

DESIGN SOLUTION
Landscape Proposals

The landscape strategy described below is integral to the layout of the site and has been informed by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment carried out as part of the Environmental Statement. The landscape framework for the site extends to approximately 5.8 hectares of open space and structural landscaping and 1.7 ha of surface water attenuation.

The landscape treatments have also been designed in consultation with the RSPB to provide useful habitat for several priority species of conservation concern. Both Turtle Dove and Willow Tit occur in the wider vicinity of this stretch of the Derwent valley. These are the two most rapidly declining species in the UK. A number of other species of conservation concern could also benefit. This proposal includes creating a number of important habitats; woodland, scrub wetland mosaics and grasslands. These will with good layout design provide an attractive landscape. The proposal provides scope for a nature rich development with opportunities for recreational enjoyment and learning. Suitable access paths and appropriate interpretation across the site will help residents to engage with the wildlife around them creating a sense of ownership and community.

The landscape strategy comprises the following elements which will assimilate the development into the surrounding landscape and townscape character and mitigate the visual impact of the development:

1. The Settlement Edge

The scheme provides a robust outer boundary to the south and east secured by the proposed primary highway infrastructure with extended areas of structural landscaping in the form of occasional feature clumps of trees like oak and field maple to be planted along the eastern and southern perimeter, with areas of scrub in between. Scrub; planted in e.g. 10x 30x30m patches, comprising hawthorn, blackthorn field maple etc, with a proportion of scrambling plants like dog rose and honeysuckle. The remaining areas should be sown with a) a species rich grassland mix and b) a mix rich in species that produce seeds beneficial to turtle dove.

2. Historic Field Boundaries

The scheme provides partial reinstatement of the historic network of field boundaries that in combination with the retained existing boundaries secures a connected network of recreational routes and wildlife habitats. Hedgerows provide important ecological connectivity through the development so should be retained. Any sections of hedgerow removed to make way for roads should be replaced with native hedgerows of a similar character and species composition in keeping with hedgerows in the locality. Retained hedgerows should be enhanced by allowing them to grow tall, and wide at the base. Provide a 2-5m strip of wildflowers and grasses to retain humidity and provide habitat for invertebrates, and for hedgehogs etc to use as a corridor through the site.

3. Public Rights of Way & Footpath Network

The existing public rights of way are retained as part of the proposed network of green corridors. The pedestrian routes are extended to create a logical network which will encourage physical activity and walking for recreation and short journeys.

4. Extension of King George's Field

The extension of the existing open space resource at the northern boundary of the site secures integration with the existing fabric of settlement and provides access to existing play facilities in the form of an equipped playspace and Multi-use Games Area. The space extends along the full length of the northern boundary

5. Play Facilities

The development will provide 2 equipped play areas built to 'Local Equipped Area for Play' (LEAP) standards as set out in the Fields in Trust publication; Planning and Design for Outdoor Sports and Play. In King Georges Field to the north of the site an area for older children will be provided. In the south centre of the site an area for younger children will be situated close to the primary school. These two separate play spaces will be linked by a 'play trail' running along the central hedgeline with play features and/or seating areas along its route. Each of the play areas will be a 'natural play area' in accordance with current best practice, utilising features such as landform, rocks, logs, 'fallen' trees, and planting.

6. Northern Buffer

The provision of a wooded acoustic barrier earth bund and acoustic fence at the northern and north-east boundaries of the site will mitigate noise impact from the adjoining areas of industrial development. Continuous native woodland to the northern edge to screen the industrial estate, incorporating the sound barrier. With a graduated front edge to housing to include native shrubs with grassland to the front.

7. Entrance Green

The building line is to be set back from



Beverley Road behind a green open space. The green will provide space for informal recreation and will create a more gradual transition from the open land to the south to the tighter street frontages closer to the town centre. The space is also likely to accomodate swales. The existing boundary hedge will be retained, except for the section removed for access. Groups of semi-mature trees will be planted to create a parkland character; species to include Scots Pine, Oak, Norway Maple and Horse Chestnut.

8. Attenuation Area

A large open space alongside the link road has been set aside to provide surface water storage in extreme rainfall events. This area will be a functional space for recreation with native tree and shrub planting to the margins. Species will include Alder & Willow for tolerance of temporary inundation. Further landscape and ecological enhancements are under consideration for this area as we are working closely with the RSPB, subject to the requirements for adoption and future management.

