

2.4.3 Open Space

The open space framework highlights the network of parks, squares and public spaces in Hackney Central and surrounds. There are two major green spaces in the area: London Fields and St John’s Churchyard Gardens. Both are mature and established parks, albeit with very different use patterns and character. Both of these parks are abutted by busy high streets and popular centres of activity. St John’s Churchyard Gardens acts as a relief space for Hackney Central Town Centre, offering respite from the hustle and bustle of Mare Street and the Narrow Way. Similarly, London Fields offers breathing space from nearby Broadway Market and Mare Street. Both of these spaces have an intricate relationship with the surrounding centres of activity. At a more local scale, there are numerous pocket parks and gardens dotted throughout the area, including at the Trelawney Estate. They fulfil the purpose of providing focal points for local neighbourhood life, allowing occasional gatherings and encounters.

Masterplan Urban Design Objectives:

- 5. To encourage the use of public spaces, squares and green spaces within the Masterplan Area.
- 6. To ensure that any development contributes to the enhancement of safe and attractive public realm and open spaces.

Masterplan Urban Design Principles:

All new development should seek to provide a positive contribution to the open space framework (as illustrated in Figure 5) by:

- g. Providing clear and legible routes, to the areas main green spaces that are framed by active building frontages and are well lit at night to ensure people can move safely through the area.
- h. Frame the parks and squares with buildings that present openings and an appropriate amount of public facilities to enliven and encourage the use of the open spaces.
- i. Create places to dwell within the urban fabric in the form of pocket parks, greens, gardens or courtyards that are appropriately sized, to be used by residents or members of the local business community.

- Major parks and green spaces
- Opportunity sites
- Linking spaces between centres of activity and green spaces

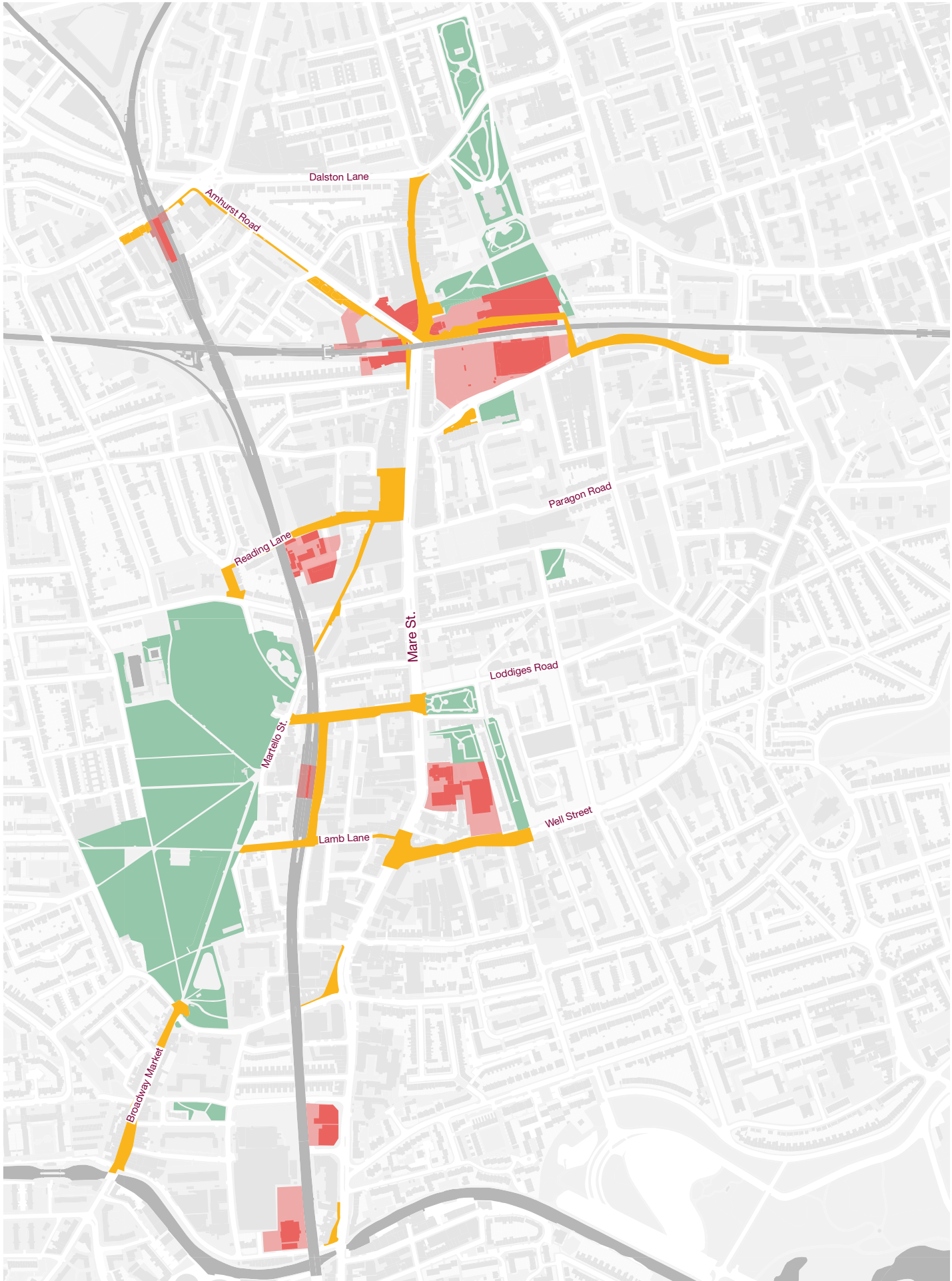


Figure 5. Open Space

2.5 Public Realm Strategy

The Masterplan Public Realm Strategy identifies opportunities for public realm improvements throughout the Masterplan Area, at a high level. The Masterplan Public Realm Strategy takes the guidance from the AAP and translates it into a list of actionable projects on the ground.

The Masterplan Public Realm Strategy is demonstrated in the following pages and sets out high level public realm improvements, characterised by what types of public realm are needed and where they are needed, these are listed below and demonstrated visually in the following pages.

- **Places to host:** Develop and enhance key public spaces that form leisure destinations within the area and have the potential to accommodate local events, as set out in Figure 6.
- **Places to move through:** Reinforce clear street hierarchy by developing a streetscape that differentiates between primary, secondary and tertiary streets, making wayfinding more intuitive, as set out in Figure 7.
- **Places of transition:** Anchor the Town Centre to its immediate surroundings by creating key routes that positively link high street and commercial areas with residential neighbourhoods, as set out in Figure 8.
- **Places to cross:** Connect across Mare Street and railway lines to improve permeability in the area by implementing raised tables for pedestrian crossings and through arches with lighting and potential for public art, as set out in Figure 9.
- **Places to breathe:** Link activity centres with nearby public spaces that act as relief spaces by enhancing green pedestrian routes leading to the nearest green space, as set out in Figure 10.
- **Places to dwell:** Create focal points for local neighbourhood life by carving out public or communal spaces within developments that benefit from direct sunlight, views and active frontage, as set out in Figure 11.

At the end of Part C of this document, two ‘Public Realm Case Studies’ are detailed which are representative spaces that have been developed in further detail, setting out the methodology and design approach to achieve meaningful and engaging public spaces. In addition, this section also sets out a number of additional opportunities for public realm improvement.

2.5 Public Realm Strategy Continued

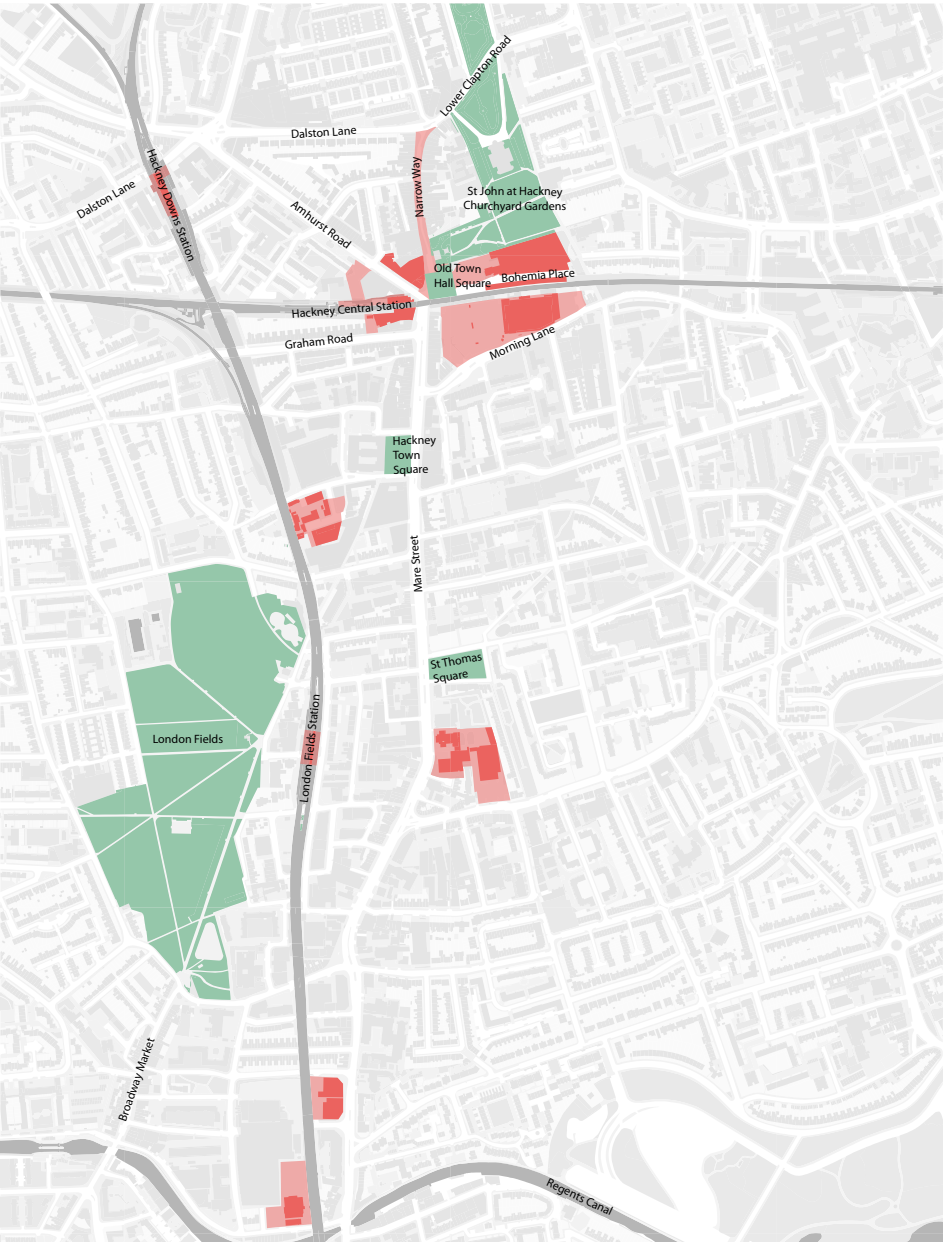


Figure 6. Places to Host

St John's Churchyard \ Old Town Hall Square \ Hackney Town Square \ St Thomas Square \ London Fields

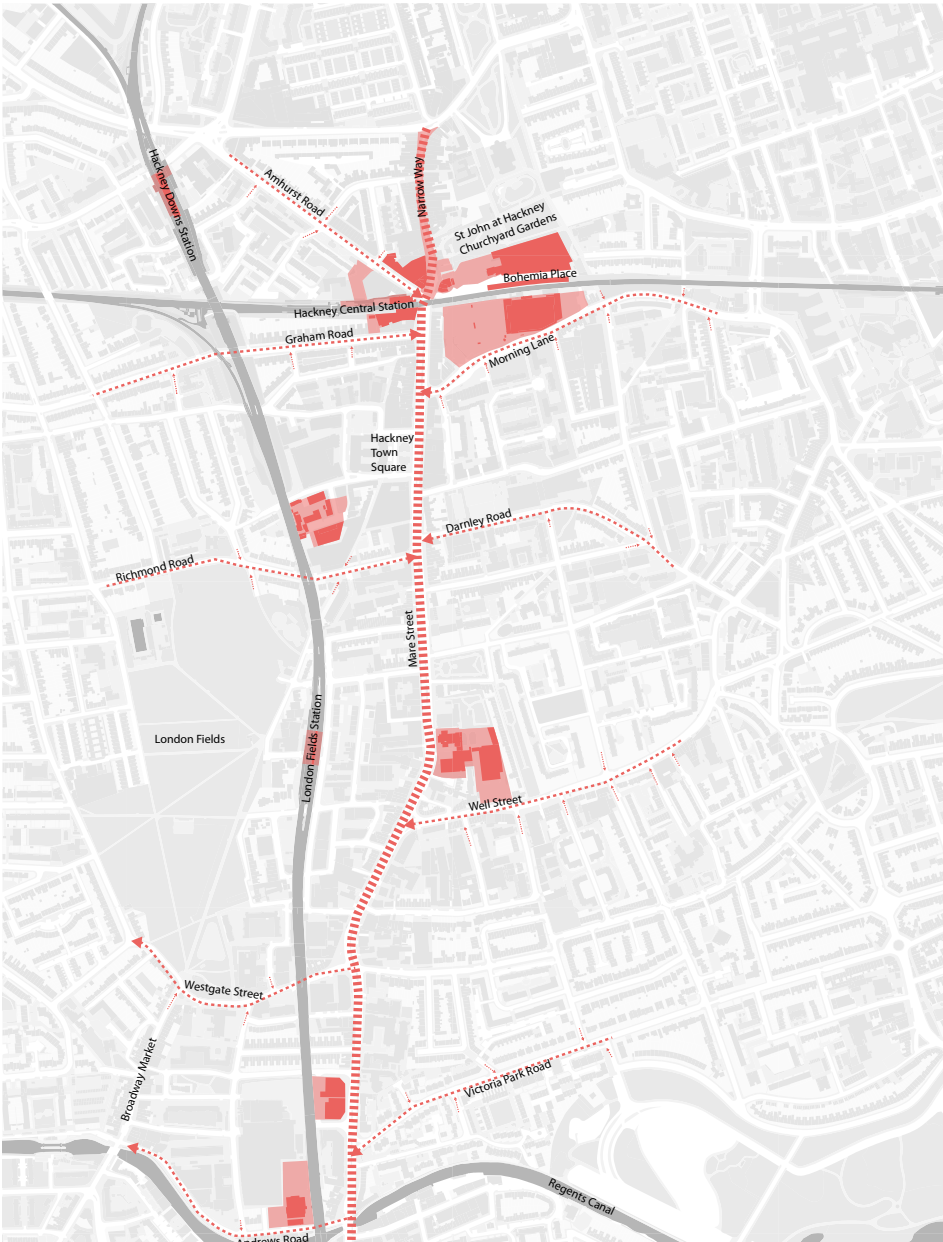


Figure 7. Places to Move Through

Mare Street \ Amhurst Road \ Morning Lane \ Graham Road \ Richmond Road \ Darnley Road \ Well Street \ Westgate Street \ Victoria Park Road \ Andrews Road

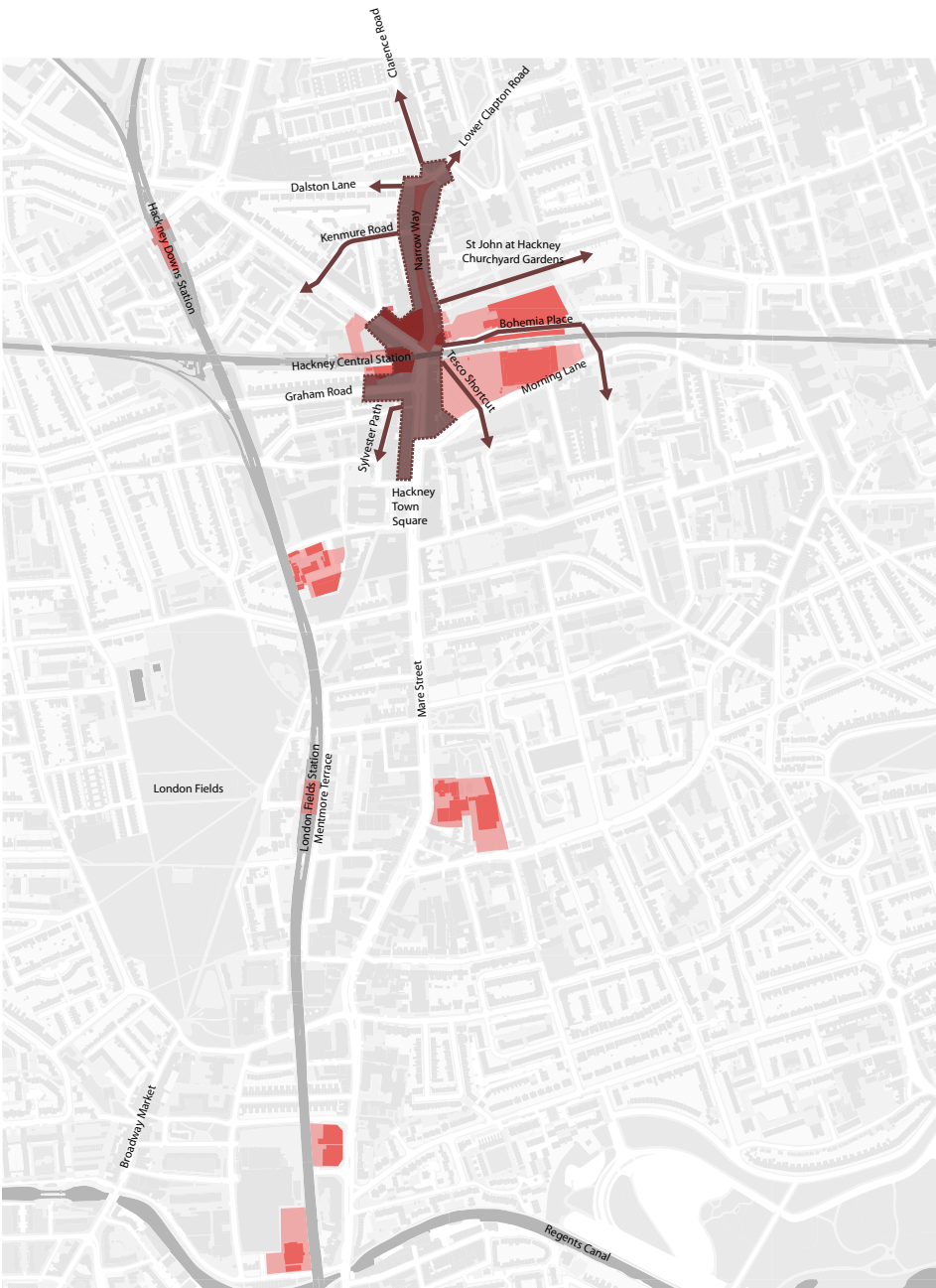


Figure 8. Places of Transition

Clarence Road \ Dalston Lane \ Lower Clapton Road \ Kenmore Road \ St John's Churchyard \ Bohemia Place \ Tesco Shortcut \ Sylvester Path