



Our Urban Greening Journey

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Background

High profile green spaces – The Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Nostell Priory (NT), Fairburn Ings (RSPB), National Coal Mining Museum, Hepworth Gallery Garden



Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Background

Waterton Park – ‘The first known example of a landscape designed to protect wildlife’ Historic England



Background

Reclaimed colliery sites transformed into nature reserves



Walton colliery nature park



Lofthouse colliery nature park

Background

Green Flag sites



Pugneys Country Park



Haw Park Wood



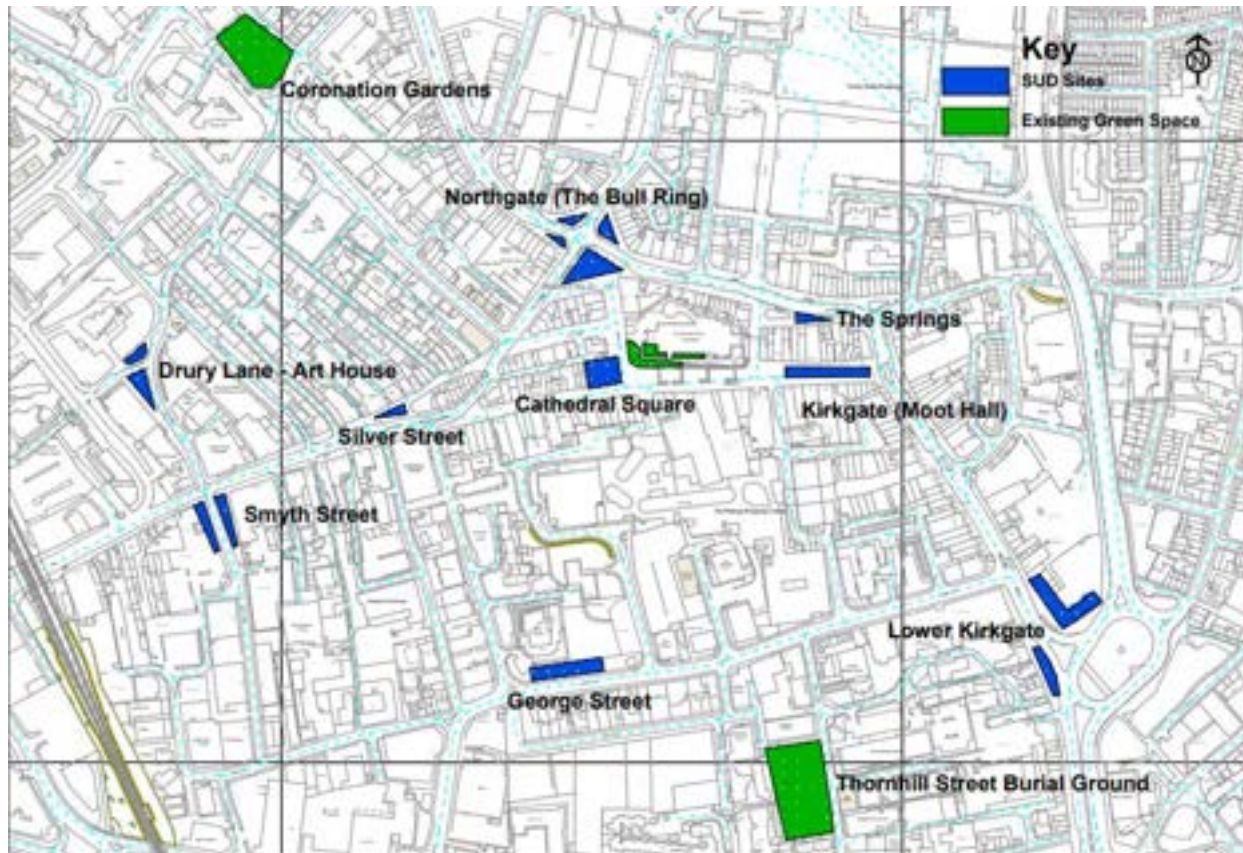
Anglers Country Park

Background

City Centre layout based on Burgage Plots



Where are we now?



This map showing the green areas in Wakefield paints a thousand words

Strategic context

01 INTRODUCTION CONTEXT

CITY CENTRE MASTERPLAN

The City Centre Masterplan 2021 produced by Farrells includes the adjacent 'green-blue Blueprint'. This strategy sets the broader context for the more detailed greening proposals within the city centre picked up in this document.

- 01. Green Waterfront - Opening the waterfront to be sustainable, implementing new walking and cycling connections to and along the river.
- 02. High Street Corridor - Unravelling the water body, creating a new green and blue corridor with a series of new spaces along the way.
- 03. Green Spine - Strengthening the connection between Westgate, Cathedral Precinct and The Haymarket Gateway. Interventions include segregated bike lanes, enhanced public realm, sidewalks, and crossings, light rail finding with public art display and formalised tree planting.
- 04. Greening the Streets - Enhance key links to achieve urban cooling and surface water management through increased tree planting, permeable asphalt gardens.
- 05. George Street Urban Gardens - Potential for creation of a new garden network to Sustainable Urban Drainage system, areas of planting/landscapes designed to capture rain fall and water run off focused along George Street, reinforced by a new cycling link and new links connecting existing and future green spaces within George Street neighbourhood.
- 06. Green and Blue - Closing the green loop around the city with extensive tree planting and provision of new corridors.
- 07. New Green Open Spaces (Barncliffe & BHS) Project - Areas to include new public open space as part of new developments to improve the city's offer of green spaces. Additional areas to be explored and provided as part of future development plans.
- 08. Eco-Corridors - Enhancing biodiversity regeneration by re-engineering green spaces around the rail lines.
- 09. Green Roofs and Walls - Explore the opportunity for vertical greening of large blank facades as well as re-use of rooftop surface for allotment gardens or energy generation, such as the Rofings, Trinity Hall and KHS Project to increase greening and biodiversity.



Listing of key green and blue projects from the city centre masterplan 2022

Wakefield's approach

- Strategic approach shaped by Steering Group of officers, business and community voluntary sector organisations
- Project specific working parties:
 - Wakefield Waterfront
 - Urban Greening Delivery Group



Programme logo devised and used by all partners

Wakefield Urban Green and Blue

- A way to manage increasing flood risk and helping management of water run off from hardscaped areas;
- Reversing the ongoing erosion of biodiversity which threatens food security, increases the impacts of climate change and has negative impacts on our health;
- Offering 'close to home' spaces for growing food helping to tackle food poverty and reducing food miles;
- Providing shaded areas and contributing to reducing urban temperatures;
- Reducing health damaging noise and air pollution;
- Encouraging walking and cycling in more pleasant surroundings, with the multiple positive outcomes active travel offers;
- Improvements to human mental health proven to happen through contact with green and blue spaces;
- Increased positive image for the city leading to more visits, for longer and more business investment.

Taken from the Urban Green and Blue Steering Group approved Terms of Reference

What does it mean to us?

- Green
 - More than trees!
 - Community gardens
 - Rain gardens
 - Sustainable Drainage Systems
- Blue
 - Sustainable Drainage Systems
 - River, canal and beck
 - Water within designs

Fun, inclusive, playful



Changing approach to city centre planting

Wakefield Waterfront

- Wakefield Waterfront steering group
 - Seen as a network to share information and opportunities
 - Funding bid for a masterplan explored
 - Focus on encouraging local communities to access the green and blue infrastructure



Wakefield marina

Capital Projects

- Sustainable Drainage Solutions (SuDS or Nb-SuDS)
 - Cross discipline team including Arup
 - Identified potential sites
 - Multiple cross cutting benefits :

Reduced surface water volume

Increased visitors and dwell time

Increased investment potential

Increased biodiversity

Reduced air temperatures and pollution

Improved mental health

Free, open to all access

Playful



Detail from Sheffield Grey to Green – public art (left) and public information (above)

Cathedral Square

- Towns' Deal project, new public square
- Work planned for next year
- Great opportunity to include SuDS



Visualisations of Cathedral Square

Kirkgate

- Cathedral keen to link into the works
- New library venue investment



Hard landscaping near Cathedral

Lower Kirkgate

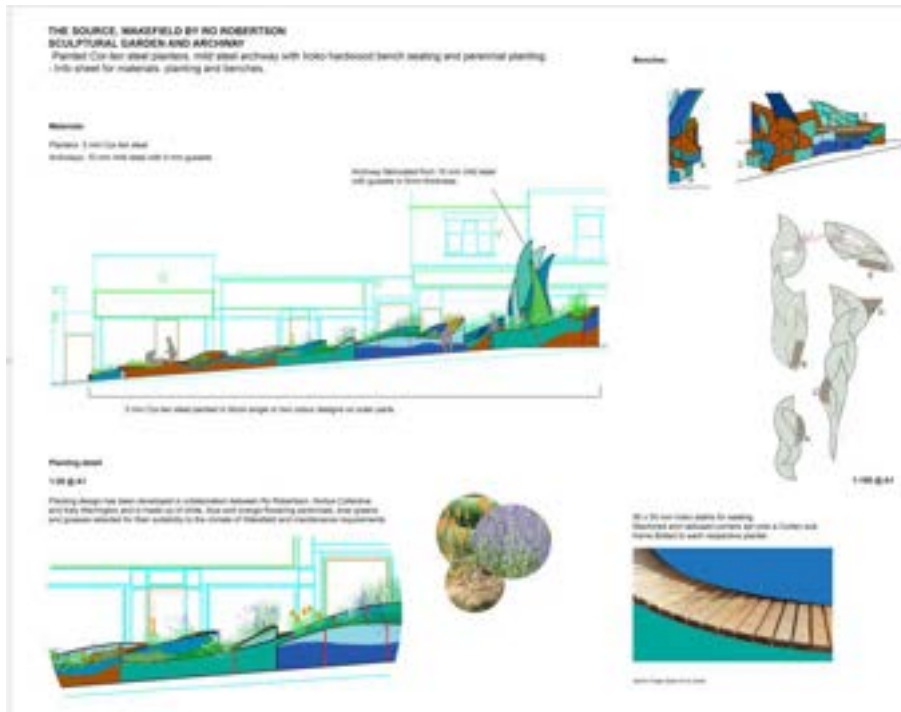
- Green Gateway to the city
- From Kirkgate station linking with the King Project, the Ridings, Upper Kirkgate and the Springs



Aerial view of Wakefield city – still so little green!

The Springs

- Public art sculpture installation



Plant based public art installation,
The Springs, Wakefield

Other Projects – city centre

- Street Scene civic area planting and wildflower roundabout
- Pemberton House Community Garden
- Earth Day celebration



Earth Day, PembertonHouse
Community Garden,
Wakefield April 2023

Other Projects - Castleford

- Town Deal funding
- Masterplan
- Large scale demolition scheme along side the river – being turned into an open space.



Castleford Riverside

The future

- Massive agenda with multiple positive outcomes
- Fast moving
- Emotive with lots of interest
- Building strong, sustainable partnerships
- Evidence and evaluation
- Best Practise
- Delivery
- Resourcing



Pounds Park, Sheffield City Centre, 2023