care should be taken.



Location finder

Easton Community Centre (Owen Square Park)

Key:	
	Shared use path (path widening)
	Light coloured surfacing to highlight access/transition zones (path widening)
	Intensifying graphic pattern to encourage slower speeds (pattern detail TBC)
	Proposed wall
	Existing greenspace
	Proposed greenspace
	Existing tree
	Proposed steps
	Proposed planter
	Seating

Creation of new community and social space with removal of mound, trees and greenery. Ground pattern is indicative of location - design of pattern to be confirmed.

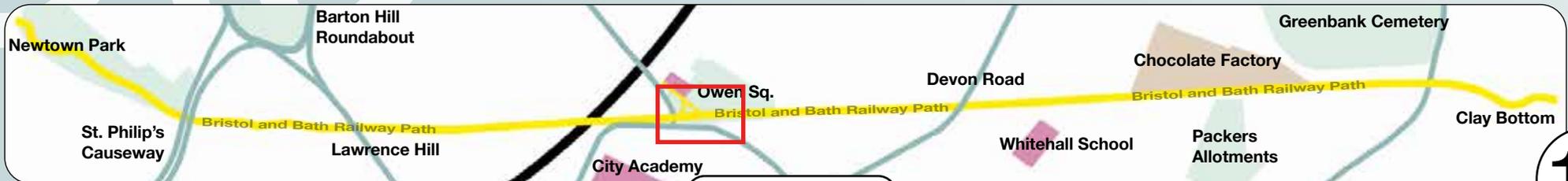
At Easton Community Centre, we will create a space that will feel safer and more welcoming, and improve visibility in all directions. The changes will create a social space, and help people pass more safely through the area. There are more details about this on the following page.

We needed to remove the mound, shelter and trees between the access paths and the main path, this will improve physical and personal safety, and accessibility. You can read more about the 250 new trees we have planted to mitigate the impact of this on page 5.

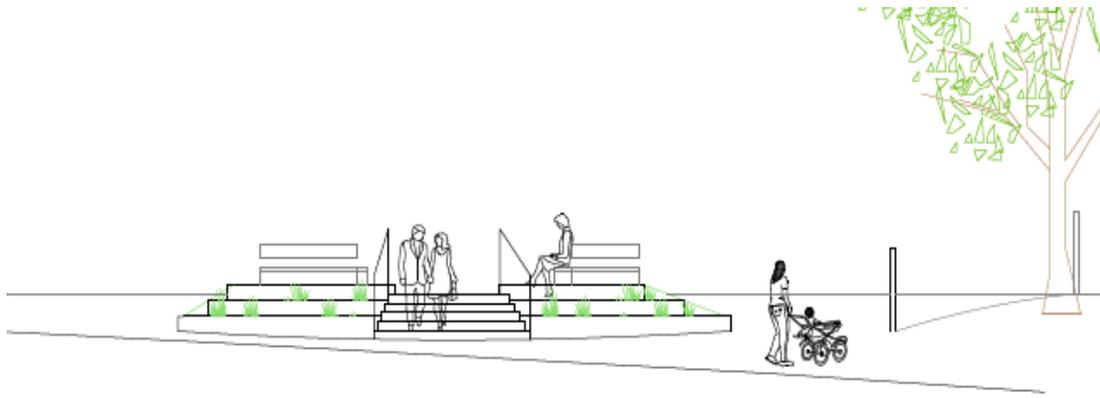


Path widened to 4.0m with 'no dig' construction method to protect tree roots where applicable

Realignment of path to accentuate dominant direction of travel. Path widened to 4.5m with 'no dig' construction method to protect tree roots where applicable



Location finder



The new space will involve seating, planters, and graphic patterns integrating artwork from local schools. The pattern and arrangement are shown indicatively on the previous page.



Street furniture will be configured to allow a variety of people to make use of the space for socialising and resting.



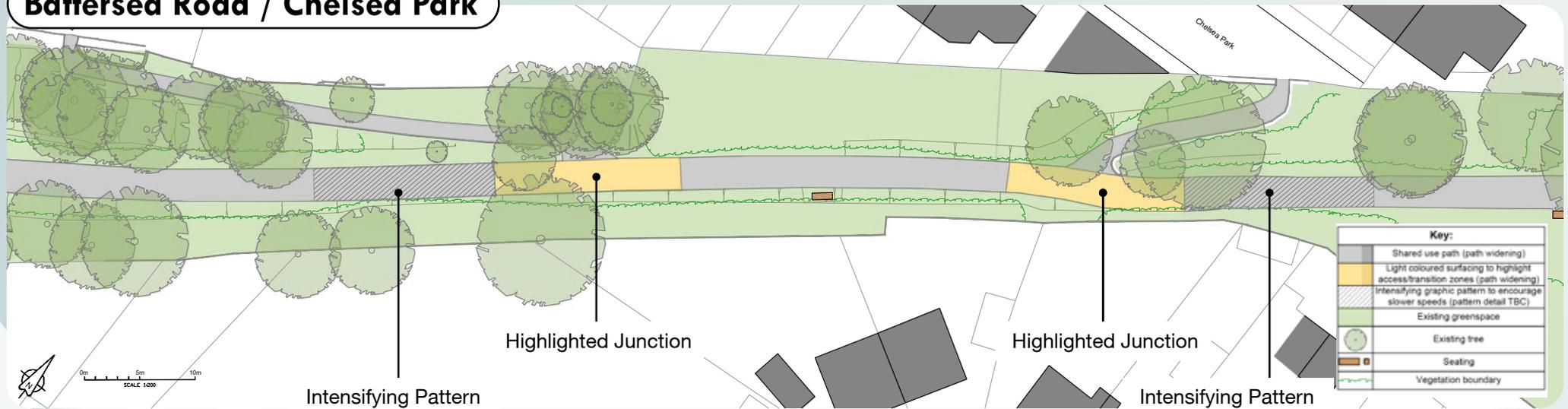
Planters will add greenery to the social space

Easton Community Centre (Owen Square Park)

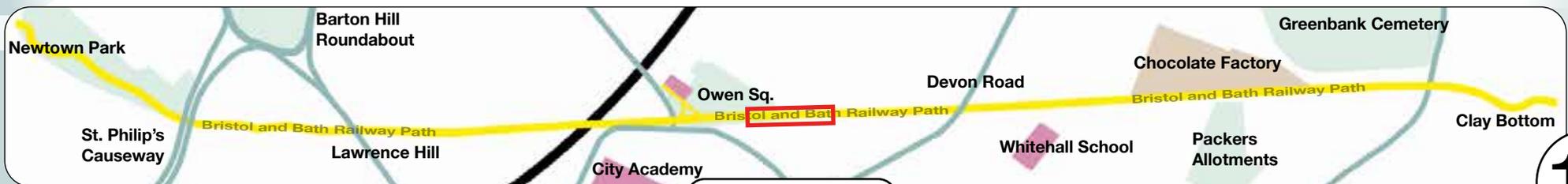
Easton Community Centre is located a short distance to the north west of the railway path. The new space will sit close to the community centre, complementing it with more space for community and social uses.

Away from the main path alignment, seating and planters will welcome people into the space. This will provide a space to stop, relax, enjoy and socialise. Intensifying patterns on approach to the space, will help indicate that slower speeds are appropriate, and a zone pattern reflective of the inputs of school children will give the space a unique identity.

Battersea Road / Chelsea Park

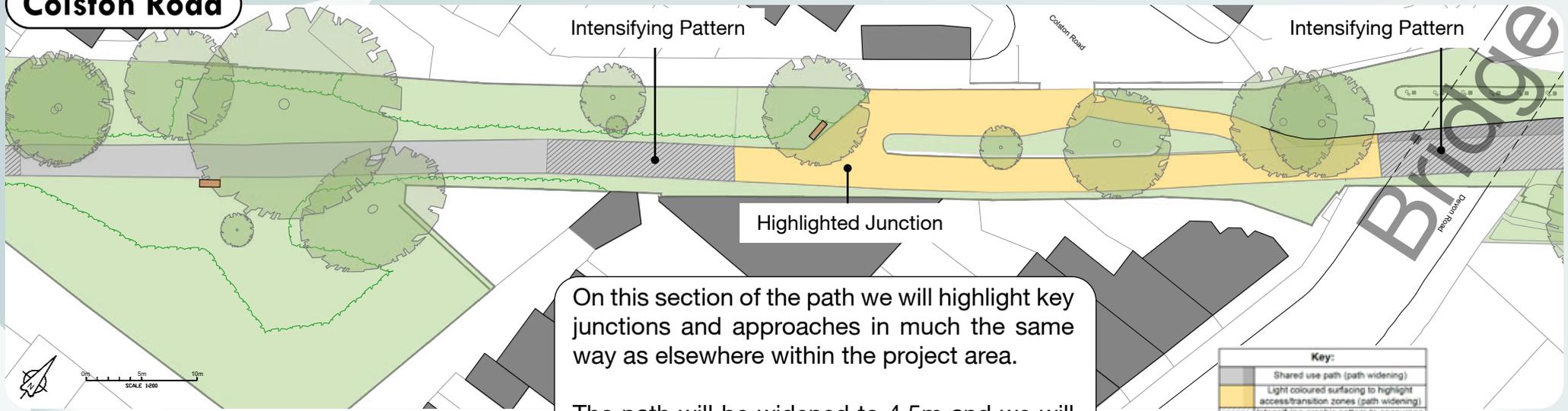


Here we will highlight the Battersea Road and Chelsea Park junctions. This will show where people are joining and leaving the path, changing direction as they do so. The intensifying patterns will show where people need extra awareness of their speed.



Location finder

Colston Road

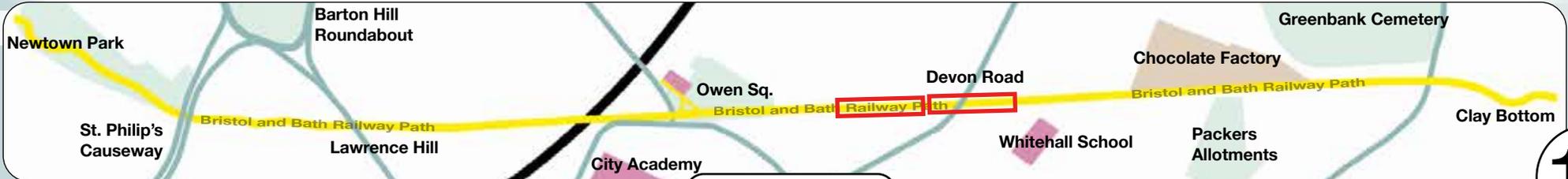
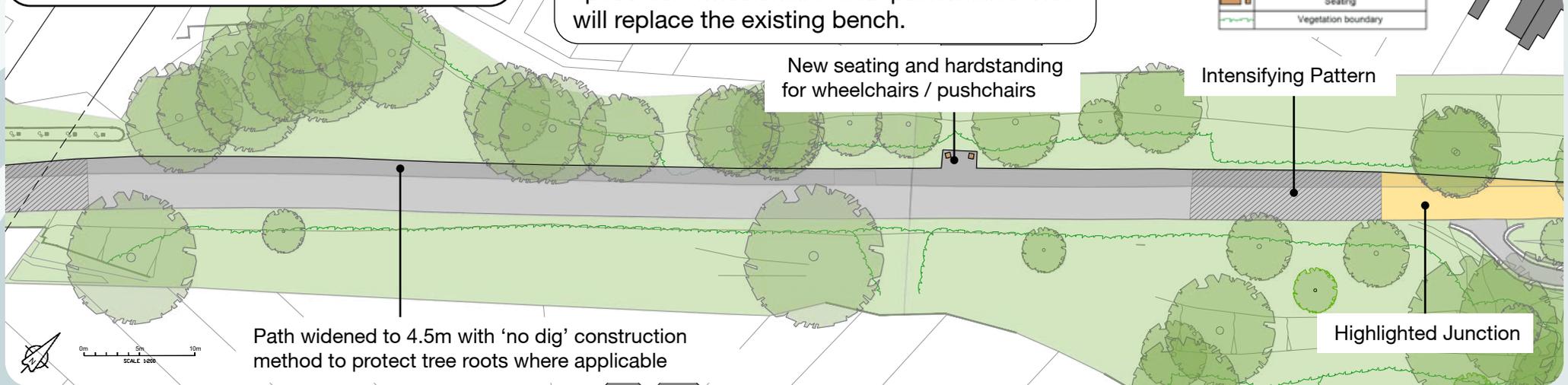


On this section of the path we will highlight key junctions and approaches in much the same way as elsewhere within the project area.

The path will be widened to 4.5m and we will add a new seating place with hardstanding space for wheelchairs and pushchairs. This will replace the existing bench.

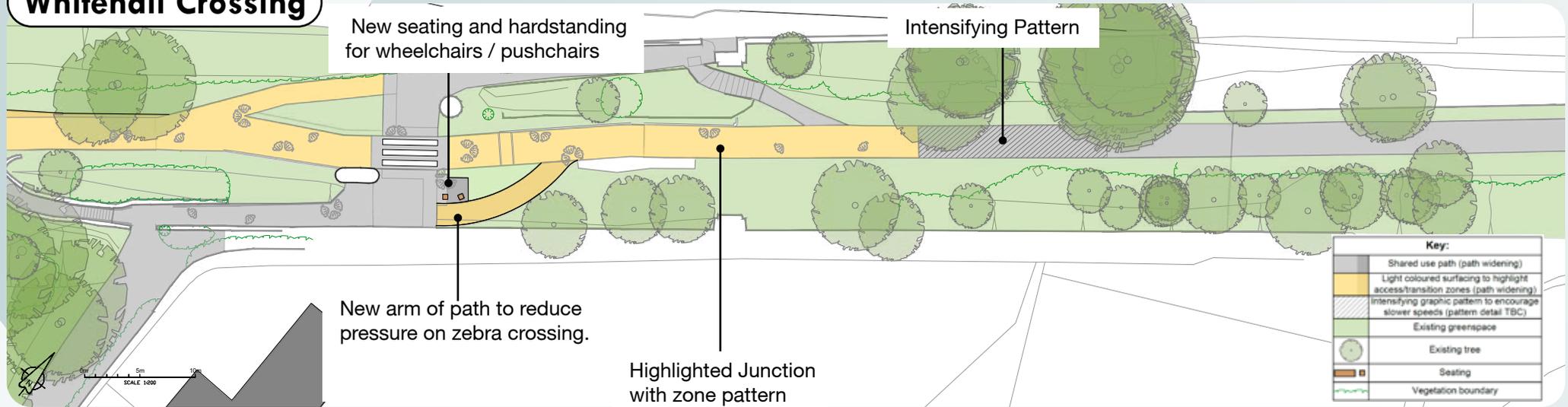
Key:	
	Shared use path (path widening)
	Light coloured surfacing to highlight access/transition zones (path widening)
	Intensifying graphic pattern to encourage slower speeds (pattern detail TBC)
	Existing greenspace
	Existing tree
	Seating
	Vegetation boundary

Devon Road Bridge to Whitehall



Location finder

Whitehall Crossing



This section of the path will see some minor changes to help the space work better.

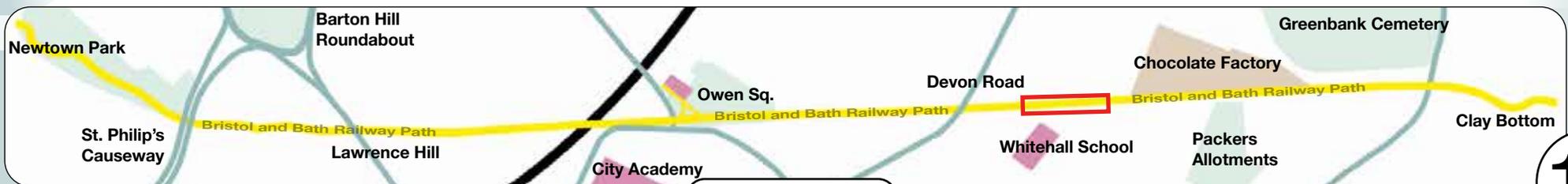
We will create a new arm of the junction for people moving between the Johnson's Road / Whitehall School entrance and the path heading northeast. This will reduce pressure on the existing zebra crossing.

There will also be a new seating area at the entrance near to the school. The junction will be highlighted with a lighter colour to indicate that more complex movements will take place here, with people joining and leaving the path.

We will use the intensifying patterns again to help people understand their speed and encourage them to slow down.

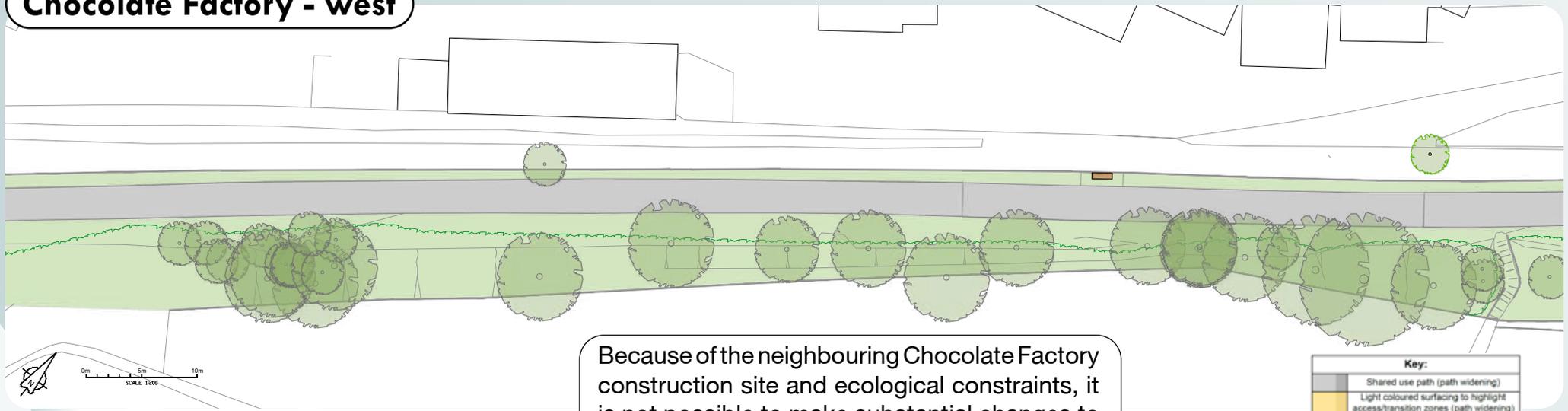


An example of zone signage - to help people know where they are within the area.



Location finder

Chocolate Factory - west

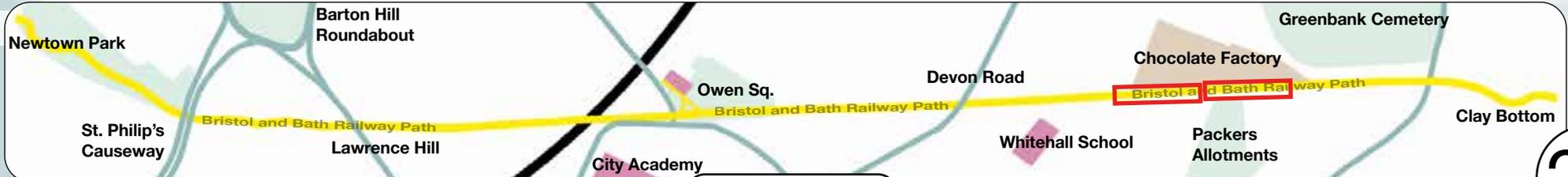
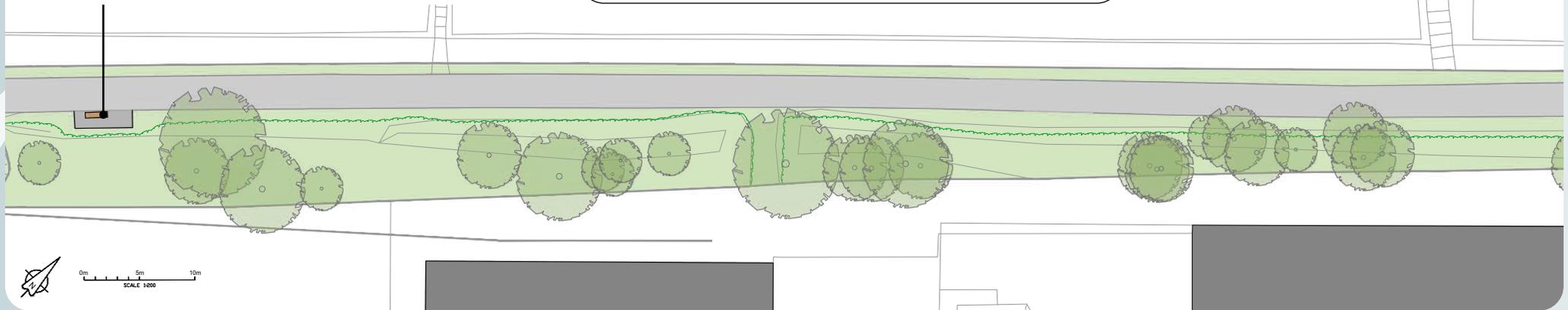


Because of the neighbouring Chocolate Factory construction site and ecological constraints, it is not possible to make substantial changes to the path along the length of this section. We have, however, shared the design approach with the developers, for their consideration as they look to complete their work.

Key:	
	Shared use path (path widening)
	Light coloured surfacing to highlight access/transition zones (path widening)
	Intensifying graphic pattern to encourage slower speeds (pattern detail TBC)
	Existing greenspace
	Existing tree
	Seating
	Vegetation boundary

Chocolate Factory - east

New seating and hardstanding for wheelchairs / pushchairs, facing the Packers Allotments



Location finder

Greenbank Road

Retain overgrown hedges, lowering height to approximately 2.5 metres

New seating and hardstanding for wheelchairs / pushchairs

Access point improvements

Path widened to 4m maximum with 'no dig' construction method to protect hedge roots

Intensifying Pattern

Highlighted Junction

Highlighted Junction



In this section, we will widen the path to 4 metres where possible. The widening is limited by the need to retain existing hedges and their wildlife habitat.

We will also highlight all the places where people join and leave the path. As elsewhere, intensifying patterns will indicate where people need extra awareness of their speeds.

Key:	
	Shared use path (path widening)
	Light coloured surfacing to highlight access/transition zones (path widening)
	Intensifying graphic pattern to encourage slower speeds (pattern detail TBC)
	Existing greenspace
	Existing tree
	Seating
	Vegetation boundary

Rose Green Road bridge

Intensifying Pattern

Bridge

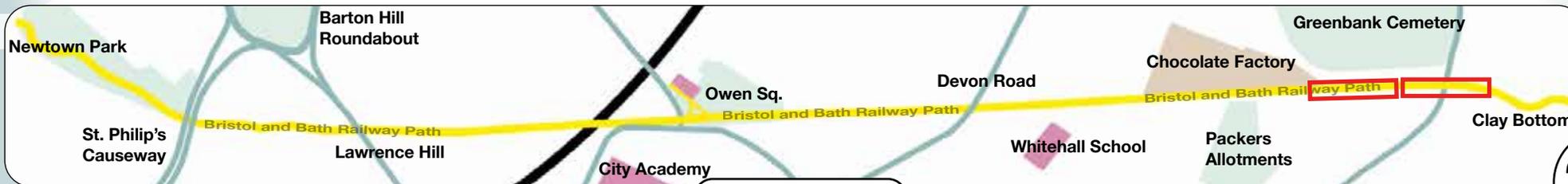
Retain overgrown hedges, lowering height to approximately 2.5 metres

Access point improvements

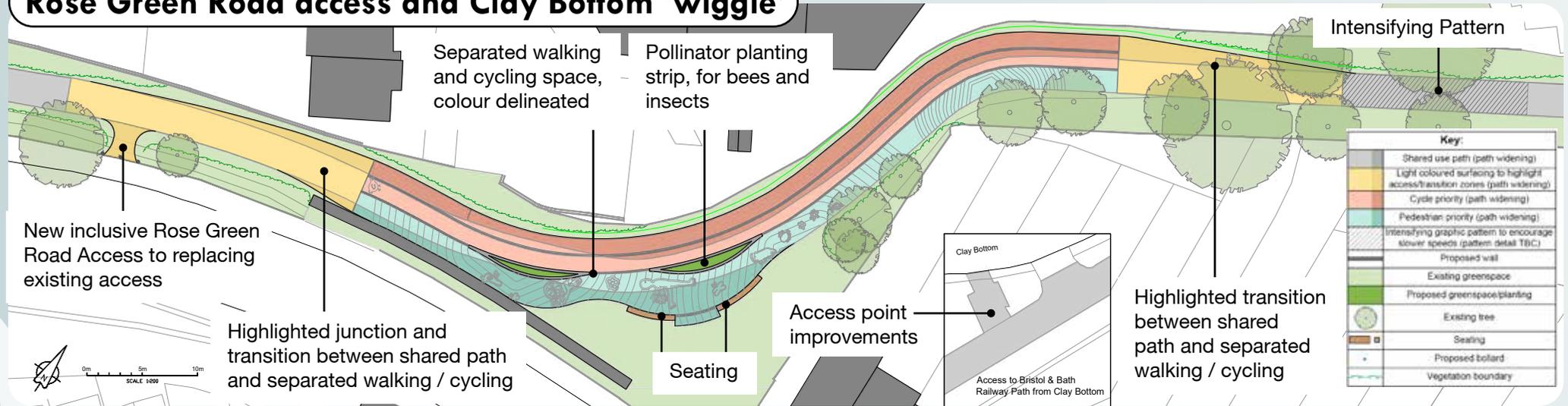
Path widened to 4m maximum with 'no dig' construction method to protect hedge roots

Intensifying Pattern

Highlighted Junction



Rose Green Road access and Clay Bottom 'wiggle'



At Clay Bottom we will replace the old brick access with a new, inclusive entrance to the path. The new access will be at Rose Green Road, further away from the wiggle, and without the steep, sharp bends that prevent larger powered wheelchairs and adapted bicycles from using the path at the moment. We will also make improvements to two other access points nearby.

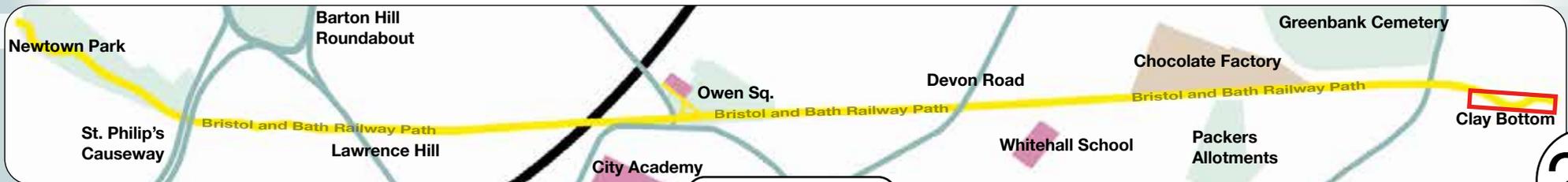
We will significantly remodel the double bend, also known as the 'wiggle' at Clay Bottom. We describe this in more detail on the next page.



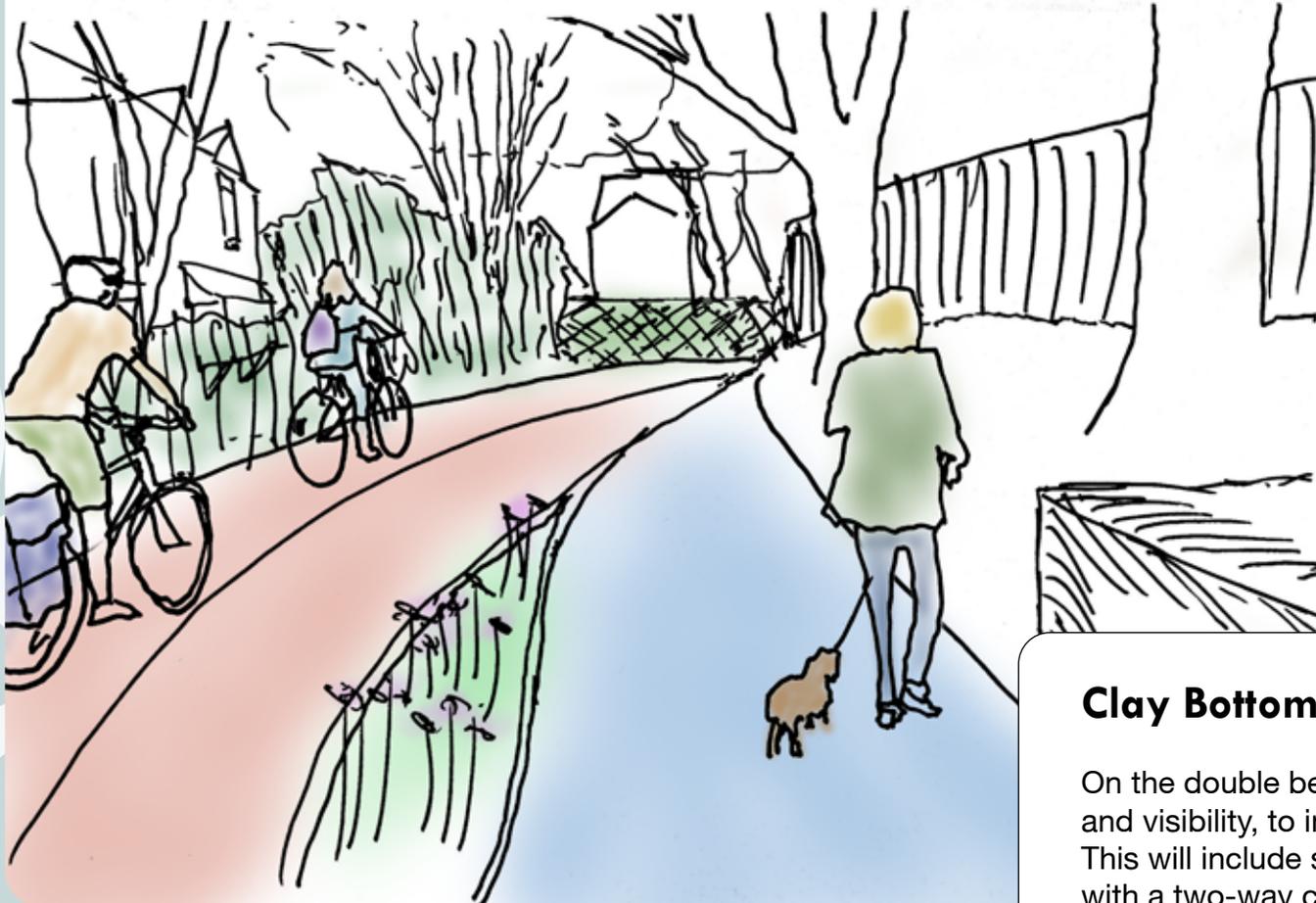
The existing Rose Green Road access is of poor quality, and restricts access to many users due to the tight angles and steep gradient.



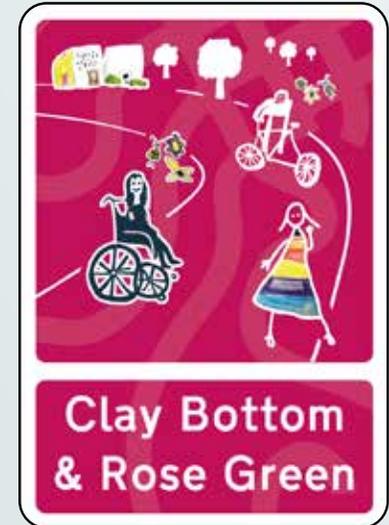
The new access will be similar to this example, and will be easier to use for everyone, with particular improvement for wheelchair users, adapted and oversized cycles, pushchairs etc.



Location finder



The Clay Bottom 'wiggle', showing separate space for walking and cycling on the double bend where visibility is restricted.



An example of zone signage - to help people know where they are within the area.

Clay Bottom 'wiggle'

On the double bend 'wiggle' we will create more space and visibility, to improve physical and personal safety. This will include separate space for walking and cycling, with a two-way cycle track and wider walking path. We will plant new wild flowers in a central strip, and add seating space for socialising.

We have removed some trees and vegetation to improve physical and personal safety, and accessibility on the bend. You can read more about the 250 new trees we have planted to mitigate the impact of this on page 5.





Thank you.

Sustrans and Bristol City Council would like to thank everyone who has been involved in this project to date. We have received so many valuable inputs from a huge range of people who use or live near the path. This has helped us understand everybody's needs and priorities, and all of this has fed into these designs.