

Group 37 // Sub-Urban

Northenden is a suburb of Manchester with a population of 14777 people. Currently, the highstreet is predominantly fast food restaurants and a small number of other stores including a pharmacy; however historically Northenden was a rural township and parish, with farming at the heart of its identity. The Highstreet was formed around 1890, providing a place for farmers to sell their goods and enabling local residents to purchase everyday essentials as well as providing a site of social interaction.

To revitalise Northenden as a market square, we are taking the approach of expanding the community vertically instead of on the traditional horizontal plane so we can keep the original architecture of Northenden's highstreet. The River Mersey will be directed to fall vertically downwards for a few storeys to a Pelton Wheel Turbine which generates electricity for the whole structure and also acts as a lightwell into the initial floors. As the whole idea of this project is to be self-sustainable, we have included a farming layer which is above the flood relief so water can be used for irrigation. There are also open courtyards in the housing layer to maximise light yield. To provide entertainment, we have included a leisure layer for sports, a retail layer for shopping and also a food layer with actual restaurants and not only takeaways. In terms of accessibility, we have added a cycling track on the ramp above the market square, an underground tunnel for trucks and cars and established a new train station for the HS2 travelling from Manchester or Birmingham in order to bring more people in. For future expansion, we also have a construction layer which enables us to create more layers downwards. All these layers also provide job opportunities to local residents.

