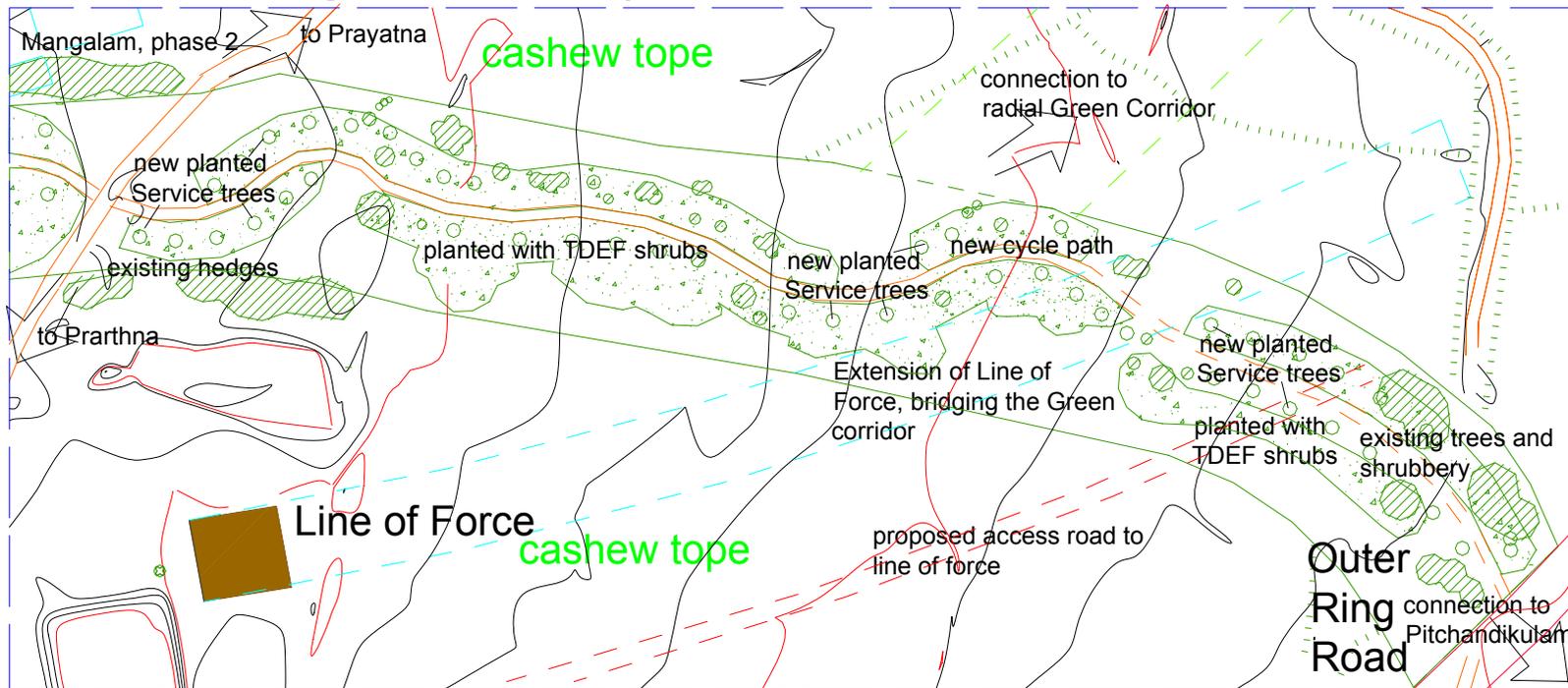


**Auroville Centre for Urban Research
Studies and Reports
GREEN CORRIDOR by Helge Jung**

Green Corridor Town Hall to Outer Ring Road
Checklist for situation assessment and planning conditions

Section I: Outer Ring Road to Creativity entrance



Identification of site, Extensions / limits of the site:

The whole section, apart from the southern border, is fenced. On the northern border the fence is shifted to 5 meters north of the original trace

Adjacent areas:

Cashew topes to the north, cashew topes and Line of Force community area to the south.

Existing land use: already planted and maintained

Contour levels:

Slope direction goes from west to east, there are more than 2m of slope from Prayatna mud road down to outer Ring Road; the ground is quite uneven.

Three bunds (old plantation borders) cross the width of the Green Corridor in this section.

Vegetation:

Apart from some indigenous trees of different ages (mainly *Morinda* and *Neem*) and remaining Cashew trees spread over the area, the section is almost fully planted with young Service-trees as Nurse-trees along the cycle path under which the shade requiring seedlings of TDEF-Species can develop. There are different types of grass covering with lower thorny Shrubbery and lots of weedy annuals. Forming the remains of former field borders, there are hedges and shrubberies with *Neem* trees and shrubs on the bunds crossing the GC and on the border to Line of Force.

Planning conditions / objectives:

In this part of the GC, planting should be rather dense. The already planted clusters of TDEF-shrubs, together existing shrubbery will grow densely together after some years. By that time, the service trees (*Pelthaforum*), planted along the cycle path, can be taken out for they will only act as nursing and shade providing trees. At the margins, there are still some old cashew trees which can be removed, the same can be done with wild seedlings of *Zyziphus* and other thorny shrubs, *Neem*, *Murinda*, *Birdelia* and whatever seedlings will inhibit the growth of the planted clusters. It will also help step by step to create an even grass cover, where now the ground coverage is coarse and uneven.

A clear cut will be made to the shrubbery in the area, where the GC will be bridged by the Line of Force, once it is being built.

Settlements / Accesses / Traffic:

Line of Force community lies south of Green Corridor and can be accessed through fenced GC entrance opposite Creativity.

Cycle path is ready from opposite Creativity entrance up till halfway to Outer Ring Road.

Mud road Prayatna to Prarthna crosses the GC at Creativity entrance.

Mud road from Arati to Samasti crosses at the eastern end of Green Corridor, at the trace of the Outer Ring Road is going to be built.

Planning conditions / objectives:

The Line of Force building will be extended towards northeast, bridging the width of the GC about 50m west of Outer Ring Road. There will be one proposed access road to Line of Force, following along the southern side of the building in about 20 m distance.

The radial Green Corridor towards Arati and Madhuca in Sector I will branch off northwest of Line of Force building, one cycle path connection should be provided there.

The started cycle path should be continued through the whole length till the end at Outer ring road, from there onwards it should lead out into the Green Belt, where once the extension of the GC to Pitchandikulam will be created.

Scenery:

The old hedges along the plantation borders form a half closed up framework around the entrance from Prayatna mud road. There's a gap to the south, where a view towards the beginning of line of force is provided. Two twin-like grown Neem trees in the open space form a picturesque feature that should be retained.

Planning conditions / objectives:

At the end of the Green corridor at Outer Ring road, views into the Green Belt should be kept open, as should be the entrance to the western end of Line of Force.

The severity and majesty of Line of Force building should be softened by properly accompanying trees with smooth canopy.

Section II: Creativity entrance to Sailam entrance



Identification of site, extensions / limits:

The Green Corridor border was shifted to the south near Creativity to keep 10 m distance to buildings. The southern border goes through adjacent Cashew tope, where the land still has to be bought, behind Creativity the Green Corridor passes through Vikas Community area.

Adjacent areas:

Cashew tope, Vikas community green area to the south,
Creativity Community area, Vikas community buildings & Green area to the north.

Existing land use:

From Prayatna mud road to Vikas community fence the part of the Green Corridor which is on Auroville land is already fenced & planted, southern margins up to Vikas fence are still Cashew tope, after that it crosses Vikas Community green area, in there one private compound with planted fence is encroached. West of Vikas, there is Cashew tope and open grassland with trees before Sailam entrance.

Contour levels:

The area is sloping for a little bit more than 1m eastwards from Sailam entrance to Prayatna Mud road.

Vegetation:

There are hedges with Neem trees along the old tracks at Creativity entrance. The part south of Creativity is almost fully planted with young Service-trees as Nurse-trees along the cycle path under which the shade

requiring seedlings of TDEF-Species can develop. There are Different types of grass cover and Cashew trees on the southern margins. At Vikas community area there is ornamental and extensive lawn with solitary trees, clusters of trees, shrubs and flowerbeds around the buildings. All around Vikas community area there is a planted fence. Near Sailaam entrance there is dry grassland with trees and the edge of a Cashew tope.

Planning conditions / objectives:

The service trees, which are planted as avenue trees along the cycle path, will be taken out after a few years, once the TDEF-shrubs are strong enough and can get along without their shade. But there should be a screening plantation around the southern side of Creativity phase I, the planted fence around Vikas community green area should be removed where crossing the width of the GC.

Cashew trees on the southern patch of land are to be removed, once this land is bought.

Settlements:

Two residential Pavilions and one toilet hut of Vikas Community are on GC area.

Other buildings of Vikas are lying north of the GC as is Creativity phase I, which is under construction.

Planning conditions / objectives:

If the two pavilions lying on GC area will furthermore be used as residential homes, they have to be screened properly. Otherwise, other public uses have to be found, like the toilet hut could be used as a public facility within the GC. Next to the building of Creativity phase I on the eastern side, there will be phase II, which should be accessible from the GC.

Traffic & accesses:

The cycle path is ready from Prayatna Mud road to Vikas community fence. On Vikas area, there are small pedestrian paths; one path is leading to Vikas main Building from the entrance at the western community fence.

Planning conditions / objectives:

The cycle path, now stopping at Vikas fence is to be continued through Vikas green area up to Sailam access path, regarding due distance to residential homes. At the southern border, there will be a branching of the circular GC to Samasti from opposite Creativity, where a cycle path connection should be provided.

There should be also accesses to Vikas Community buildings from the main cycle path.

Accesses to Creativity should be provided west of phase I and in front of phase II.

Scenery:

The old hedges of Neem trees along the old tracks at Creativity entrance screen quite a part of the buildings. One small gap in there is left for the Cycle path with narrow view, otherwise it bars the width of the GC. The buildings of Creativity phase I are not yet fully screened by greenery.

On Vikas community green area, there are some clusters of big older trees with nice canopy, some other screen the buildings north of the GC. Towards the border to Sailam, the community green area opens up, with younger ornamental trees solitarily planted, the same can be seen outside the fence. The planted community fence forms a visual barrier across the width of GC.

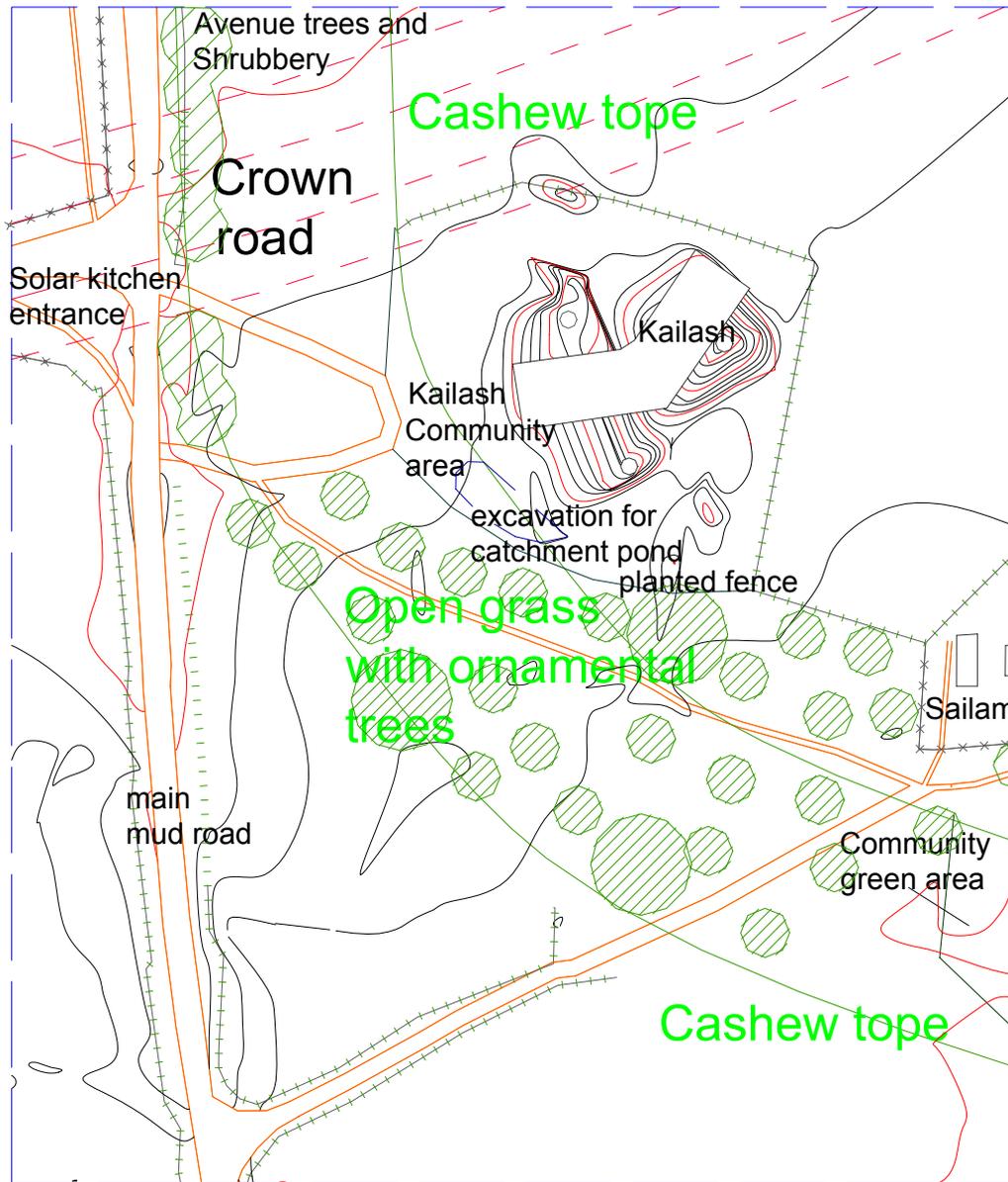
Planning conditions / objectives:

Beautiful canopies and sheltering trees at Vikas and Creativity should be preserved in their imagery.

The hedge of Neem trees crossing the GC south of Creativity should be removed from Creativity to the cycle path to create an opening view through the GC. Therefore, those parts of Vikas fence, which bar the width of the GC should be removed and those on the southern border should be clad or replaced by more ornamental shrubbery.

Section III:

Sailam entrance to Crown Road



Identification of Site, extensions / limits:

The Green Corridor is located southwest of Sailam and Kailash. From Sailam entrance it crosses the cycle path to Solar Kitchen, encroaching the fenced community area around Kailash.

The western GC border meets the mud road to Matrimandir / Bharat Nivas in Front of Solar kitchen entrance and goes along the edge of the mud road, shifted from the original trace, for the mud road will remain a main traffic axis for quite a time and therefore not be included into GC.

Adjacent areas:

There are Sailam and Kailash Community areas and Cashew tope to the northeast and open Grassland with trees and shrubbery and the mud road to the west.

Existing land use:

At Sailam and Kailash entrance area there is open green, taken care of by the community. Along the mud road there are old Cashew topes, the land being owned by Auroville.

Vegetation:

In front of Kailash and Sailam there is Open Grassland with planted indigenous and ornamental solitary trees and different types of grass covering. North of Kailash there are old Cashew trees and work trees, along the mud road there are Neem trees as avenue trees and some shrubbery. At Kailash community border there's a planted fence around the catchment pond-excavations.

Contour levels:

There is about 1m of slope to southeast from Crown road to Sailam cycle path. Excavations for catchment ponds at the edge of the Green Corridor on Kailash community area could be utilized.

There are earthen bunds in rectangular layout on the open grassland in front of Sailam, slowing down the rainwater flow.

Settlements:

Sailam and Kailash Community area are lying north east of the Green Corridor. Kailash community area will be slightly encroached by the modified course of the Green corridor.

Traffic / Accesses:

The cycle paths from mud road to Sailam and Kailash are crossing the GC.

Planning conditions / objectives

There should be a Cycle path through the length of the GC apart from the main mud road. Later on, the bridging of the Crown road by a gently curved cycle and pedestrian bridge as well as a Tunnel underneath the crown road are to be considered.

Scenery:

The medium sized ornamental trees, which are planted in front of Sailam community entrance have not developed full canopy yet. The avenue planting along the mud road acts as a visual barrier, so does the planted fence around Kailash community area.

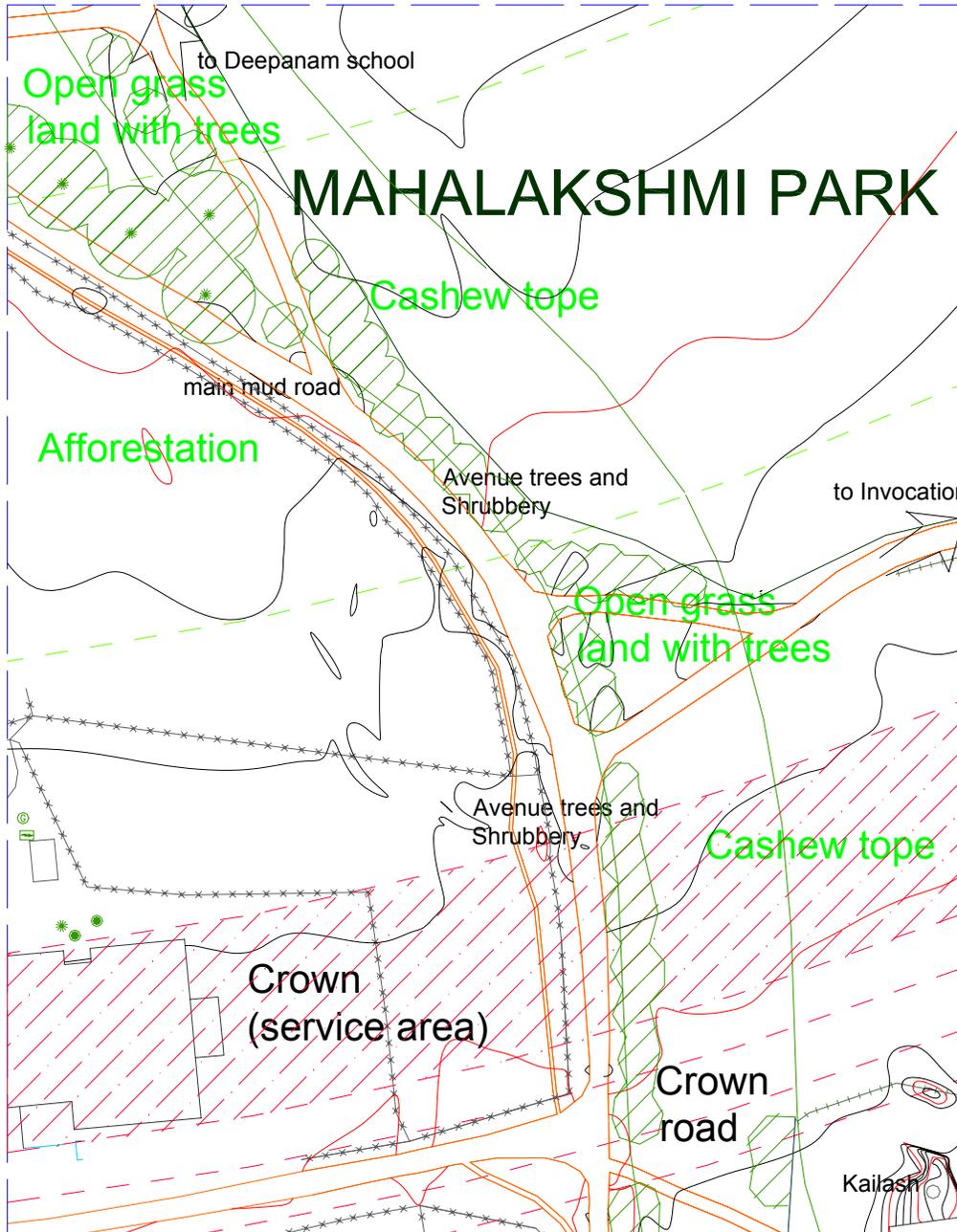
Planning conditions / objectives

The Canopies and ensembles of trees as planted by Vikas and Sailam people should be retained in their present imagery.

Though the planted fence around Vikas should be removed or replaced by shrubbery, the amount of screening in front of the communities should also be subject to the residents' wishes and requirements.

Avenue trees along the mud road should be retained and included them into the GC Design.

Section IV:
Crown road to Mahalakshmi Park



Identification of site, Extensions / limits:

At its western border, the GC follows along the mud road to Matrimandir / Bharat Nivas, to the east there are old Cashew topes. North of the Cutting to invocation, the Mahalakshmi Park crosses the GC up to cutting to Deepanam School.

Adjacent areas:

To the west there's the mud road, behind there is afforestation land, to the east, there are old Cashew topes, owned by Auroville.

Existing land use:

This patch of land used to be Cashew tope, in between the branches of the right cuttings there is vacant land with trees.

Vegetation:

Along the mud road there are big Neem trees as avenue trees, partly with some shrubbery underneath, the Cashew tope behind is almost cleared up apart from some older Cashews and work trees. Yet there are some smaller seedlings of trees and shrubs. In between the branches of the right cuttings there is open extensive grassland of rough grass types with low shrubbery like Zyzyphus. Larger Neem and Ficus trees grow there.

The Cashew tope, which is lying between the right cuttings to Invocation and Miramukhi is fenced by a Palmyra hedge.

Planning conditions / objectives:

Some remaining cashew- and work trees will be removed north of Kailash when the Crown road with adjacent service area will be built there. Small thorny shrubbery on the grass cover should be gradually removed.

Contour levels:

There is about 1 m difference in elevation, the area is sloping down from Mahasaraswati Park to Crown road. The bunds along the mud road are gapped for the rainwater from the surface to run off into vacant land and cashew topes.

Traffic / accesses:

Since the mud road along the western border will be a major traffic axe for some more years, it should not be included into the GC, therefore the course of the GC was shifted away from it. There are two branches at the cutting to Invocation and one branch at the cutting to Deepanam-school, which follows the course of the GC towards the lake border.

North of Kailash and Solar kitchen, the Crown road will be built with adjacent crown area north of it, where the services will be located.

Planning conditions / objectives

After bridging the Crown road, it has to be worked out how the cycle path should pass the crown service area and then continue through GC apart from the mud road. There should also be cycle path connections to Mahalakshmi Park, which crosses at the cutting to Deepanam school.

Scenery:

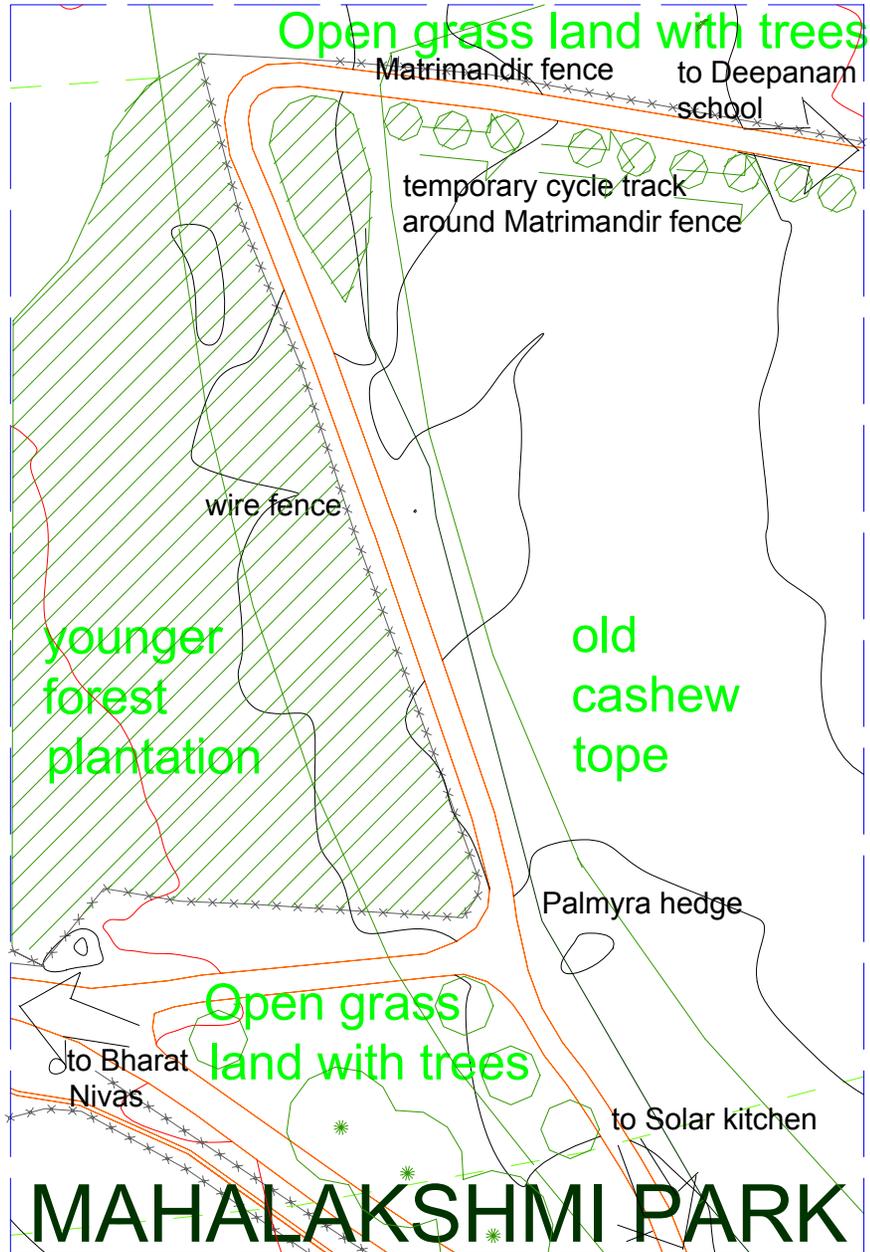
There are magnificent old Ficus trees at the cutting to Deepanam school, which form a wide spreading, but light kind of canopy which, though providing shade, doesn't evoke the atmosphere of a closed up space. That doesn't apply to the Neem trees along the main mud road, which form a visually effective buffer on the western edge of the GC. A barrier, which is narrowing the view to the east are the dense Palmyra fences on the old plantation border.

Planning conditions / objectives

The Palmyra hedge should be removed as it is blocking the view through the length of Mahalakshmi Park, which is crossing there.

There should be a clear Vista from the Solar kitchen to the southern pillar of Matrimandir, in order to clear that space, one of the Ficus trees and some of the smaller Neem trees in between the branches of the cutting to Deepanam school have to be removed.

Section V:
Mahalakshmi Park to Green area surrounding lake



Identification of site, Extensions / limits:

This part stretches along both sides of the Deepanam school mud road from the main mud road to the right turn in front of Matrimandir fence.

Adjacent areas:

To the east there is old Cashew tope, to the west there is young afforestation.

Existing land use / Vegetation:

The mud road goes through the middle of the length of the Green Corridor with margins to the right and left, where lower thorny shrubbery grows. On the west, there is young afforestation, largely consisting of Pongamia; to the east there is old Cashew tope with work trees. The Cashew tope which is lying east of the mud road, is fenced by a Palmyra hedge. Inside the bend to Deepanam school there lies a patch of dense shrubbery.

Planning conditions / objectives:

The forest plantation west of the mud road should be cleared and reduced to some decent clusters or small groves. The Palmyra hedge to the east should be partly removed and the remaining patches should be formed into clusters together with other accompanying shrubs. The margins on both sides of the path should be cleaned from thorny shrubbery.

Contour levels:

The ground in this part is almost level, the slope direction goes very gently from east to west.

Traffic / Accesses:

The Deepanam mud road comes in two branches (southeastern and western branch) from the main mud road and goes right through the middle length of the Green Corridor, after that it turns sharply right to Deepanam. Behind that bend, the Green Corridor joins the Green area around the lake.

Planning conditions / objectives:

The mud road will still be needed as access road to Deepanam-school, yet there should also be a cycle path apart from that.

Scenery:

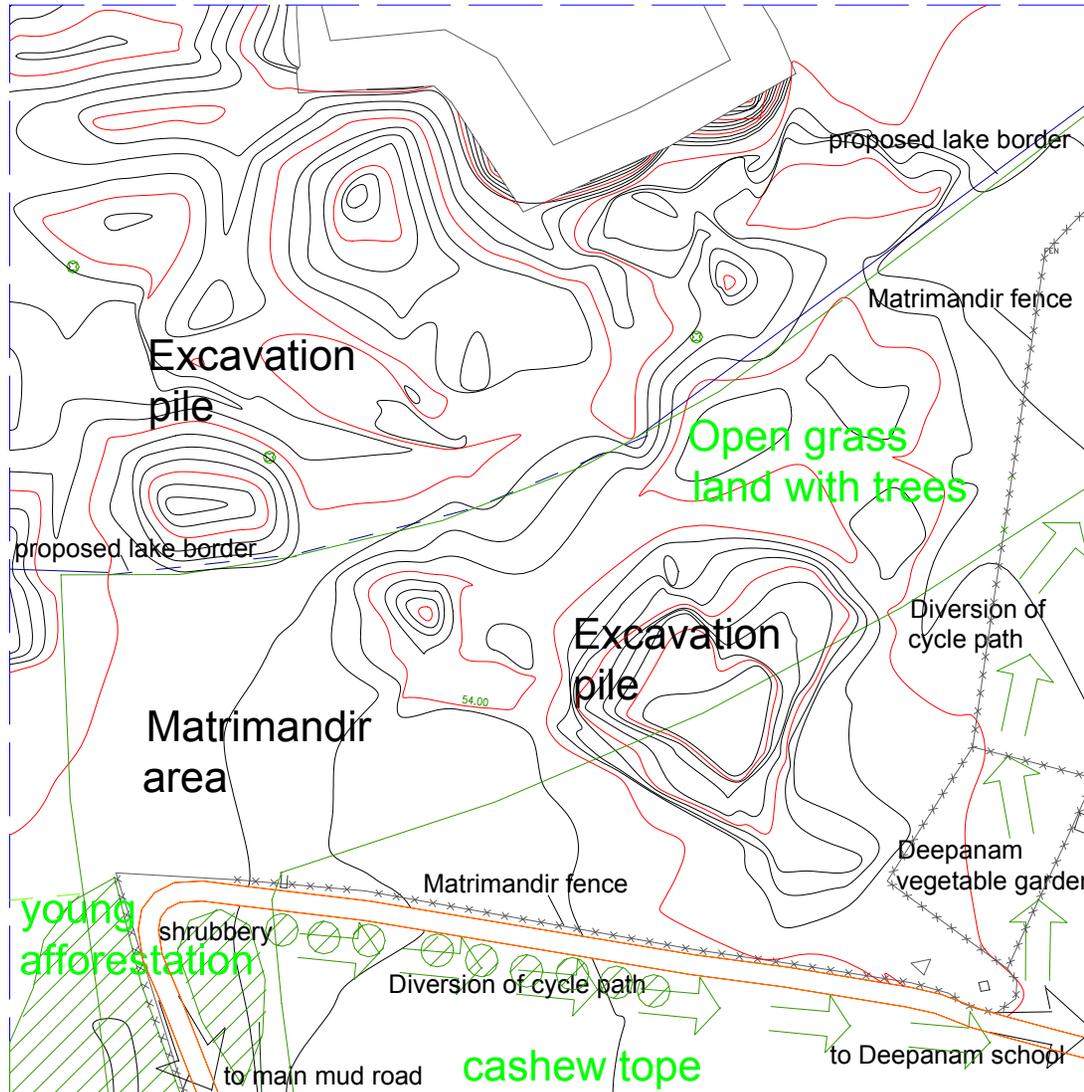
Perspective is actually narrowed by dense afforestation on one hand and Palmyra hedge on the other hand, yet to the south, the view is widening to the cluster of Ficus trees on open grassland.

Planning conditions / objectives:

This is the very part of the Green Corridor, which will provide a south to north Vista to the southern pillar of Matrimandir. Therefore there should be clear open space throughout its very length, which would mean removal of most parts of the Palmyra hedge.

Section VI:

Lake border Green area north of Deepanam-school



Identification of site, Extensions / limits:

The original course of the Green Corridor and the attached green area on the lake border goes from the right turn to Deepanam across the excavation site on Matrimandir area towards northeast.

Since this part crosses the fenced Matrimandir area, there should be a temporary diversion of the cycle path with accompanying greenery around the corner of Matrimandir fence. That means: it follows the mud road to Deepanam gate and then turns north through Deepanam vegetable garden towards the proposed lake border, where it joins the original track.

Existing land use:

The original track goes through vacant land with trees and excavation piles, belonging to Matrimandir area.

Outside the fence on the other side of the mud road, there is old cashew tope with trees, fenced by hedges, on Deepanam school area there is a fenced vegetable garden next to Matrimandir fence and a courtyard with old trees, north of Deepanam school, there is old Cashew tope.

Vegetation:

On Matrimandir area, there is open grassland with indigenous and ornamental trees, among them one outstanding Banyan next to the fence at the right turn of the mud road. There is annual pioneering Vegetation on the excavation piles.

The diverted cycle path area covers old cashew tope, almost cleared, with rough grass cover, low thorny shrubbery and some old work – and cashew trees. Towards the mud road, the land is fenced by a Palmyra hedge. On Deepanam courtyard there are big trees. North of Deepanam, there are old cashew trees with lots of work trees in between.

Planning conditions / objectives:

Many of the well established ornamental trees on Matrimandir area and Deepanam schoolyard can be retained. Along the temporary cycle path, some shading Avenue trees should be planted.

Contour levels:

In this part of the GC, elevation reaches maximum height up to a level of 54 m plus the height of excavation piles of more than 2 m. From here the area slopes down towards north and south.

Settlements / accesses:

Deepanam school area is located southeast of the GC, and it is accessed only by the mud road which after the right turn is leading straight to Deepanam gate.

Planning conditions / objectives:

The temporary cycle path will follow the course of the mud road to Deepanam gate, then turning north it has to cross Deepanam vegetable garden until it joins the original track north of it. The course of the diverted path has to keep as close as possible to Matrimandir fence to minimize the encroachment of Deepanam area. So the Passage through the northern Deepanam fence should be in between storeroom and vegetable garden.

In the long perspective, a cycle path connection from the bend to the lake border has to be provided, where one cycle path once will surround the whole lake

Scenery:

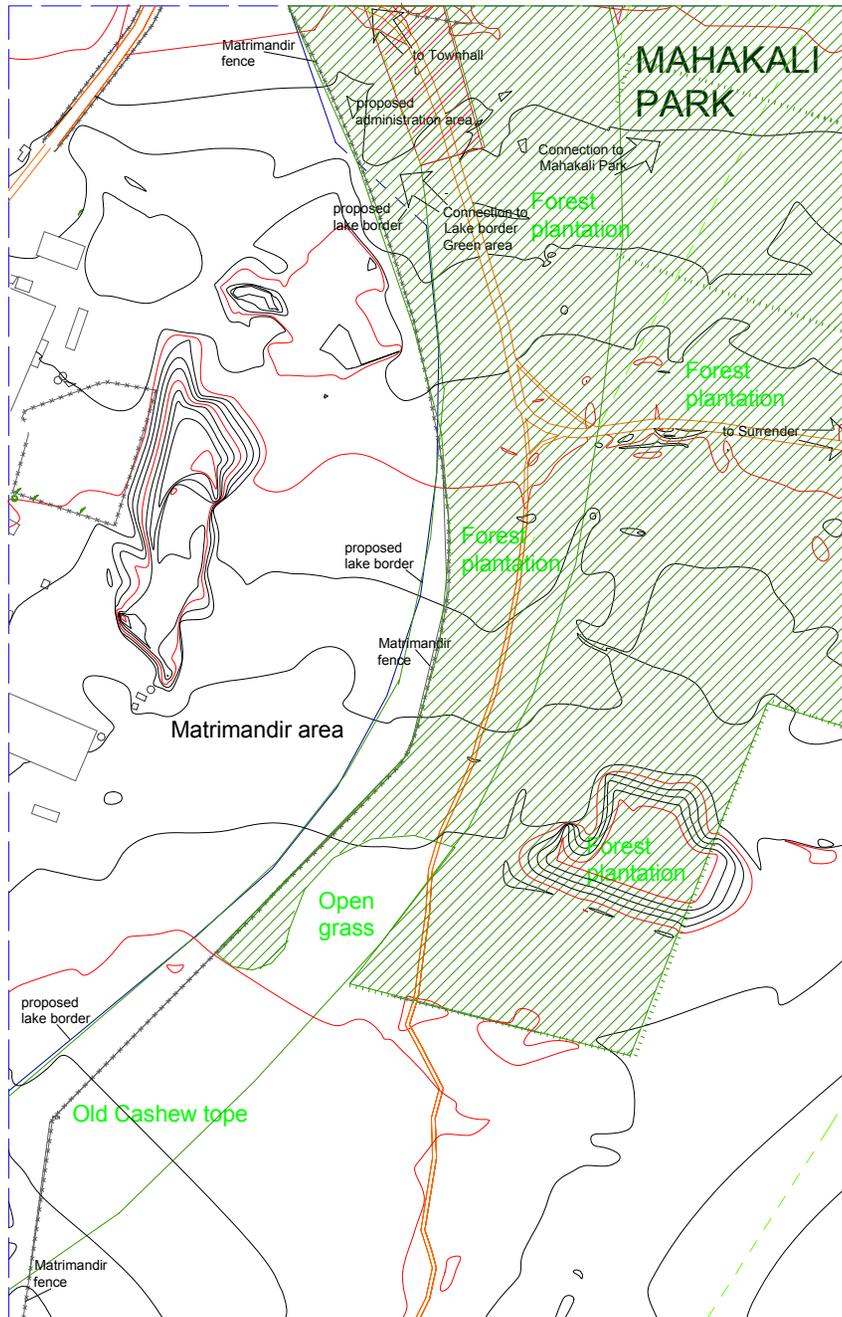
The excavation piles on the Matrimandir area form already a wonderful design feature.

There is an open view to the southern pillar of Matrimandir next to the Banyan tree near the road, where you can clearly see the Matrimandir. There is nice canopy and shelter provided already by the old trees on Deepanam area.

Planning conditions /objectives:

The excavation piles on Matrimandir area can be modeled into whatever shape, once this area is part of the GC. In this section, there will be two Vistas towards Matrimandir axes, one will be the view to southern Matrimandir pillar in straight north-south direction right next to the Banyan at the road bend. One will be the view to the axe between the gardens 'Youth' and 'Harmony' which crosses the GC, where the Matrimandir fence turns northeast.

Section VII: Matrimandir fence to Branching of Mahakali Park



Identification of site, Extensions / limits:

Like in the former section, in this part the whole width of the Green corridor plus the adjacent lake border greenery is considered. This part stretches along the proposed lake border, which up to the eastern turn of the mud road from Matrimandir to Surrender is located west of Matrimandir fence, then crosses the fence and goes straight up north. So a slice of the area is still on Matrimandir area, but should be Included into the concept.

Adjacent areas:

To the west there is the fenced Matrimandir area with vacant land and construction workshops, to the east there is cashew tope and afforestation land.

Existing land use:

Inside Matrimandir fence there is vacant land, north of Deepanam there is old Cashew tope and on the major area there is afforestation land.

Vegetation:

West of Matrimandir fence there is open grassland, north of Deepanam, there are old cashew trees with many tall work trees in between. Where the footpath from Deepanam to the north joins the Green Corridor, there is one patch of open grass, which is surrounded by Forest plantation, consisting mainly of medium to tall size Work and Samanea trees. Between footpath and Matrimandir fence, there are medium size work and Neem trees with a dense layer of seedlings underneath. The woodland east of the footpath is richer in diversity and structure with a denser evergreen shrub layer. North of the mud road, the forest consists of medium to tall size Work- and Neem trees.

Planning conditions / objectives:

The old Cashew – and Work trees north of Deepanam area should be removed. Since the GC should open up towards the city center, large parts of the forest plantation, which mainly consists of work trees that will die after a short life period anyways, will be cleared up. More ornamental and lasting species can be retained in clusters and small groups of trees.

Contour levels:

The area is continuously sloping down from south to north, ranging from 53.5 m near Deepanam to 51 m at the branching of Mahakali Park.

Traffic / Accesses:

The mud road from Matrimandir to Surrender passes the Green Corridor east of the Matrimandir construction Workshop. One footpath from Deepanam is joining at the eastern turn of the mud road.

Planning conditions / objectives:

As of now, the temporary cycle path from Deepanam should join the GC-track where the Matrimandir fence turns northeast. Two cycle paths could be provided through the area, one close to the lake border and one passing more remotely towards cultural zone. The existing footpath could be included into that. A prior task in this area will be the Connection to Mahakali Park, which will be located between the eastern turn of the mud road from town hall and Existence area.

Connections to Administration area and habitat should also be provided as well as a connection to the Lake border green area south of Administration area.

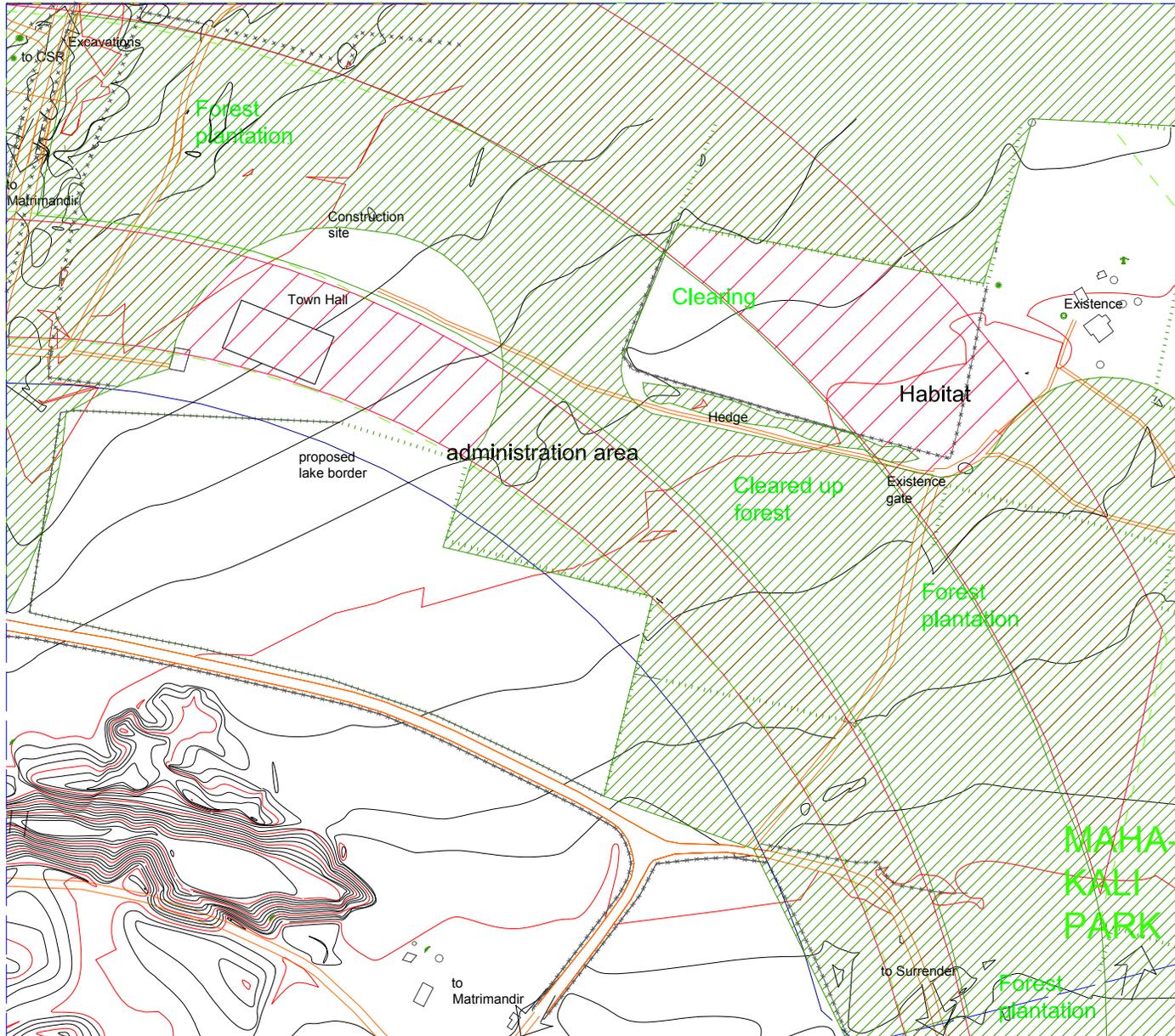
Scenery:

Most of the area, apart from the open grass is closed up. Higher canopy is provided at those parts planted with work trees, where its effect is rather dense and monotonous.

Planning conditions / objectives:

In this part of the GC, openness will be the key factor for the Scenery. Open view should be provided out into Mahakali Park as well as from there down to the lake border. The vista to eastern pillar of Matrimandir, which is crossing the GC south of the confluence with Mahalakshmi Park, should be kept clear, as should be the view towards the Matrimandir axe between the gardens 'Harmony' and 'Perfection'.

Section VIII:
Green area between administration area and habitat



Extensions / limits:

In this part, the Green Corridor widens up from 45 m at the southern end of administration area to 65 m where it meets the mud road to CSR.

Existing land use:

Almost all of the area is afforestation land, a part of it, east of the town hall belongs to existence community. Near the town hall, there is construction site at the moment.

Vegetation:

South of the outer existence gate, there is forest plantation consisting of medium to tall size Neem- and Work trees. East of the mud road to Existence, one patch of land is fenced up with a cacti-hedge, the forest plantation inside there is rich in diversity and structure with many different layers. West of the mud road, a clearing of the forest has taken place, there are several very tall size work trees left with seedlings and shrubs underneath, ranging from 1 to 3m in height, and patches of high grass. A broad hedge of shrubbery goes from inner Existence gate to the west, north of that there is a clearing in the forest, largely covered by high grass, with some remaining single Neem trees and seedlings in between.

The plantation between town hall construction site and mud road to CSR is medium size forest with a strong evergreen shrub layer.

Planning conditions / objectives:

Like in the former section, single trees and clusters of trees can be sculptured out of the woodland, patches of shrubbery out of the hedge west of Existence gate can be retained.

In the clearings, the layer of seedlings has to be removed.

Contour levels:

The area is sloping down from east to west, covering a difference of almost 3m. Near to Transformation mud road, there are already some excavations, which could be used as catchment ponds

Traffic / Accesses:

The mud road from northern Matrimandir gate to Existence crosses the Green Corridor before Existence gate, there is a footpath going from there to the Town hall construction site. The Green corridor ends at the mud road going straight north to CSR.

Planning conditions / objectives:

Since this section will be situated between Administration area and habitat, there should be constant connections with the built up areas on the two sides. For that, a Layout proposal exists already, linking Habitat and Administration area in triangular manner, the main cycle path can adjust to that and at the end will meet the mud road to CSR.

Scenery:

A large part of the area is densely closed up. West of the mud path to Existence there is a clearing in the forest with tall, old trees with long trunk and high branching, leaving the area underneath pretty much open. This clearing is surrounded by denser afforestation, allowing no view outside.

Planning conditions / objectives:

This part of the GC will probably be the one with the most representative Character. So there will be lots of open space with most of the dense forest area being removed.

The vista to northern Matrimandir pillar will cross the GC west of the Town hall. East of that, the views from the axes between the gardens of the northeastern quadrant of Matrimandir, which are 'Bliss', 'Consciousness' and 'Existence', will cross. All these views should be kept open as widely as possible.