

Seeing Places through Local Eyes – Exploring Neighbourhoods Together

13th October 2026

David Lock Associates

Joseph Carr – Senior Associate

Today's Session

How places affect
our physical
activity

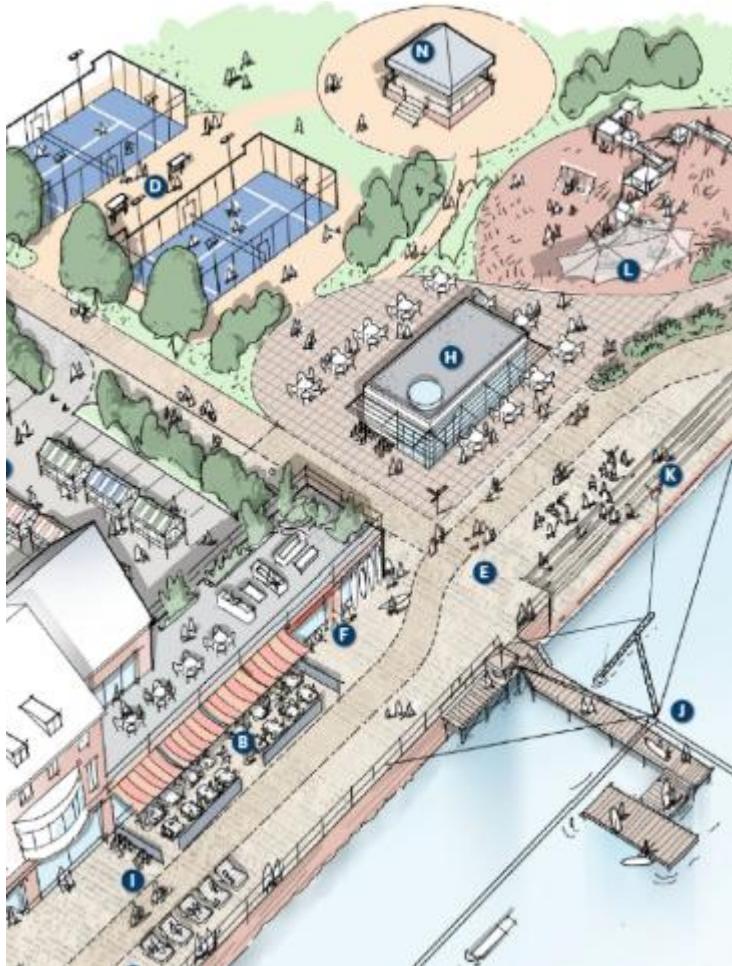
What to look for

Understanding how places can affect our ability to
be physically active, and how to create change

What to think
about

What might you be
able to influence
and change

About David Lock Associates



Active Design



CREATING ACTIVE ENVIRONMENTS
THROUGH PLANNING AND DESIGN



How do places affect our physical activity?

The Big Things



How to achieve them

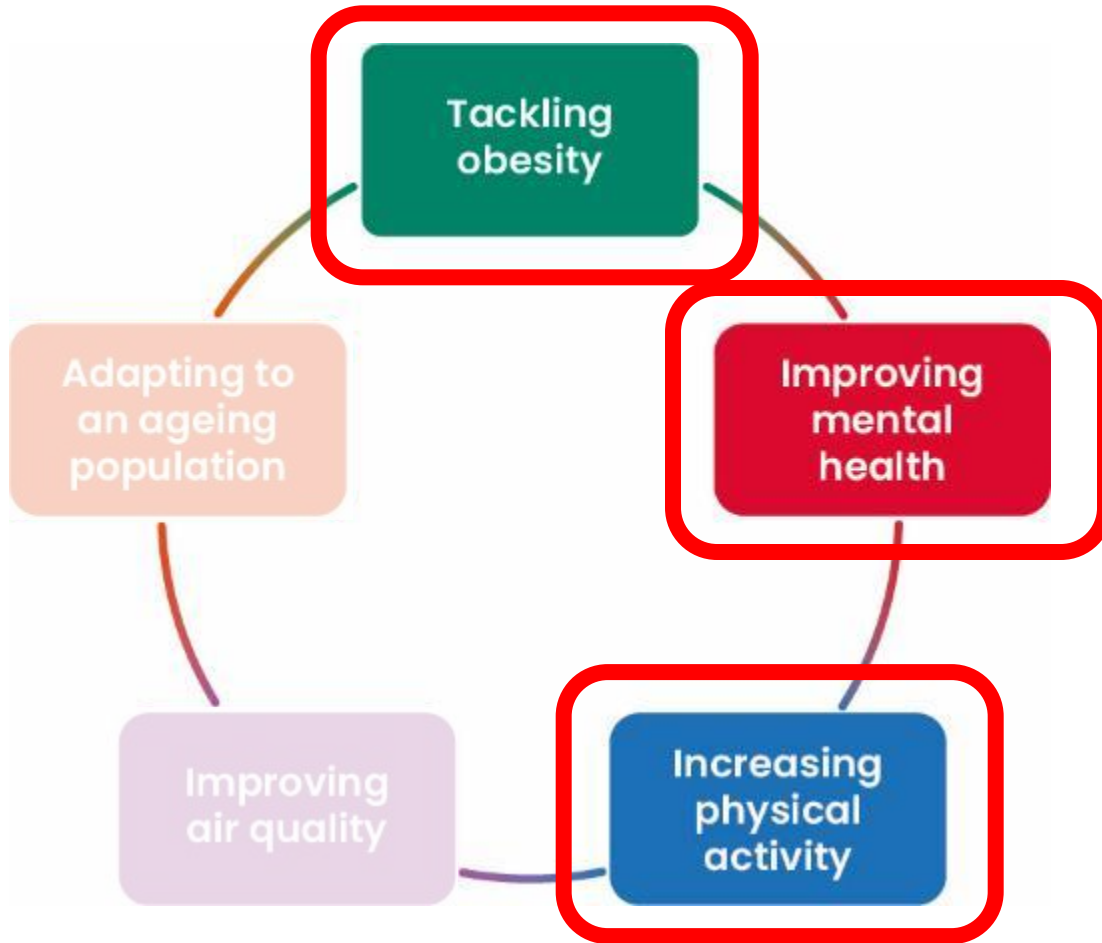
Accessible, safe,
public green
open spaces

Convenient ways
to get about by
active modes

Homes & facilities
in the right places

Well-designed,
adaptable and
well-maintained
homes

Today's Focus



A Journey in Practice

A walk with the dog



Local
School

My
House

Nature
Reserve



A walk with the dog



Local
School



What to look for

- Cycleways
- Cycle Parking
- 'Pinch points'
- Conflicts with vehicles
- Safety

Road and cycleway
use – bikes of all
types, mobility
scooters etc



Walking

Pavement use –
walking, wheelchairs,
pushchairs etc

- Hindrances
- 'Pinch points'
- Seating
- Shade
- Surfaces
- Safety
- Accessibility

Cycling



Play & Activity

Place, parks and
green space use –
physical activity and
play

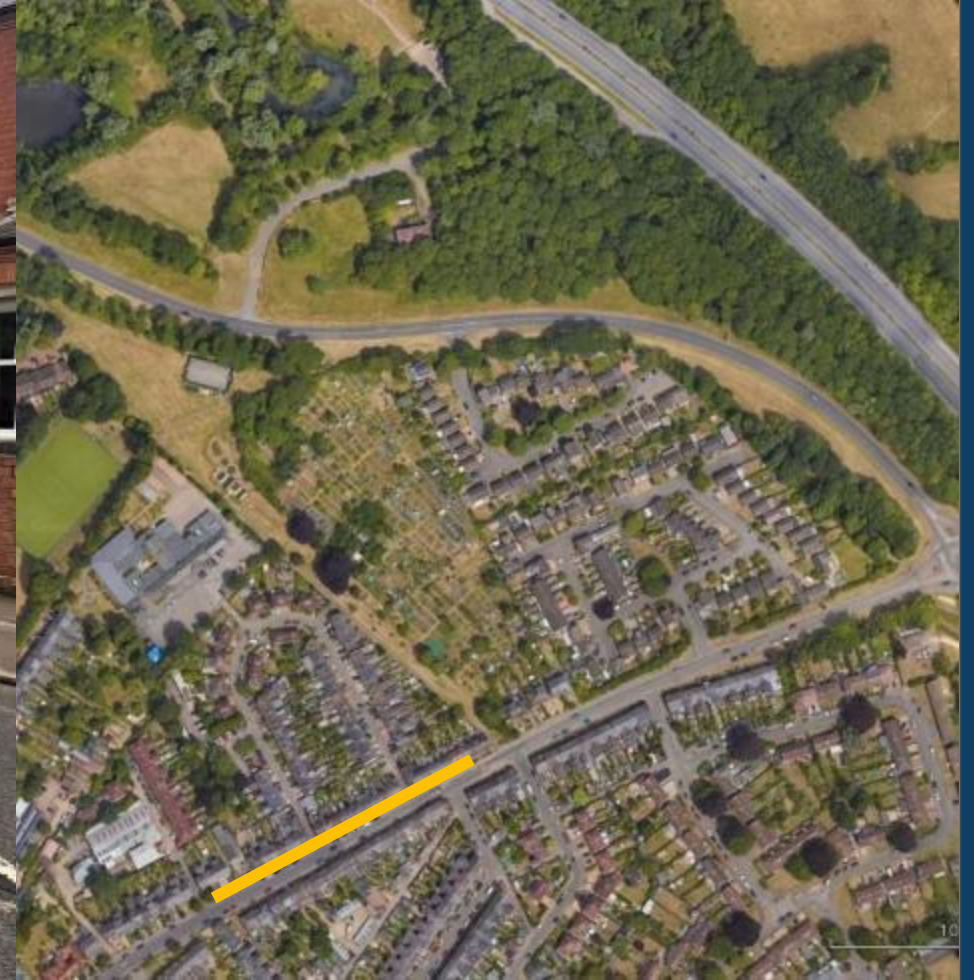
- Safety
- Play opportunities
- Maintenance
- Mix of physical activity
- Shade
- Seating, toilets, facilities

































Wetland Arc Project

The National Lottery Heritage Fund have awarded The Parks Trust £213,000 to plan for nature recovery along the River Great Ouse Valley in Milton Keynes.

Our Wetland Arc project will develop a long-term vision for the River Great Ouse Valley, creating a vibrant and resilient wetland landscape where everyone belongs and nature thrives.

We're bringing together community consultation, regional nature strategies, and specialist insights to prepare a masterplan and projects pipeline. These will set out to restore nature, improve infrastructure, and bolster habitat and climate resilience for the future.

To find out more about the project, visit theparkstrust.com/wetlandarc

How can you help?

Take part in our online survey to tell us:

- the best bits / favourite features
- what could be improved
- any big ideas for these parkland

Got 5 minutes?
app.maptionnaire.com/q/arc-short

Got a bit longer?
app.maptionnaire.com/q/wetland-arc

These ideas will inform our plan, ready for future funding.



Why does this project need to happen?

- Fighting the Climate Crisis
- Connections for and to nature
- Improving Habitats
- Water Management

The Parks Trust
MILTON KEYNES

01908 233600 | wetlandarc@theparkstrust.com
The charity caring for Milton Keynes' parks, forever.

What I saw



A 'Neighbourhood Scan'



	Walking	Cycling	Open Spaces
✓ Positive Things that would encourage you to walk, cycle, wheel and be active - Safe - Accessible - Inclusive - Well-maintained	Wide path / lane Good landscaping Wide to path Regular - good surface Good path	Good safe route Good landscaping Good built features Good path	Good open space Good - good path Good open space Good open space Good open space Good open space
✗ Negative Things that would discourage you from walking, cycling, wheeling and being active, or things not provided at all - Unsafe or feeling unsafe - Inaccessible - Poorly-maintained - Things lacking	Poor path / lane No built features Poor surface Poor path	No dedicated cycleway No built features	No open space No open space



What do you do with this stuff?

- Officers
 - Local Plan – priorities in your patch, through outcomes of Neighbourhood Scans
 - Local Walking and Cycling Investment Plans (LCWIPs)
 - Comment on Planning Applications
 - Contacts and discussions with officers with different roles and backgrounds
 - Health
 - Leisure
 - Open space
 - Highways
 - Planning
- Local Councilors
 - Essential!
 - Tell them what the scan found, and what should be done to fix it.
 - Great for small scale interventions



Thanks and Questions

Contacts

Joseph Carr – jcarr@davidlock.com