

VCE GEOGRAPHY UNIT 3

Fieldwork Itinerary: Investigating Land Use Change at Woodlea



Woodlea Estate, Aintree VIC



Tuesday 27 May 2025



Research Question: Is the land use change within the Woodlea housing development at Aintree sustainable?



Hypothesis: The impacts of the land use changes at Woodlea meet the promises outlined in the developer's masterplan.





Morning Schedule

Time	Min	Activity	Location	Purpose
8:45 AM – 9:30 AM	45	Bus from BMG	Woodlea Sales Hub	Arrive for fieldwork
9:30 AM – 9:40 AM	10	Arrival & Briefing	Woodlea Sales Hub	Distribute material, research question & hypothesis, roles & safety
9:40 AM – 9:45 AM	5	Walking Time	Walk to Rec. Skate Park	Students begin Infrastructure Audit during walk
9:45 AM – 9:53 AM	8	Task Completion	Rec. Skate Park	Finish audit and complete Park Observation Log
9:53 AM – 10:04 AM	11	Walking Time	Walk to Aintree Reserve Playground	Students continue Infrastructure Audit during walk
10:04 AM – 10:25 AM	21	Task Completion	Aintree Reserve Playground	Students complete Field Sketch Task
10:25 AM – 10:33 AM	8	Walking Time	Walk through Woodlea Display Village to Lagoon Drive Playground	Students continue Infrastructure Audit during walk
10:33 AM – 10:41 AM	8	Task Completion	Lagoon Drive Playground	Complete Park Observation Log
10:41 AM – 10:57 AM	16	Walking Time	Walk to Sales Hub	Students continue Infrastructure Audit during walk
10:50 AM – 11:00 AM	10	Snack Break	Sales Hub	Quick refuel
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	30	Developer Q&A Session	Woodlea Sales Hub	Learn about sustainability and planning strategy



Afternoon Schedule

Time	Mins	Activity	Location	Purpose
11:30 AM – 11:40 AM	10	Walk	Walk to Wireless Reserve Dog Park	Students continue Infrastructure Audit during walk
11:40 AM – 11:55 AM	15	Task Completion	Wireless Reserve Dog Park	Complete Park Observation Log
11:55 AM – 12:05 PM	10	Walk	Walk to Coles Woodlea	Students continue Infrastructure Audit during walk
12:05 PM – 12:35 PM	30	Lunch Break	Town Centre	Eat, rest and regroup
12:35 PM – 12:50 PM	15	Task Completion	Coles Woodlea, Town Centre	Students complete Community Survey Task
12:50 PM – 12:57 PM	7	Walk	Walk to Aintree Primary	Students continue Infrastructure Audit during walk
12:57 PM – 1:12 PM	15	Task Completion	Near Aintree Primary	Students complete Traffic Survey Task
1:12 PM – 1:19 PM	7	Walk	Walk to Frontier Rec Reserve	Students continue Infrastructure Audit during walk
1:19 PM – 1:34 PM	15	Task Completion	Frontier Recreation Reserve	Students complete Observation Log
1:34 PM – 1:47 PM	13	Walk	Walk to Sales Hub	Return to base
1:47 PM – 2:15 PM	28	Final Reflection & Debrief	Woodlea Sales Hub	Students summarise findings, revisit hypothesis
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	15	Pack-up & Boarding	Sales Hub	Final checks, board bus
2:30 PM	–	Bus Departs	Return to Bacchus Marsh Grammar	

On the bus to Woodlea

Purpose

To observe, record and reflect on the journey to Woodlea in order to:

- Identify patterns of land use and land use change
- Understand Woodlea's regional context and interconnections
- Explore how advertising and infrastructure reflect urban development trends
- Begin considering the factors influencing liveability and planning

1. Distance & Route Tracking

- Estimated distance from school to Woodlea: _____ km
- Main roads or freeways used: _____
- Time taken to travel: _____ minutes

As you travel, make notes on the following:

- Are there any physical geographical features visible? (rivers, hills, flat plains)
- How would you describe the surrounding land (e.g. urban, peri-urban, rural)?

2. Observing Land Use Change

Record **at least two** examples of land use change visible from the bus:

<i>Location (if known)</i>	Old Land Use	New Land Use	What does this suggest about growth in the region?

3. Development Advertising & Branding

Look out for signs promoting housing estates or developments.

Record **two** advertisements you notice:

Development Name **Slogan / Imagery Used** **What is being 'sold' to potential residents?**

4. Interconnection Log

As you travel, observe and record signs of **infrastructure that connects people and places**, such as:

- Train stations
- Bus routes
- Footpaths and bike lanes
- Major arterial roads
- Local shops, schools, or recreation centres near new developments

Interconnection Type	Description / Observation

Infrastructure Audit Task

Purpose

- To evaluate the quality and accessibility of urban infrastructure in relation to liveability, sustainability and urban planning goals.

Instructions

You must complete this Infrastructure Audit during **at least 4** walking transitions listed below. Focus on evaluating the following features at each walk:

- Footpaths
- Signage
- Lighting
- Pedestrian Crossings

Use the 1–5 rating scale below and include short comments to support your ratings.

Rating Meaning

1	Very Poor – Unsafe, missing or unusable
2	Poor – Exists but in poor condition
3	Fair – Adequate but basic
4	Good – Works well, supports walkability
5	Excellent – High quality, well-designed

Complete this task during the following walks:

1. Sales Hub to Rec. Skate Park
2. Rec. Skate Park to Aintree Reserve Playground
3. Aintree Reserve to Lagoon Drive Playground
4. Lagoon Drive Playground to Sales Hub
5. Sales Hub to Wireless Reserve Dog Park
6. Wireless Reserve to Coles Woodlea
7. Coles Woodlea to Aintree Primary School
8. Aintree Primary to Frontier Recreation Reserve

1. Sales Hub to Rec. Skate Park

Section A: Path Quality & Safety

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
<i>Continuous footpaths (both sides of road)</i>			
<i>Footpath condition (flat, clean, undamaged)</i>			
<i>Pedestrian crossings (zebra/traffic lights)</i>			
<i>Kerb ramps for prams/wheelchairs</i>			
<i>Street lighting along footpaths</i>			
<i>Shade from trees or shelters</i>			
<i>Clear pedestrian signage</i>			
<i>Safe distance from traffic</i>			

Section B: Connectivity & Access

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
Access to green spaces along the walk			
Footpaths link to shops, schools or parks			
Shared bike/walk paths or lanes			
Benches or places to rest			
Walk route feels safe and welcoming			

2. Rec. Skate Park to Aintree Reserve Playground

Section A: Path Quality & Safety

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
<i>Continuous footpaths (both sides of road)</i>			
<i>Footpath condition (flat, clean, undamaged)</i>			
<i>Pedestrian crossings (zebra/traffic lights)</i>			
<i>Kerb ramps for prams/wheelchairs</i>			
<i>Street lighting along footpaths</i>			
<i>Shade from trees or shelters</i>			
<i>Clear pedestrian signage</i>			
<i>Safe distance from traffic</i>			

Section B: Connectivity & Access

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
Access to green spaces along the walk			
Footpaths link to shops, schools or parks			
Shared bike/walk paths or lanes			
Benches or places to rest			
Walk route feels safe and welcoming			

3. Aintree Reserve to Lagoon Drive Playground

Section A: Path Quality & Safety

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
<i>Continuous footpaths (both sides of road)</i>			
<i>Footpath condition (flat, clean, undamaged)</i>			
<i>Pedestrian crossings (zebra/traffic lights)</i>			
<i>Kerb ramps for prams/wheelchairs</i>			
<i>Street lighting along footpaths</i>			
<i>Shade from trees or shelters</i>			
<i>Clear pedestrian signage</i>			
<i>Safe distance from traffic</i>			

Section B: Connectivity & Access

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
Access to green spaces along the walk			
Footpaths link to shops, schools or parks			
Shared bike/walk paths or lanes			
Benches or places to rest			
Walk route feels safe and welcoming			

4. Lagoon Drive Playground to Sales Hub

Section A: Path Quality & Safety

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
<i>Continuous footpaths (both sides of road)</i>			
<i>Footpath condition (flat, clean, undamaged)</i>			
<i>Pedestrian crossings (zebra/traffic lights)</i>			
<i>Kerb ramps for prams/wheelchairs</i>			
<i>Street lighting along footpaths</i>			
<i>Shade from trees or shelters</i>			
<i>Clear pedestrian signage</i>			
<i>Safe distance from traffic</i>			

Section B: Connectivity & Access

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
Access to green spaces along the walk			
Footpaths link to shops, schools or parks			
Shared bike/walk paths or lanes			
Benches or places to rest			
Walk route feels safe and welcoming			

5. Sales Hub to Wireless Reserve Dog Park

Section A: Path Quality & Safety

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
<i>Continuous footpaths (both sides of road)</i>			
<i>Footpath condition (flat, clean, undamaged)</i>			
<i>Pedestrian crossings (zebra/traffic lights)</i>			
<i>Kerb ramps for prams/wheelchairs</i>			
<i>Street lighting along footpaths</i>			
<i>Shade from trees or shelters</i>			
<i>Clear pedestrian signage</i>			
<i>Safe distance from traffic</i>			

Section B: Connectivity & Access

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
Access to green spaces along the walk			
Footpaths link to shops, schools or parks			
Shared bike/walk paths or lanes			
Benches or places to rest			
Walk route feels safe and welcoming			

6. Wireless Reserve to Coles Woodlea

Section A: Path Quality & Safety

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
<i>Continuous footpaths (both sides of road)</i>			
<i>Footpath condition (flat, clean, undamaged)</i>			
<i>Pedestrian crossings (zebra/traffic lights)</i>			
<i>Kerb ramps for prams/wheelchairs</i>			
<i>Street lighting along footpaths</i>			
<i>Shade from trees or shelters</i>			
<i>Clear pedestrian signage</i>			
<i>Safe distance from traffic</i>			

Section B: Connectivity & Access

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
Access to green spaces along the walk			
Footpaths link to shops, schools or parks			
Shared bike/walk paths or lanes			
Benches or places to rest			
Walk route feels safe and welcoming			

7. Coles Woodlea to Aintree Primary School

Section A: Path Quality & Safety

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
<i>Continuous footpaths (both sides of road)</i>			
<i>Footpath condition (flat, clean, undamaged)</i>			
<i>Pedestrian crossings (zebra/traffic lights)</i>			
<i>Kerb ramps for prams/wheelchairs</i>			
<i>Street lighting along footpaths</i>			
<i>Shade from trees or shelters</i>			
<i>Clear pedestrian signage</i>			
<i>Safe distance from traffic</i>			

Section B: Connectivity & Access

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
Access to green spaces along the walk			
Footpaths link to shops, schools or parks			
Shared bike/walk paths or lanes			
Benches or places to rest			
Walk route feels safe and welcoming			

8. Aintree Primary to Frontier Recreation Reserve

Section A: Path Quality & Safety

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
<i>Continuous footpaths (both sides of road)</i>			
<i>Footpath condition (flat, clean, undamaged)</i>			
<i>Pedestrian crossings (zebra/traffic lights)</i>			
<i>Kerb ramps for prams/wheelchairs</i>			
<i>Street lighting along footpaths</i>			
<i>Shade from trees or shelters</i>			
<i>Clear pedestrian signage</i>			
<i>Safe distance from traffic</i>			

Section B: Connectivity & Access

Feature	✓ Present	Rating (1–5)	Comments
Access to green spaces along the walk			
Footpaths link to shops, schools or parks			
Shared bike/walk paths or lanes			
Benches or places to rest			
Walk route feels safe and welcoming			

Park Observation

Purpose

- To evaluate how well-designed public open spaces contribute to the liveability, accessibility and sustainability of the Woodlea neighbourhood.

Instructions

- Complete this task at all **FOUR** park and recreation areas listed below.
- At each location, use the Observation Checklist to record which features are present.
- Tick observed user behaviour and note the types of people using the space.
- For one park, complete the *Reflection Questions* if you finish early or want a challenge.
- Be honest, specific and thoughtful in your responses.

Parks to complete this task:

<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Focus Area</i>
<i>Rec. Skate Park</i>	Youth activity, informal recreation, infrastructure
<i>Aintree Reserve Playground</i>	Formal play space, accessibility, field sketch zone
<i>Lagoon Drive Playground</i>	Community proximity, informal rest space, facilities
<i>Frontier Recreation Reserve</i>	Green corridor layout, large-scale use, physical activity

Fieldwork Focus

<i>Feature</i>	Rec. Skate Park	Aintree Reserve Playground	Lagoon Drive Playground	Frontier Recreation Reserve
<i>Playground or play equipment</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Seating or picnic tables</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Shade (trees or shelters)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Bins / waste management</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Access paths from nearby streets</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Water features or natural elements</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Proximity to houses</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Signage (name, rules, directions)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note:

- Tick if the feature is present
- Write a short comment under each tick box if necessary (e.g. "modern," "damaged," "well-located" etc.)
- This checklist helps you build evidence for your reflection and comparison questions.

Reflection Questions

1. How does this park contribute to the liveability of the neighbourhood?

Use evidence from your observations and refer to key liveability indicators (e.g. access to recreation, safety, aesthetic value, social connection). Link your response directly to:

- The Woodlea Masterplan (e.g. aim to create vibrant, active neighbourhoods), and/or
- The GCP (e.g. promoting access to open space within 400 m of homes).

Example starter: "This park improves liveability by providing... This supports the Woodlea Masterplan goal of..."

2. Who is this space designed for, and how do you know?

Consider age groups, family accessibility, inclusivity and design features (e.g. wide paths, seating, natural play).

Reflect on whether all groups in the community could enjoy and benefit from this space.

Example starter: "The presence of [feature] and [feature] suggests the park is designed for..."

3. Does this park support sustainability and wellbeing goals?

Yes Somewhat No

Explain your answer by connecting it to:

- **Environmental sustainability:** Use of trees for shade, native vegetation, water-saving landscaping, minimal waste
- **Social sustainability:** Encouraging physical activity, family time, safety, or mental wellbeing
- **Economic sustainability:** Free access to quality public space, long-term maintenance features

Example starter: "This park supports sustainability by... which aligns with the GCP aim of..."

Field Sketch Task

Purpose

- To sketch and label the surrounding land uses and infrastructure at Aintree Reserve Playground, helping you develop spatial awareness and visual analysis skills important in Geography.

Why do a field sketch instead of just taking a photo?

Field sketching helps you:

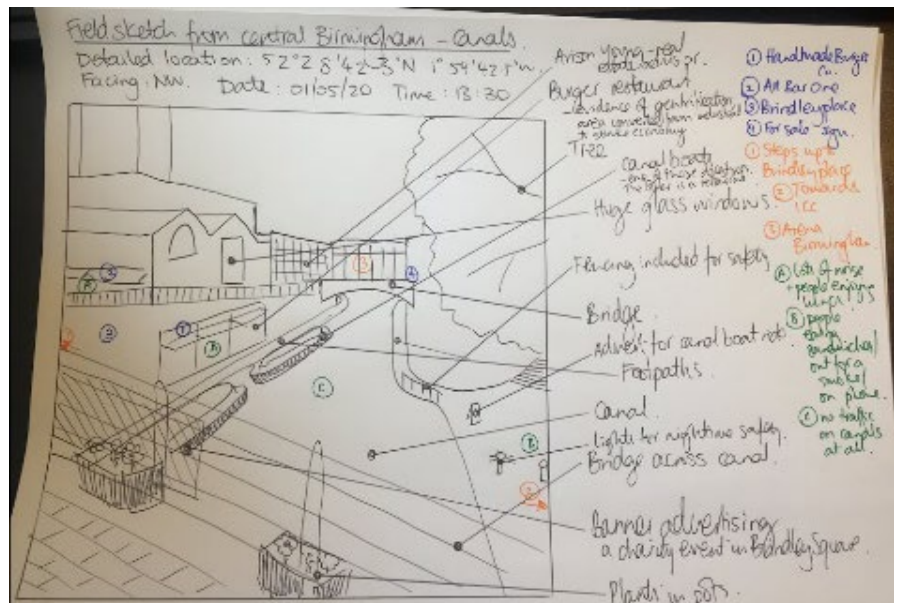
- **Pay closer attention** to what you're seeing
- **Select and simplify** key features (not everything in a photo is useful)
- **Practise spatial thinking** – understanding where things are located and how they connect
- **Actively interpret** the environment rather than passively record it

Photos are useful, but they capture everything – even the irrelevant. Sketching forces you to **make decisions** about what matters most.

Instructions – How to Complete Your Field Sketch

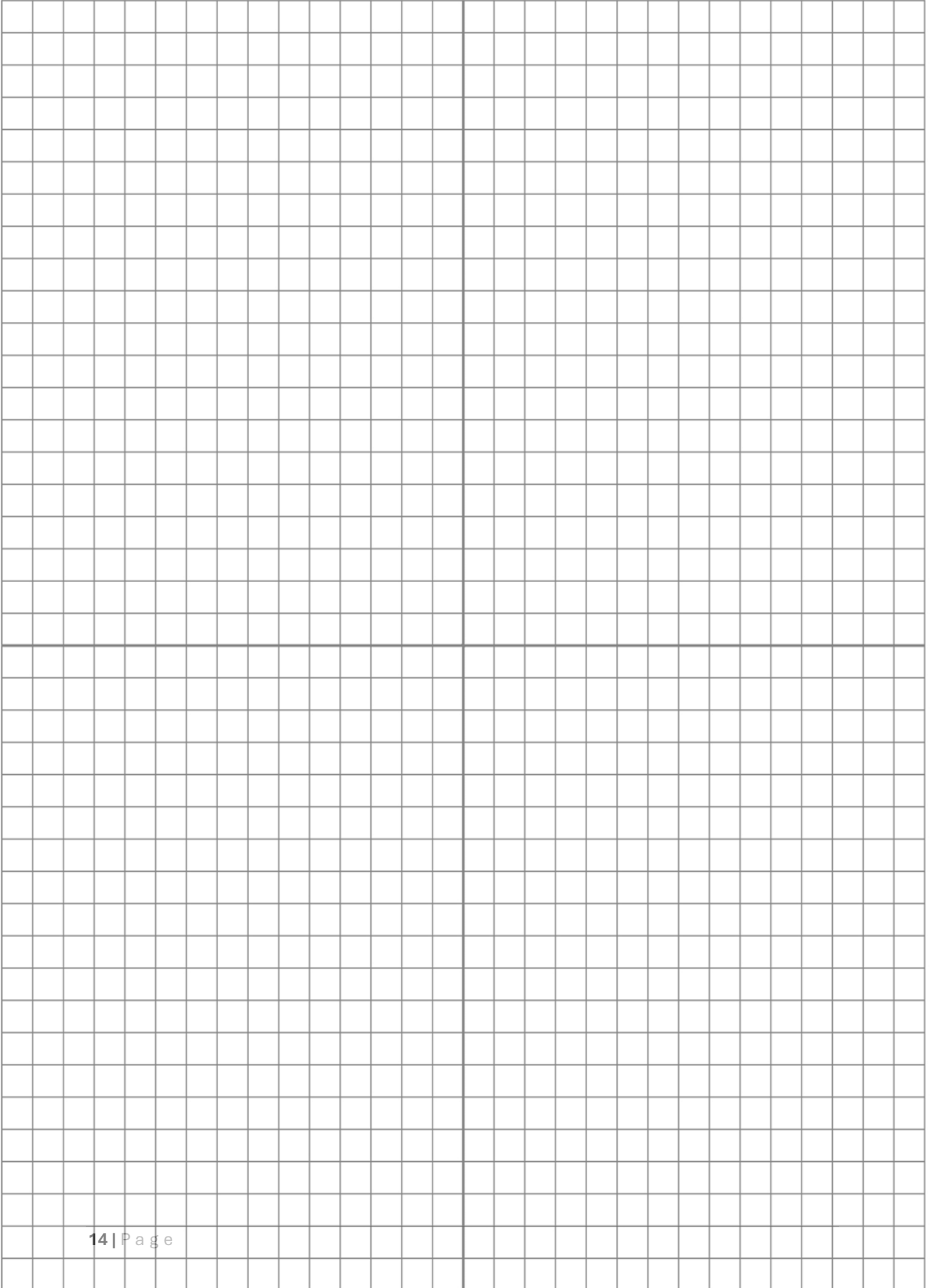
1. **Stand** in a clear spot where you can observe the whole park and surrounding area.
2. **Draw a simple map layout**
3. Include and label these features if visible:

- Park boundaries
- Play equipment
- Footpaths
- Roads and crossings
- Residential houses
- Trees and vegetation
- Any signage, bins, seating or lighting



4. Add these sketch elements:

- **Title** (e.g. *Field Sketch – Aintree Reserve Playground*)
- **North arrow** (use your phone's compass or the sun's position)
- **Estimated scale** (e.g. 1 cm = 10 m)
- **Legend** or key (use symbols for roads, trees, houses etc.)



Community Survey Task

Location: Woodlea Town Centre

Purpose: To collect measurable and descriptive data from local residents or visitors about the liveability and sustainability of Woodlea.

Research Link: How effective are planned communities like Woodlea in promoting liveability through sustainable land use planning?

Instructions

- Approach **2–3 adults** in the Town Centre politely.
- Say:

“Hi, I’m a student from Bacchus Marsh Grammar and I am doing a short Geography survey about how people experience Woodlea. Can I ask you a few questions for a school fieldwork task?”

- Ask all **quantitative questions** (tick and tally), then choose **one person** to answer the **interview questions**.
- **Do not record names or take photos.**

Survey Questions

Question	Response Options	Tally
1. How long have you lived in or visited Woodlea?	<input type="checkbox"/> <1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 1–3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 3+ years	
2. How would you rate the walkability of Woodlea?	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	
3. How easy is it to access essential services (shops, schools, parks)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Difficult <input type="checkbox"/> Okay <input type="checkbox"/> Easy <input type="checkbox"/> Very Easy	
4. Is there enough green/public open space?	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Enough <input type="checkbox"/> Just Right <input type="checkbox"/> Too Much	
5. Overall, how would you rate the liveability of Woodlea?	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	

Interview Questions (Choose One Person)

Write full responses in dot points or short sentences.

1. **What do you like most about living in or visiting Woodlea?**

2. **What challenges or frustrations have you experienced in this area?**

3. **In your opinion, what would make Woodlea a more liveable or sustainable community?**

Traffic Survey Task

Location: _____

Observation Duration: _____ minutes (recommend 5–10 minutes)

Purpose:

- To evaluate the **volume and types of traffic, availability of parking** and overall **transport patterns** around the school to determine how well the area supports safe and sustainable access for families.

Instructions for Students

1. Observe the street from a safe location near the school for a **set time (e.g. 10 minutes)**.
2. Use tally marks to count passing traffic by type.
3. **At the start and end** of your observation, count **parked cars** and **empty spaces**.
4. Take note of any safety or congestion issues (e.g. blocked crossings, traffic banks).

Traffic Tally Table:

Traffic Type	Tally	Total
<i>Cars (passing or dropping off)</i>		
<i>Bicycles or scooters</i>		
<i>Pedestrians (children/adults)</i>		
<i>Buses or shuttles</i>		
<i>Trucks / Delivery Vehicles</i>		

Static Parking Observation

Observation Point	Number
<i>Parked cars (start of session)</i>	
<i>Empty parking spaces (start)</i>	
<i>Parked cars (end of session)</i>	
<i>Empty spaces (end)</i>	

On the bus to BMG

Purpose

To reflect on your observations and evaluate the **effectiveness of Woodlea as a planned community** in promoting **liveability** through **sustainable land use planning**.

This task prepares you to answer the fieldwork research question and to use evidence in your report and SAC.

Part 1: Evaluating S.E.E. Impacts of the Woodlea Development

Use your fieldwork observations to complete the table below with specific examples from locations you visited.

Impact Type	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts or Challenges
Social	e.g. safe playgrounds, walkable paths, community events	e.g. car reliance, limited public transport
Environmental	e.g. landscaped parks, native vegetation, wetlands	e.g. loss of original habitat, heat from hard surfaces
Economic	e.g. local jobs, new retail, real estate value	e.g. affordability, maintenance costs for infrastructure

Part 2: Reflection Questions

Answer each in full sentences using evidence from your **infrastructure audit, park observations, sketch task, or developer Q&A.**

1. Which type of impact (social, environmental or economic) do you think was most successfully managed in Woodlea? Why?

2. What challenges or issues did you observe that could impact long-term sustainability or liveability in Woodlea?

3. Do you think Woodlea achieves the goals set out in its masterplan and the Growth Corridor Plan (GCP)? Why or why not?

Consider: walkability, open space, access to services, sustainable design.

Extension (If Time Allows)

Imagine you are a planner designing the next section of Woodlea.

What is one improvement you would make to enhance liveability or sustainability?
