

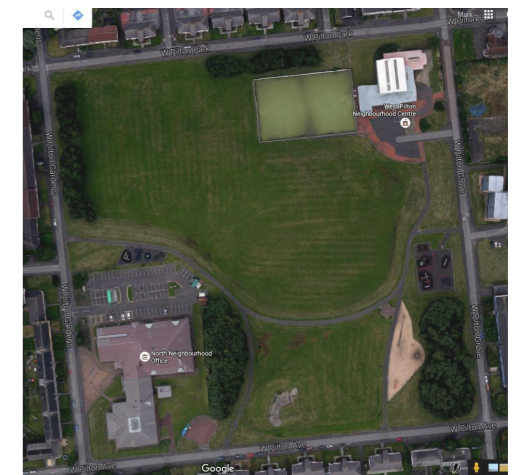
Improvement and engagement strategy recommendations

## West Pilton Park - a programme for change

Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust

December 2015

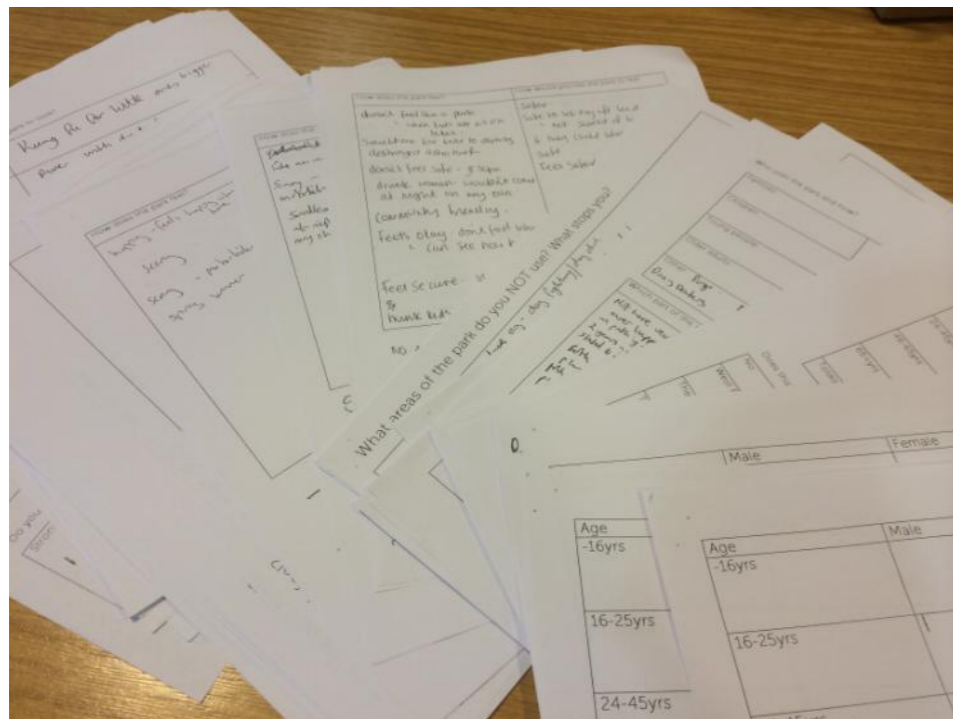
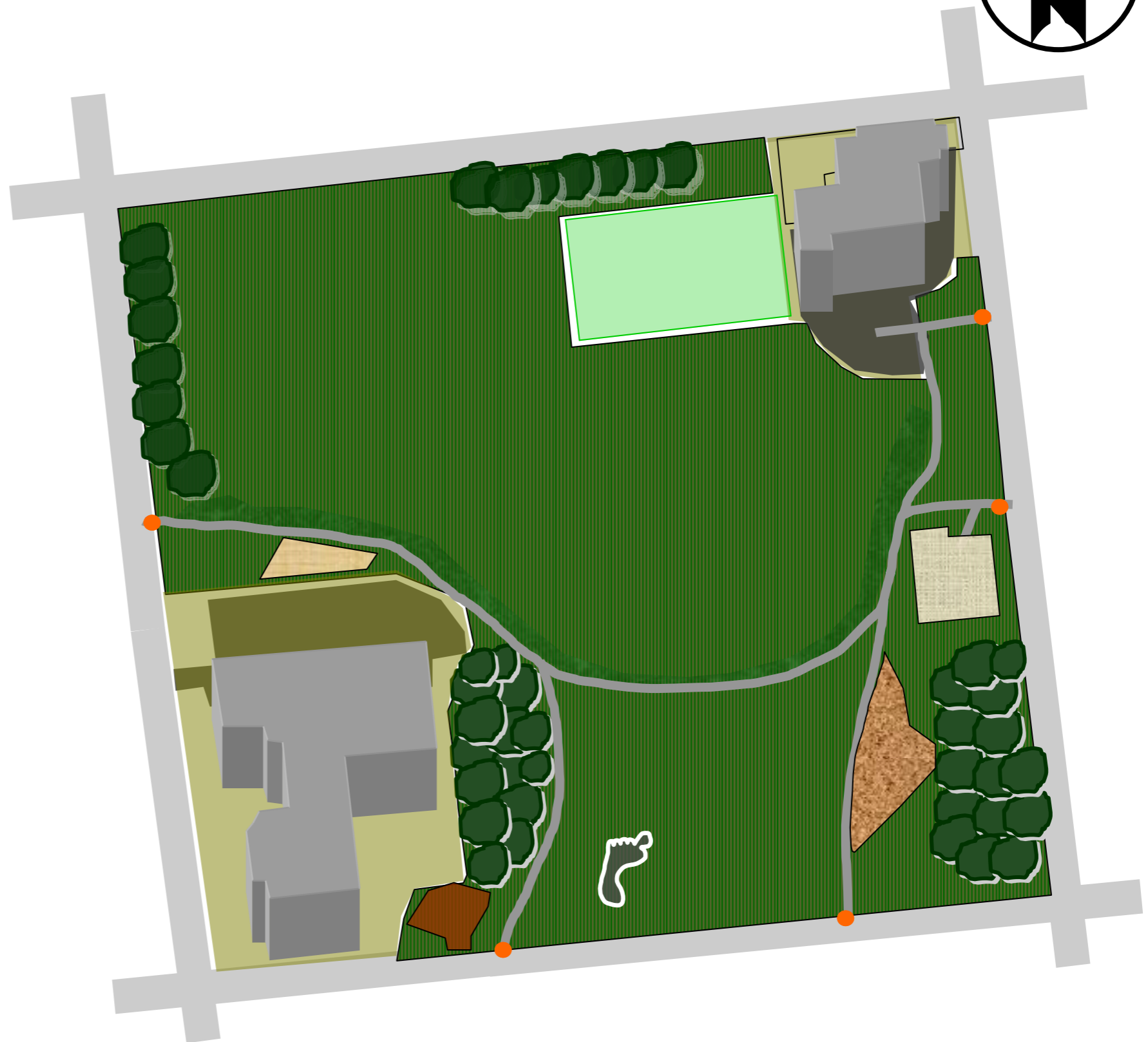
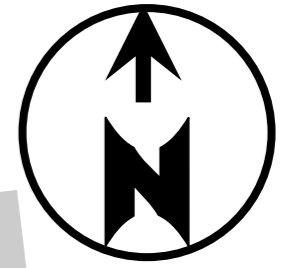
*Prepared for Pilton Community Health Project and the West Pilton Park Action Group*



# West Pilton Park

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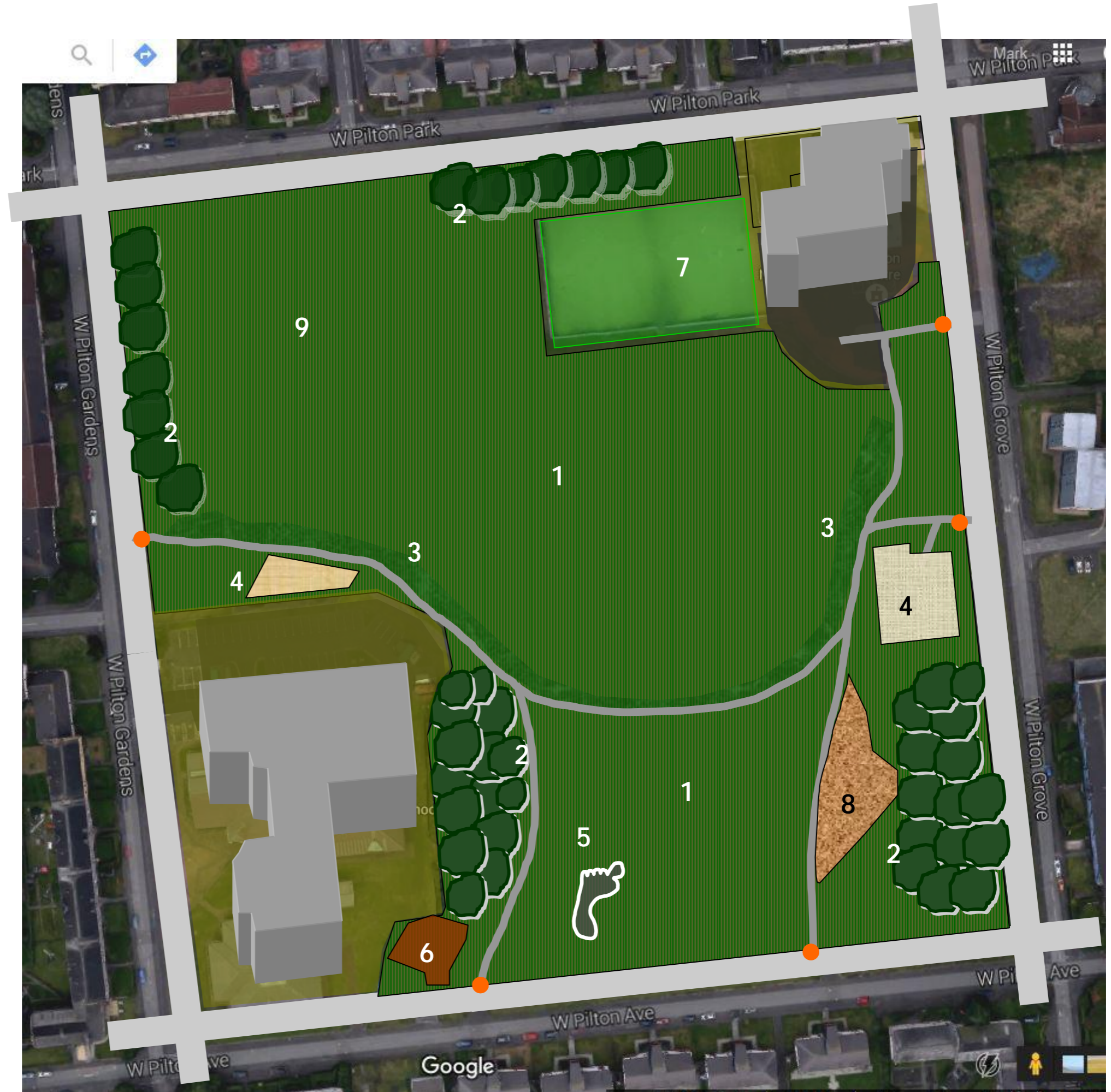




# West Pilton Park

## 1. Current layout and use

1. Grass/field
  2. Woodland areas
  3. Bank along path
  4. Play park
  5. The Footprint
  6. Paved area (bins and recycling)
  7. Astro-turf Pitch
  8. Flying Fox
  9. Football/sports area
- Official park entrances





# West Pilton Park

## 2. Reclaiming the woodland areas

- Woodland thinning - clear undergrowth, thin trees, remove lower branches (crown lifting) to open up the space, let light in and let people see through into the park. Bark/wood chippings to suppress weeds
- Woodland planting - bulbs and woodland flowers
- Paths - clear and create paths through the wooded areas to make them usable
- Woodland adventure play - logs, nature trail and other nature-based informal play



### Case study

#### Hailes Quarry Park Woodland Learning Zone

**What:** a woodland section of Hailes Quarry Park is a dedicated learning zone. It contains informal paths, a signed nature trail, a landmark seating and meeting area, natural play features such as logs and stepping stones.

**Who:** the learning zone was created and is looked after with the involvement of local schools and community groups led by Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust and the park Steering Group.

It is regularly used for organised outside educational activities and by the general public as somewhere safe to play and experience the woods.





# West Pilton Park

## 3. The Footprint

**Now:** an existing stone feature at the park's southern entrance made of rocks and hard surfacing in the shape of a giant footprint. It is currently neglected and unkempt, with accumulated soil and litter but otherwise intact

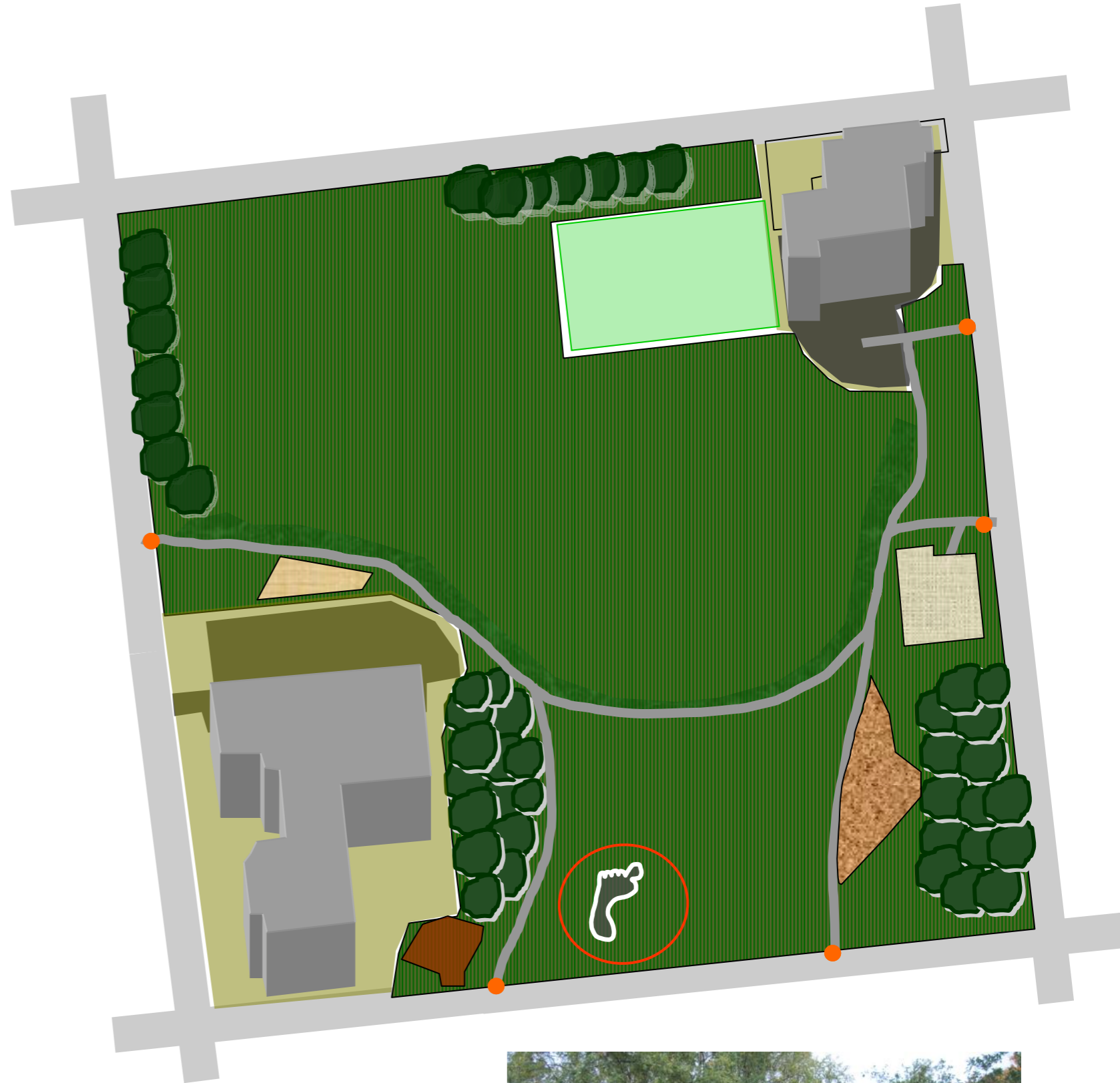
**Potential:** to transform the footprint into the park's landmark feature - an attractive, colourful seating area to be used as a venue for park activities such as storytelling or as a meeting point

**Landscaping/planting:** low maintenance flowering bushes (>50cm high), perennial herbaceous flowers, spring-flowering bulbs. **Hard surface:** Thermoplastic paint on the existing paved surface - designed in conjunction with local community groups  
**Seating:** stone benches to add to the footprint and make it become a usable meeting area



**Art:** additional artistic elements, story boards etc devised locally to make the footprint a themed artistic zone

**Who:** Delivered as a community project involving local people in the planning, design and planting.



### Case study

#### Hailes Quarry Park Hermit's Head

**What:** HQP is home to the Hermit's Head - a half buried giant head in the centre of the park. Based on a local tradition and piece of history, it is one of the park's local landmarks



See also - the now disappeared Gulliver in





# West Pilton Park

## 4. Transforming the grassy bank

To use the grassy bank as informal seating for sports/games spectators and for park users.

Features chosen to be multipurpose - for seating, as steps, and informal play.



Benches alongside path



A series of different stepped/terracing features at intervals along the grassy bank





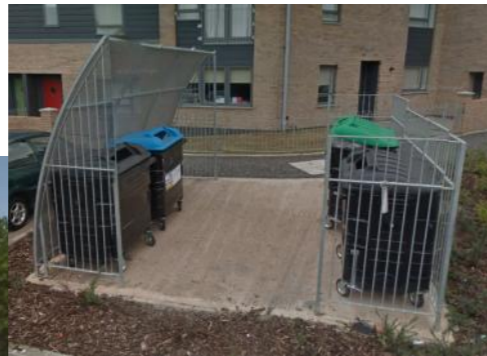
# West Pilton Park

## 5. The paved bins area

**Now:** a paved area now used mainly as a convenient location for recycling containers.

**Potential:** Creation of a feature meeting/seating/activity area - transform the site into a meeting and activity area which is both attractive and useful - seating, hard landscaping and games/play facilities. The recycling bins could be put closer to the road and dedicated fencing put round them.

**Landscaping/planting:** Relocate waste/recycling containers either elsewhere or within the site, clean up and renovate brickwork/paving, install seating/picnic tables, planters etc. Or it could be home a feature tree (Scots Pine) or be location of a community Christmas tree. Give the site a name (if there is not already one).



Case study

### King Georg IV Park - Cannonmills

**What:** a secluded corner of KGV park has been transformed into a quirky and usable space by introducing a range of interesting and unusual hard landscaping features, including a concrete table tennis table.

It is now an informal meeting and seating area, as well as providing a venue suitable for people of different ages.

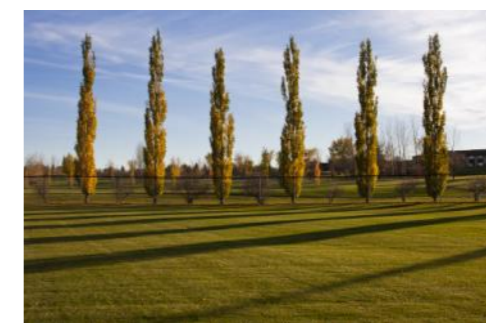
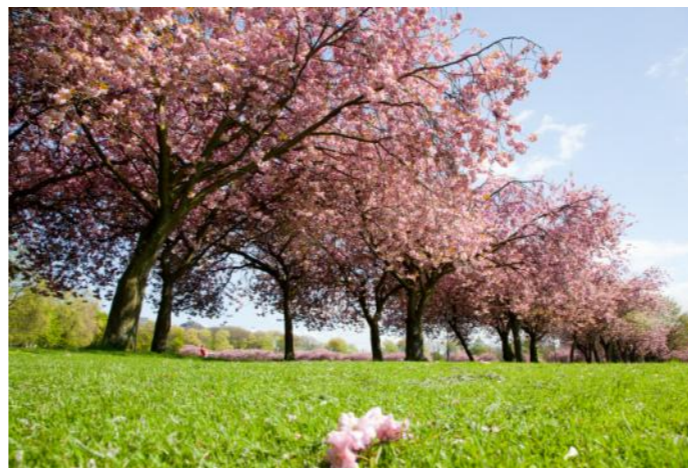




# West Pilton Park

## 6. Feature tree planting

- Planting large, standard trees along park boundary and along principal paths
- Spacing and tree species selection to ensure that they do not obscure views and create hidden areas
- Create and add to the park landscape
- Break up the large open ground
- Delineate the park edges





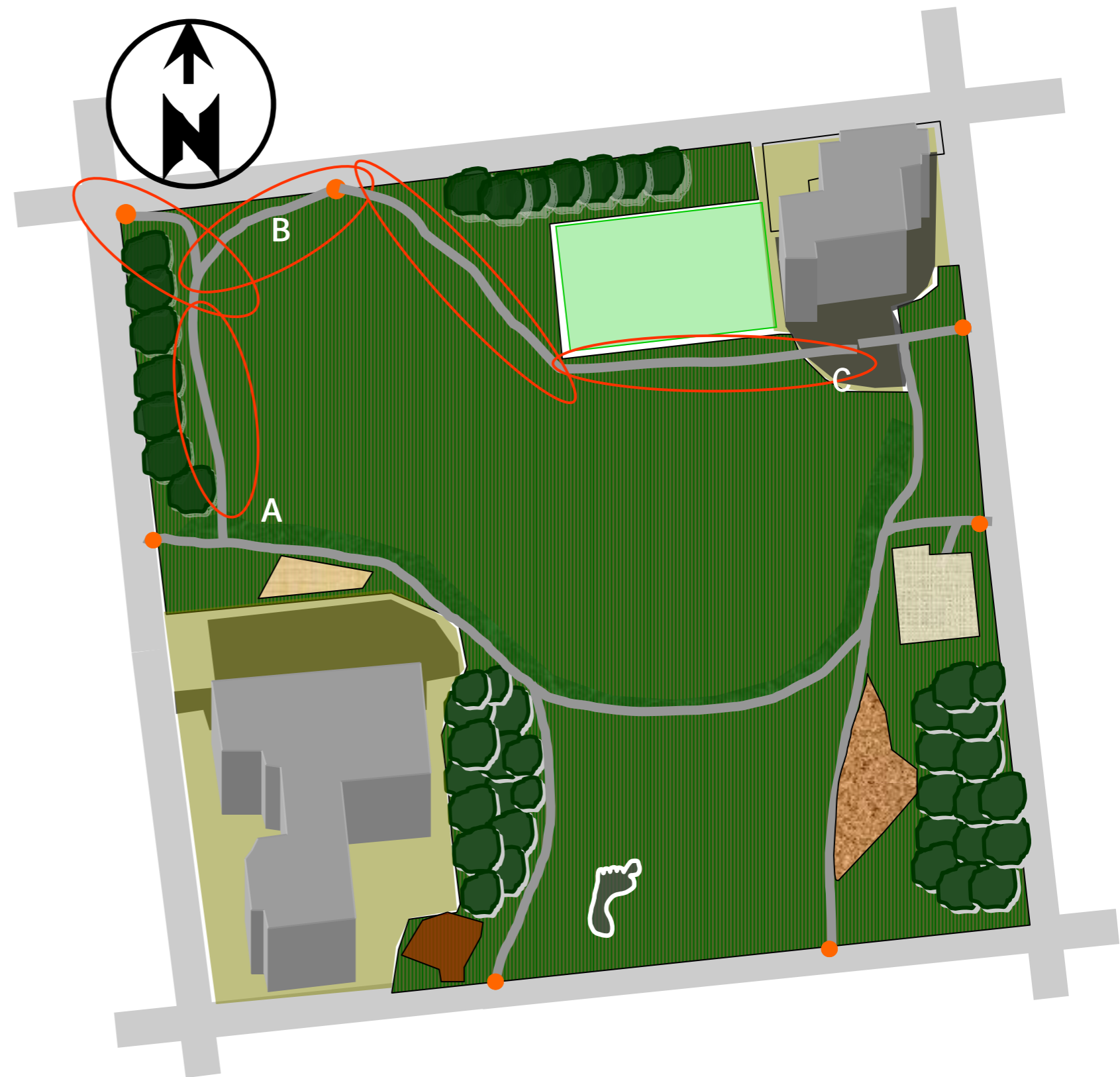
# West Pilton Park

## 7. Northern connection

**Now:** there is currently no formal access or entrance at the park's northern boundary. Although the park is mostly fully open and accessible by virtue of there not being any fence between the grass and the pavement, the lack of a formal entrance and path does little to encourage use.

**Potential:** a new section of tarmac path connecting West Pilton Park Road to the other paths in the park and a new formal entrance at Craigmuir Place and at W Pilton Gardens/W Pilton Park.

**Benefits:** Without encroaching on the open ground, approximately 170m of new path and lighting would give homes on the northern edge a dedicated connection to the rest of the park. It would bring that area of the park into more active use, and in conjunction with work to open up the woodland next door, would help reduce fear of anti-social behaviour by bringing more of the park into regular use



### Northern connection - New paths

A - B: approximately 188m

B - C: approximately 180m

**Total potential paths - 368m**





# West Pilton Park

## 8. A wetland area

**Now:** a poorly-drained section of the park, currently rarely used and often difficult to maintain/mow

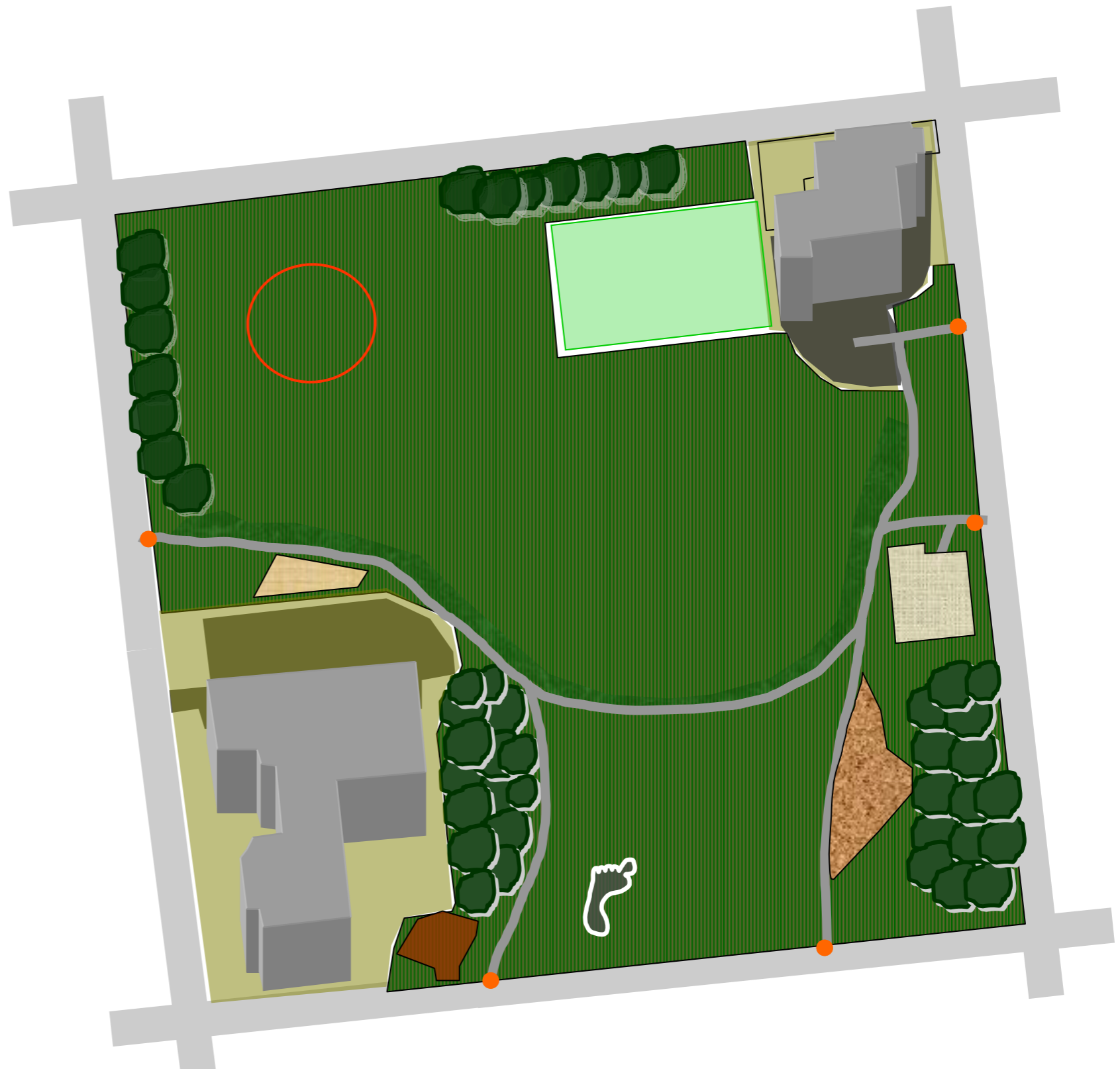
**Potential:** a dedicated wetland habitat area made up of grasses, sedges and other plants which thrive in wet/damp conditions - no ponds or lakes!

**Landscaping/planting:** setting aside a suitable section for planting low maintenance grasses and other suitable species as a community initiative, accompanied by an interpretation panel and signage.

**Benefits:** makes use of an otherwise difficult-to look after and unused section of the park, turning it into a local landmark giving interest and educational benefits.

**Identity:** giving the zone its own name and identity would add to the general appeal and interest of the park and increase community ownership.

**Who:** Delivered as a community project involving local people in the planning, design and planting.



### Case study

#### Hailes Quarry Park wetland reserve

**What:** HQP contains a very boggy area of ground in the centre of the park, a large section of park which is effectively out of use.

Starting in February 2016, ELGT and local community groups will begin planting it up with a variety of native wetland plants, including some rare species, which thrive in wet conditions.

ELGT will work with local schools and organisations to help plant the wetland area and involve as many people as possible in its design and creation, and to help them learn about the role of biodiversity in urban areas.







**Woodland areas transformed**

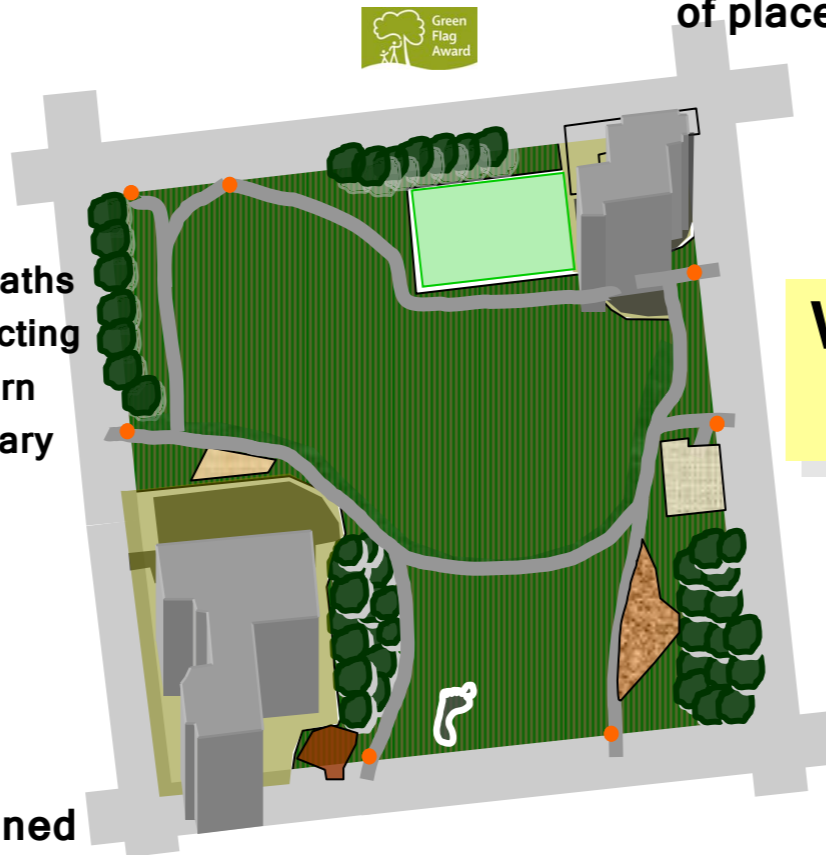


**Park edges marked out to create a sense of place**



# West Pilton Park The future?

**Park entrances creating sense of arrival**



**New paths connecting northern boundary**

**Tree-lined paths**

**The park's main landmark**



gettyimages  
Matteo Villa / EyeEm

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# West Pilton Park

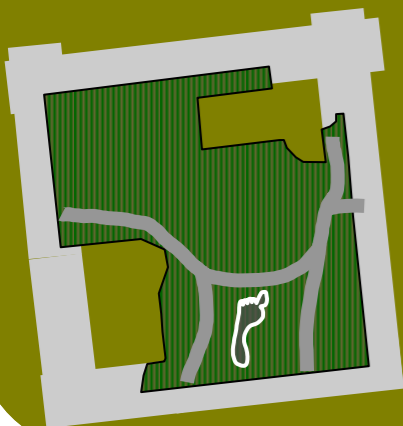
## 10. Branding and communications

- Devising a brand/logo and using consistent material for all park activities and promotion helps give the park a defined and respected identity
- Consistent branding helps generate confidence in park events - someone who has been to one event which they enjoyed is more likely to come to another that might otherwise think twice about if it is seen as part of a wider set of initiatives
- Set up an online identity for the park - a Facebook page or Twitter account



### Some logo ideas

Something based on an identifiable park feature



### Challenge

#### Aim to become a Green Flag Park

**What:** The Green Flag Award® scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK.

It was first launched in 1996 to recognise and reward the best green spaces in the country. The first awards were given in 1997 and, many years later, it continues to provide the benchmark against which our parks and green spaces are measured. It is also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve high environmental standards, setting a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas.

**Why:** The Green Flag Award has a defined set of criteria which act as a framework and set of guidelines for managing the park. They give a defined set of objectives and a measurable and achievable outcome around which all stakeholders and agencies (CEC, WPGG, local residents etc) can unite.

Being awarded the green flag is a very visible and definitive way of demonstrating that West Pilton Park is newly-rejuvenated.



### Case study

#### Buttercup Farm Park

**What:** BCF is a brand-new park - Edinburgh's first new park since 2000. There was no history or tradition of using the area as a park and so there was a need to devise a way of engaging and promoting events and activities there, and to make visiting the park a regular habit for the local community.

From the outset, we used a common brand and identity for all park communications and very soon it became established - the task of getting people along to events and activities is made much easier if people already know that whatever the event, anything with the chicken on it and in those colours is a park event.



Timeline About Photos

328 likes 0 this week

3 post reach this week

Reach a new milestone

500 Likes



# ACTIVITY ZONES

