



Alexander Stadium Redevelopment

Athletes' Route - pre-application engagement
November 2020

Background

Birmingham City Council has assembled a consortium of specialists to develop and deliver the Alexander Stadium Redevelopment project. The team includes:

- Mace – as the project management consultants;
- Arup – as the design, planning and stakeholder engagement consultants;
- Arcadis – as the cost management consultants; and
- McLaughlin and Harvey – as the principal contractor and social value co-ordinator.

Last year we submitted a hybrid planning application for the redevelopment of the Alexander Stadium, which was approved in January 2020. Details of the approved application can be found on the Birmingham City Council 'Planning Online' portal using the reference 2019/07968/PA.

Construction work on the Alexander Stadium Redevelopment started in May 2020 and is now well underway. Alongside this, we have been developing proposals for the Athletes' Route component of the project (southern section only).

The Athletes' Route

The Athletes' Route is an access route associated with the Alexander Stadium Redevelopment which will;

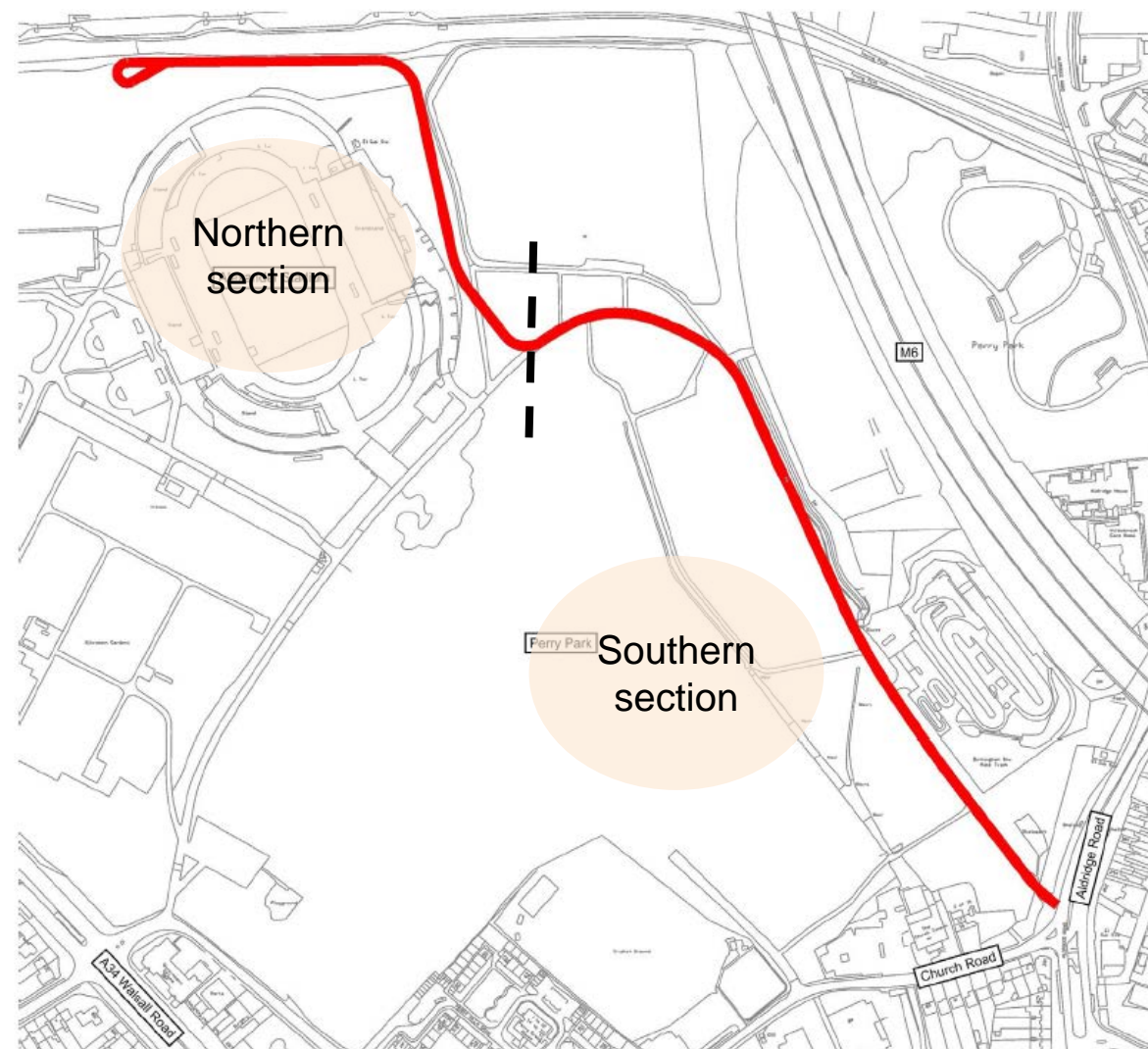
- facilitate the drop-off and departure of competing athletes during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games (via accredited vehicles and buses);
- facilitate construction of the additional temporary features required to deliver the Games (known as 'Games overlay' works) and accommodate associated construction traffic; and
- provide a second means of access to the transport mall required as part of the temporary Games overlay works.

Original proposed alignment

The planning application for the Alexander Stadium Redevelopment included a proposed alignment for the Athletes' Route, but noted that the form and alignment was unconfirmed at that stage.

The proposed alignment (in red on the adjacent plan) followed an existing tarmac surfaced route from the A453 Aldridge Road (*southern section*), and continued to the rear of the East Stand and up to the proposed warm up track (*northern section*).

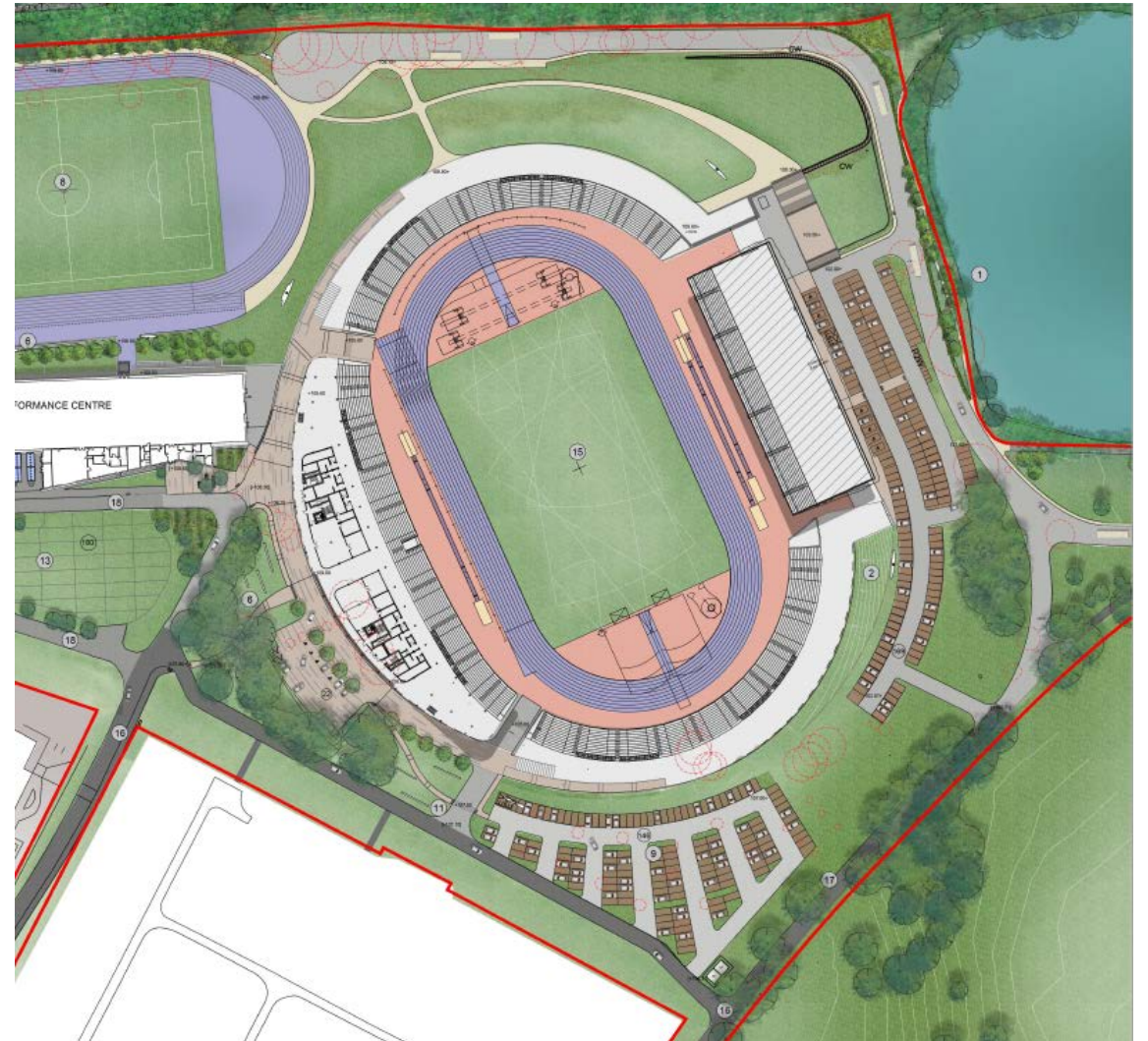
The Athletes' Route element of the design was submitted in 'outline' because at this stage the requirements for the route were still being considered and more time was required to carry out the necessary surveys and design work to inform a preferred design.



Original proposed alignment

The alignment of the northern section of Athletes' Route will not be affected, and will remain as per that presented in the landscape drawings within the original planning application (drawing numbers 264876-ARP-ZZ-XX-DR-L-0001 and 264876-ARP-ZZ-XX-DR-L-0022). The northern section of Athletes' Route is currently under construction, with the base course level (lower level) expected to be completed in December 2020.

As such, the focus of this engagement is the southern section of Athletes' Route, which will be the subject of the reserved matters planning application to be submitted in January 2021.

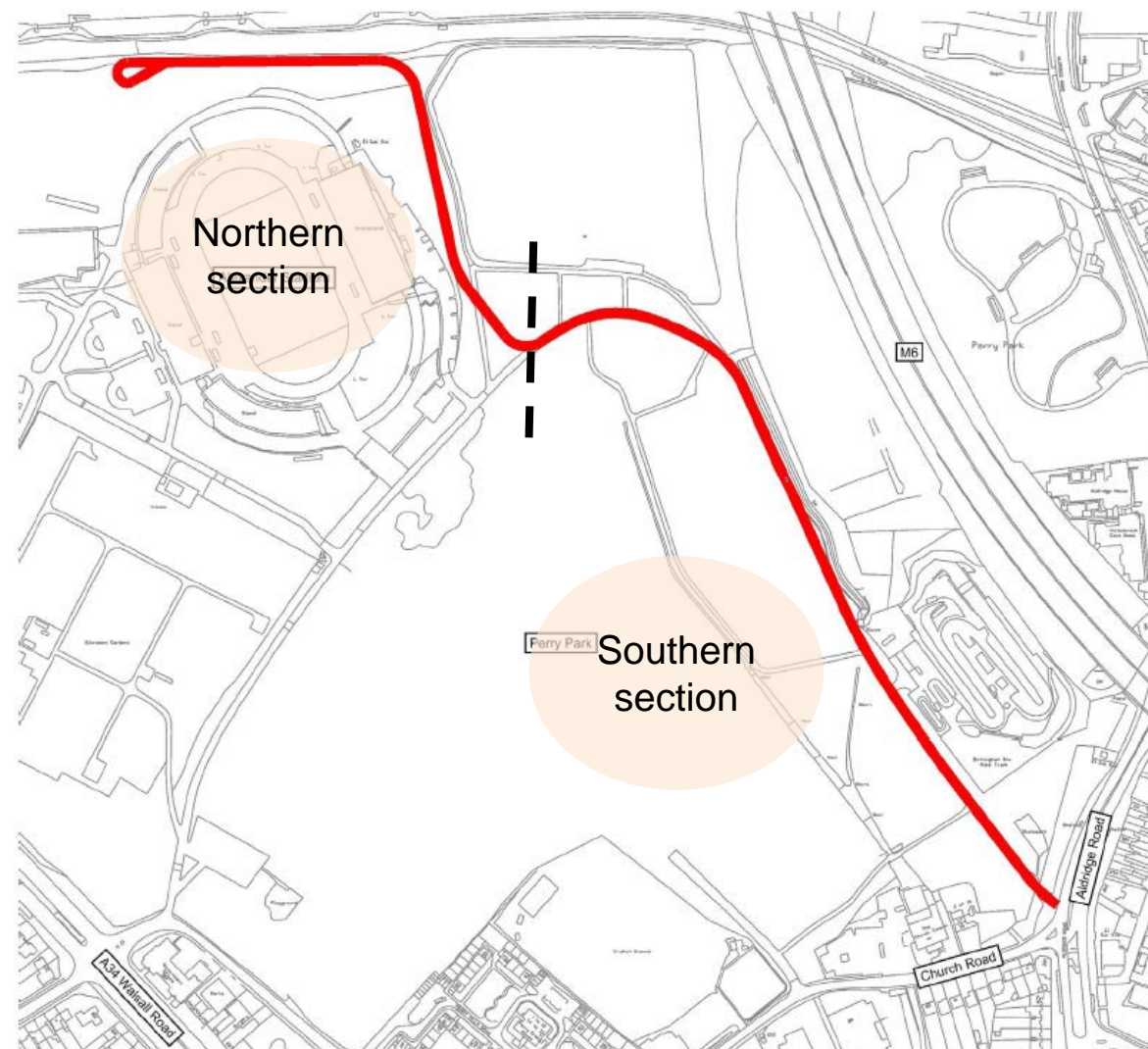


Original proposed alignment

On more detailed investigation of the original proposed alignment for the southern section of the Athletes' Route, several issues were discovered related to the existing trees and their proximity to the vehicles likely to use the route. This scenario would negatively impact several trees and therefore make use of the existing route unsuitable.

An option selection process has subsequently been undertaken to develop a preferred alignment for the southern section of Athletes' Route.

We would now like to share the preferred alignment for the southern section of Athletes' Route with stakeholders and the local community, and seek your feedback, in advance of submission of an associated reserved matters planning application in January 2021.

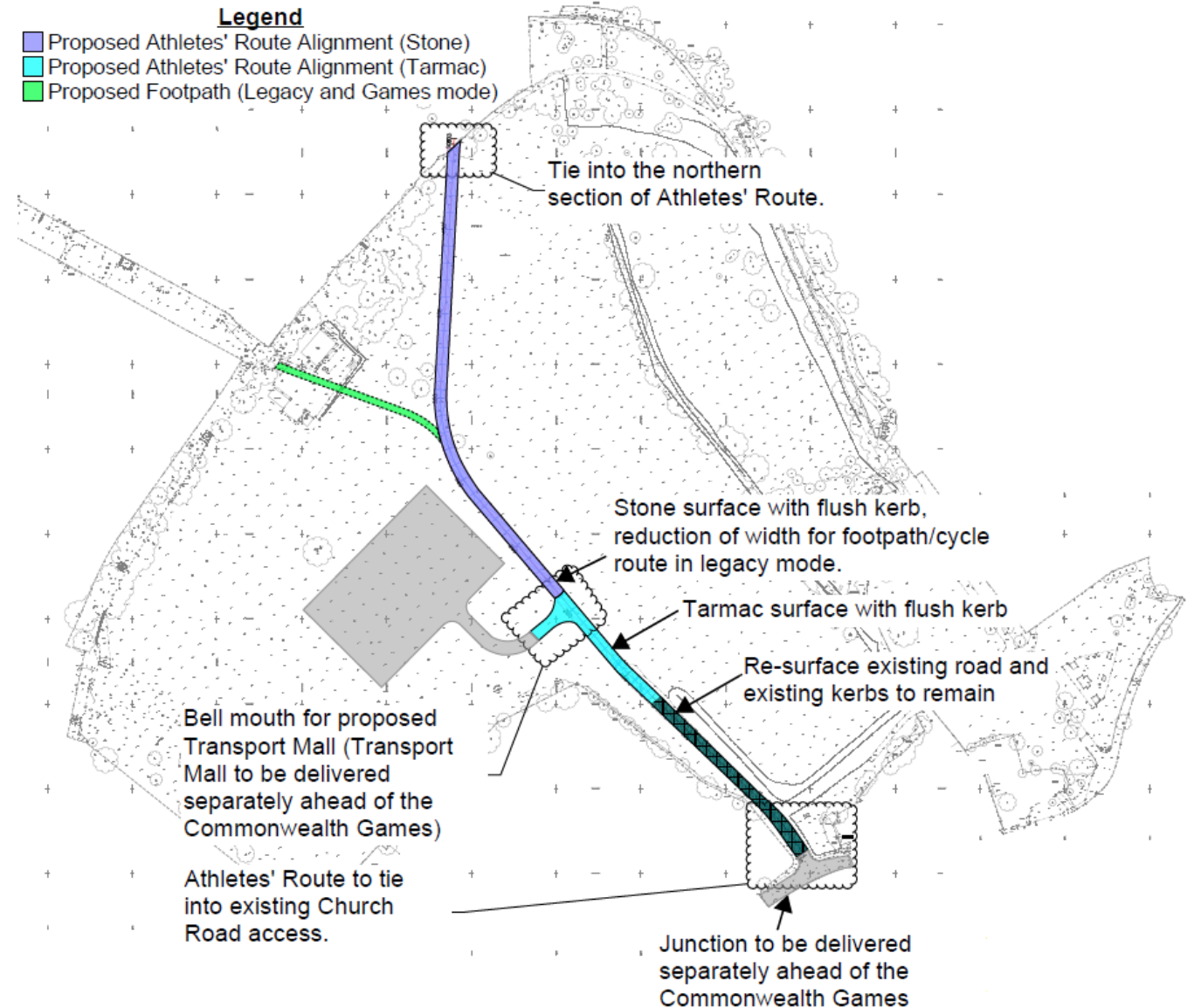


Design development

The preferred alignment for the southern section of Athletes' Route will utilise an existing access from Church Road (adjacent to Aston Manor Cricket Club) and pass through Perry Park to join the northern section of Athletes' Route.

It includes a footpath (in green on the plan adjacent) which ties in with the existing Stadium access road to provide an alternate pedestrian access to the Stadium.

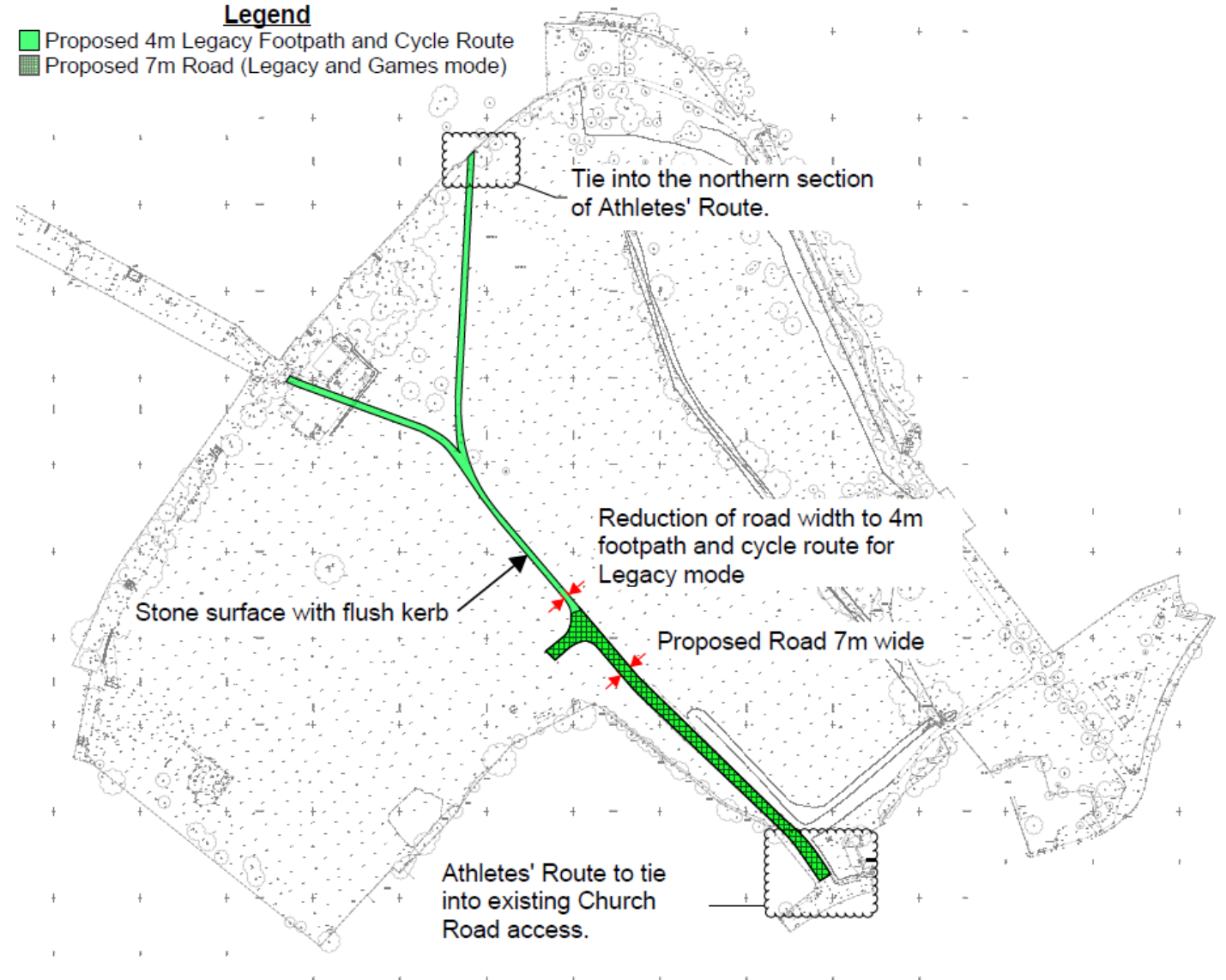
It accommodates a 'bell mouth' junction for the proposed transport mall which will form part of the Games overlay works. The transport mall and the junction with Church Road will be delivered separately ahead of the Games, and will not be included within the scope of this reserved matters planning application.



Legacy

In legacy mode, the southern section of Athletes' Route (north of the junction with the transport mall) will be converted into a pedestrian and cycle route, which will involve a reduction in the width of the route and changes to the materials.

The northern section of Athletes' Route will be retained as a restricted access route for similar event use, and for emergency and maintenance access.



Design elements

The preferred alignment for the southern section of Athletes' Route presents a number of benefits:

- offers a shorter route;
- optimises use of the existing access point on Church Road;
- minimises impacts to trees;
- avoids the Perry Park flood zone; and
- follows the existing site contours as far as practicable to minimise required earthworks and level changes.

It will also create an accessible pedestrian and cycle route from Church Road through Perry Park to the Stadium, which will tie into Birmingham City Council's broader proposals for the future enhancement of Perry Park.

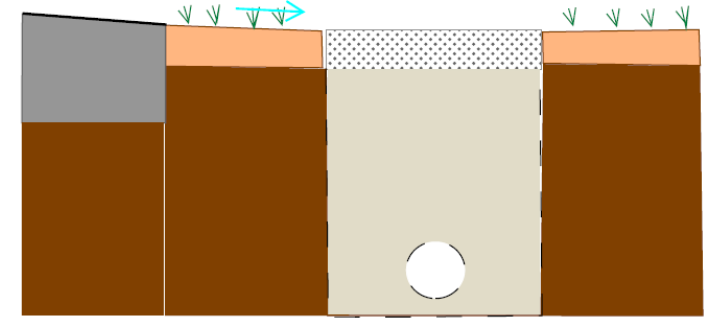
A key consideration in the option selection process was the need to minimise impacts to existing trees. The preferred alignment will result in the loss of one small, immature tree, but replacement trees will be planted to mitigate for this loss. This is a much improved scenario when compared to the original proposed alignment which would result in impacts to several trees.

Design elements

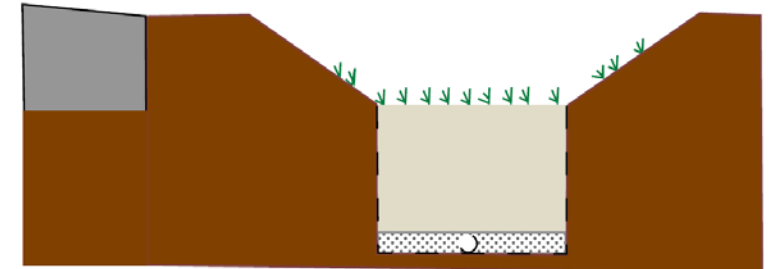
The design of the southern section of Athletes' Route is sympathetic to the parkland setting:

- it adopts a 'flush' surface (i.e. no standard road kerbs); and
- It comprises a stone surface rather than tarmac.
(*north of the junction with the transport mall*).

We are also liaising with the Lead Local Flood Authority to determine a suitable sustainable drainage solution.



Filter Drain



Swale

Next steps

Your views are important to us, and we encourage you to share any comments on the proposal for the southern section of Athletes' Route by contacting Jade.Tilley@arup.com by **5pm on Friday 27 November 2020**.

Feedback will be considered as we continue to develop the design ahead of submission of the reserved matters planning application in January 2021.

Whilst this isn't a formal consultation process, you will also have an opportunity to comment formally on the planning application once it is submitted.



Further information

You can find more information about the Athletes' Route proposals and the redevelopment of the Alexander Stadium at:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50253/perry_barr_regeneration/2222/alexander_stadium_development

To receive regular updates from Birmingham City Council in relation to the Alexander Stadium Redevelopment and other projects in Perry Barr, you can sign up to the Get Set newsletter at:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20179/news_and_media/201/sign_up_for_regular_email_updates_from_birmingham_city_council

Feedback and Questions