



# GLEADLESS VALLEY

SHARED AND GREEN SPACE STRATEGY  
SUMMER 2022



# GLEADLESS VALLEY GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

*Gleadless Valley is characterised by its abundance of green open spaces and extensive woodlands which run across the valley. Its housing, nestled within this green setting, gives the valley a distinctive parkland feel, not often found in Council estates across the country.*

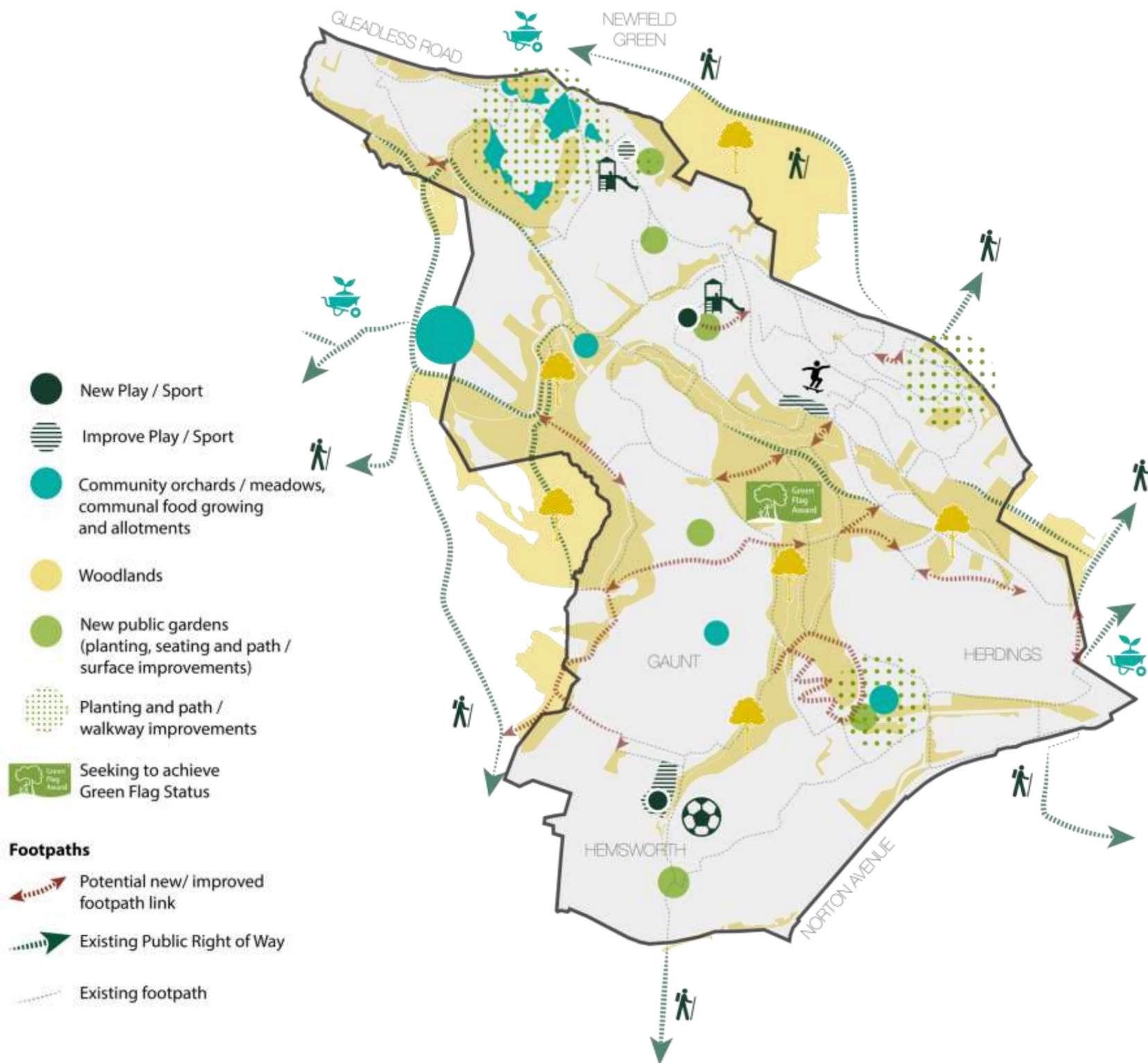
*Whilst being one of the valley's greatest assets, its green and natural spaces also create a number of challenges for Gleadless Valley, both in terms of how it is used and managed. It follows therefore, that these spaces must play a vital role in the regeneration of the valley.*

*Our green space strategy for Gleadless valley aims to protect and enhance its green spaces and woodlands, whilst addressing the areas of underused green space which, are often ill defined and act as magnets for anti-social behaviour. It seeks to use these underused areas to address the undersupply of formal play and recreation space for children and young people and increase the provision of good quality public gardens and open space which, are overlooked, safe and accessible for all.*

*Our strategy aims to increase the health and well-being benefits for the valley's residents through engaging them in the care of the green spaces, supporting community food growing schemes, increasing the provision of formal sports and play facilities and improving accessibility to and through its green spaces and woodlands.*

*To help deliver this strategy we have developed 6 strategic aims*

# SIX AIMS FOR GLEADLESS VALLEY



1. Engage the community and work with local groups to care for and enhance green and open spaces.



2. Deliver improvements which are low maintenance, sustainable and value for money.



3. Enhance and increase the provision of good quality public gardens and open space. And; provide additional garden space on housing land where this is adjacent to existing homes.



4. Preserve and enhance local character, heritage and biodiversity and promote a harmonious relationship between the built and green environments and maximise benefits for the natural world.



5. Enhance and increase provision of formal sports and play facilities. And; improve and connect footpaths in woodlands and naturalistic green spaces for leisure, exercise and the enjoyment of nature.



6. Build new homes on underused space between and next to existing homes where limited infill could enhance green spaces and natural environments.

# GREEN SPACE PRINCIPLES

*The following Green Space Principles have been developed in conjunction with local stakeholders, Councillors and Officers and set out our commitment to how green spaces will be improved, used, and protected in Gleadless Valley. They will act as a set of guiding principles for local stakeholders and officers when developing green space projects, to ensure that all projects contribute to the delivery of our strategic objectives for green and open spaces across the valley.*

# PRINCIPLE 1:

GREEN AND OPEN SPACES WILL BE USED MORE POSITIVELY



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



- Design solutions will make it clearer how people can and should use green and open spaces.



- Spaces will be more inviting by being more overlooked and through the use of signage and lighting.



- Entrances to parks and woodlands will be improved to encourage use.



- Local people will be involved in the design and care of their green and open spaces.



- The design of spaces will have a low maintenance approach which is value for money and sustainable.

Fig 1 Endcliffe park Independent café, Sheffield, © Neil Theasby

Fig 2 Norfolk Heritage park, © Gregory Deryckère

Fig 3 Endcliffe park, Sheffield, © Shane Rounce

Fig 4 Low maintenance planting, © URBED

Fig 5 Ecclesal woods discovery centre, Sheffield,

# PRINCIPLE 2 :

## PUBLIC SPACES WILL ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO COME TOGETHER



Fig 1



Fig 3



Fig 2



Fig 4



- Convenient locations for seating and facilities will provide opportunities to relax and socialise outdoors.



- Improvements to public spaces will make them more accessible to all ages and abilities.



- Spaces will be designed so that they can be used for a range of community events and activities.

Fig 1 Public seating area, Holborn, © David P Howard

Fig 2 Public seating area, © Matthew Henry

Fig 3 Co-housing development, marmalade Lane, Cambridge, © URBED

Fig 4 Street Party, Bayonne, © Tom Sekula

# PRINCIPLE 3 :

PRIVATE AND COMMUNAL GARDENS WILL BE DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE SENSE OF OWNERSHIP



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



- Local people will help shape the future of the spaces around their homes through consultation and community led design.



- Some spaces around homes will be made into shared gardens so that people who live near them are encouraged to use them more and look after them.



- Gardens will be gated or open but will provide a sense of security.

Fig 1 Small scale community planters, © Chris Lawton  
Fig 2 Marchmont Community Garden, London, © Alan Stanon  
Fig 3 Community Garden, Lilac, Leed, © URBED  
Fig 4 Camberwell, London, © Josh Wilburne  
Fig 5 Vacant Lot, London, © URBED  
Fig 6 London Fields, © Robert Bye

# PRINCIPLE 4 : CARE FOR THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WILL PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE VALLEY'S PARKLAND CHARACTER AND FARMLAND HERITAGE



Fig 1



Fig 3



Fig 2



Fig 4



- Taking good care of the existing woodland and green and open spaces will be prioritised.



- Planting and landscaping in keeping with the parkland feel of the Valley will add colour and interest throughout the year.



- Areas of land not used for play will be allowed to grow naturally to encourage plants and wildlife to thrive.



- Recognised ecological and heritage assets will be managed and protected such as ancient woodlands, protected species and habitat, mature and historically significant trees and archaeological features.



- Green links and the habitats within them will be protected and enhanced, and the safe movement of wildlife will be supported.



- Key views and vistas will be protected.

Fig 1 Ballymena, County Donegal, Ireland, © Kyle Magowan

Fig 2 Meadows, Salford, © URBED

Fig 3 Peel Park, Salford, © URBED

Fig 4 Wildlife habitats, nest box in woodland, © Nik

# PRINCIPLE 5 :

PRODUCTIVE GROWING IN THE VALLEY WILL BE ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 4



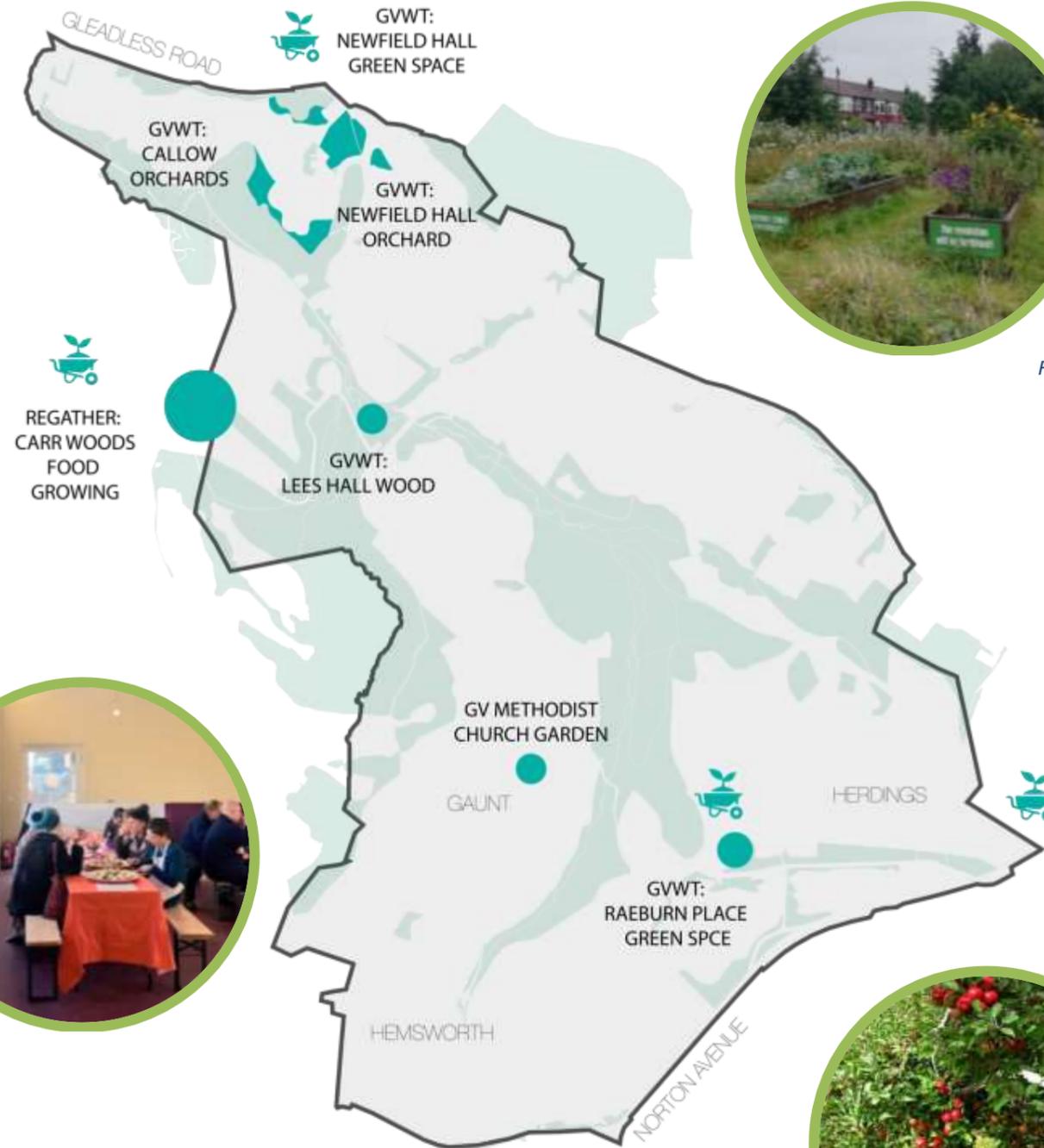
Fig 3



Fig 5



Fig 6



● Community orchards / meadows, communal food growing and allotments



- Opportunities for orchards, communal food growing and allotments will be supported in the right locations. They will include a long term plan for helping the Valley and involving local residents.

- Fruit and food growing will be properly managed and the land maintained.

- Fig 1 Huxhams Cross Community Farm, © Martin Large
- Fig 2 Small scale community planters, © CDC
- Fig 3 Squash, community facility, Liverpool, © URBED
- Fig 4 Lilac, Leeds, © URBED
- Fig 5 Community allotments, Levenshulme, © URBED
- Fig 6 Orchard row, © Liz West

# PRINCIPLE 6 :

OUTDOOR LEISURE, SPORTS AND PLAY PROVISION WILL BE INCREASED AND IMPROVED



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



- Open spaces (in the right locations) will be improved to enable a range of play activities.

- Facilities for all ages and abilities will be put in safe and accessible places however targeted provision for young people will be prioritised.

- Improvements to routes and wayfinding will encourage walking, running and cycling across and around the Valley.

- Low maintenance design and materials will help ensure that new play equipment will be long-lasting.

Fig 1 BMX track, © Thomas Scweighoter

Fig 2 Planted pergola, providing seating, © Katerine Volkovski

Fig 3 Log Walk within naturalistic planting, © Jon Flobrant

Fig 4 South Bank, London, © Jamie Street

# PRINCIPLE 7 :

CLEARER ROUTES THROUGH THE VALLEY WILL BE CREATED



Fig 1



Fig 2

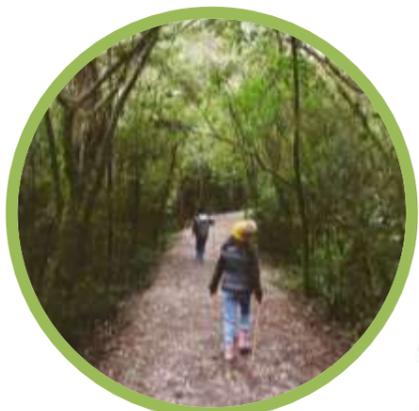


Fig 3

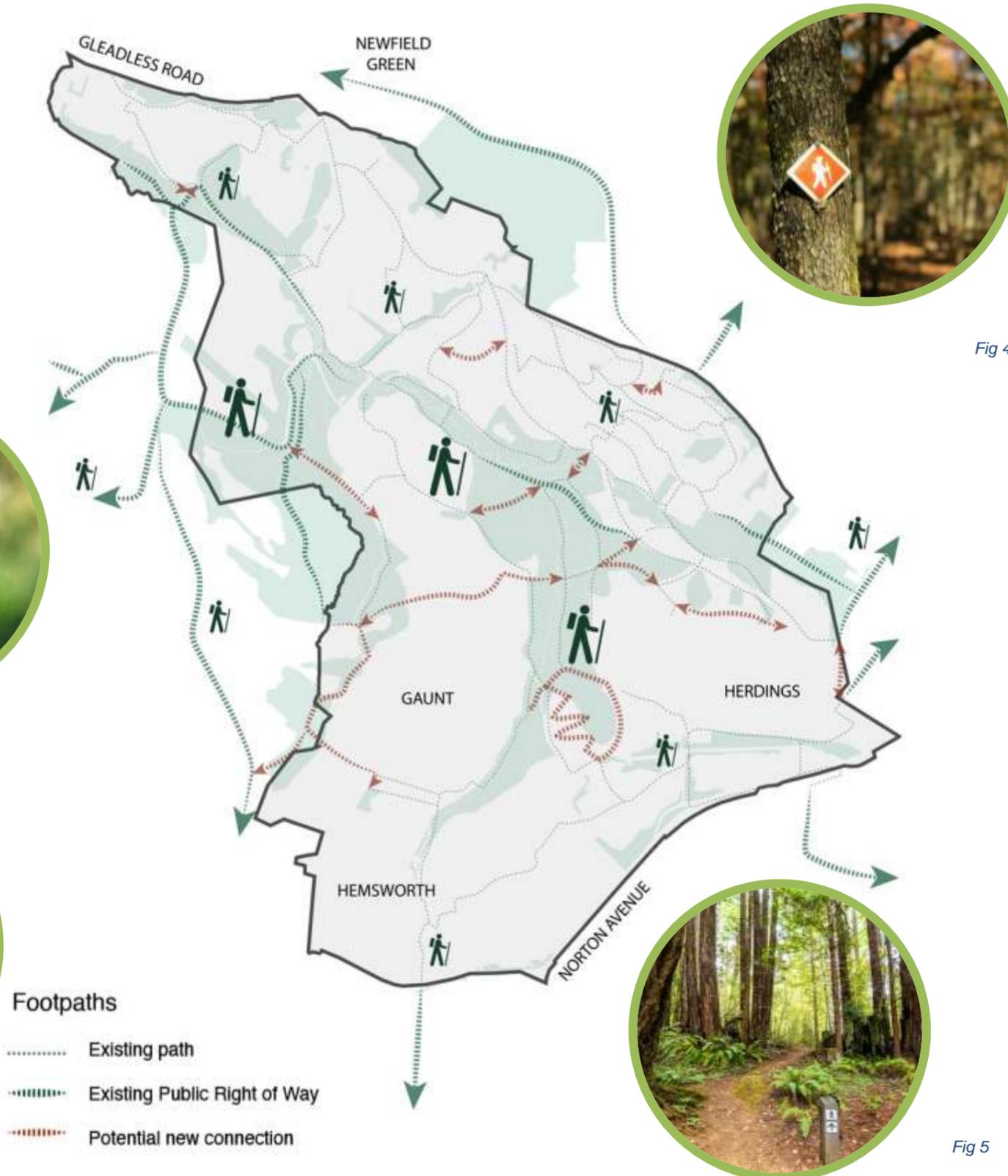


Fig 4



Fig 5



- Key footpaths through the estate will be improved and less easy to use footpaths removed, in line with statutory legal processes for any footpath closure.



- Footpaths will be more clearly marked and signed, to make it easier for people to get around the Valley and to and from estates nearby.



- Where the land levels allow, routes will be made more accessible for all ages and abilities.



- The use of artwork and open space features will support wayfinding



- Partnership working with local groups and key stakeholders will help secure funding to improve paths and trails through woodland and naturalistic green spaces.

Fig 1 Wildlife habitats, Bug hotel, © Tania Malrechauffe  
 Fig 2 Cycle route, © Gemma Evans  
 Fig 3 Walking or running routes, © Te Pania Noonan  
 Fig 4 Wildlife Walk, © Nicole Wilcox  
 Fig 5 Wildlife Walk, © Sterling Lanier

# PRINCIPLE 8 :

MORE APPROPRIATE PLACES FOR PARKING WILL BE CREATED



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



- Formal parking spaces and signage will make it clearer which areas can be used for parking.



- The design of new parking spaces will use materials and planting which encourage drainage and maintain the natural character of the valley.



- The use of low maintenance barriers will help stop parking on verges and green spaces.



- New development will include designated space for parking and bicycle storage.



- Electric vehicle charging points will be designed within the city-wide Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy and Policy.

Fig 1 Bike storage, © John Lord

Fig 2 Signage, © Nick Fewings

Fig 3 Parallel on-street parking with tree planting, © Leandro Mazzuquini

Fig 4 Car parking and SuDS planting, Amsterdam, © Krsto Jevtic

Fig 5 SuDS planting, © David Todd Mccarty

# PRINCIPLE 9:

THE POTENTIAL OF UNDERUSED OPEN SPACES WILL BE UNLOCKED TO HELP DELIVER NEW

FACILITIES AND HOUSING IN THE VALLEY



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



• New development will deliver biodiversity net gain by leaving the natural environment in a better state than before, this will include creating new habitats and planting trees.



• Development will be sensitive to tree root protection zones, ancient woodland buffers and key habitats.



• New development will introduce Sustainable Urban Drainage where appropriate and cost effective.



• Some underused open space will be developed to provide new homes and community facilities. Development will be limited and sensitively designed.



• Any open space lost to provide additional facilities will be compensated by making improvements to other open and public spaces in the Valley.



• New development will be designed to encourage a harmonious relationship between the built and natural environments.

Fig 1 Trumington Cambridge, © URBED

Fig 2 Green Open space, Munich, © URBED

Fig 3 Communal Garden, Home for change, Manchester, © URBED

