

Public Consultation Report

King George V Playing Fields

for

Melksham Town Council

Town Hall
Market Place
Melksham
SN12 6ES

11 July 2018
Document Issue A



Document Management

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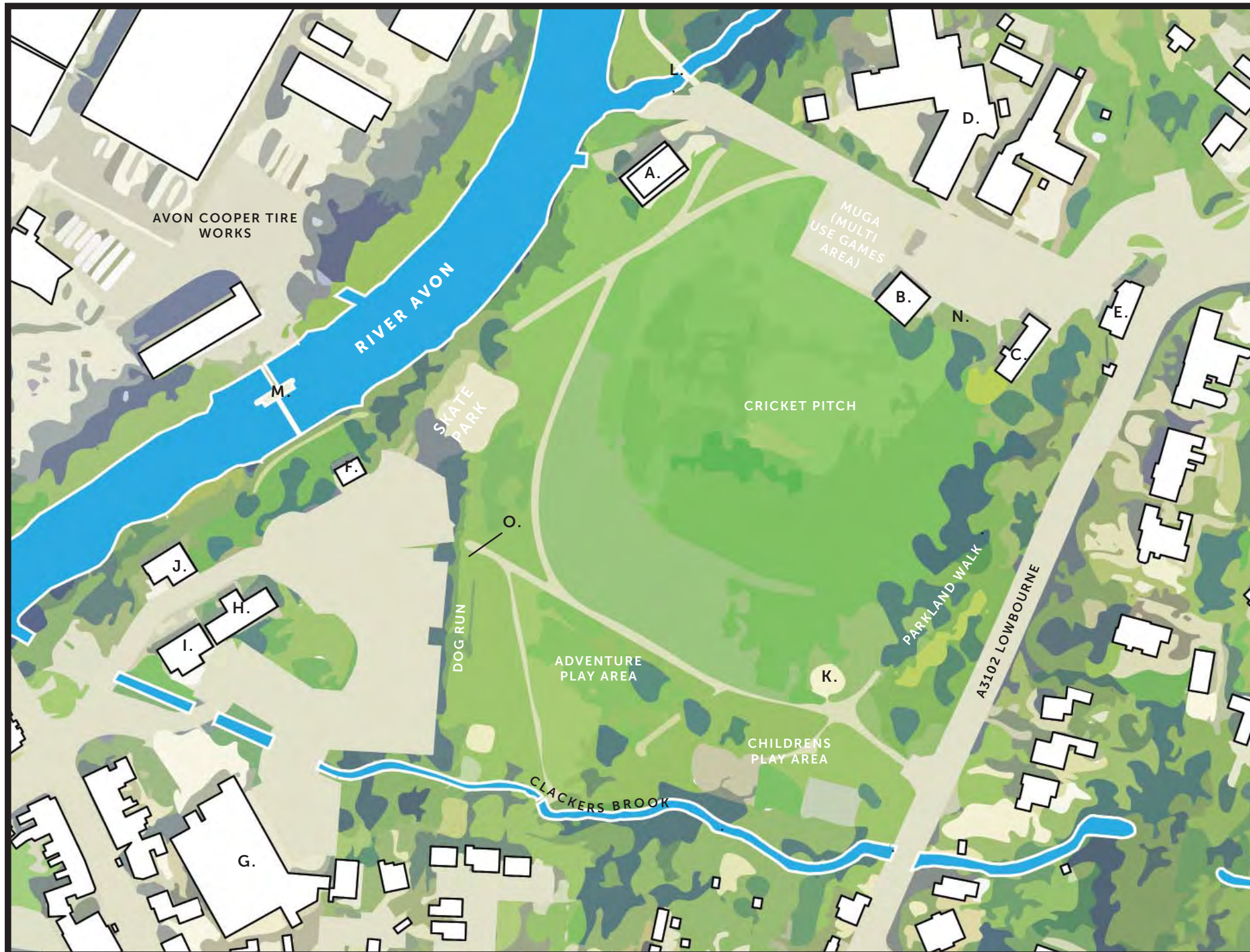
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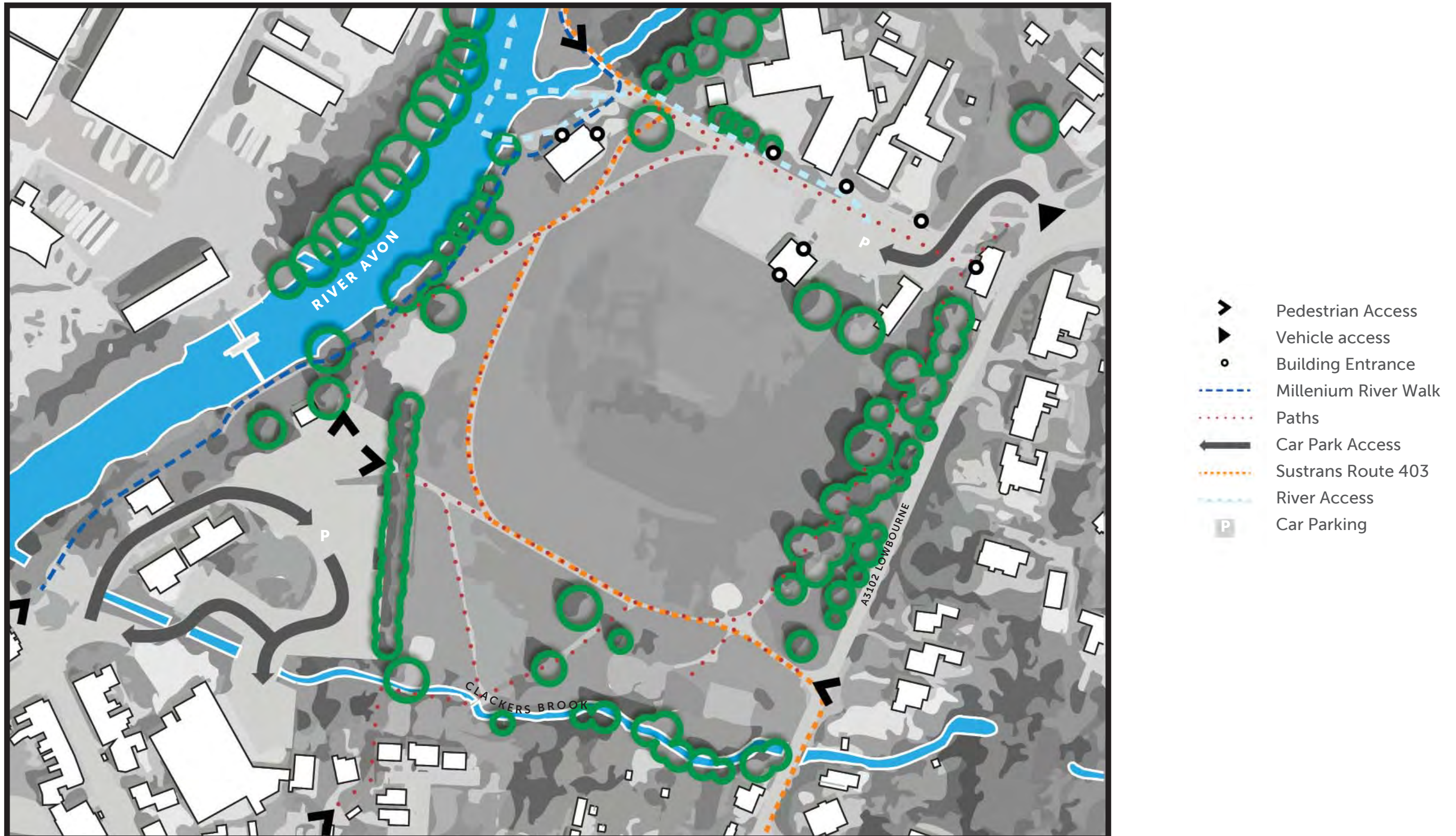
Site information

Key features

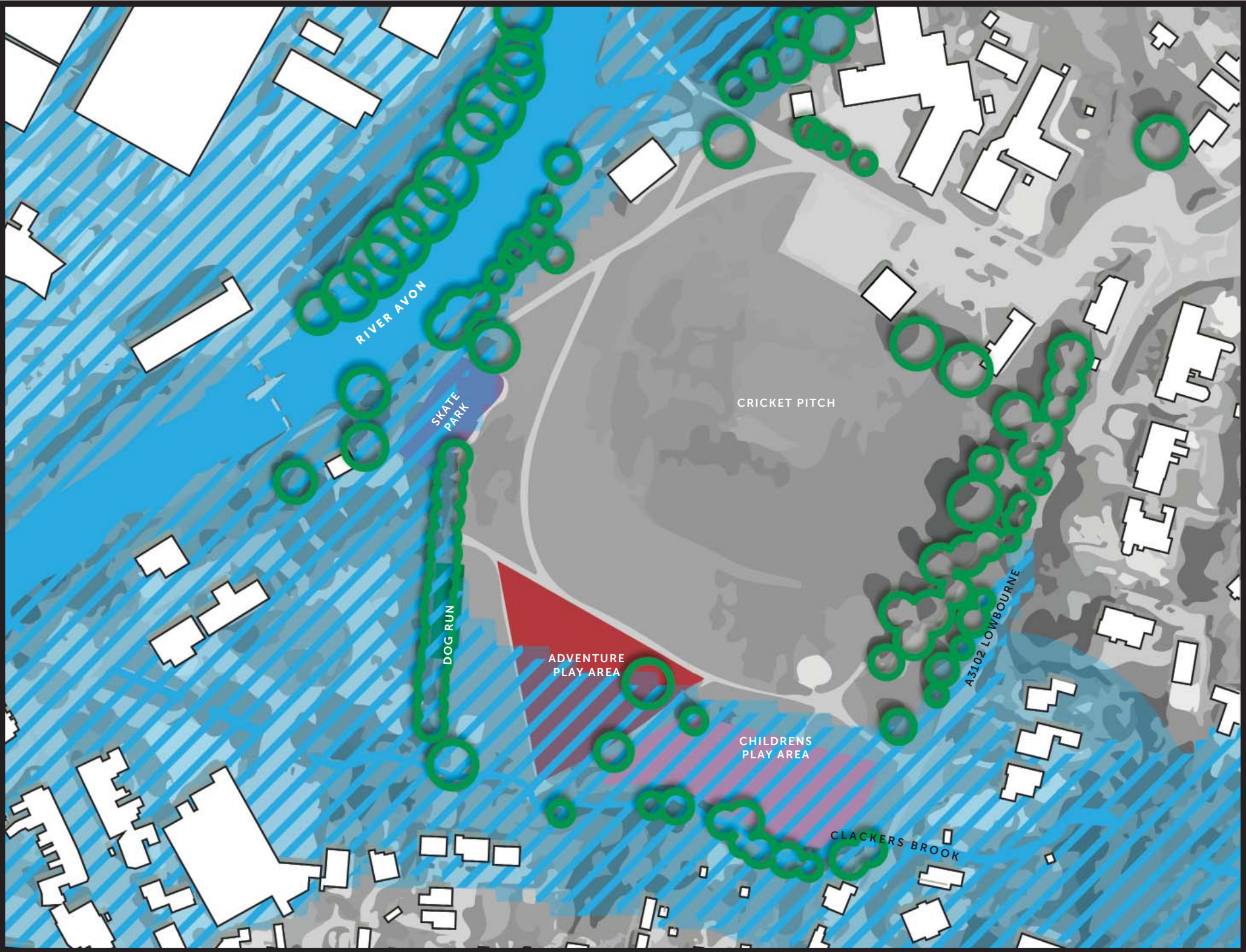


- A. Melksham Adventure Centre
- B. The Cricket Pavillion
- C. Old Maintenance Shed
- D. River Mead School
- E. Lowbourne Osteopaths (and private residence)
- F. Public Convenience
- G. Waitrose Supermarket
- H. Girl Guides Melksham HQ
- I. Scout Hut
- J. The Riverside Club
- K. Millennium Mosaic
- L. Millenium Footbridge
- M. Weir
- N. Fixed Cricket Cages
- O. Fastigate Trees

Access & Designated routes



Flood Risk



 Flood Zone 2

 Flood Zone 3

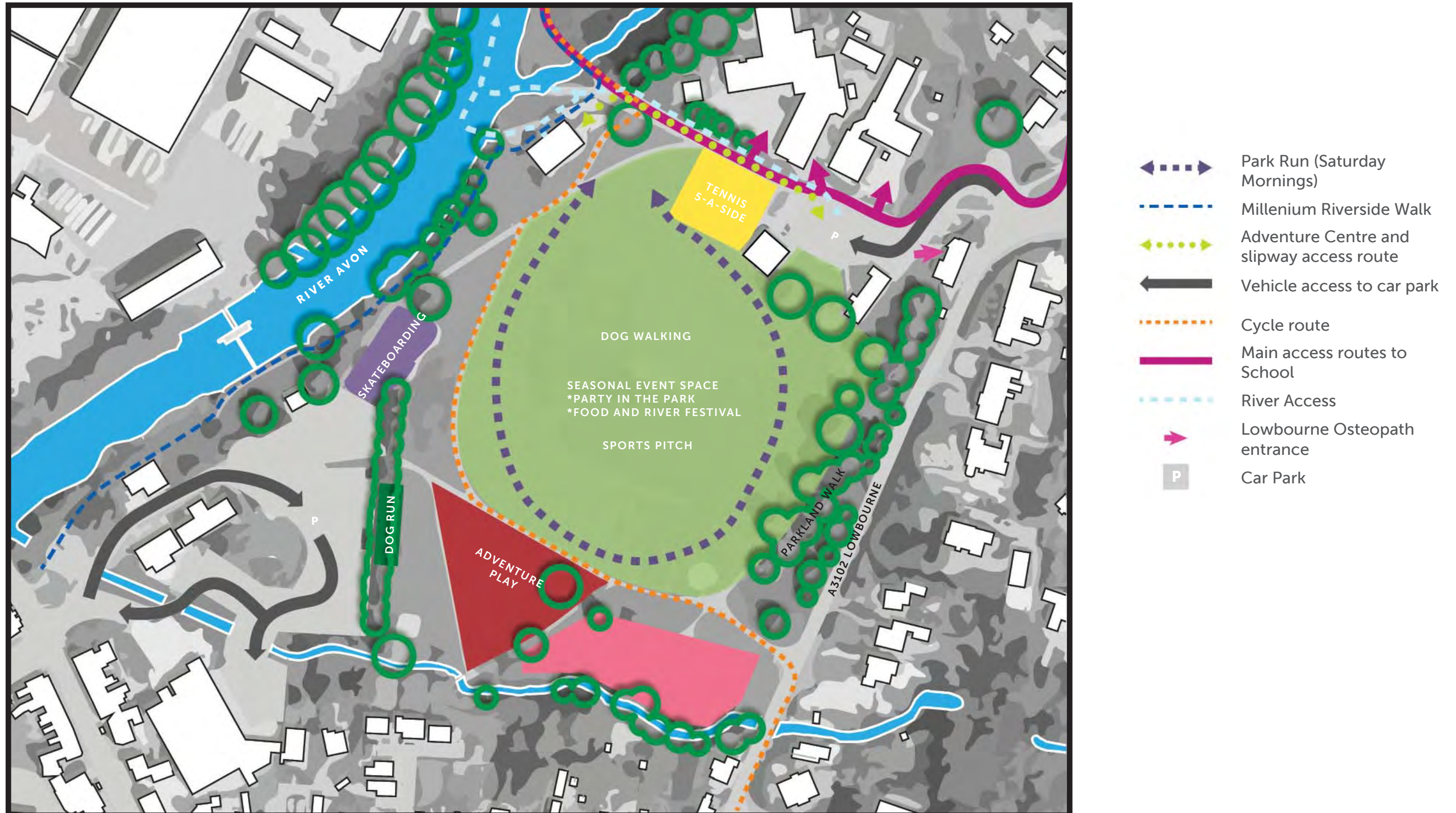
Areas of the site are subject to seasonal flooding. Bounded by the River Avon to the West and by Clackers Brook to the South the plan shows the extents flood risk as defined by the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (<https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>).

The plan identifies the significant risk of flooding presented by Clackers Brook on the southern edge of the site.

Flood Zone	Definition
Zone 1 Low Probability	Land having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding. (Shown as 'clear' on the Flood Map – all land outside Zones 2 and 3)
Zone 2 Medium Probability	Land having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding; or land having between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding.
Zone 3 High Probability	Land having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding; or Land having a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of sea flooding.(Land shown in dark blue on the Flood Map)

Note: The Flood Zones shown on the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) do not take account of the possible impacts of climate change and consequent changes in the future probability of flooding.

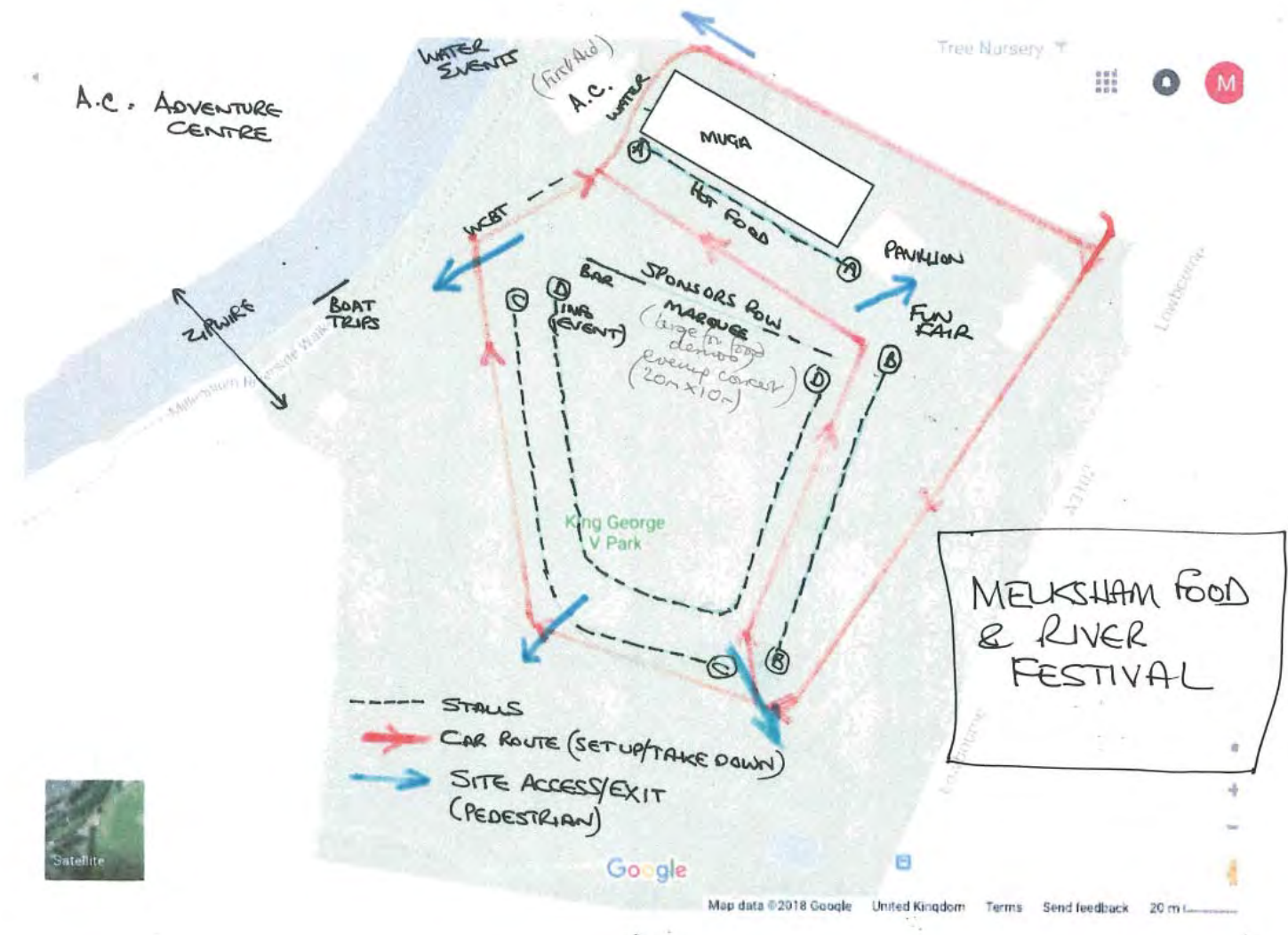
Movement & Use



Key Stakeholders

As part of the consultation process the following stakeholders were identified and consulted:

- River Mead School
- Adventure Centre
- Party in the Park
- Melksham Food and River Festival
- Wilts and Berks Canal Trust
- Lowbourn Osteopaths and other neighbours



Plan Markup showing Melksham Food and River Festival layout

Response

All responses to the consultation were recorded and reviewed. In reviewing the responses it became apparent very quickly that there were common themes running throughout.

Wordclouds (worditout.com) were generated from the responses relating to the questions;

- What do people dislike about the Park?
- What do people like most about the Park?
- What are the improvements that people would like to see?

The word size and colour are a reflection of frequency.



What do people dislike about the Park?

A word cloud of various park activities. The words are arranged in a roughly triangular shape, with 'Walk' and 'open space' being the largest. Other words include 'Walk dog', 'Parkrun', 'river', 'Exercise', 'green', 'Paddling pool', 'Zipwire', and 'Party in the Park'.

Walk dog
Walk
river
Exercise
green
Paddling pool
Zipwire
open space
Party in the Park

What do people like most about the Park?

Bandstand Picnic area
Splash pad More bins
Exercise equipment
improve access to MUGA
demolish derelict building Protect trees
Circular walk way More trees Sensory garden
More Planting Climbing wall Maintenance Tennis courts
Water feature drainage Better lighting
More flowers CCTV Safety Trim trail
Sustainability More Play Equipment
accessible More seating Flexible space
Update Mosaic security Toilets Dog free area
Improve play area
Something for all ages
café paddling pool
Parkrun signage

What are the improvements that people would like to see?

The green space and open quality of the park is valued by many of consultees. This is key for dog walkers and events such as the Party in the Park.

The park is on many peoples route to and from the town centre and it is also part of longer distance walks out of the town along the river Avon. The new splashpad is much anticipated and will help make the park a destination.

This was part of a recurrent theme throughout the responses for a broadening of appeal to provide something for all ages. A café, public toilets, a broader provision of play equipment suitable for all ages of children and also a call for providing improved amenity value to the older generation and people visiting without children.

A destination
open space
for all ages

Emerging Plan





Strategic Improvements

- Toilet Facilities
Toilets within the Cricket Pavillion opened for public use.
- New improved lighting along key pathways for safe access through park
- Improved seating provision
- Disused maintenance shed

Well-situated between the car park and field for vehicle access by Park maintenance team - Pending survey proposed reuse as the Park maintenance compound.

- Cricket nets removed

Enclosure for cricket practice is redundant. Opportunity to create an attractive and defined edge to the park and improve the car park layout incorporating a new access into the park for maintenance/events vehicles.

- Café in Cricket Pavillion

Connected by a new path to the Splash Pad and a new frontage onto the car park the pavillion would be remodelled to better suit current uses, such as a base for Party in the Park and Park Run. Adding a Café would make the building a focal point within the park.

- Splash Pad and access path
- Gateway enhancements to improve arrival from carpark on western edge of the site.



Key Improvement Areas

- A** Adventure Play Area
- B** Sport facilities
- C** Childrens play area
- D** Tree walk sensory garden
- E** Clackers Brook
- F** Main Path
- G** Bandstand

Adventure Play Area

The existing adventure play area is a popular feature within the park, particularly the zip wire. This area of play equipment is intended for used by children perhaps too old for the childrens play area but not necessarily quite independent of parental supervision. The proposed move of the childrens play area would necessitate relocation of the adventure play area. Keeping the two areas close is convenient for use by families with children of ages that straddle the two areas. It also eases the transition for children from the younger equipment up to bigger adventure equipment. The location is also convenient for the café, picnic area and toilets.



Sport facilities

The cricket pitch has not been formally used as a sports pitch for some time. An all weather games court associated with the school is available for hire, but is not suited to impromptu sports use.

There is an opportunity to offer new/improved sports provision within the park by developing the sports area immediately beside the Waitrose car park.

Currently the area has an area of asphalt equipped with a basketball hoop but this space could be more effectively utilised. A space could be made to layout a multifunctional grass pitch and a small informal area of all weather surface. The grass pitch could include markings for sports including and upto a pitch for under 9s football. The all weather surface could incorporate a hoop for basketball markings for street snooker etc.

The grass sports pitch would be positioned such that flooding events would cause minimal disruption to the use of the pitch.



It could be possible to fit a small grass pitch suitable for under 9s football



All weather surface with goal/basketball hoop



Table tennis



The all weather surfaced area could be designed to work with the existing wall and topography to create an area for spectators/informal meeting point

Childrens play area

The Childrens play area is currently sited within the flood area of Clackers Brook. It is proposed that the area should be moved out from the flood zone to an area closer to new public toilets, changing and café facilities. Taking advantage of these facilities would also be the new splash pad feature. Noted as an aspiration by many of the consultees, the splash pad has already been funded and paid for as a replacement for the now demolished paddling pool.



Play tower, climbing framework and interactive sensory play made form organic natural materials



Slide set into slope of bank



Colourful Play tower and climbing framework



Splashpad



Swings

Tree walk sensory garden

The park benefits from a fine selection of mature parkland trees which line a walk that runs parallel to Lowbourne. It is proposed that the genteel quality of this area of the park could be enhanced with planting and new bench seating to create a sensory garden. The millenium mosaic could be integrated within the design of this area.

The boundary will be defined by traditional rail fencing which will keep a portion of the park seperated from the more active uses beyond. The area would continue to be open at either end for access through and along the walk but gates would prevent access by unsupervised dogs. Dogs would only be permitted if on leads.

Pergolas or similar gateway feature would mark the entrance/end of the walk.



Existing mature trees are an asset.



Bench set within planted border.



Pergola entrance feature.



The Melksham Mosaic could be incorporated within the design.

Clackers Brook

Environment Agency flood risk data supported the many respondents to the consultation who highlighted the issue of flooding in the park. Flooding affects the banks of the Avon and Clackers Brook. The brook is liable to flash flooding events that anecdotaly disrupt the function of the childrens play area at least twice a year.

A more suitable location has been identified within the park for the play area which would give the opportunity to try a different approach along the brook corridor.

It is possible that the brook could be reformed from a disruptive force into a key asset within the park. The potential is there to make the brook corridor a place for wildlife, flood prevention and an area for natural play. Features such as swales and ponds could be added to contribute to flood prevention and improve water quality. Low intensity management of the area could improve biodiversity and safeguard routes for wildlife. The wet woodland habitat created could accomodate woodland paths or play trails with tree climbing and stepping stones as an foil to the formal play equipment elsewhere within the park.



Play trail



Naturalistic wetland planting



Opportunity for Natural play



Native woodland character



Stepping stones passing through wet woodland habitat



Opportunity to improve flood resilience and improve water quality with attenuation swales

Main Path

Though possible to 'do a circuit' of the park the current route is not clearly marked, includes a narrow lane with vehicular traffic and negotiating through a car park. Creating a clear route around the park would have broad appeal including opportunity for measured fitness activity. The path would be designed to be of a suitable width to accommodate individuals, small groups, and runners.

To further encourage activity in the park and in answer to the call for more 'exercise equipment' it is proposed that along the route could be a trim trail.



Trim trail exercise equipment



Broad path with segregated shared use



Generous seating provision partitions wide path



Robust picnic benches

Bandstand

The Park holds various outdoor events and activities throughout the year, such as the popular Party in the Park. Many respondents to the consultation wanted to see a bandstand added to the park for smaller performances.



Performance Canopy



Canopy

Next steps...

- **Consultation**


The consultation continues through July and August. We will produce a presentation board showing the emerging masterplan, and with a slot for feedback forms. This will be given to the Council to be displayed at local supermarkets, schools etc.

- **Masterplan**

The Masterplan will be developed September and October to be published at the end of October.

Appendices

Appendix A Consultation Material




**KING GEORGE V
PLAYING FIELD
PUBLIC
CONSULTATION**

The Town Council is taking over the management and would like to hear from you...


PLEASE FOLD & POST COMPLETED FORMS INTO THE SLOT ABOVE

**WHAT CHANGES
COULD BE
MADE TO
IMPROVE YOUR
EXPERIENCE OF
THE PARK ?**

Please share your thoughts and ideas with us by completing a paper form or alternatively online at:
www.melkshamtown.co.uk/news



Melksham
Town Council




NVB Landscape
ROOK LANE

Standalone presentation board


**KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD
PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

What do you most like to do in the park?	
What prevents you from visiting and making more use of the park?	
What is the priority improvement that you would like to see made in this park?	
What do you like least about the park?	
Any other comments	

OPTIONAL:
Name:
Address:
Email:



NVB Landscape
ROOK LANE



Consultation survey form

Appendix B Consultation responses



Large format sheets from filled in at consultation event



Large format sheet from marked with dots at consultation event

