



Photo of the front entrance of Cyclopark. Photo September 2025.

## Cyclopark, Gravesend. DAI I 7NP

Cyclopark is a purpose built multi-activity centre in Gravesend, Kent. It was formed in 2011 – 2012 as a result of the relocation of the A2 – the site runs parallel to the A2 route from Pepperhill to Marling Cross. The site offers traffic-free road circuits, mountain bike trails, BMX track, childrens' Cycloland and a skate park alongside a play area, gym and fitness classes. Cyclopark is run by the Cyclopark charity on a multi-year agreement with KCC. Cyclopark aims to provide “have-a-go” and taught ride, fitness and play activities for all ages and abilities priced in a community-orientated way, focused on affordability. This ranges from competitive racing to adaptive cycling.



Photo of the multi use tarmac space, gym and workshop at Cyclopark. Photo August 2025.

All users to Cyclopark have to enter through the main pavilion from the car park. The pavilion currently accommodates the reception, cafe, large and small fitness studios, gym, toilets, back office and medical. The existing spaces have been rearranged as Cyclopark has evolved. The original cafe space is currently being used as the fitness studio and the cafe accommodated in the reception circulation space. With the number and range of users to Cyclopark, the spaces have been outgrown. The aim of the application is to allow the large fitness studio to be relocated into a purpose built space, freeing up the original cafe space to be returned back to its intended use which in turn opens up the reception for a free flowing circulation space. The increase in corridor space is important for users to reduce the sense of crowding and imposition on personal space.

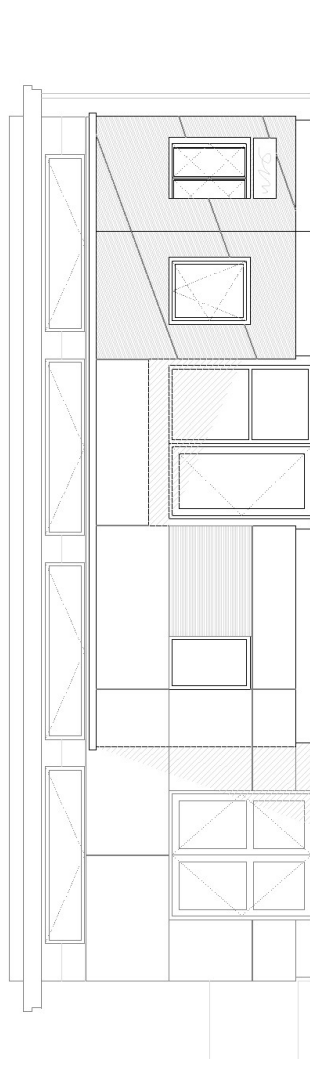
The proposed new fitness studio location is on an area of tarmac close to the existing gym spaces. The existing workshop building, which currently houses the garage HIIT studio and spin studio, existing gym and proposed new fitness studio all open on to a multi purpose hard paved area.

The proposed extension has an inset covered entrance way that is visible when viewed from the corner of the existing gym when exiting the reception space. This aims to reduce overload and ease orientation as the approach can be viewed clearly. The contrast tonal cladding further aims to help users to identify their destination. The glazed entry door upon approach provides chance to preview inside the space before users enter.

The extension is proposed to be clad in fibre cement board cladding in a similar colour to the existing black brick work. There is proposed to be textural detailing with the cement board cladding to break the perceived mass but without having an overwhelming and distracting pattern. The entrance is proposed to be at a lower height to the fitness studio space, making it more of a domestic scale and less intimidating than the height of the studio space.

Upon entering the space, the reduced height space creates an opportunity for an enclosed internal area to pause before proceeding into the large fitness studio — the fitness studio could be an overwhelming space particularly when busy. It also provides an easily accessible space for door automation buttons.

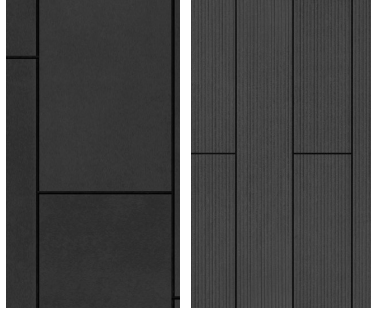
Internally, the windows have been positioned to try to maximise daylighting whilst reducing glare and overheating. Maximising the daylighting will help to reduce the reliance on artificial lighting which, as well as being better for energy usage, can increase sensory overload. Views out to the track and multi use tarmac space to the west link users of the studio with their surroundings. Opening low level windows on one side and higher level windows opposite aim to create passive ventilation and cooling — key considerations for user comfort.



Proposed fitness studio front elevation. Refer to drawing 2070/130.



Existing brick work to gym

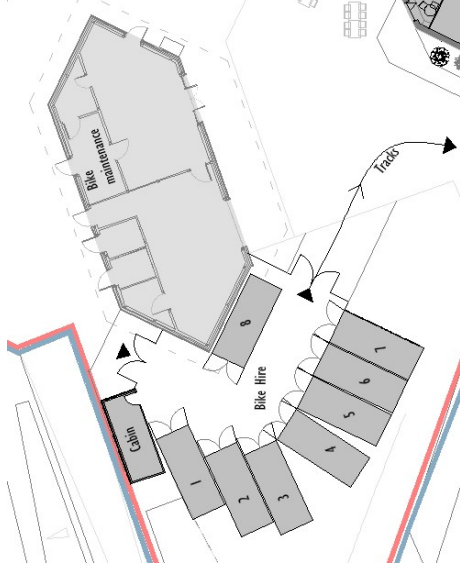


Proposed fibre cement board cladding



The second part of the application is to use another under utilised space to create a bike hire facility. The existing workshop building has bike and site maintenance spaces but lacks the space to house the hire bikes used by individual and group visitors to Cyclopark. These bike hire spaces are currently housed elsewhere on the Cyclopark site. The proposed bike hire space used the shape of the existing workshop to create a one-way system for people to leave reception, enter the bike hire, borrow a bike then exit towards the track entrance. It brings the bike hire back close to the existing operational spaces, providing better access for users and oversight from the main building.

The bike hire is proposed to be created from shipping containers, creating a secure wall to enclose the one way system with mesh fencing at either end. The proposed site is currently an area of grass used for site storage and group meetings on the picnic benches. A pathway is proposed to be created from compacted self binding limestone — the same material used for the BMX track elsewhere on the site. It's a durable and hard wearing yet permeable surface that allows good wheelchair and bike access over.



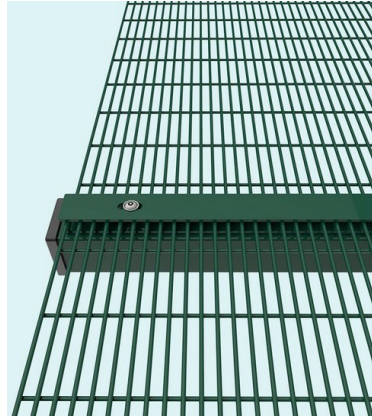


Example mural to side of shipping container at Basildon Sporting Village in collaboration with K&B Design and Creative Basildon.

It is proposed to leave the shipping containers undad and obvious as to what they are. They are very much a functional space with an outbuilding use. It is proposed to keep them looking uniform with the same external colour to all. The proposed also includes a mural to the two end containers — one with the most visibility from the tarmac multi-use space and the other at the entrance to the bike hire that will be most prominent from the bridge.

Either end of the bike hire system are proposed to be enclosed using a tall mesh fence and security gate. The mesh allows for visibility into the space when the bike hire is shut whilst being anti-climb.

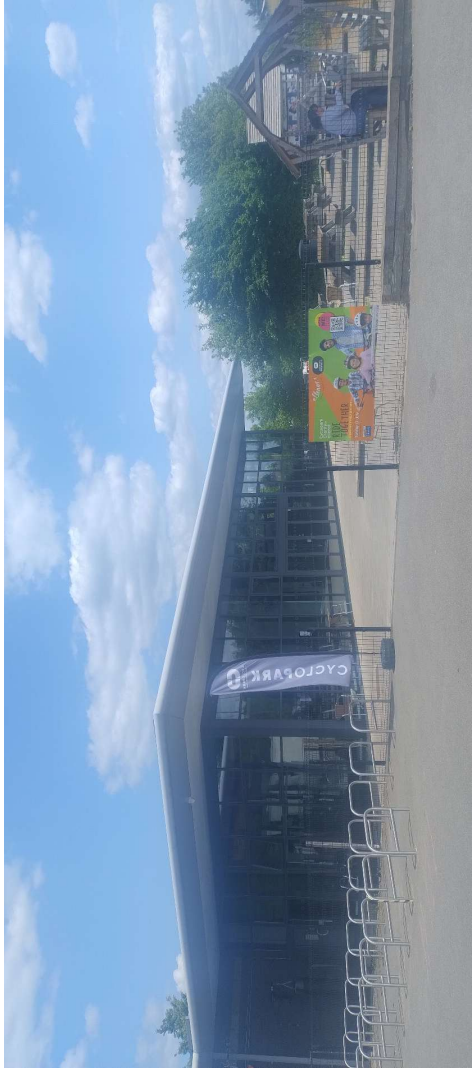
The bike hire is a staff managed system — the one way system with welfare space at the start provides a route for staff to meet users and help them get the right bike before taking the bike out.



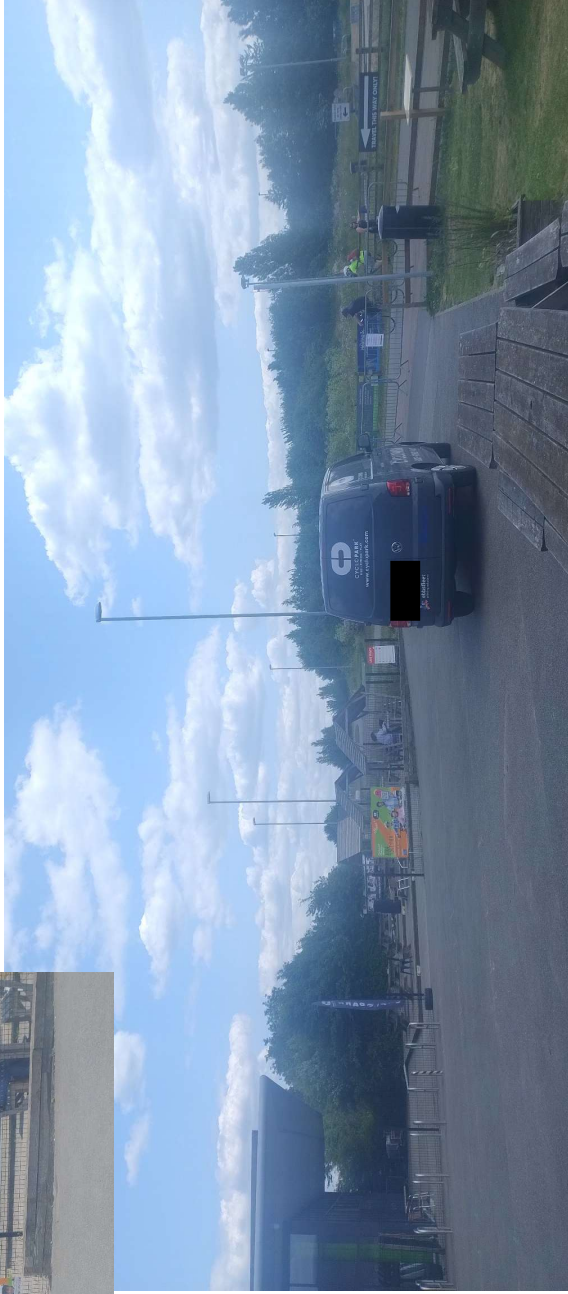
Proposed mesh fencing



Existing bike hire at Cyclopark



Photographs of the proposed position for the new fitness studio. Photos dated August 2025





Photographs of the proposed position for the bike hire. Photos dated September 2025

