

ONE
HORTON
HEATH

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

LANDSCAPE DESIGN STATEMENT | JANUARY 2024

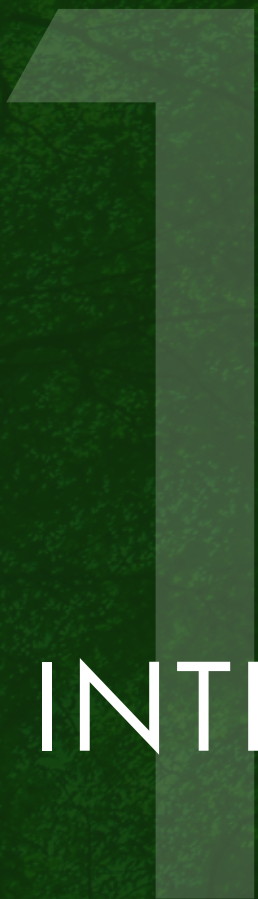


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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

This Landscape Design Statement (LDS) has been prepared by Deacon Design Ltd on behalf of Eastleigh Borough Council in support of the Green Infrastructure Planning Application at Horton Heath, Eastleigh herein referred to as 'the site'.

The document explains the design development of the Green Infrastructure (GI) parcels and sets out the landscape vision across the site.

DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

Section 1

Introduction - Describes the purpose of the document and site context.

Design Concept - Describes the overall aim of the proposals and illustrates the process that has led to the development of the proposal and explains the landscape principles that have been applied to the proposals.

Section 2

Character Areas - Sets out the landscape vision for each of the key character areas which evolved through the masterplan.

Section 3

Biodiversity Net Gain - Sets out the principles for the ecology and biodiversity net gain.

Drainage - Sets out the drainage and water management principles for the site.

Soft Landscape Strategy - Sets out the vision for the planting through the site and presents an indicative planting palette.

Hard Landscape Strategy - Highlights key principles which guide the selection of paving materials and illustrates the palette of materials which will apply to the proposals.

The site & its context:

The land is located to the west of the existing village of Horton Heath, which in turn sits between the local centres of Hedge End and Fair Oak, both within the Borough of Eastleigh.

The site contains an existing landscape framework of tree and hedge planting and comprises a number of irregular shaped fields, with both pastoral and arable land use. The site also contains a number of watercourses and ditches. Hearts Stream



INTRODUCTION

running along the western boundary of the site, Quobleigh Stream at the north running through Quobleigh Woods, Foxwood Stream running east to west to the north of the solar farm and Tolbrook Stream running east to west to the south of the solar farm.

The site is gently undulating with local variations.

To the north of the site is the settlement of Fair Oak and Bishopstoke, with Quobleigh Woods sitting along the northern boundary of the site separating it from the residential development to the north.

To the east is the settlement of Horton Heath which forms much of the eastern boundary of the site. Beyond this, the wider landscape contains more open agricultural land, irregular shaped fields and areas of woodland.

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

- Deliver a landscape led development that builds upon the site's existing natural capital to deliver a usable network of high-quality green corridors to support wildlife, recreation and the movement of residents.
- Protect and enhance ecological networks to achieve net biodiversity gain through supporting local biodiversity and habitats;
- A thorough Landscape Visual and Impact Assessment (LVIA), Design & Access Statement and Design Code has been prepared previously to support the Outline Application for One Horton Heath (OHH). As the preceding documents demonstrate, the landscape and natural environment has extensively shaped the existing site;
- The existing Green Infrastructure on the site is a consistent feature which unifies and connects different parts of the site. This forms strong and important connections and travel corridors for wildlife from one part of the site to another, creating a framework within which the development will sit.



STRATEGY

The site's **green infrastructure** will:

- Connect new residents with nature through the delivery of woodland buffers, tree lined streets, greenways and amenity spaces;
- Provide a network of amenity and natural green spaces that are sensitive to the site's existing landscape and historic features;
- Retain existing vegetation where possible and supplement with additional planting to enhance habitat connectivity and species movement;
- Provide pedestrian connectivity along greenways and through amenity spaces to the wider OHH and countryside beyond;
- Integrate SuDS within areas of open space and ensure drainage features are naturalistic, with characteristic planting and gentle gradients.



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CHARACTER AREAS

CHARACTER AREAS - OVERVIEW

SITE LANDSCAPE

The landscape of the site is dictated by the historical fields and the site's hydrology. These two aspects define important parts of the site which are densely vegetated and parts that are open.

The site comprises large farmed fields, generally bounded by natural features such as hedgerows, tree belts and watercourses. This delineation is an important feature of the site.

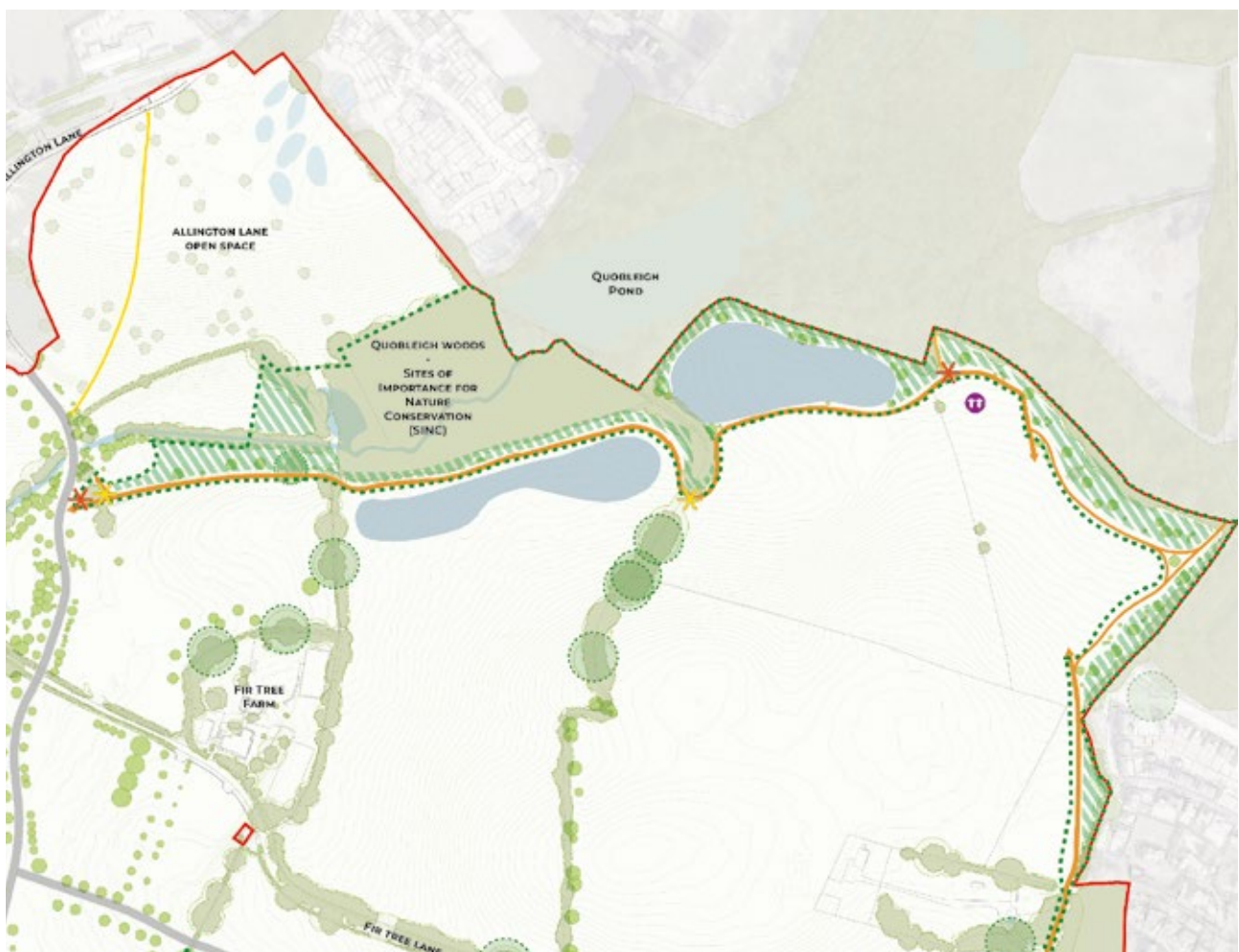
Despite these similarities, the South and North of the site do have distinctly different landscape characters. These characters are separated by Foxwood Stream watercourse and tree belt which crosses the site East to West (Character Area - Central GI).

LANDSCAPE PRINCIPLES:

- Acknowledge the distinct characters of South and North
- Form of development to respond to the landscape character in terms of height and form, responding to the visibility and/ or enclosure of the site
- Respect existing and well established boundaries and features. Retention of existing mature landscape framework and Green Infrastructure



CHARACTER AREAS - NORTH



North Green Infrastructure // NTS

As mentioned above, the North and South of Foxwood watercourse delineates the distinct landscape character.

To the North, the site is more enclosed

defined by the well-established group of deciduous tree belts.

Much of the existing woodland Quobleigh Woods is designated as Ancient Woodland

CHARACTER AREAS - NORTH

and SINC that defines most of the Northern GI.

Quobleigh Woods is considered the main habitat and the majority of the woodland is

wet. This provides a wooded backdrop and contained character to the Northern GI. The woods also contain Quobleigh Pond adjacent to the north-east site boundary and the watercourse of Quobleigh Stream.



Mature deciduous tree belts of Quobleigh Woods forming the southern boundary of the Northern GI



Quobleigh Stream



Quobleigh Woods recorded the most bat activity

CHARACTER AREAS - NORTH

PROPOSALS

The Northern Green Infrastructure is dominated by the wooded nature of the Ancient Woodland Quobleigh Woods SINC and associated Quobleigh Stream and Quobleigh Pond.

In an attempt to create a naturalistic transition between the woodland edge and the wider green infrastructure and open space areas beyond, species rich grassland will be introduced with tree planting.

Creating swards of varying heights and mowing regimes to create habitats for invertebrates whilst reinforcing the existing habitats throughout the site. These areas will be of restricted public access confined by fence boundary treatment.

To the south of the fence, mown verges and footpaths will allow users to travel through, whilst closely interacting with the adjacent woodland without disturbing the wildlife and habitats.

To reinforce this sense of transition between the woodland and grassland, pockets of scrub planting will be introduced. This will consist of fruit and flower rich native woodland species, creating a transition hierarchy between the grassland swards, scrub and retained and enhanced woodland canopy adjacent.

Wooded species will reinforce the woodland nature of this Green Infrastructure

LANDSCAPE PRINCIPLES:

- Protect and enhance Quobleigh Woods
- Provide a naturalistic transition between the existing woodland and proposed grassland, responding to the landscape character
- Preserve existing and well established woodland, enhancing the corridor connectivity
- Creation of opportunities for landscape recreation and amenity respecting the existing wooded buffer



and create nesting opportunities for neighbouring animal species. This is further encouraged through the introduction of native hedgerows to complement and reinforce the corridor connectivity.

The proposed SuDS feature is designed to both provide a transition between the existing wet woodland area, as well as creation of new habitats and support the local wildlife.

The SuDS feature will be planted with marginal and aquatic plants sensitive to the site's wetland feature whilst providing wildlife habitat and visual interest.

Key Factors:



Preserve Ancient Woodland

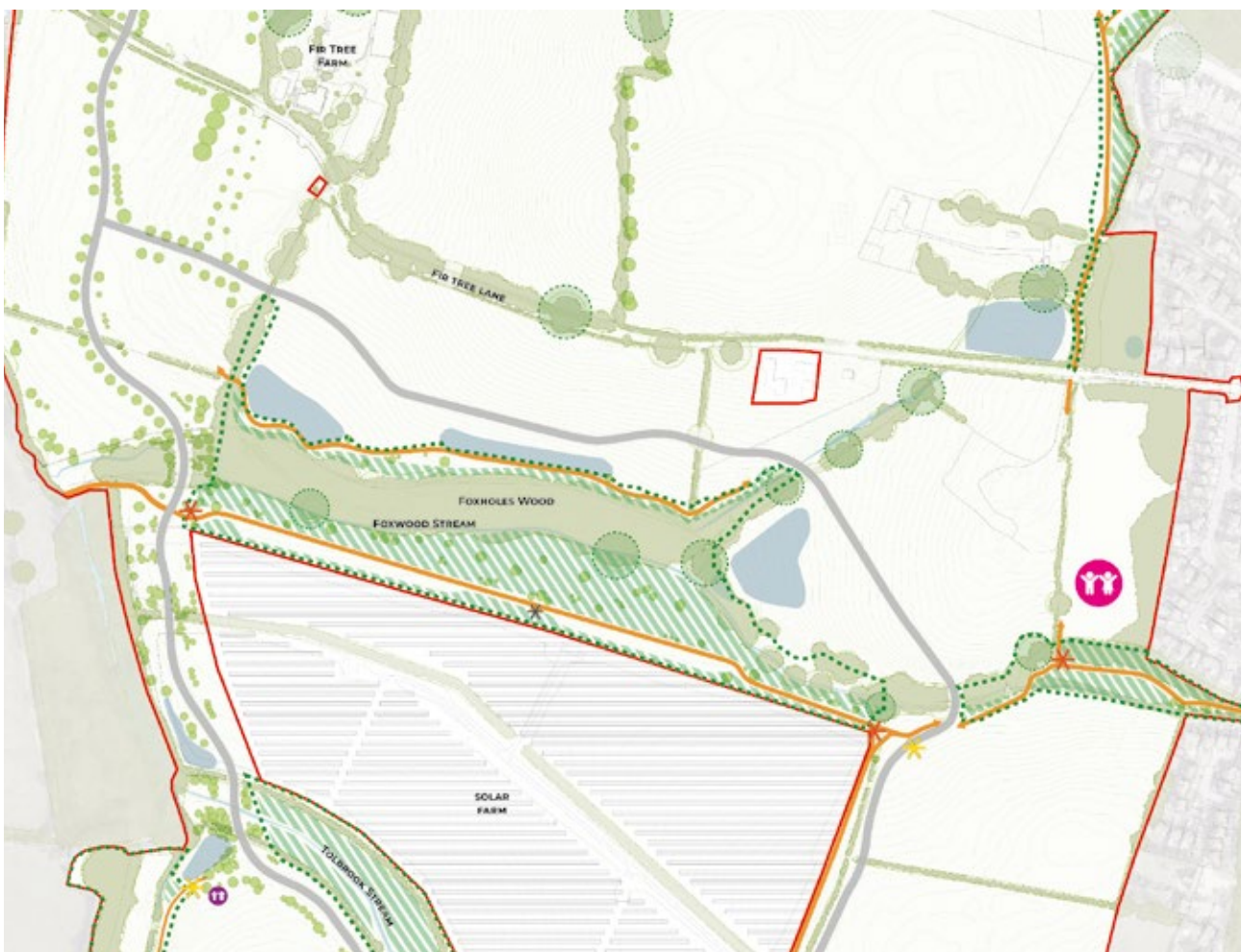


Preserve / enhance wetland area



Ecological enhancement

CHARACTER AREAS - CENTRAL



Central Green Infrastructure // NTS

The Central Green Infrastructure is defined by Foxholes Wood.

This wood follows Foxwood Stream running east to west through the site, north of the

existing solar farm.

This green corridor represents the North - South split between the two distinct local Landscape Character Areas.

CHARACTER AREAS - CENTRAL



Foxholes Wood



Foxholes Wood provides habitats for Dormice



View from east towards solar farm

CHARACTER AREAS - CENTRAL

PROPOSALS

On both sides of Foxholes Wood (North and South), footpaths will create the opportunity for the public to closely interact with the protected wooded area.

The northern footpath undulates around proposed SuDS features connecting two future development parcels. The southern footpath stems from the existing PRow route that runs parallel to the GI boundary and is adjacent to the existing solar farm.

Both footpaths will reinforce the development's footpath network and provide amenity opportunities whilst protecting the adjacent existing landscape and habitats.

Similar to the Northern GI, Foxholes Wood will be of restricted public access confined by a fence. Also, the woodland edge will include species rich grassland and individual specimen /groups of tree planting.

Creating swards of varying heights and mowing regimes to create habitats for invertebrates whilst reinforcing the existing habitats throughout the site.

To the southern footpath and associated open space, a more formal mowing regime will provide areas for informal play and recreational use including seating opportunities.

LANDSCAPE PRINCIPLES:

- Protect and enhance Foxholes Wood
- Provide a naturalistic transition between the existing woodland and proposed grassland, responding to the landscape character
- Retain and enhance the footpath connectivity within the site
- Creation of opportunities for landscape recreation and amenity respecting the existing wooded buffer



Pockets of scrub planting are proposed to be kept low to enforce a sense of natural surveillance along the southern footpath whilst still providing ecological enhancements.

The eastern part of the Central GI is defined by its seasonally wetland nature, and thus careful consideration has been given to ensuring that this area is seeded with a suitable wetland mix and species that tolerate seasonal waterlogging.

This is further ecologically reinforced via the introduction of a native hedgerow and scrub planting to the rear of existing housing, to help soften the boundaries and creating a wooded backdrop between the housing and the open space.

Key Factors:



Protect existing woodland



Seating opportunities



Encourage wildlife

CHARACTER AREAS - SOUTH



South Green Infrastructure // NTS

The Southern Green Infrastructure is defined by the western wetland area, The Platt SINC to the central and adjacent existing Newt Pond (and associated hibernaculas) that sits near the southern boundary.

The Southern GI presents opportunities to incorporate aspects of both woodland and wetland character into the proposals improving the existing footpath network and providing recreation opportunity.

CHARACTER AREAS - SOUTH



Veteran Oak trees with grassland define The Platt SINC near the southern boundary



Existing pond along southern edge



Buffer at approach to wetlands area

CHARACTER AREAS - SOUTH

PROPOSALS

The Southern Green Infrastructure is defined by the retained wetland areas to the west, the existing established field hedgerows and clumps of trees.

The Platt SINC's clumped nature of predominantly oak trees is retained and enhanced with supplementary tree planting. Under the tree canopies mown paths will be created to allow the residents to interact with the surrounding habitat.

Near the wooded block an informal play area has been identified to provide informal play with natural play features, such as timber equipment and boulders.

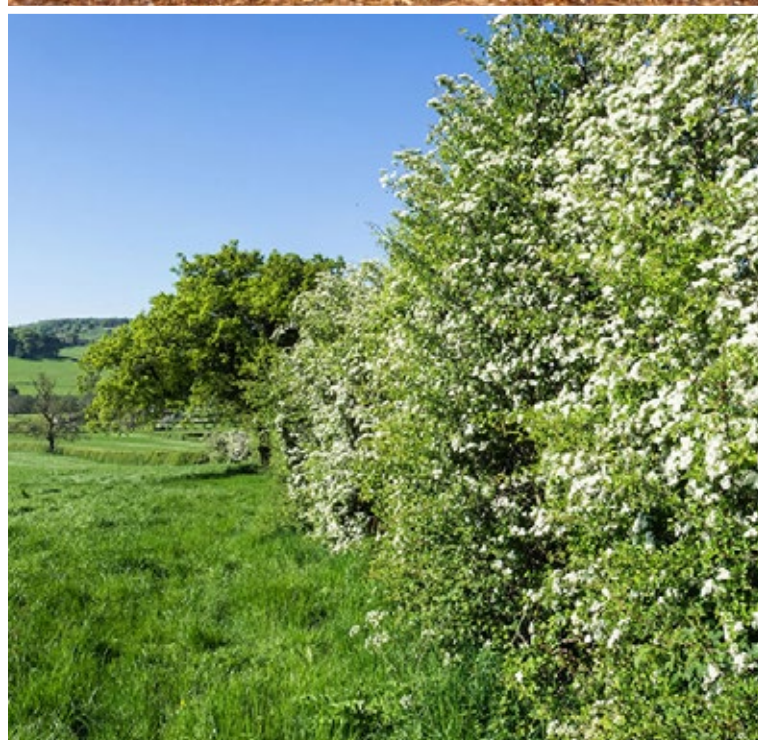
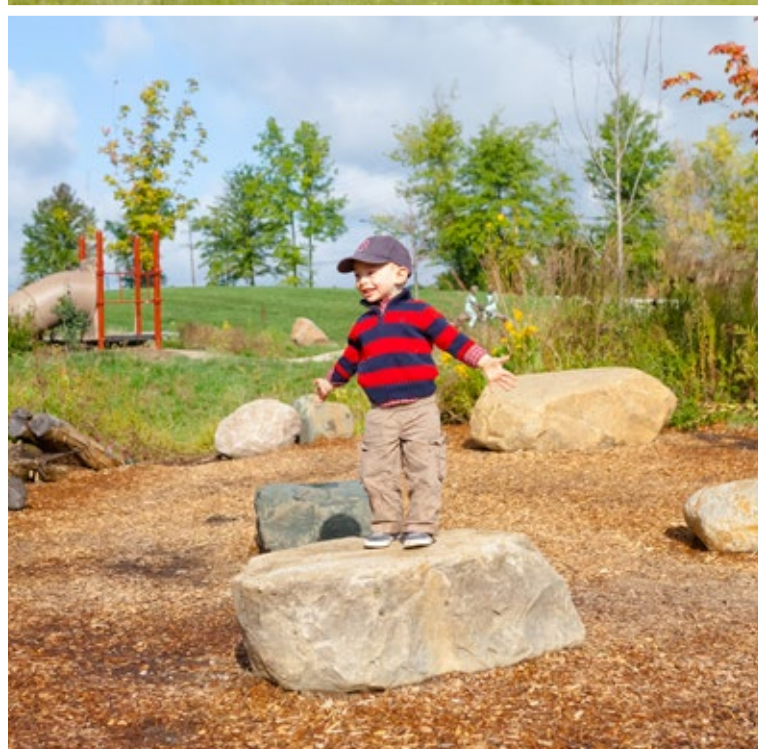
The existing hedgerows are reinforced with native infill planting to enhance and reinforce the existing habitat corridors, with woody species that encourage fruit and flowering opportunities. This promotes nesting and sheltering corridors for surrounding animal species, in particular birdlife.

To the western part of the GI parcel predominantly within the flood zone, the existing grassland area is to be retained and maintained to its current condition. This area has the potential for future wetland creation.

Along this wetland area, the existing PRow route will be diverted and upgraded to a causeway footpath designed above the flood water level.

LANDSCAPE PRINCIPLES:

- Protect The Platt SINC
- Retain and enhance the footpath connectivity within the site
- Provision for informal play and amenity areas respecting the existing landscape features
- Respect existing and well established boundaries and features, including Newt Pond



The wetland area extents and woodland corridor further north to this area, will be protected and restricted of public access confined by a fence.

Similarly to the Northern and Central GI, the area near The Platt SINC will offer areas of open space with mown verges and footpaths that will allow users to travel through.

The south and eastern part of the site from the Newt Pond is defined by a series of retention ponds and a proposed footpath undulating around the proposed SuDS features. These will follow the Northern GI pond principles: seeded mix, marginal and aquatic plants, suitable tree planting and fenced off.

Key Factors:



Protect existing trees



Informal Play opportunities



Preserve / enhance wetland area



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ECOLOGY

ECOLOGY / BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

ECOLOGY STRATEGY

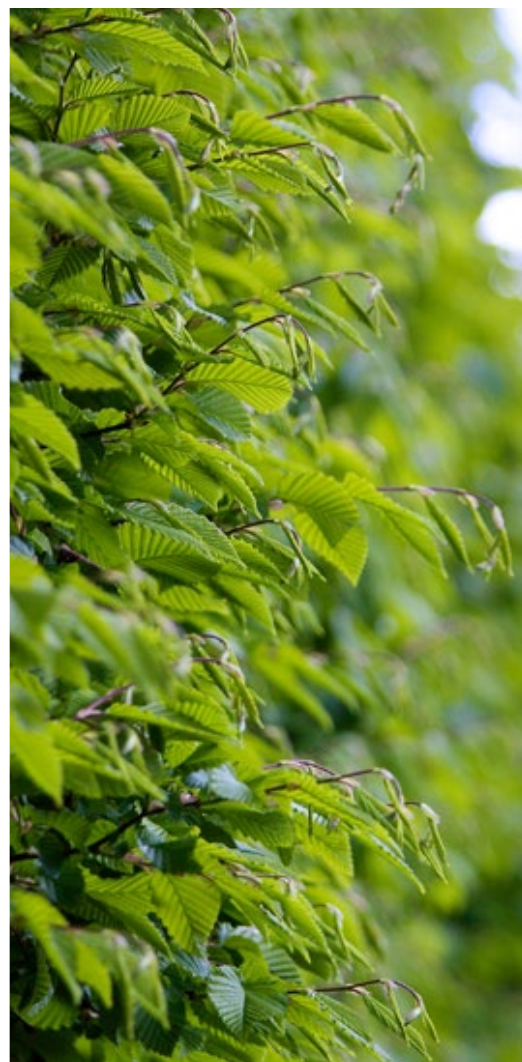
The proposals have been designed giving due consideration to biodiversity and ecological input from the outset, including protection of important features by means of buffer zones with a range of semi-natural habitats.

The provisions for suitable ecological buffers have been delivered throughout these proposals, with the aim to preserve and extend the existing valuable habitats, with additional green infrastructure enhancement to absorb the future development.

Particular attention has been given to the existing landscape features, such as woodlands, watercourses, wetlands and grasslands, as well as, the species recorded on or near the site including breeding birds, bats, great crested newt, dormouse and common reptile species.

The proposed mitigation and enhancement measures alongside an ongoing monitoring programme and appropriate management will deliver a ecologically-led scheme whilst allowing the public to enjoy and connect with nature and surrounding habitats.







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DRAINAGE



DRAINAGE

SUDS STRATEGY

SuDS features will comprise detention ponds integrated within the landscape open spaces. Surface water from the site will be directed to flow into the proposed ponds which will collect volumes of water at varying degrees in response to rainfall.

The retention ponds will provide both retention and treatment of contaminated storm runoff.

The proposed ponds will provide opportunities for creation of new habitats and support the local wildlife as well as providing amenity benefits.

The ponds proposed have been detailed by the project Drainage Engineer and are in accordance with NE guidance, landscape character and ecological guidance.

The design principles have sought to propose a mix of wildflowers and native marginal aquatic planting that will enhance the SuDS strategy.

Proposed marginal planting were selected to tolerate intermittent flows and periodic dry periods fluctuations in water levels caused by adverse weather conditions.

Plants with native marginal and emergent aquatic species and native terrestrial vegetation suitable to local context will provide wildlife habitat and visual interest.

Key Factors:



Treatment of contaminated water



Naturalistic planting design



Ecological enhancement



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LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

SOFT LANDSCAPE

STRATEGY

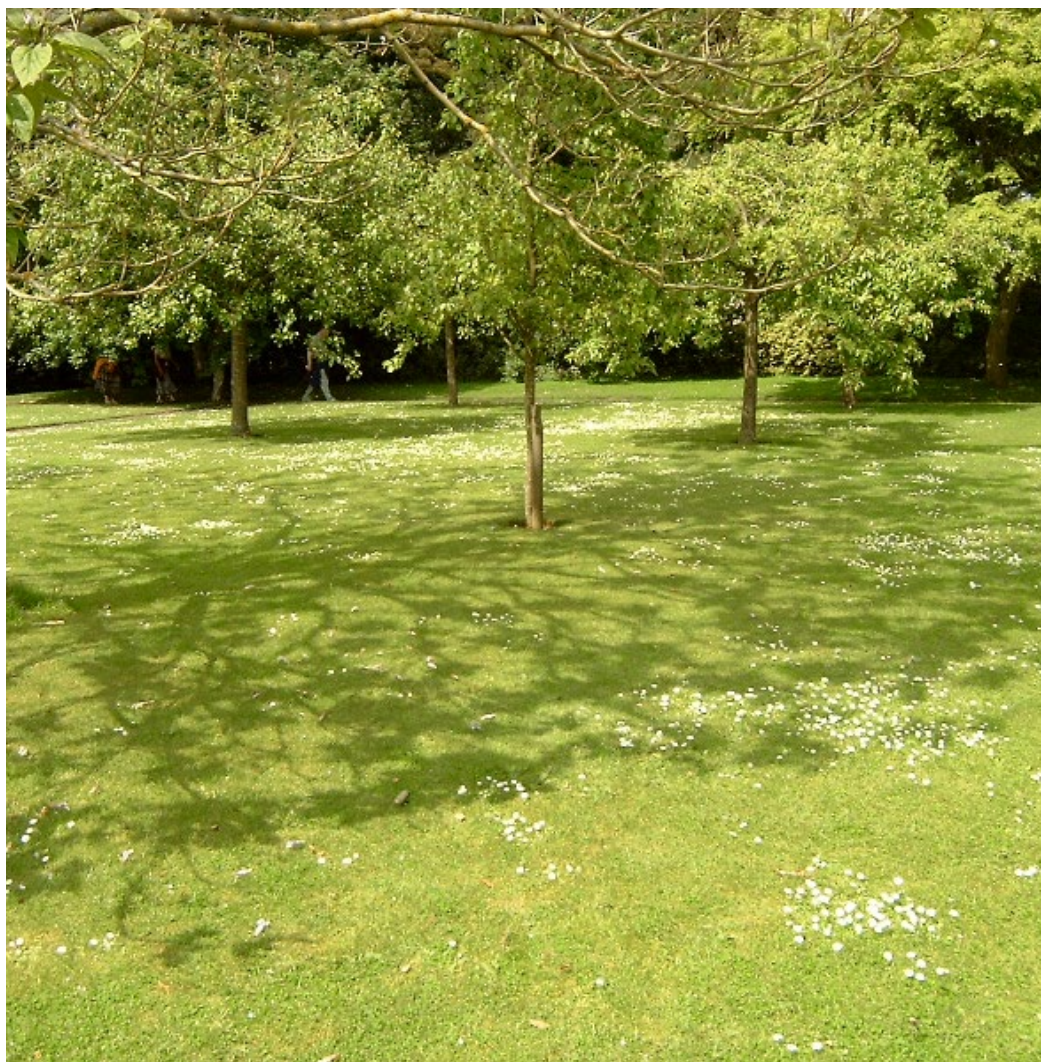
Planting assists to define the sense of place, enhancing green corridors, providing seasonal interest and defining landscape boundaries. Planting and species mixes will be selected to complement the existing key characteristics of the local landscape and include a mixture of native and complementary non-native species (where suitable) to provide a variety of colour, texture and seasonal interest.

The proposed planting strategy takes account of, and responds to, the existing habitats and the site's landscape setting.

This reflects the existing species profile of the area and seeks to increase diversity to provide resilience to climate change, pests and diseases.

The retention of the existing vegetation alongside the introduction of new tree and shrub planting will assist with integrating the future development One Horton Heath into the landscape.





SOFT LANDSCAPE

PLANTING PALETTE

The existing landscape characteristics of the site have played a significant role on the planting palette.

A diverse palette of species has been used to help create a resilient landscape, including a mixture of native and complementary non-native species.

Inclusion of a broad range of species which provides increased biodiversity, wider range of habitats and resilience to climate change. The selection of species which supplements and extends the existing tree planting and hedgerows also safeguards the local wildlife, increases biodiversity and enhances the green infrastructure.

The selected trees will provide seasonal interest, refuge for local fauna and flora and assist with filtering and softening views across the site.

The soft proposals also include new native mix hedgerows to enhance the wildlife corridors, in order to maximise biodiversity

and provide opportunities for foraging birds.

The planting palette also provides a selection of shrub mix planting to enhance the landscape buffers as well as, species-rich grassland to the protected - fenced areas and flowering lawn with a varied mowing regime to allow for informal recreational use.

The SuDS features will include marginal and emergent aquatic species suitable to local context to provide wildlife habitat and visual interest.





HARD LANDSCAPE

HARD LANDSCAPE PALETTE

The proposals include a palette of materials that are visually and physically firmly set into the pattern of the existing landscape.

The choice of surface materials consist of a simple palette of paving materials that will reflect the hierarchy of bridleways and footpaths proposed.

The site furniture considers the use of materials that are of robust, high quality and durable timber to complement the site setting.

Wayfinding will be proposed at different areas across the site to improve the user experience and to help navigate the different Open Space areas. This will support the site's legibility, whilst providing subtle differences to indicate the different landscape characters within the site.

Materials will be used to create a consistent and cohesive style across the site, and to encourage the sense of place. This includes the seating, litter bins, signage, lighting, bollards and boundary treatments.





ONE HORTON HEATH



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