

Key Issues – Landscape & Ecology

Open Space Framework

The University's vision for the open space is to ensure that landscape forms an integral part of the proposed development and overall masterplan design.

The sustainable urban extension deserves a landscape setting that is world class and suitably fitting to this edge of the historic city. Traditional landscape elements will be combined with contemporary techniques to give a pleasant context for the various new building types.

Water and flood risk management is key to the long term success of the development. A network of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems will be incorporated to provide a responsive and attractive environment. This will be functional whilst also improving the biodiversity and ecological value of the site. It will also support the open space framework for recreational and leisure pursuits.

Ecological Habitats: A variety of habitats exist across the site, providing homes for badgers, bats, water voles and great crested newts. The habitats of these species will be protected and, where possible, enhanced. Protection of biodiversity is an important consideration for these proposals.



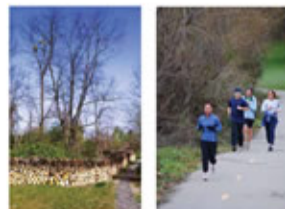
Central Open Space: "Storey's Field"

The central open space in the scheme will be a new urban public space for the city of Cambridge. It is of a similar scale to Parker's Piece. The vision for this part of the site includes both recreational provision (i.e. sports pitches) combined with informal open space for picnics, family gatherings, etc. It will also integrate the SSSI site.



The Western Edge

The open space along the M11 is important in establishing the Green Belt setting for this part of Cambridge. It will primarily be a space for informal recreation and habitat creation and mitigation. The initial proposals are the result of an understanding of the drainage requirements for the site, and will allow for rainwater to be retained in a series of ponds throughout the area. Earth landforms adjacent to each pond will provide some noise and visual protection from the M11. Existing public rights of way will be retained, with the opportunity for new links to the area.



Landscape threads

A series of landscaped areas will be included within the development. These will function as Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) corridors, areas for ecological habitats and biodiversity, informal recreation and play spaces.

Productive Landscapes & Pocket Parks

A series of smaller areas of open space will be provided within the development for both play space and productive landscapes.



Your concerns	The University's Response
<p>Open Space</p> <p>Q Will all spaces be easily accessible to the community?</p>	<p>A The University is committed to providing appropriate amounts and types of open space for the new community. The main open space provision will be publicly accessible and includes enhanced walking and cycling networks, including the Ridgeway, a dedicated route for cyclists and pedestrians. This route provides links within the scheme and to the adjacent communities and countryside beyond.</p>
<p>Landscaping strategy</p> <p>Q Will the new scheme include plenty of trees?</p> <p>Will a series of "Green squares" be included within the residential development?</p> <p>Will the landscape provision have a variety of uses?</p> <p>Will the sports pitches provided be for public use as well as University use?</p> <p>How will the University integrate the SSSI?</p> <p>How will the scheme provide more space to encourage wildlife?</p>	<p>A The landscaping strategy includes many new trees and green squares within the residential land use. Existing historical trees will also be retained as part of the scheme. The University intends to plant up the scheme at an early stage to allow new trees and shrubs to mature prior to the development being built out.</p> <p>A central open space will be retained as part of the landscape strategy (Storey's Field) which will also protect and where possible enhance the existing geological SSSI. The North West Cambridge scheme will also include a series of landscape areas which will function as Sustainable urban drainage systems corridors, areas for ecological habitats and biodiversity and provide space for informal recreation and play spaces.</p>