

LANDSCAPE INFRASTRUCTURE

A landscape led approach was utilised to develop the Masterplan for Sleaford West (SUE). The physical and cultural landscape informed, guided and shaped the layout and design of the site. This was done by creating a robust conceptual framework for development at an early stage in the design process. This landscape led approach was carried out as a clear stepped process:

- Identify Site features
- Assess and identify key landscape features
- Develop Landscape opportunities, as well as identifying constraints
- Develop Landscape Strategy
- Outline Masterplan development

The aim was that the landscape becomes the integrating framework within which the development takes place. This also enabled the Masterplan to maximise opportunities to develop and enhance multi-functional green infrastructure at the heart of the site, delivering a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits.

The objective of the landscape strategy is to:

- enhance the ecological, recreational and amenity value of the Site;
- create a network of interconnected and engaging spaces;
- connect the development with the surrounding landscape; and
- integrate the development into the local landscape.

KEY LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FEATURES:

1 SOUTHERN MEADOW AND WETLAND

The River Slea frontage is an ecologically sensitive area and provides an important buffer and backdrop to Sleaford Fen Local Wildlife Site further to the south. The River Slea frontage also has an important function as a wildlife corridor providing ecological connectivity over a wide area.

To enhance the River Slea frontage and accommodate a re-modelled flood plan, the established meadow and wetland areas are extended along the southern boundary, the lowest southern part of the development. By creating such a significant landscape buffer in this area, the urban edge secures an appropriate transitional area and wildlife corridor between the development and surrounding countryside. This also provides an important buffer and backdrop to Sleaford Fen Local Wildlife Site further to the south.

2 SOUTHERN PITCHES

The main formal sports recreation provision on site is located in the south-western corner of the development and has been created as a part dual use facility with the secondary school. Predominantly laid-out as playing fields but the indicative layout includes a range of facilities:

- Two full sized senior football pitches
- Cricket Square and Pitch
- Two Junior sized football pitches
- Combined Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP)
- Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

3 SUDS SYSTEM

The detailed surface water drainage strategy for the development has been developed in close consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority, Lincolnshire County Council, the 1st Witham Internal Drainage Board (IDB) and Environment Agency (EA). The proposed drainage strategy, compliant with SuDS Management Train principles, comprises the partial use of soakways, permeable paving, detention basins and ditches for the conveyance of water at a controlled rate to the receiving watercourses.

All the SuDS features are located within the areas of open space on site. These features will be designed to be visually attractive, offering significant benefits to wildlife and providing the opportunity to create important landscape features with a strong aesthetic appearance to encourage the bio-diversity of the flora and associated fauna.

4 PLAY AREAS

Equipped children's play areas will be provided at strategic locations throughout the development of the 1400 new homes. These will be located within and incorporated the connected green infrastructure at suitable walking distances of all parts of the new community and existing community beyond. The play spaces will be to NIPFA Six Acre standards including: NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play), LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play) and a number of LAF's (Local Areas for Play) will be provided to meet current standards for play close to the home.

5 GREEN CORRIDORS

The development will incorporate a coherent multi-functional green infrastructure network that criss-crosses the site and builds upon the natural existing attributes such as trees, hedges and ditches. This linked network of green-spaces will include the community allotments outside the application boundary to the south. To be multifunctional, the green infrastructure will incorporate a variety of uses such as amenity, sport, play and transport (cycle and pedestrian routes), as well as achieving other aims such as the incorporation of SuDs and habitat creation. This approach ensures the maximum value is attained from the landscape scheme, and creates more used and vibrant spaces at the heart of the community

6 GREEN CORRIDOR ALIGNED WITH VIEWS OF ST DENY'S CHURCH

As part of ongoing heritage and visual assessments, views from the site of St Deny's Church Spire were identified as important. To aid legibility and sense of direction within the layout a green corridor orientated on a clear vista toward St Deny's spire has been developed. The green corridor is part of the wider green infrastructure network, and planting is designed so as to frame long distance views to the church spire.

7 BOUNDARY PLANTING

Along the western boundary a new strategic linear landscape strip with native tree and shrub planting and wildflower meadows will enhance the existing hedgerow and provide a soft and varied edge of settlement. This planting along with bunding and acoustic fencing will also act as an acoustic buffer to mitigate the noise disturbance generated by the A15.

Other boundaries will benefit from native planting, creating stronger green links and wildlife corridors, as well as screening where required.

8 HOLDINGHAM EDGE

To the northern boundary a substantial linear landscape buffer of open space will be fronted by housing to create a new attractive edge but importantly to provide a distinct offset between the settlement of Holdingham and new development.

9 TREE AVENUES AND GRASS VERGES

Tree-lined avenues running around main road routes will provide a different character to the rest of the native planting scheme within the main green infrastructure and introduce more ornamental species and planting styles, aiding in orientation within the site.

Where the tree lined avenues runs through the main green infrastructure network, accent planting and potentially enhanced hard landscaping will be utilised to create a strong node within the centre of the site. This will again aid orientation, but also enhance the green infrastructure that the development sits within creating a recognisable and unique space.

10 EXISTING ALLOTMENTS (OUTSIDE OF RED LINE BOUNDARY)

The network of green-spaces will link with the community allotments outside the application boundary to the south.



LEGEND

- SITE BOUNDARY
- EXISTING TREES AND VEGETATION
- TREE PROTECTION ORDERS
- PROPOSED NATIVE TREE AND SCRUB PLANTING
- WETLAND/MARGINAL PLANTING
- PROPOSED TREE PLANTING
- PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AREAS INCORPORATING SHRUB & GROUND COVER PLANTING
- PROPOSED HEDGEROWS
- PROPOSED WILDFLOWER MEADOW
- PROPOSED WET/MARGINAL WILDFLOWER GRASSLAND (SURROUNDING SUDS FEATURES)
- PROPOSED SUDS FEATURES INCLUDING DETENTION PONDS/BASINS SWALES AND DITCHES
- SHARED SURFACES, HOME ZONES AND ACCENT PAVING AREAS
- PARKING AREAS
- PLAY AREAS

Note: This is a colour drawing, in order to ensure any subsequent reproduction is viewed correctly it is to be re-printed in full colour

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PROJECT
THE DROVE
SLEAFORD SWQ

TITLE
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

SCALE
1:2000 @ A0

DATE
10/12/15

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