

Whitesands Project

Placemaking Transforming the River Nith Waterfront

The River Nith is a much-loved natural feature at the heart of Dumfries.

Although it holds great environmental value, it is currently an underused asset for the town.

A Vision for the Future

The Whitesands Project will protect the town centre from future flooding. But with the investment support from the Scottish Government, it is also a catalyst for revitalising the riverfront with the potential to turn Dumfries into a tourist, cultural and leisure destination.

By connecting key green spaces like Greensands and Dock Park, we will establish a vibrant “blue-green” corridor. This will feature tree-lined paths, grassy embankments, and spaces for recreation and relaxation for families and visitors.



What is Placemaking?

Placemaking is about designing spaces that people enjoy being in – places that feel safe, accessible and meaningful. It's a collaborative approach that reflects local character and encourages community use throughout the day.



As we develop the detailed public realm and landscape design your views will help us to shape how the spaces look, feel, and function – ensuring the detailed design meets the needs of Dumfries today and for years to come.



Our goals are to create spaces that are:

- Welcoming
- Safe and pleasant
- Easy to access and explore
- Distinctive and rooted in place
- Adaptable to different uses
- Efficient and sustainable

Whitesands Project

Flooding

The Whitesands has a long history of flooding with records dating back to 1848. Significant flood events have occurred in 1962, 1977, 2007, 2009, 2015 and 2022.

These events caused widespread disruption and damage to homes, businesses and key infrastructure.



A Timeline of Progress and Challenges



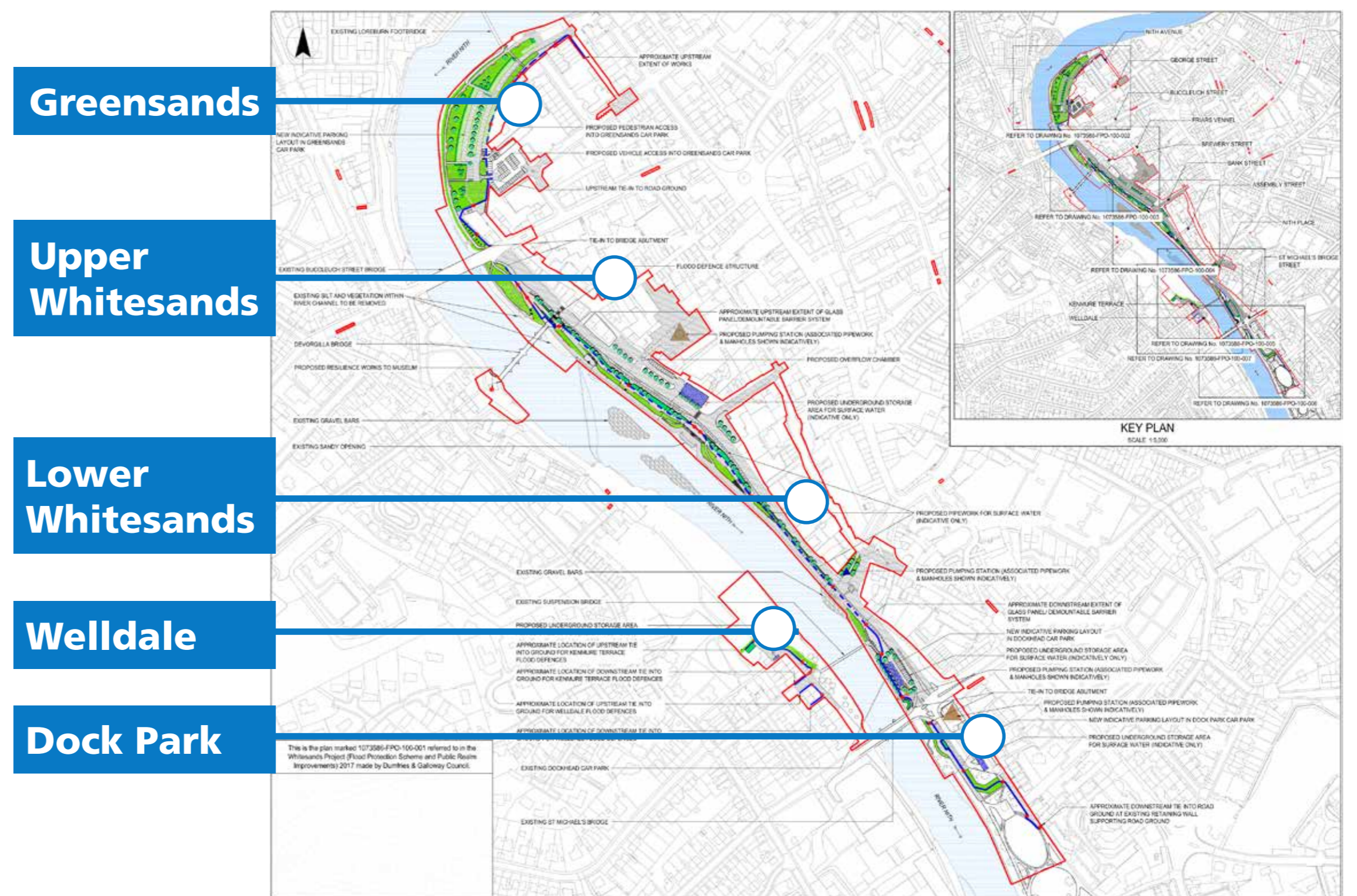
Whitesands Project

Project Goals

The Whitesands Project is designed to deliver three key benefits for Dumfries:

- **Flood protection** – reduce the risk and impact of flooding for the community and businesses
- **Support regeneration** – create opportunities for economic growth and revitalisation
- **Enhance the river front** – improve public access and enjoyment of the riverside

An overview of the Whitesands Project



Whitesands Project – Indicative Stage 2 Construction Phase Timeline

(Subject to Dumfries and Galloway Council approval by late 2025)

STAGE 2 Construction Phase Indicative	Timeframe (approximate)	Anticipated start (approximate)	Anticipated completion (approximate)
Pre-construction/enabling works	3 months	Early Spring 2026	Early Summer 2026
Construction Period	21 Months	Summer 2026	Spring 2028
Defects Correction Period (Construction)	12 months	Spring 2028	Spring 2029
Defects Correction Period (Landscape Works)	24 months	Spring 2028	Spring 2030



What would you like to see?

? Picnic area including picnic benches and/or bbq area



Riverside walkway will be refurbished

? Community planters



? Wildflower areas

? Sculpture with or without signage



Car parking area will be reduced and updated from planning design



? Riverside planting – wild or manicured?

? Multi gym



? Sporting facilities



? Existing play area – should this be replaced?



? Old (refurbished) or new benches in the park?



Upper Whitesands

What would you like to see?



? Space for spill-out seating from adjacent businesses



? Parklet – seating and planting structure

? New modern seating area with planting beds separating space from road



Car parking area, cycle shelter and high quality paving will be retained

? Potentially raise continuous crossing over road for pedestrians



? Potential trees in movable planters to facilitate events



Area outside The Bank will be pedestrianised

Potential entrance feature on wet side of wall/path network at Sandy Opening

Dock Park

Whitesands
Project

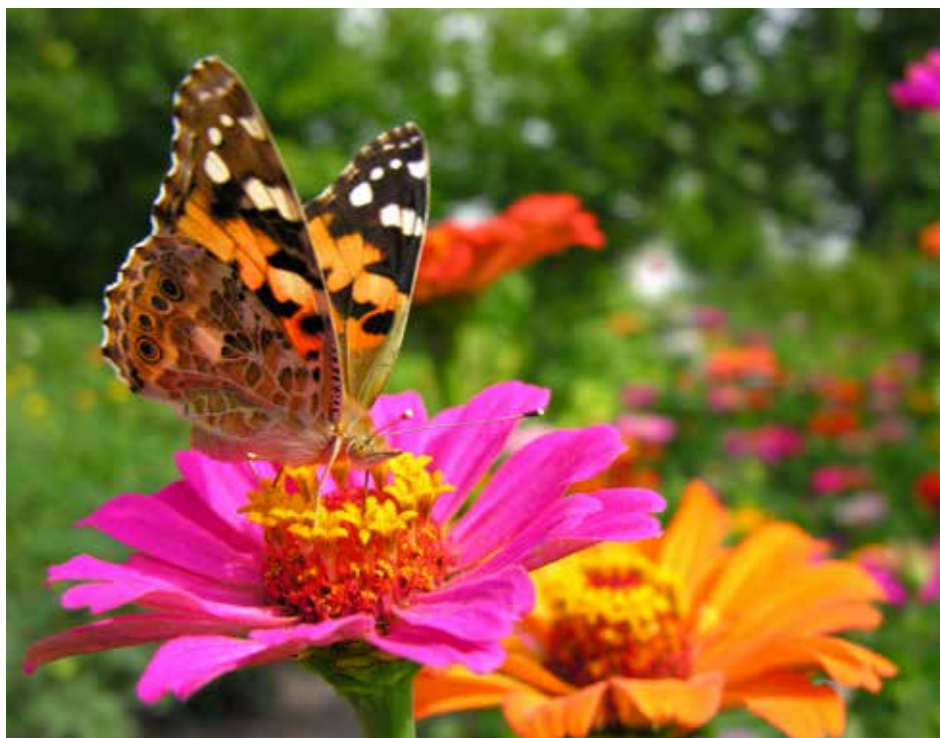
What would you like to see?



Whitesands Project

Biodiversity

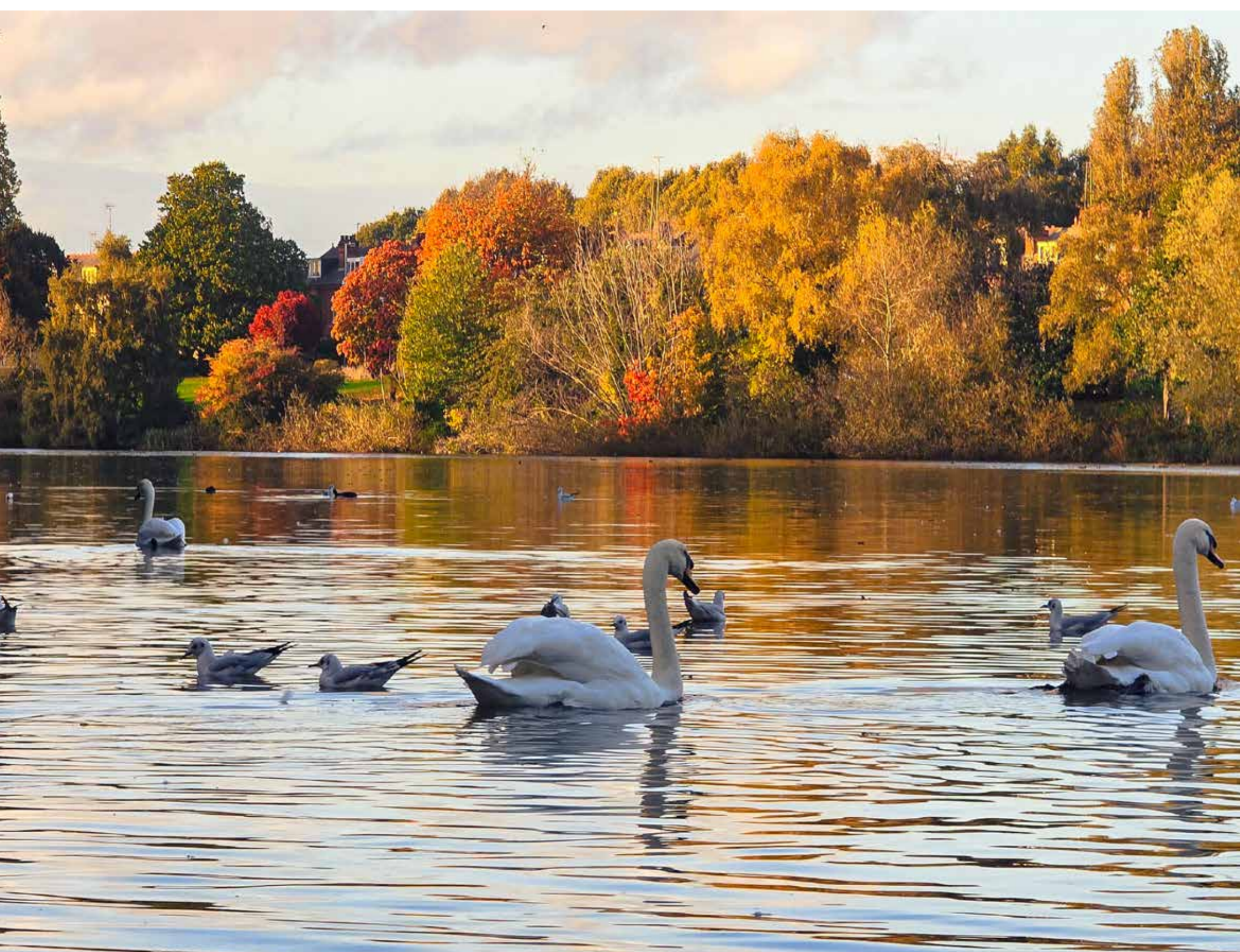
The Whitesands Flood Protection Project is not only designed to protect Dumfries from future flooding – it is also helping to enhance biodiversity along the River Nith.



What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of plants, animals and insects living in an area. A healthy and diverse ecosystem supports cleaner air and water, helps pollination and boosts the natural environment's resilience.

Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 (2023) requires all new developments to deliver Positive Effects for Biodiversity.



How are we supporting biodiversity?

- Wildlife surveys carried out on species like otters, bats and fish
- Removal of invasive plants to give native species room to thrive
- Boosting food for pollinators through wildflower planting
- Preserving mature trees wherever possible
- New greenery/plants providing homes and food for birds and small mammals



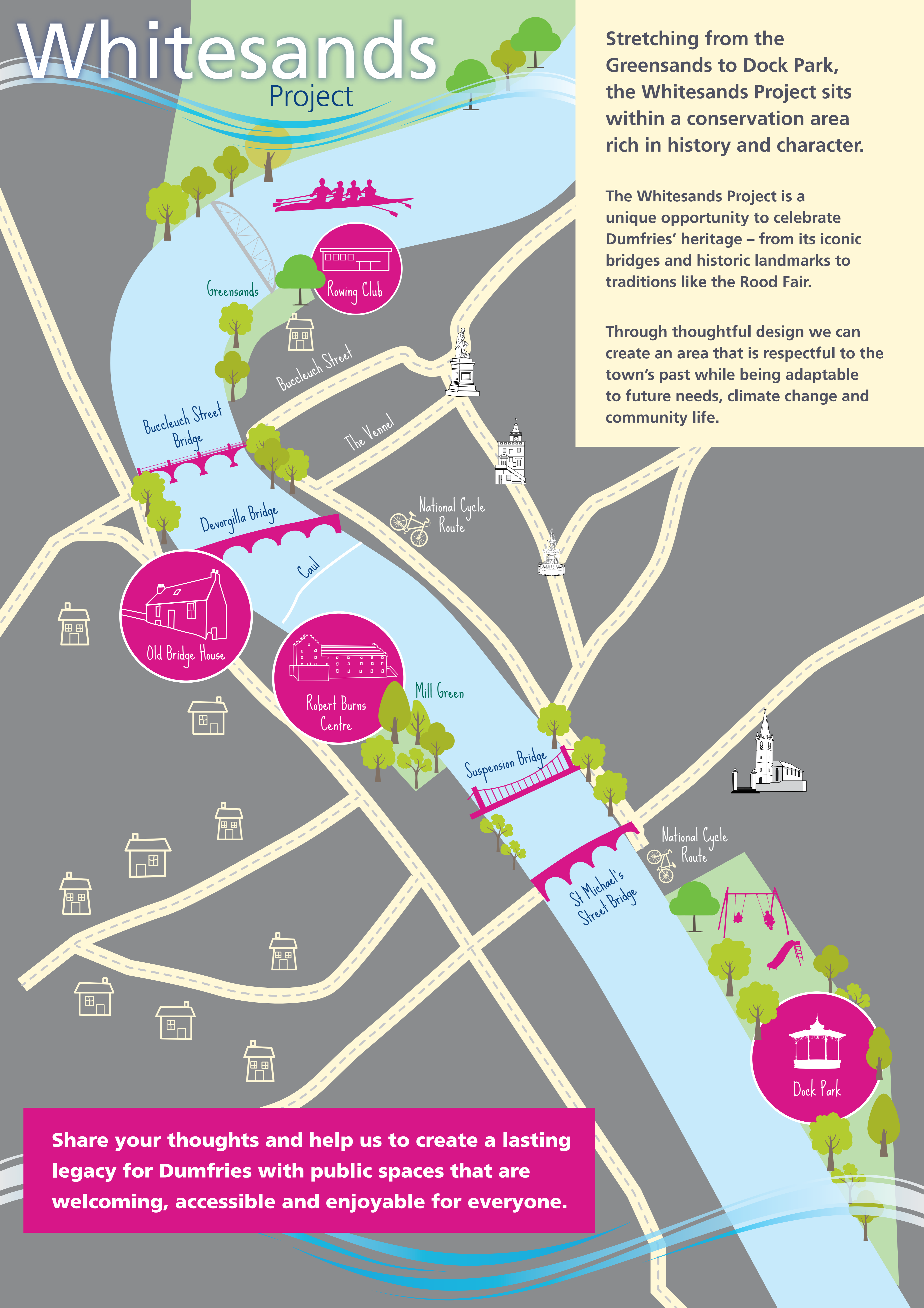
We strive to create a healthier, more vibrant riverside for people and wildlife.

Whitesands Project

Stretching from the Greensands to Dock Park, the Whitesands Project sits within a conservation area rich in history and character.

The Whitesands Project is a unique opportunity to celebrate Dumfries' heritage – from its iconic bridges and historic landmarks to traditions like the Rood Fair.

Through thoughtful design we can create an area that is respectful to the town's past while being adaptable to future needs, climate change and community life.



Share your thoughts and help us to create a lasting legacy for Dumfries with public spaces that are welcoming, accessible and enjoyable for everyone.