

4.12 The Local Plan references the Wotton-under-Edge Community Sports Foundation which provides a key location as an outdoor community sports and recreation facility, on the land to the rear of Katherine Lady Berkeley School, which is to the east of the site.

4.13 Opportunities for increasing the outdoor play space provision is also noted due to current shortfalls.

4.14 The draft vision to 2040 also notes how Kingswood benefits from its proximity to Wotton-Under-Edge, with its landscape setting and the safe green walking and cycling links as well as the employment sites.

4.15 A number of policies within the Local Plan aim to implement the strategic visions for the district. Those relevant to the Landscape Strategy are included for reference, and to help inform the landscape approach.

#### CP 4 - Place Making

4.16 The place making policy seeks to ensure proposed developments integrate with the existing neighbourhoods, and help enhance a sense of place. Here, reference is made to landscape features, and the importance of protecting or enhancing local biodiversity as well as creating safe streets and homes.

#### CP 14 - High Quality Sustainable Development

4.17 CP14 notes that "high quality development, which protects, conserves and enhances the built and natural environment, will be supported." It notes that support would be given where a development "contributes to the retention and enhancement of important landscape and geological features, biodiversity interests (including trees, hedgerows and other natural features)."

4.18 The policy also notes place making and the creation of "safe, convenient and attractive accesses on foot and by cycle".

4.19 Delivery Policy ES6 sets out the requirement to provide for biodiversity and geodiversity and stipulates that "all new development will be required to conserve and enhance the natural environment, including all sites of biodiversity or geodiversity value..."

#### ES 7 Landscape Character

4.20 Policy ES7 echoes the requirement to protect the setting of the Cotswolds AONB with priorities to conserve and enhance the landscape. The policy takes account of biodiversity interest and historic and cultural heritage and notes that consideration should be given to the scale, materials, location and proposals that complement the landscape character including natural features including trees and hedgerows and water features that contribute to the landscape character.

4.21 It notes that "opportunities for appropriate landscaping will be sought alongside all new development, such that landscape type key characteristics are strengthened." This policy also notes the Stroud District Landscape Assessment that "will be used when determining applications for development within rural areas".

4.22 The requirement to enhance and protect trees and hedgerows is reinforced within Policy ES 8.

#### ES 12 Better Design of Places

4.23 Policy ES 12 notes that "the District Council will require the layout and design of new development to create well designed, socially integrated, high quality successful places, where people enjoy living and working, with legible and well planned routes, blocks and spaces, integrated residential, commercial and community activity, safe attractive public spaces and pedestrian/cycle routes without traffic conflict, secure private areas, better designed buildings and landscaped spaces."

#### ES 14 Provision of semi-natural and natural green space with new residential development

4.24 Policy ES14 notes the requirement for the provision of semi-natural and natural green space within new residential development and how the spaces should be accessible to provide multiple benefits to people and the environment. It notes that "nature nearby is good for people, good for wildlife and good for the environment."

4.25 The Council "places emphasis on providing natural and semi-natural open space at the levels recommended by Natural England; and on providing space that is of high quality, both for biodiversity and as a multifunctional resource for communities." It notes the planting would be primarily native provide an opportunity to create linked networks of natural spaces. And that "sites should be easily accessible, welcoming, well maintained and managed, should provide ecosystem services."

4.26 Reference is also made to GI and the district level strategic GI framework that would be considered by the Council when determining applications.

#### Policy ES 15 Provision of outdoor play space

4.27 Policy ES 15 notes that new residential developments shall need to provide the appropriate levels of outdoor play space for the new community and that the public open spaces should be easily accessible and served by good quality pedestrian and cycle links.

4.28 The extracts of the Local Plan policy set out above shall be considered and transposed into the landscape opportunities for the scheme, and taken forward into the Landscape Strategy within Section 6 and 7 of this document.

#### Supplementary Planning Guidance

4.29 To supplement the 2005 Stroud Local Plan, the Stroud District Landscape Assessment (SPG) dated 2000 sets out the landscape character types for the site and its context as included in Section 3.

#### Kingswood Village Design Statement

4.30 The Kingswood Village Design Statement (VDS) was adopted on 11th December 2014. It is included within this Landscape Strategy due to its relevance in relation to the Stroud Local Plan as it is seen to supplement the Local Plan policies and provide further local context.

4.31 The VDS recognises the geographical setting of Kingswood and notes the public open space and community facilities and assets within the settlement.

4.32 The VDS highlights that Kingswood is rural in character with open countryside views, however it also notes the other land uses within the settlement and surrounding area. This includes the industrial/employment sites at Abbey Mills Estate and the large international head office of the engineering company Renishaw which is located within the parish (to the north of the Site). It notes the presence of Renishaw "dominates the New Mills and Charfield borders and has a big influence on the area" and forms an entrance to the settlement. In addition, it is highlighted how the population increases during the working day and leads to vehicle movement to and from the Renishaw site.

4.33 The VDS notes the community recreation and amenity sites and local facilities as identified within Figure 2 of this document. The Kingswood Village Design Statement notes how previous developments have provided landscape improvements and enhancements through S106 Agreements, and the community have benefited from a community orchard, allotments and wildlife space with ponds for Great Crested Newts.

4.34 The VDS states that: "The design of any development in this area would need to take into account the importance of the environmental and amenity value of this land to the community along with the importance of public views to the Escarpment. The design should enhance the environmental value of this area."

4.35 The VDS notes the following considerations that need to be acknowledged in the design for any future development or changes these include:

- Consideration of the existing residential, employment / industrial uses within Kingswood and the impact on the Parish.
- Consideration of sustainable transport options to take account of the current reliance on vehicles and how this can be improved. And to help ensure that adequate parking is made for any new development and also that there is no impact on the existing area.
- Consideration of the highways infrastructure and the encouragement of using sustainable modes of transport and ensure access is inclusive for the community.



View of the Cotswolds Escarpment at the William Tyndale Monument

#### Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2018-2023

4.36 As highlighted within Section 3, the Cotswolds AONB is situated to the north of the site. Whilst the site is not within this designation, the AONB Management Plan has been reviewed in order to consider any potential opportunities and GI topics that require acknowledgement during the development of the Landscape Strategy.

4.37 The purpose of the Management Plan is to set out policy and guidance to help conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds AONB. In this way, the Management Plan aims to increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities and the potential pressures the AONB faces and opportunities to improve issues such as biodiversity, access, recreation, health and well being.

4.38 It is noted within the AONB management plan that the escarpment has a physical and visual influence on the landscape within the area and to the setting of the AONB beyond its designation boundary. Also, the Management Plan notes that views to and from the AONB are considered to be special qualities in the context of the designation. Therefore views have been considered as part of the landscape and visual analysis section of this Landscape Strategy.

4.39 Other themes within the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan that are relevant to the Landscape Strategy and the green infrastructure topics that are to be integrated to the landscape proposals are:

- Tranquillity - the perception of tranquillity within the landscape;
- Biodiversity - with the aim to conserve and enhance habitat & species to form ecological networks;
- Access and recreation - provision to safe, well connected and legible routes; and
- Health and Wellbeing - understanding the links between connection with nature and health & well being and the provision of educational opportunities.

4.40 The Management Plan recognises the requirement and for pressures for development within the setting of the AONB.



View from the William Tyndale Monument within the Cotswolds AONB



Views from within the site towards the Cotswolds AONB escarpment and the William Tynesdale Monument.

# 5 LANDSCAPE & VISUAL ANALYSIS

5.1 This section provides a landscape and visual analysis for the site and includes a number of representative views from within the site and the surrounding landscape.

5.2 As part of this landscape and visual analysis the receptors for the site have been considered. This analysis is not a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), but it identifies key receptors that shall be considered as part of the development of the Landscape Strategy.

## Public Rights of Way

5.3 There are close range views of the site from PRoW within the immediate vicinity of the site. To the east, the PRoW (CKD/7/1) runs from New Road to Wotton Road (through the Hopyard Farm) along the eastern edge has glimpsed views along sections of the PRoW. However, vegetation along the field boundaries and along the watercourses between the PRoW and the site help to screen views. In places the vegetation is fragmented, therefore gaps afford views to the site for short lengths of the footpath. A section of the southern part of the site is visible by Langford Mill due to the landform of the site and neighbouring fields as shown on viewpoint 1 and 2.

5.4 It is anticipated that only glimpsed views of the development would be afforded from the publicly accessible Wotton skate park and pump track (viewpoint 4) community sports site. This is due to the distance to the site and the intervening fields, landform and the vegetation that provides visual screening.

5.5 It is envisaged that there would be close range views from the PRoW (CKD/3/3) to the north west of the site (view 5) which leads west from the Renishaw roundabout on New Road (B4058). From this point, views to the site would be seen within the context of the highways infrastructure include vertical signage, and other urbanising influences such as the Renishaw site entrance and telegraph poles. The field in which the PRoW is situated is proposed for an employment allocation (PS47) within the emerging Local Plan, hence the setting of the PRoW could be affected by this allocation.

5.6 From the west the PRoW (CKD/6/2) runs from Kingswood towards Charfield and passes close to Grange Farm. Views from the PRoW looking north east towards the site (view 6) would be afforded with the site visible beyond the hedgerows that bounds the site along Charfield Road (B4062). The existing hedgerows trees that form part of the site boundary and line Charfield Road filter parts of the view, with the Cotswolds escarpment and the land rising beyond the site in the distance. Here, the site would be viewed within the context of the edge of Wotton-under-Edge, and the Renishaw employment site, which is prominent within the view and within the site's immediate surroundings.

## Highway

5.7 Users of the highways that border the north (New Road, B4058) and western boundaries of the site (Charfield Road, B4062) will be afforded glimpsed views of the site along certain sections of the highways. These would be transient views due to the road speed and direction of travel in particular when travelling from Wotton to Charfield. Views from the 'Renishaw Roundabout' when approaching Wotton and Kingswood would be afforded, due to the break in hedgerow boundary where there is a current field access gate.

5.8 It is highlighted that along lengths of the roads (B4058 and B4062) that surround the site, views would not be afforded to the site in sections due to the well managed boundary hedgerow that bounds the northern and eastern edges of the site. The fact that the hedgerow has few gaps and that the roads is cut into the landform in places, (meaning the road is lower than the adjacent fields) means that views for road users would be screened, and any perceived views would be transient in nature.

5.9 As noted, above the site is visible for about 150m from Charfield Road on the approach to Kingswood from the north-west. Views from the road are generally screened by the level of the road and the intervening well maintained hedgerow that forms the boundary to the site. Travelling in the opposite direction, views of the site are more difficult to discern due to the existing built form on the Site's edge, although filtered and fleeting views in between the properties on the southern edge are available.

5.10 In summary, the existing landscape features, such as the hedgerows that defined the external site boundary and the internal field boundaries help to provide physical separation and screening from Charfield Road and New Road. In addition, the level of the road foreshortens views along the highways, with any views being transient and glimpsed by road users.

5.11 As well as close range views from the PRoW and residential properties within the vicinity of the site, there are medium and long-distance views of the site from the north and northeast on the Cotswolds AONB escarpment. In these views the site is seen sloping towards the river, with the distinctive row of houses beyond the site visible within these views.

## Residential Properties

5.12 The site would be partially visible from the existing residential properties that immediately adjoin the site including those on Charfield Road (albeit from the first floor) and from Langford Mill residents (and workers). These properties on the southern boundary have direct and mostly uninterrupted views of the site. However, the existing boundaries to the properties on Charfield Road could be strengthened through additional planting to provide further separation from the site, and provide screening from upper windows.

5.13 It is anticipated that views from Langford Mill would be afforded due to the orientation of the building, however, views to the site would also be seen in the context of the existing dwellings on Charfield Road, and the Abbey Mill industrial/employment site to the south of the property.

5.14 A small cluster of dwellings are found to the north of the site at Bushford Bridge Cottage on New Road. Due to the orientation of the dwellings views to the site would be limited, however glimpsed views to the northern part of the site would be visible from the land around the properties due to breaks in the vegetation along the site's north eastern boundary.

5.15 The southernmost property within this cluster on New Road, located on the edge of the site's eastern boundary would have views into the site.

5.16 Views would also be afforded from Merryford Farm and Hopyard Farm. Views from Hopyard Farm are likely to be glimpsed through the intervening existing field boundaries and vegetation that lines the watercourses and the landscape within curtilage of the farm dwelling.

5.17 Grange Farm, located approximately 360m to the west would have views towards the site. However, the site would be seen within the context of the Renishaw site and Monks Meadow scheme at Tyndale View.

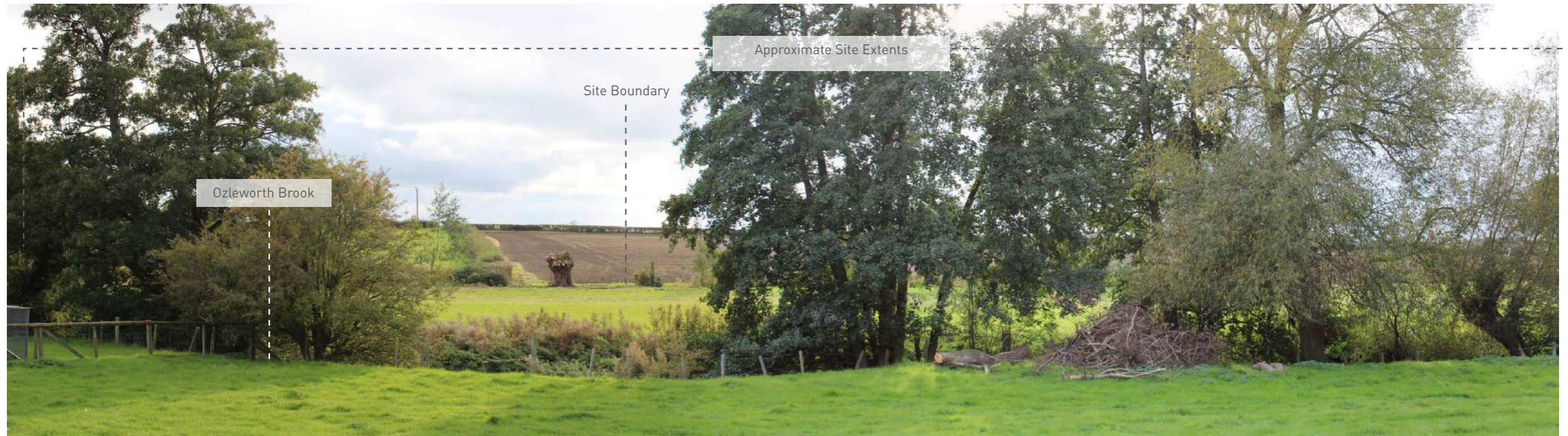
5.18 Within the wider area, views from the properties on the edge of Wotton-under-Edge may be afforded due settlement being on the higher slopes of the escarpment. Views towards the site are likely to be viewed within the context of the Renishaw site and the settlement of Kingswood and Charfield beyond. However the distance to the site, and intervening vegetated field boundaries would likely soften views and with the aforementioned settlements providing urbanising features within the landscape in addition to the wind turbines at Wickwar.



VIEWPOINT 1 - FROM THE PROW (CKD/7/1) LOOKING SOUTH WEST TOWARDS THE SITE



VIEWPOINT 2 - FROM THE PROW (CKD/7/1) LOOKING SOUTH WEST TOWARDS THE SITE



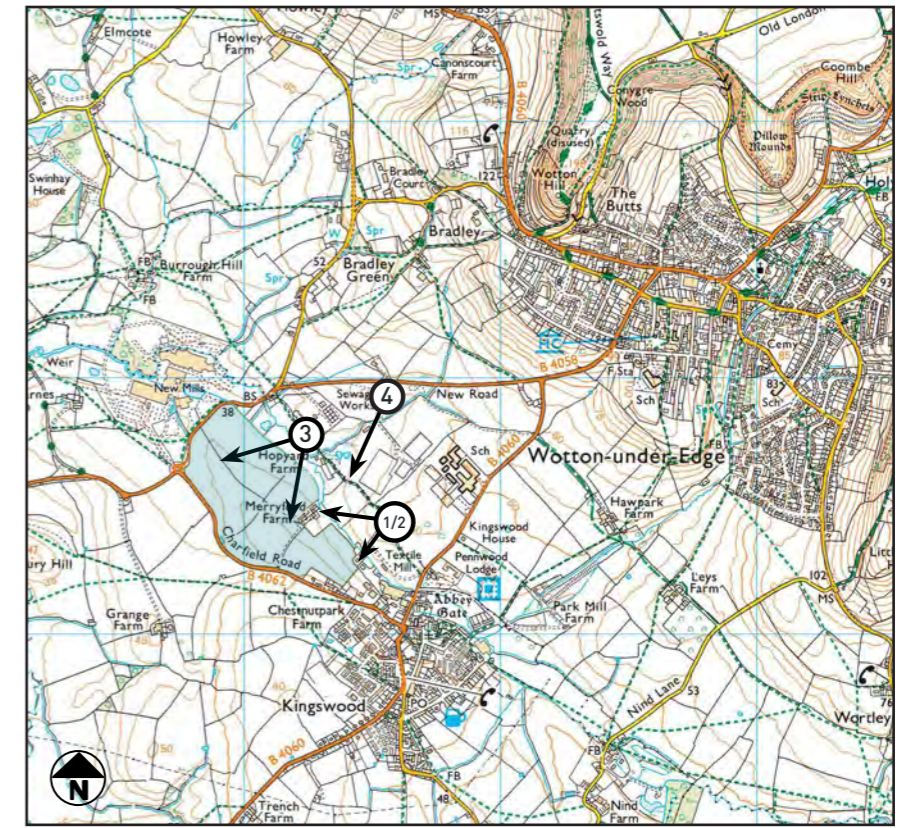
VIEWPOINT 3 - FROM THE PROW (CKD/7/1) ALONG THE ACCESS TRACK TO HOPYARD FARM LOOKING WEST TOWARDS THE SITE



VIEWPOINT 4 - FROM THE WOTTON SKATEPARK AND PUMP TRACK CAR PARK LOOKING SOUTH WEST TOWARDS THE SITE

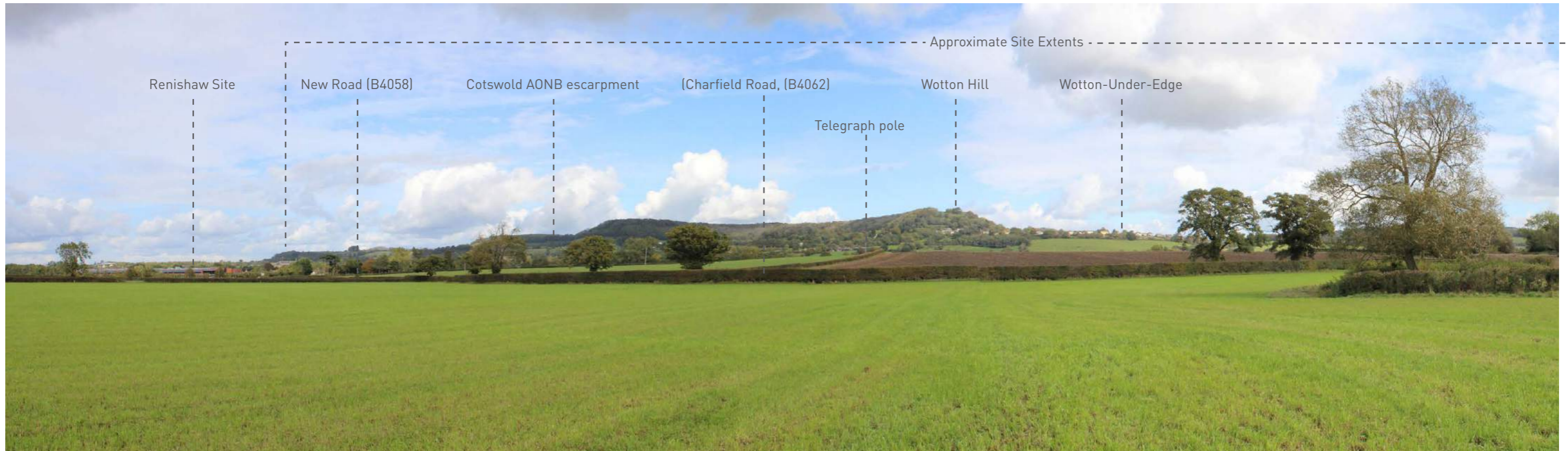


Pumping station associated with the sewage treatment works



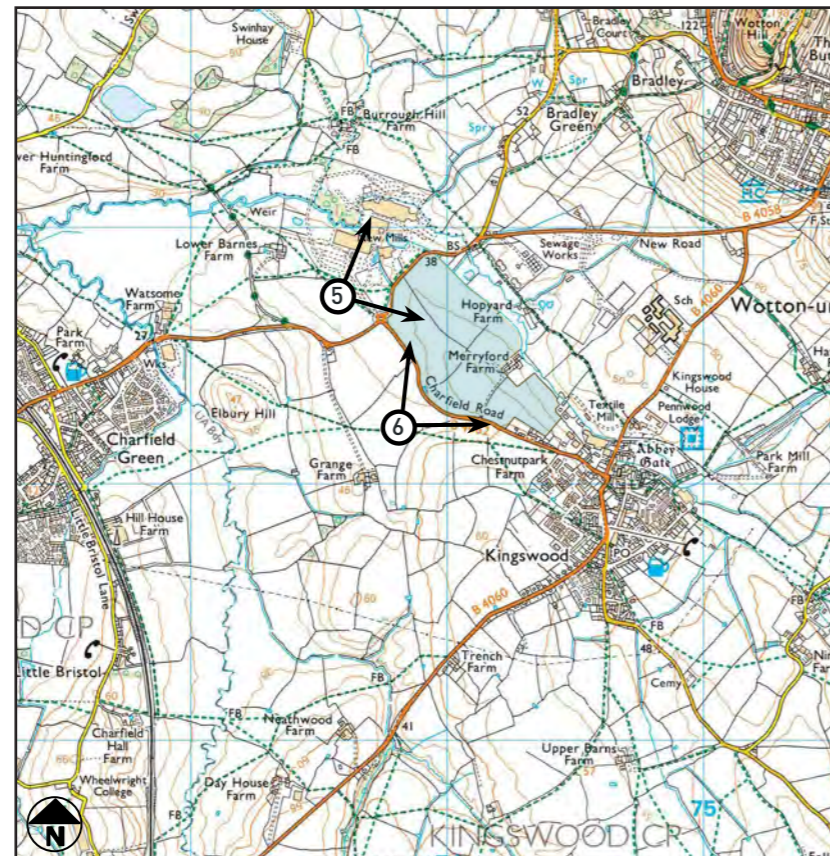


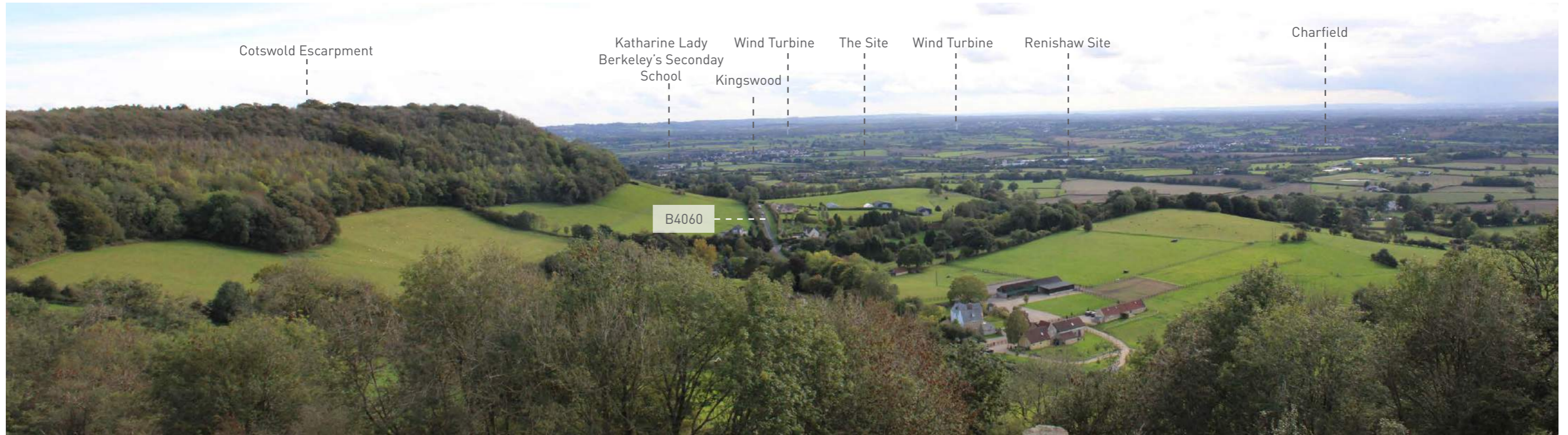
VIEWPOINT 5 - VIEW FROM THE PROW (CKD/3/3) LOOKING FORM NORTH TO EAST TOWARDS THE SITE



VIEWPOINT 6 - VIEW FROM THE PROW (CKD/6/2) LOOKING NORTH EAST TOWARDS THE SITE



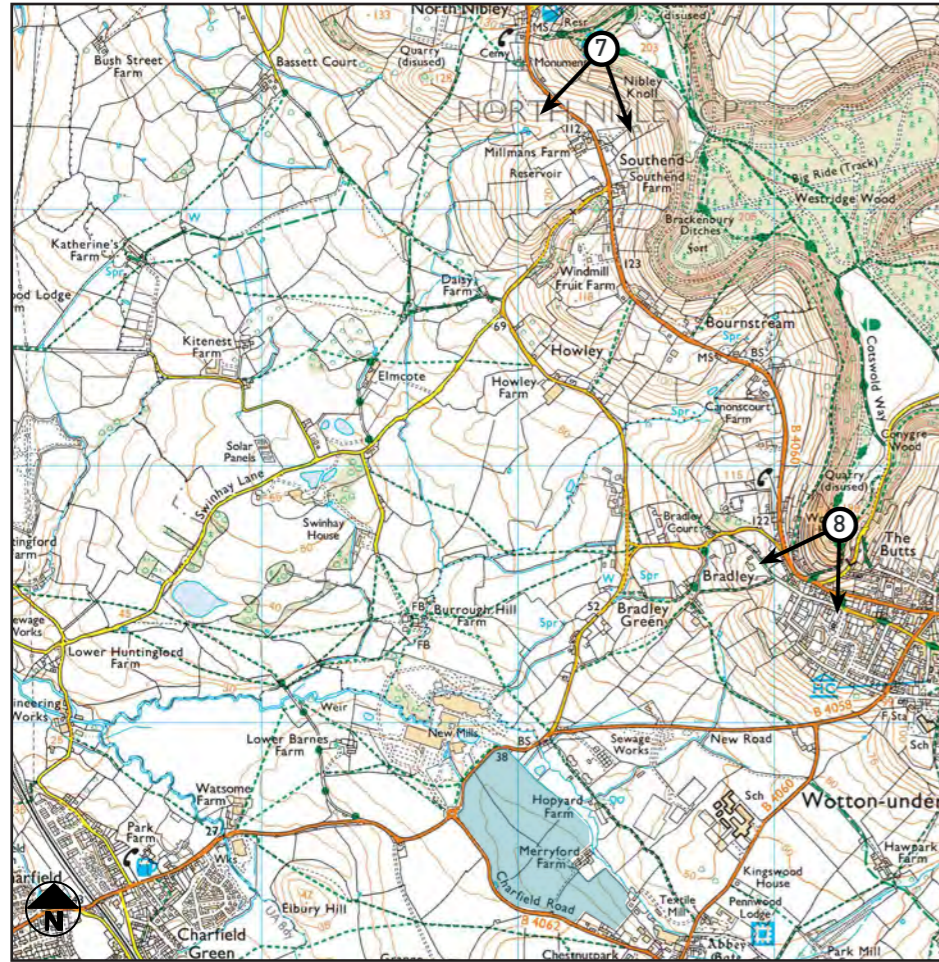




VIEWPOINT 7 - VIEW FROM WILLIAM TYNDALE MONUMENT ON THE COTSWOLD WAY NATIONAL TRAIL WITHIN THE AONB APPROXIMATELY 3.1KM TO THE NORTH WEST OF THE SITE



VIEWPOINT 8 - VIEW FROM WOTTON HILL AND THE COTSWOLD WAY NATIONAL TRAIL TOWARDS THE SITE APPROXIMATELY 1.4KM AWAY



### Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

- 5.19 As set out within previous section of this Landscape Strategy, the Cotswolds AONB, and users of the Cotswolds Way within this area who use the routes for recreation are potential receptors. Also, the surroundings and setting of the AONB are important to its special qualities and perception of scenic beauty which includes outward views from the AONB escarpment.
- 5.20 The scarp face is outward looking and large sections of the paths including the Cotswolds Way are set within woodland so views for users are concentrated along the route of travel for long sections of the Cotswolds Way. Landmarks along the Cotswolds Way such as the William Tyndale Monument and Wotton Hill provide panoramic viewpoints across the lower vale containing the site.
- 5.21 The view looking to the south from the AONB from the open area at William Tyndale Monument is shown in viewpoint 7. The long distance view is framed by the scarp on the east with the settlement of Kingswood visible within the lower vale. These include the settlement of Charfield, the B4060 highway in the foreground, and a number of farmsteads scattered within the landscape.

- 5.22 In addition, the Renishaw employment site is viewed from the AONB along with Katharine Lady Berkeley's School adjacent to Kingswood. Other urbanising influences include the wind turbines (located close to Wickwar) which are visible from the Cotswolds escarpment beyond the site.
- 5.23 The site's location, adjacent to Kingswood mixed use development edge means that the site would be viewed from this point within the context of the existing settlement when viewed within the wider view. The proposed development would appear consistent with the pattern of development and urbanising influences within the lower vale when viewed from the Cotswolds AONB escarpment.
- 5.24 The woodland along the escarpment frames the outward views, with the trees on the lower slopes of the scarp further directing the view from the monument. This vegetation along with the trees and hedgerows that bounds the intervening fields and B4060 highway within the landscape below gives the perception of a verdant landscape. As a result the trees and hedgerows within view help to foreshorten views to and the site whilst visible would be viewed in the context of the aforementioned settlements, and Renishaw employment site and it would be partially filtered by the intervening vegetation.
- 5.25 Looking south west from Wotton Hill, the site would be visible within panoramic views overlooking the lower vale in the context of the settlement of Kingswood, the Renishaw employment site. In addition, the site would be viewed within the context of the settlement edge of Wotton-under-Edge within the foreground, and Charfield in the distance. The vegetation that lines the watercourses along the site's boundary and around the Hopyard Farm would filter views of the site itself. In the foreground of the view, the skate park and pump track is visible as well as the Katharine Lady Berkeley's School which is prominent adding further urbanising influences within the view. The wind turbines beyond Kingswood are also visible.
- 5.26 In summary, whilst the views from the AONB are of high sensitivity, the views afforded to the site would be seen within the wider context of existing settlements, the Renishaw employment site which is located adjacent to the site and other urbanising influences as discussed. There is the potential that the views towards the site can be mitigated through a considered landscape design approach within the scheme and the following recommendations from this landscape and visual analysis.

### Recommendations

- 5.27 Based upon the landscape and visual analysis, it is considered that the residential development could be accommodated within the site, with careful consideration given to the following recommendations:
- Develop a layout that works with the site topography and site context. Propose dwellings at a lower density on the lower parts of the site to create a feathered edge to the scheme with views towards the AONB.
  - Provide open space that will help to break up the mass, scale and form of the proposals and provide screening to enhance the existing field patterns as well as mitigating views from the surrounding receptors.
  - Aim to improve existing landscape elements through the provision of new screening vegetation that is in-keeping with the landscape character to filter close range and long range views from PRow within the vicinity of the site, and the AONB.
  - Utilise the landscape proposals within the public open spaces to design views from the development that can help to enhance legibility and the wider GI network. Use the proposed landscaping and tree planting to filter views into the development from the surrounding receptors.
  - Utilise the site's existing features as part of the landscape framework, eg. understand that the site naturally drains to the north so utilise this feature for the SuDs proposals to work and consider integration within the existing blue infrastructure
  - Maintain a visual buffer to Kingswood within views from the north west with buffer planting to soften the edge of the development.
  - As part of the masterplanning for the site, long distance views of the development could be mitigated by tree belt planting to contain the development within the lower vale.
  - Frame key outwards views from within the site towards the Cotswolds AONB escarpment.
  - Utilise the existing landscape framework as part of the mitigation planting proposals by bolstering hedgerows and existing trees with new planting.
  - Protect the setting to the existing farm and consider the siting of landscape proposals around Langford Mill to provide a green edge to the scheme.
  - Propose public open space to the north west of the site to maintain physical and visual separation between Kingswood and the Renishaw employment site.

Public  
Footpath

Public  
Footpath

Gloucestershire  
COUNTY COUNCIL





**PART 2**  
**PROMOTING A LANDSCAPE LED MASTERPLAN**

# 6 SITE OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

6.1 Following the baseline study a number of aims and objectives for the Landscape Strategy can be developed in response to the site's opportunities and constraints.

## LANDSCAPE OPPORTUNITIES

6.2 A number of landscape opportunities can be explored when developing the Landscape Strategy. These are shown within the Landscape Strategy Plan and are identified below:

- Develop a landscape-led layout responds to the site topography and site context. Propose dwellings at a lower density on the lower parts of the site to create a feathered edge to the scheme with views towards the AONB.
- Provide open space that will help to break up the mass, scale and form of the proposals and provide screening and design views through the development that can help to enhance legibility and the wider GI network.
- Enable the integration of the development into the surrounding landscape by replicating landscape character and strengthening the existing landscape framework to help to mitigate views.
- Enhance the existing landscape elements through the provision of new vegetation that is in-keeping with the landscape character to filter close range and long range views from PRoW within the vicinity of the site, and the AONB.
- Utilise the site's existing features as part of the landscape framework, eg. understand that the site naturally drains to the north so integrate this feature for the sustainable urban drainage systems proposals to work and consider integration within the existing blue infrastructure.
- Maintain a visual and physical buffers to Kingswood and adjacent receptors through the layout, and design of the public open space providing a set back to the development.
- Existing trees and hedgerows to be retained and enhanced for landscape and ecological interest. Hence, bolster the existing landscape framework with new hedgerows and tree planting with primarily native species.
- Develop a landscape strategy to mitigate any potential adverse effects on users of the PRoW and the visual amenity of recreational users of the Cotswolds AONB in line with local policy and the AONB Management Plan.

- Consider the landscape enhancements to help conserve and enhance the site in the context of the setting of the Cotswold AONB with landscape proposals reflecting the local character and enhancing visual amenity.
- Create a green edge to the scheme, naturalistic in character to soften the edge and mass of the proposals and provide publicly accessible greenspace for the new community as well as connections into the wider GI network.
- Retain existing field boundaries and develop a long-term management plan to ensure the establishment of new planting and reduce the impact of invasive and potentially harmful non-native species.
- Maintain the discreet approach to Kingswood from the north-west using buffer planting and development well set back from the site's edges.
- Integrate and enhance the public rights of way network within the vicinity of the site by providing links through the site creating a wide range of safe and accessible walking, cycling and horse riding routes.
- Creation of green corridor along the eastern boundary to enhance the brook corridor for visual amenity and ecological benefits.
- Creation of a sustainable residential development with direct walking/cycling links to surrounding rural and urban areas.
- Enhance the existing landscape framework within the study area to develop green corridors to enable access, recreation and to enhance biodiversity. And create a variety of play and education opportunities across the development.
- Propose a landscape that is compatible with the Cotswolds local distinctiveness and place making for the new community through choice of materials within the landscape with the potential of including stone walls.
- Consideration of lighting to provide safe, green links and safe routes for users of the site, meeting safety requirements, with the aim to reduce impact on ecology and potential light spill (within the context of the AONB dark skies).
- Create public open spaces for the new community which will help foster a sense of community and enhance the green links to Kingswood. A safe, pleasant, accessible, clearly waymarked and well connected Public Rights of Way network should be maintained and enhanced.

- Opportunities for improving health and wellbeing within the public open space proposals through the creation, improvement and promotion of sage, green and legible walking and cycling links.
- Ensure the public open spaces are accessible, providing access and interaction with nature to provide health and wellbeing benefits
- Improve legibility and permeability with a strong movement network - enhancing and improving the existing Public Rights of Way network as well as the creation of new routes.
- Siting of a new primary has the opportunity to encourage connection to nature, and for the landscape to provide opportunities for environmental education.
- Create a diverse range of green spaces which successfully combine function, ecology, drainage and existing GI assets.

## ECOLOGY

6.3 Whilst preliminary survey work (undertaken by others) has not identified any major ecological constraints to development of the site and it is considered that the habitats of ecological value can be readily accommodated into a sensitively designed scheme. As part of the GI network, these opportunities to mitigate, compensate and enhance can be integrated within the Landscape Strategy for the site. These include:

- Improve existing GI assets with the creation and enhancement of wildlife corridors to define transition from the urban to rural edge.
- Aim to provide biodiversity net gain.
- Provide buffers to the existing ditches eg. create a 3m strip to protect from pollution and allow maintenance access.
- Retain and protect hedgerows. Replace any losses and provide 'net gain' in total hedgerow length.
- Design to include bat, bird and bug boxes to enhance site for wildlife.
- A 15m buffer is recommended from the stream to protect riparian vegetation, otter and water vole. Keep corridor dark and protect from pollution/excess water using SUDS.
- Develop a robust and resilient ecological network within the landscape proposals to provide biodiversity improvements of wildlife whilst creating an attractive space for residents and users.

























-  SITE BOUNDARY
-  EXISTING TREES AND HEDGEROWS - TO BE PROTECTED/RETAINED, ENHANCED AND INTEGRATED INTO THE SCHEME
-  EXISTING WATERCOURSE TO BE ENHANCED
-  PROPOSED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
-  PROVISION OF FOOTPATHS AND ACCESS LINKS
-  PROVISION OF LINKS INTO THE EXISTING PROW NETWORK BEYOND THE SITE
-  SYMPATHETIC LANDSCAPE DESIGN TO SENSITIVE EDGES OF THE SITE
-  GREEN EDGE AND WOODLAND BUFFER
-  CENTRAL SPINE AND GREEN CORRIDOR
-  DESTINATION PLAY PROVISION WITHIN POCHE PARK - TO PROVIDE A VARIETY OF EXCITING AND INCLUSIVE PLAY OPPORTUNITIES
-  INFORMAL PLAY OPPORTUNITIES
-  SITE TOPOGRAPHY
-  CONSIDER GREENLINKS TO THE PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT ALLOCATION (PS47) SITE AS PART OF THE WIDER MOVEMENT NETWORK
-  KEY INWARD AND OUTWARD VIEWS
-  IMPROVE CYCLE LINKS
-  ENSURE LINKS ARE LEGIBLE WITH CLEAR WAY FINDING
-  PROVIDE SAFE, GREEN AND LEGIBLE FOOTPATH LINKS
-  VERDANT NATURALISTIC ESTATE PARKLAND
-  INFORMAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEW AND EXISTING COMMUNITY
-  POTENTIAL SCHOOL SITE
-  IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY THROUGH HABITAT CREATION AND ENHANCEMENT FOR EXISTING SPECIES/HABITAT
-  INTEGRATION OF SUDS WITHIN THE EXISTING BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE - RETAIN AND ENHANCE THE LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE EXISTING DITCHES / WATERCOURSE

Figure 5: Landscape Opportunities Plan







# 7 LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

7.1 Following the baseline study a number of aims and objectives for the Landscape Strategy have been set out in response to the site's opportunities and constraints depicted within the landscape opportunities plan.

7.2 These have been developed within the Strategic Landscape Masterplan (Figure 6). The following sections shows how the public open spaces within the site could be designed to create a vibrant place for the new and existing community whilst improving biodiversity.

7.3 The public open space is broadly defined as the following character areas

- Northern Estate Parkland character area;
- Western Green Edge and Eastern Parkland character area; and
- Central Pocket Park & Internal Green Corridors character area.



- 1 LEGIBLE GREEN STREET THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE NORTH EAST TO SOUTH EAST AXIS
- 2 INTEGRATION OF EXISTING VEGETATION INTO THE LANDSCAPE FRAMEWORK - ENHANCE & IMPROVE WHILST PROTECTING AND RETAINING EXISTING TREES & HEDGEROWS
- 3 CREATION OF A POCKET PARK AT THE CENTRE OF THE DEVELOPMENT FOR FORMAL PLAY PROVISION
- 4 CREATION OF A SERIES OF FORMAL SURFACED AND INFORMAL PATHS TO PROVIDE A VARIETY OF ROUTES FOR INFORMAL AMENITY WITHIN THE PARKLAND
- 5 ENHANCE THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE SITE INTO A GREEN EDGE TO THE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH RETENTION OF HEDGEROW AND MATURE TREES ALONG CHARFIELD ROAD. ENHANCE WITH COMPLIMENTARY TREE PLANTING
- 6 IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY THROUGH GRASSLAND TO PROVIDE HABITAT AND VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE WILDFLOWER GRASSLAND FOR USERS
- 7 PROVIDE SAFE & LEGIBLE LINKS INTO THE WIDER PROW NETWORK TO IMPROVE ACCESS WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE SITE
- 8 CREATE A PARKLAND TO ENHANCE THE CHARACTER ALONG NEW ROAD - PLANTING TO PROVIDE MITIGATION, NATIVE SPECIES AND WILDLIFE OPPORTUNITIES
- 9 BUFFER SENSITIVE RECEPTORS THROUGH TREE BELT PLANTING AND GRASSLAND TO CREATE NATURALISTIC GREENSPACE
- 10 INFILL BOUNDARY VEGETATION WHERE NECESSARY TO ENCLOSE VIEWS WHILST ENHANCING THE CHARACTER OF THE TREE LINED WATERCOURSES
- 11 ENHANCE EXISTING HEDGEROWS TO CREATE GREEN CORRIDORS TO PROVIDE SEPARATION BETWEEN THE DEVELOPMENT PARCELS AND PROVIDE A VERDANT LANDSCAPE FRAMEWORK
- \* THE ONPLOT - RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPING TO FRONT / REAR GARDENS AND THE STREETScape COULD BE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FURTHER GREENING THE SCHEME

# NORTHERN ESTATE PARKLAND CHARACTER AREA

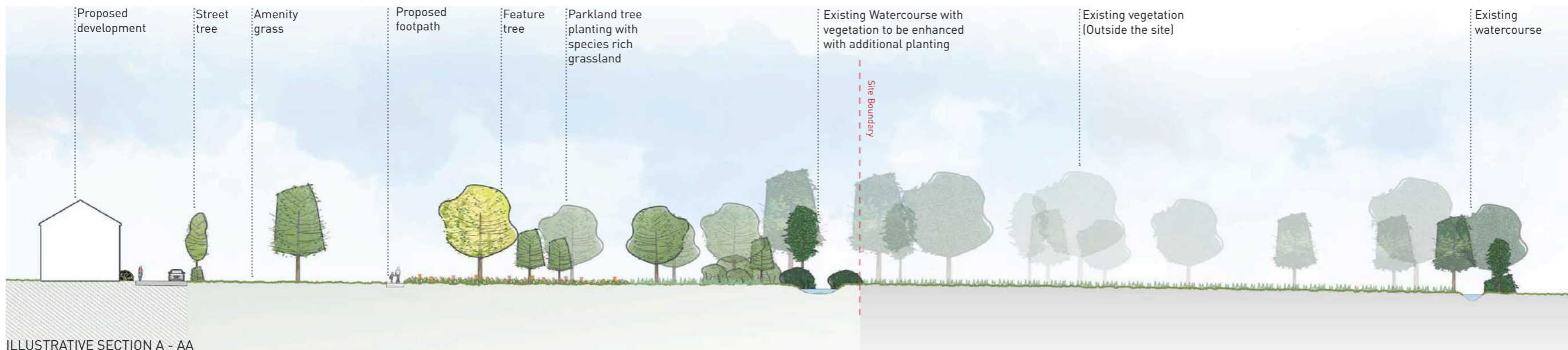


## NORTHERN ESTATE PARKLAND

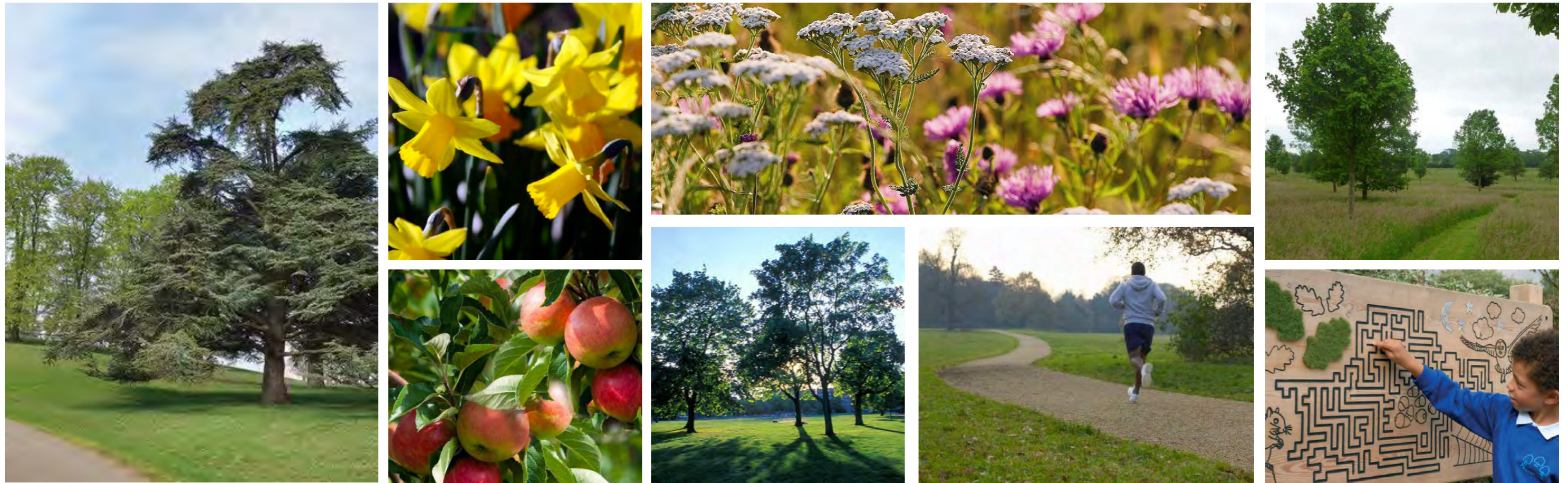
7.4 The Northern Estate Parkland wraps around the northern edge of the site and creates a large area of public open space that provides multiple functions to the scheme to benefit users and wildlife. The green edge would be naturalistic in character and will form a key open space providing informal recreation and amenity opportunities whilst providing landscape elements to mitigate views to the site from the surrounding area.

7.5 Key design principles are:

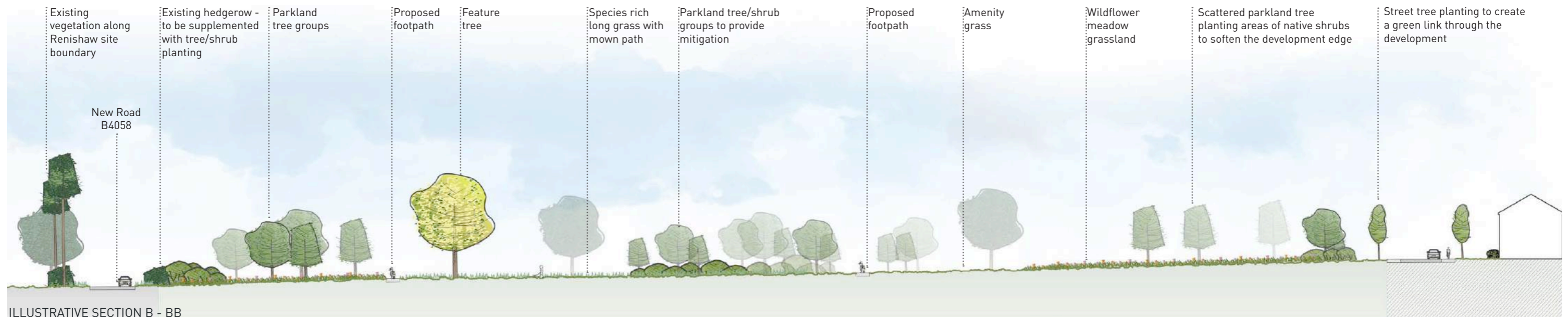
- Provision of a series of formal and informal paths for informal recreation. Seating and street furniture to be provided at key locations.
- Creation of a parkland with feature tree planting to create focal points, scattered parkland trees to soften views into and across the site and provide mitigation to the scheme from the AONB.
- Native species to be priorities with pockets of native shrub planting to provide structure to the space. Potential to includes small groups of fruit orchard tree planting.
- Existing hedgerows to be retained and enhanced with additional tree planting.
- Seasonal interest to be provided through bulb planting.
- Provision of informal play opportunities to encourage interaction with nature
- Creation of grassland (amenity / wildflower / species rich) to improve biodiversity and habitat creation as well as seasonal visual interest for users and residents.
- Integrate SuDs within the scheme as part of the site drainage strategy. The features can provide habitat opportunities for wildlife.
- Links to be provided into the wider public right of way network and encourage walking and cycling through the creation of safe, green and legible links.



ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION A - AA



PRECEDENT IMAGES



ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION B - BB

# WESTERN GREEN EDGE & EASTERN PARKLAND CHARACTER AREA



## WESTERN GREEN EDGE AND EASTERN PARKLAND

7.6 The Northern Parkland wraps around the northern edge of the site and creates a large area of public open space that provides multiple functions to the scheme to benefit users and wildlife. The green edge would be naturalistic in character and will form a key open space providing informal recreation and amenity opportunities whilst providing landscape elements to mitigate views to the site from the surrounding area.

7.7 Key design principles are:

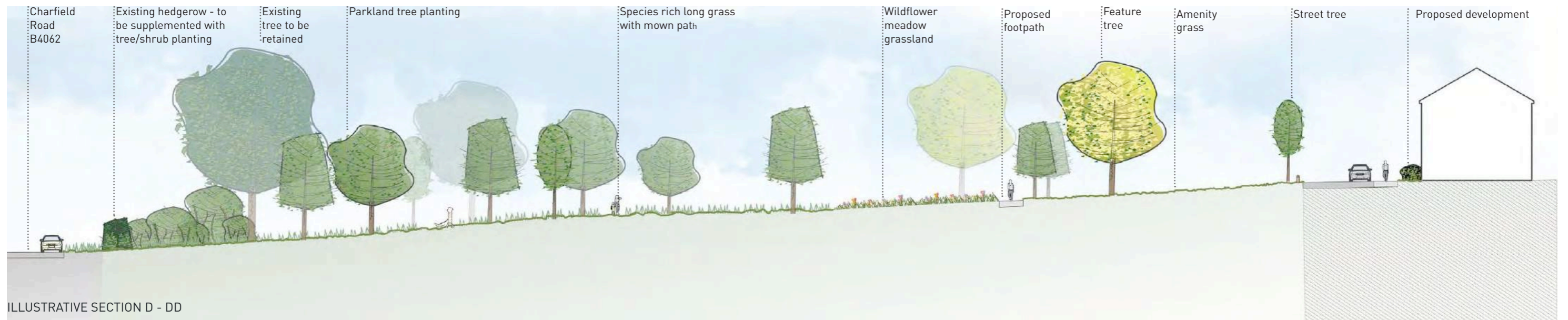
- Provision of a series of formal and informal paths for informal recreation. Seating and street furniture to be provided at key locations.
- Enhancement of the existing woodland vegetation through the addition of native understorey shrub planting.
- New habitat provision through the inclusion of log piles / bug hotels to provide opportunities for wildlife.
- Opportunities to encourage community participation with management tasks for the wildlife habitats to provide a connection with nature, education opportunities, well being benefits as well as helping to foster a sense of ownership.
- Enhancement of existing hedgerows with supplementary hedgerow tree planting, infill planting where necessary.
- Scattered tree planting to include native understorey shrub and groundcover planting to provide visual screening and habitat.
- Informal mown footpaths to provide additional routes through the parkland and connections into the wider network of pedestrian routes throughout the site. Potential to provide informal play opportunities along the footpaths.



ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION C - CC



PRECEDENT IMAGES



ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION D - DD

# CENTRAL POCKET PARK & INTERNAL GREEN CORRIDORS CHARACTER AREA



## CENTRAL POCKET PARK

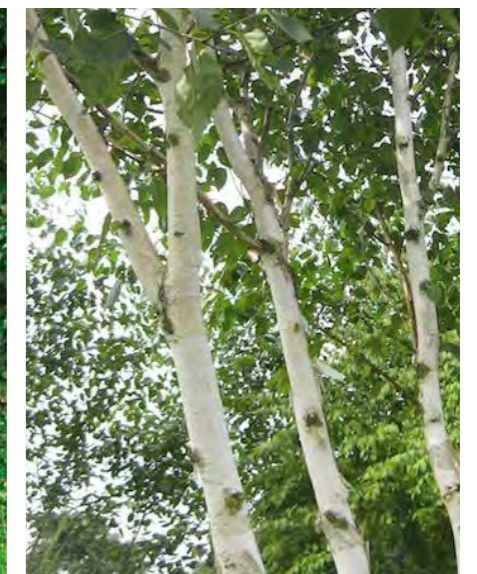
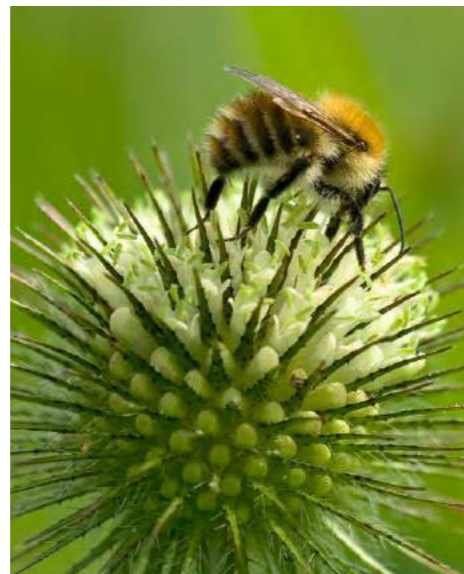
7.8 The Central Pocket Park could provide formal play provision at the heart of the community. The space could be semi-formal in character to provide a play space that comprises a range of play equipment for all ages and abilities. Complimentary ornamental planting could provide structure within the space as well as being bee friendly and having sensory qualities to enhance the connection with nature for users.

7.9 Located close to the Primary School the play space could provide key play opportunities on the way to and from school for residential and the school pupils with potential footpath links.

7.10 Key design principles for the Central Pocket Park include:

- Semi formal character within the pocket park providing a clear sense of place within the development through materials choice, boundary treatments, play equipment and surface materials and planting. Potential to include Cotswolds stone walls to highlight place making and integration of the scheme.
- Provision of footpaths to provide access to the play space, with seating and street furniture to enable gathering, rest and encourage use of the space to help foster a sense of community.
- Planting to provide sensory qualities as well as benefits to wildlife eg. bee friendly species and structure to the space with links to the internal green corridors through hedgerows.

- Feature tree planting to provide focal point within the pocket park and include street tree planting to compliment the street tree parking within the site.
- The scale of the park shall differ to the larger more open areas of parkland.
- Management of the pocket park to be considered to ensure the space presents a high quality space for recreation and amenity.



PRECEDENT IMAGES

## INTERNAL GREEN CORRIDORS

- 7.11 The Internal Green Corridors enhance the existing field boundary hedgerows that provide separation between the development parcels. The enhancement of the existing hedgerows aims to provide functional green corridors that filter views and provide a verdant landscape framework within the scheme.
- 7.12 The internal green corridors shall be naturalistic in character and managed to retain the physical and visual screening attributes with enhancement being primarily native to bolster biodiversity.
- 7.13 The green corridors shall aid legibility of the scheme by providing green links between the parkland areas to the north of the Site as their orientation is primarily east to west diagonally.
- 7.14 Key design principles are:
- Enhance existing hedgerows with supplementary planting, integration of hedgerow trees. A buffer to the hedgerow could provide further habitat opportunities with shade tolerant grassland strips which could be maintained to maximise their wildlife function.
  - Species to be primarily native within the hedgerow and hedgerow tree palette.
  - Footpath links within the development parcels to compliment internal green corridor legibility and links around the site's footpath network.
  - Sensitive lighting could be considered should the internal green corridors support foraging and commuting movements.



PRECEDENT IMAGES





# 8 SUMMARY

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## SUMMARY

- 8.1 This Landscape Strategy has been prepared on behalf of Redrow Homes in support of the site promotion of land north of Charfield Road, Kingswood through the emerging Stroud District Local Plan.
- 8.2 The aim of this Landscape Strategy is to set out the strategic approach to providing a series of high quality multi-functional and interconnected green spaces for the proposed scheme at Land North of Charfield Road. The greenspaces will be capable of delivering quality of life benefits for the existing and future community whilst enhancing biodiversity and integrating the scheme within the existing landscape framework.
- 8.3 Through detailed site surveys and landscape and visual analysis, the outline masterplan would respond to the site opportunities and constraints, to provide a strategically planned network of multi-functional greenspaces. In particular, key views to and from the Cotswolds AONB escarpment have been identified and mitigated to ensure that the development proposals would conserve the setting and special qualities of this designation. The proposed development would appear consistent with pattern of development and urbanising influences within the lower vale when viewed from the Cotswolds AONB escarpment.
- 8.4 Green infrastructure will have a positive influence in shaping the form and layout of the development and would provide a strategically planned network of multi-functional green spaces that includes both public and private space, formal and informal landscape areas notably the Northern Parkland and Western Green Edge and the Central Pocket Park.
- 8.5 The Landscape Strategy document has reviewed the baseline including the requirements and aspirations of the national and local planning policies and guidance. As a result the Strategic Landscape Masterplan has noted key issues within the Site's vicinity, and integrated a number of design solutions to including mitigation planting to soften views from the Cotswold AONB and public rights of way within the vicinity of the site.
- 8.6 The Strategic Landscape Masterplan has the ability to integrate the development into the existing landscape framework, whilst maintaining the landscape character and providing new safe, green and legible links to benefit users, residents and the wider community as the landscape scheme seeks to integrate both blue and green infrastructure.
- 8.7 Through analysis of the existing baseline conditions and key policy requirements, the key green infrastructure objectives have been identified. This has led to the creation of the Landscape Strategy and landscape-led scheme capable of delivering quality of new homes.
- 8.8 The Landscape Strategy will ensure that the proposed development at Kingswood would provide an attractive sense of place that responds to local character and distinctiveness, biodiversity, sustainable transports movements and healthy lifestyles for future generations.

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DESIGN



ENVIRONMENT



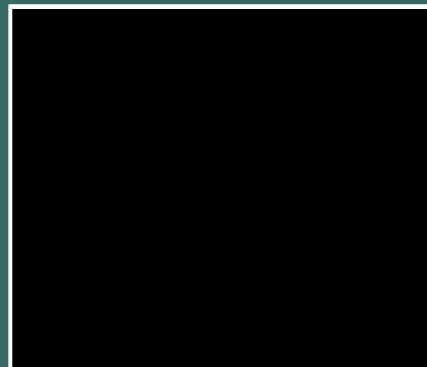
PLANNING



ECONOMICS



HERITAGE



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