

# Belfield

- Where:** Belfield to Rochdale town centre, Rochdale
- Size:** 45 hectares
- Planned investment:** Currently unconfirmed
- Partners:** Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale, Rochdale Borough Council, The Pennine Edge Forest , BTCV, Rochdale Development Agency
- Site context:** Belfield is a number of brownfield sites, which follow the path of the River Roch from Belfield to the town centre of Rochdale. Belfield has had a range of uses in the past including a coalmine, domestic waste tip, bleach works and chemical plant, leaving the site and soil quality poor. In addition, there are also numerous derelict eyesore including four mill lodges, of which only one is currently deemed clean enough for local fishing clubs to use regularly – a legacy from the site’s past as the area’s industrial heart. Belfield runs close to the Belfield and Clover Hall residential estates within Housing Market Renewal area, and is on the proposed line for the extension to Greater Manchester’s tram network. Its proximity to the river means that water regeneration also key to this project
- Future:** Newlands will create a network of community woodland, interlinked by a system of pathways to create new, attractive routes into/from the town centre of Rochdale, revitalise the land use and provide screening of the heavily industrial outlook that the site currently has. This project will contribute towards the economic regeneration of the area through supporting the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder initiative, and improving views from the proposed line for the extension to Greater Manchester’s tram network, the Metrolink<sup>1</sup>. Once mature, Belfield will make a dramatic impact on the appearance and perception of the centre of Rochdale and it links, through other green spaces, with the Kingsway Business Park (a site of regionally strategic importance) to attract new investment. Newlands will ensure that the Belfield proposals are developed in ways which not only support the residential and business communities in the area but also a number of other strategic initiatives within the area – for example the Rochdale Development Agency.

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<sup>1</sup> At present, these proposals have been put on hold