

St Joseph's, Gravesend

LANDSCAPE STATEMENT

DECEMBER 2023

EX
A

EXTERIOR
ARCHITECTURE

EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURE LTD

St Joseph's, Gravesend

Landscape Statement

Date	19/12/2023
Revision	P03
Written	ExA
Checked	Chris Robertshaw Associate Landscape Architect
Approved	Leighton Pace Director
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Revision	Description	Date
P01	Planning Submission	13/10/2023
P02	Updated Planning Submission	30/11/2023
P03	Updated Planning Submission	19/12/2023

1 Introduction

Project Context

St Joseph's, Gravesend

Exterior Architecture Ltd (ExA) has been appointed by the Applicant to formulate the landscape and public realm design proposal for St Joseph's, Gravesend.

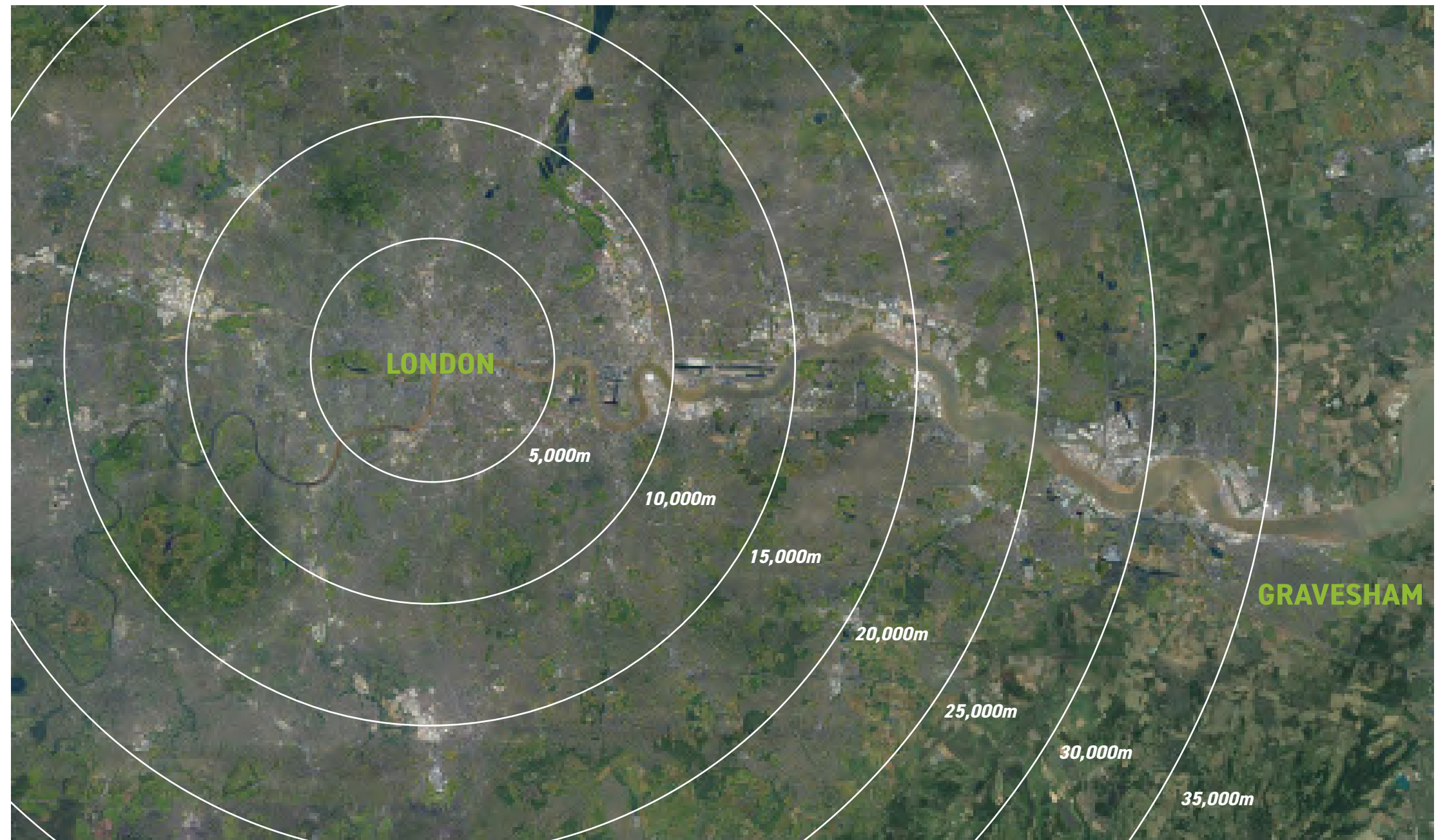
The following pages set out the strategic direction for the site - to provide a consistent public realm which ties into the existing network of streets, buildings and green infrastructure.

ExA have developed the landscape proposal in collaboration with the wider design team to ensure a cohesive and consistent design approach across the scheme.

This document should be read in conjunction with the associated application drawings and all other information submitted in support of the planning application.

Site Location

The site is the former St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School in Gravesend and comprises a series of educational buildings, a terrace black residence and an open space, previously the school's field. The site is accessed from Old Road East on it's northern boundary and is generally surrounded by residential properties of character analogous with much of Gravesend.



1 Introduction

Site Location and Site Photos

Location and Area



Site Photos



02 Landscape Analysis

2 Landscape Analysis

Local History & Context

A Brief History of Gravesend

Gravesend, Kent lies on the bank of the River Thames, downstream from London in Gravesham. The community was largely associated with the Thames - shipping, fishing, transportation, milling and industry formed a large part of the local economy - a practice which continues today.

Geology / Soils

- > North Kent Plain: The landscape is low and undulating, with highly productive, fertile loam soils suitable for arable agriculture.
- > Soils are loam across Gravesend and the north east of the Borough, with clay soils present in the north of Gravesham Borough.

Climate

- > Current: Köppen Climate Classification-subtype of "Cfb" (Marine West Coast Climate)
- > Future (2071-2100): Köppen Climate Classification-subtype of "Cfb" (Humid, Subtropical Climate)



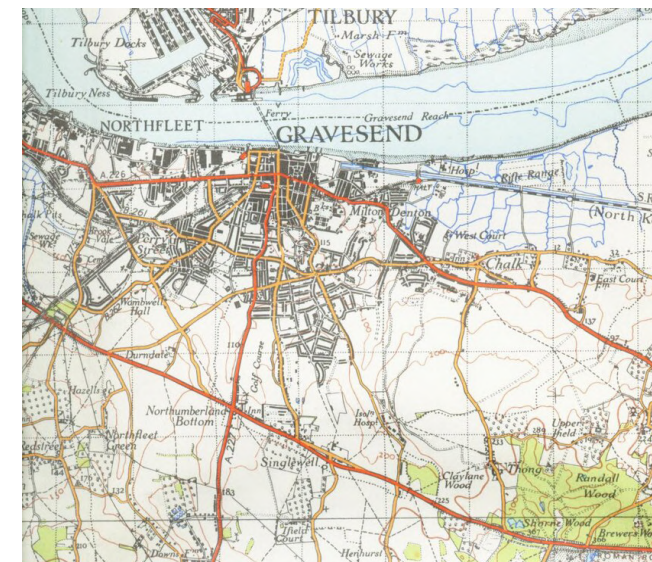
Pre-1600's

Mills, fisheries, markets and beginnings of township



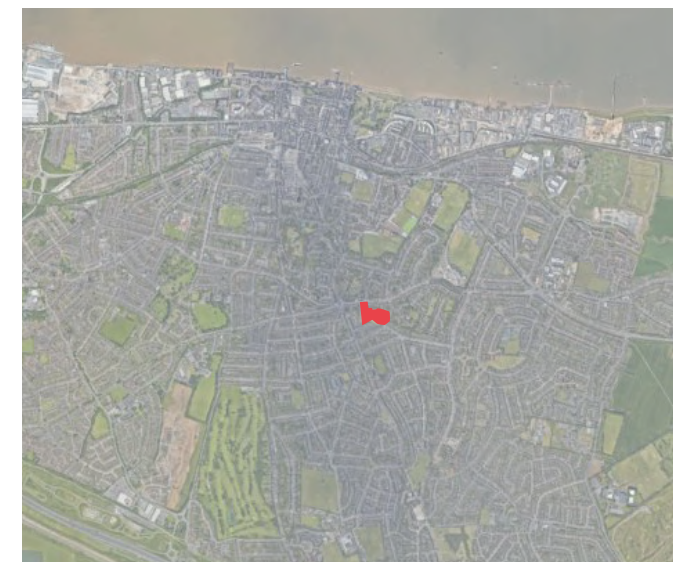
1750

Growth of township along Thames and pre-industry



1945

Post-war growth and investment



21st Century

Residential boom and commuter-town

2 Landscape Analysis

Parks and Open Spaces

Open Space	Attributes
1 The Sandpipers Open Space	
2 Open Space for Gravesend Club	Private
3 Fleetway Open Space	
4 Windmill Gardens	
5 Open Space for Team Kaizen Dance Academy	Private
6 Central Avenue Open Space	
7 Open Space for Gravesend Grammar School	Private
8 Siri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara Grounds	
9 St Aidan's Park	

Facilities / attributes key

- Playing fields / Significant open grass area
- Sport facilities (e.g. Tennis Court / MUGA)
- Community facility e.g. community pavilion
- Cafe / restaurant
- Formal play area
- Other play offering
- Skateboarding / wheels play area
- Walking Trails
- Open water / lake
- Gardens
- Fitness equipment
- Historic features



- School
- Site Boundary



1 The Sandpipers Open Space



4 Windmill Gardens



6 Central Avenue Open Space



8 Siri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara Grounds

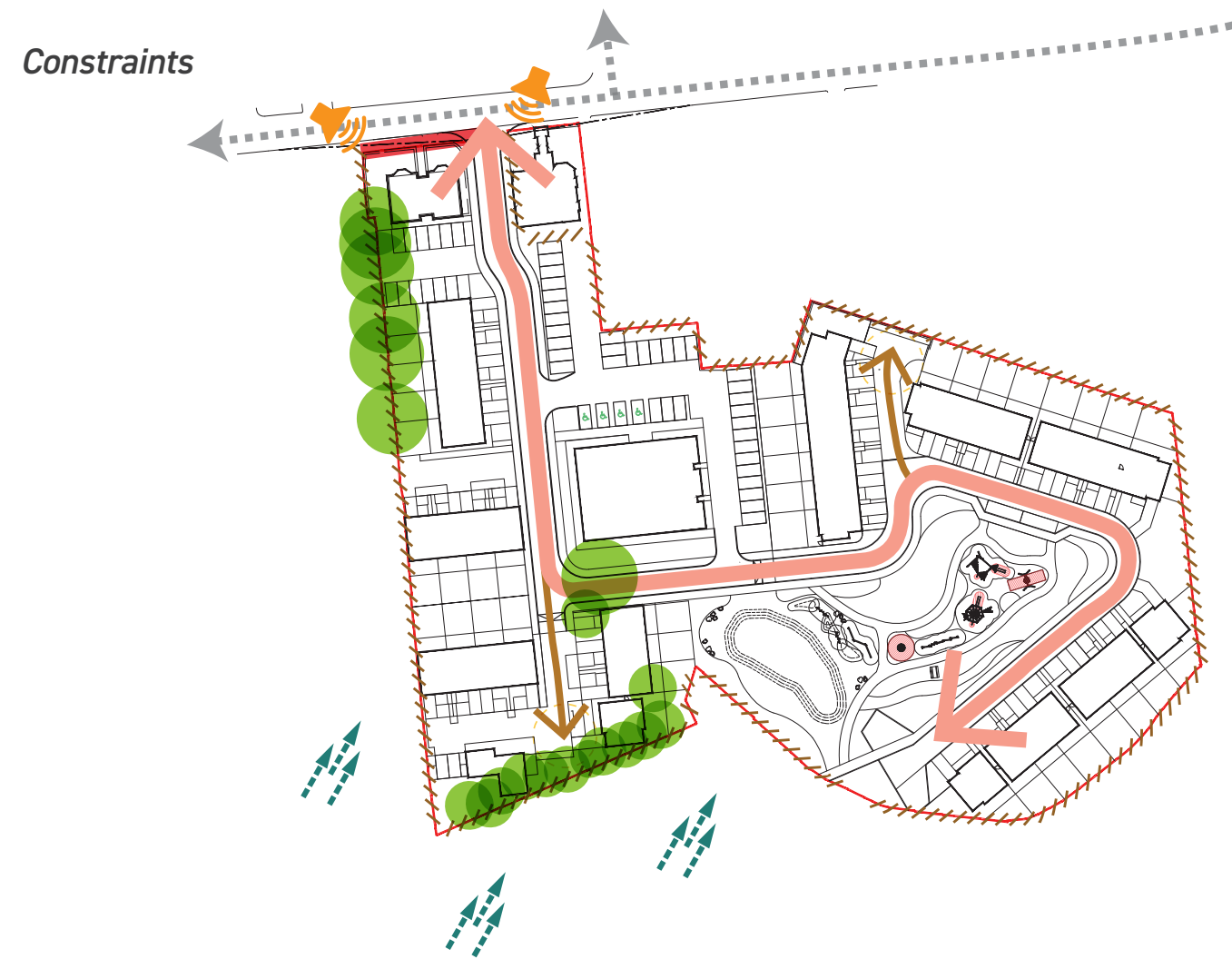


9 St Aidan's Park

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2 Landscape Analysis

Landscape Constraints and Opportunities



- - - Site boundary
- - - Prevailing wind
- Existing green area
- ↔ Main Route
- Unrestricted vehicle access
- ↔ Main road
- //// Existing boundary
- 🔊 Noise impact from road / railway
- Existing onsite trees
- - - Turning area / dead end
- Unattractive site frontage

Opportunities



- - - Site boundary
- ↪ Sun path
- 👁 Views / Sightlines down streets
- ↻ Feature focus play element
- 🌳 Opportunity for street greening
- Community green / recreation area / open space
- Linear SuDS feature against roadway
- - - Pedestrian centric zone
- - - Material change to delineate change in vehicle movement

03 Landscape Vision and Approach

3 Landscape Vision and Approach

Landscape Vision



Community Landscapes

- Recreation and fitness facilities
- Inclusive play for all ages and abilities
- Variety of spaces for active and passive recreation
- Education and mental well-being

Connections

- New key connections to the wider landscape
- A central open space for play and recreation
- A pedestrian-orientated scheme that puts people first
- Easy and legible routes

Ecology & Sustainability

- Diversity of tree species
- Create wildlife corridors
- Integrated SUDS approach

3 Landscape Vision and Approach

Character Areas

The design proposal at St Joseph's seeks to define the character and appearance of the outdoor spaces through the integration of landscape character areas. Three character areas are proposed within the scheme as a mechanism to define spatial boundaries and variation in landscape treatment.

Green Streets

A network of well-vegetated streets which create connections to existing green infrastructure and provide for pedestrian and vehicular connections across the scheme.

Community Green

A large green open space and play area which provides connections to existing streets and opportunities for drainage basin, play, leisure, events and recreation.

Car park

A large area of car parking which utilises permeable surfacing and soft landscape to provide screening and introduce greening where appropriate.



3 Landscape Vision and Approach

Concept Masterplan

The site masterplan contributes to the extension of the street network and provides a new pedestrian connection between Old Road East and Coombe Road. The central green space and play area provides play and external amenity space for existing and new residents.

- 1 Doctors surgery and car park
- 2 Residents car park with permeable pavers / grasscrete
- 3 Linear SUDS/rain Garden
- 4 Crossing Point
- 5 2 x visitor car parks
- 6 Mews shared space with street trees and rain gardens
- 7 Ecological node with new trees and habitat features
- 8 Planted buffer to screen development/play area
- 9 Mounded play area with timber logs and stepping stones
- 10 Central play space with prescriptive elements for all-ages play
- 11 Kick-about space
- 12 Turning area with reinforced grass / grasscrete
- 13 Drainage Basin



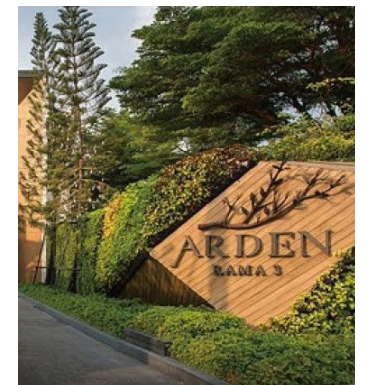
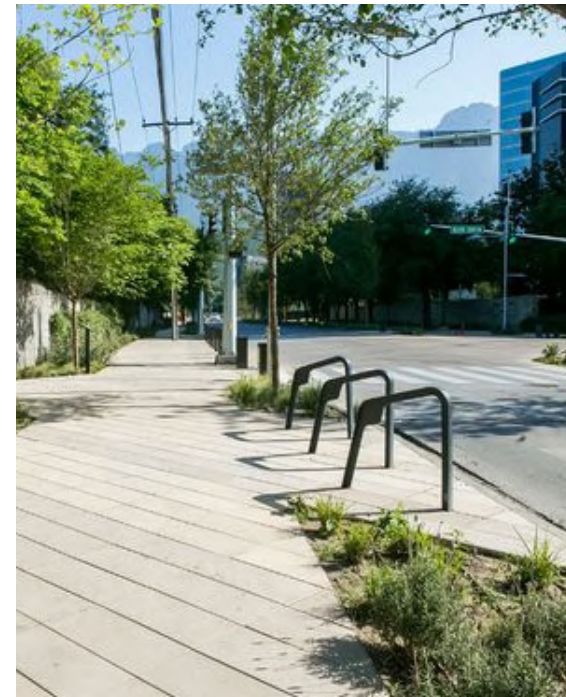
3 Landscape Vision and Approach

Green Streets

A network of well-vegetated streets which create connections to existing green infrastructure and provide for pedestrian and vehicular connections across the scheme

Key Principles:

- > Different surface treatments to indicate shared pedestrian/vehicle areas and slow traffic.
- > Safe pedestrian connections to existing roads / paths
- > Some visitor car parking embedded within a network of street trees



3 Landscape Vision and Approach

Green Streets

A change in surface materiality is used as a mechanism onsite to delineate between vehicular only, and more pedestrian centric spaces. Street trees provide vertical greening and encourage a 'green heart' within the scheme, connecting to existing green infrastructure networks offsite.

- 1 Private front gardens with lawn and defensive hedging
- 2 Linear SUDS/Rain Garden with clustered street trees
- 3 Crossing Point
- 4 Mews shared space with street trees and rain gardens
- 5 Bin storage facility
- 6 Planted buffer to screen development/play area
- 7 Ecological node with new trees and habitat features and some play along the way features
- 8 2 x visitor car parks
- 9 Turning area with reinforced grass and screening vegetation



3 Landscape Vision and Approach

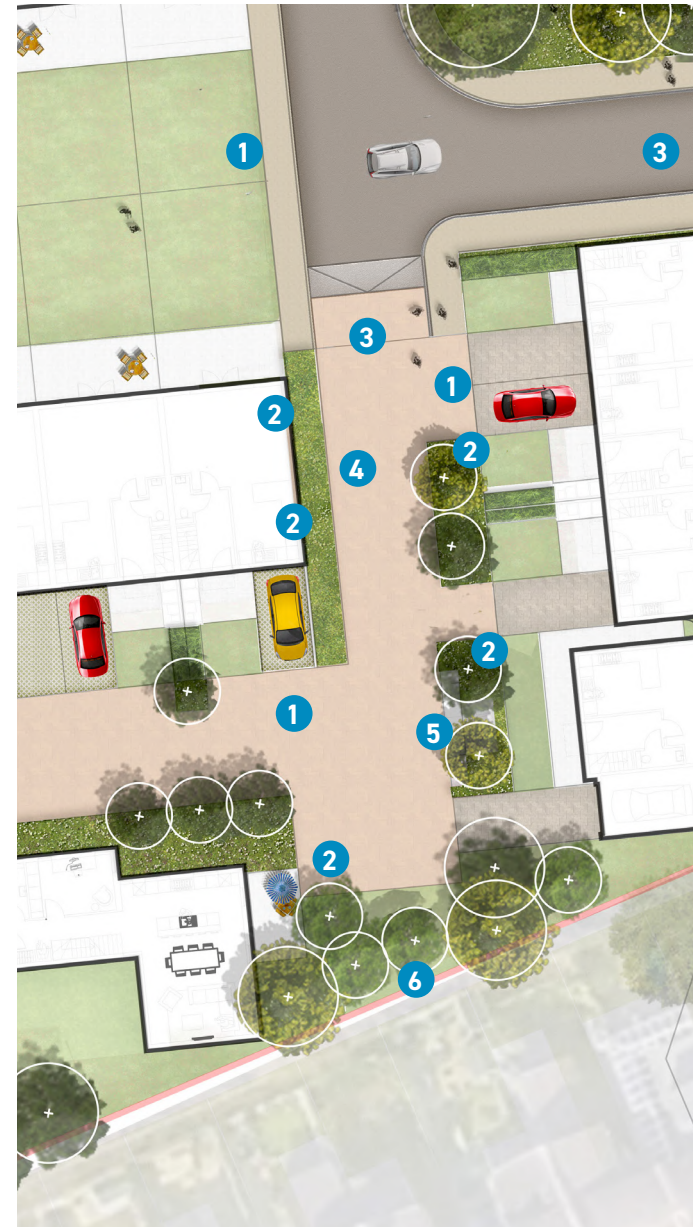
Green Streets

Smaller cul-de-sac mews are proposed within the masterplan. These shared vehicular and pedestrian spaces provide visual terminations of sight lines through the introduction of greening.

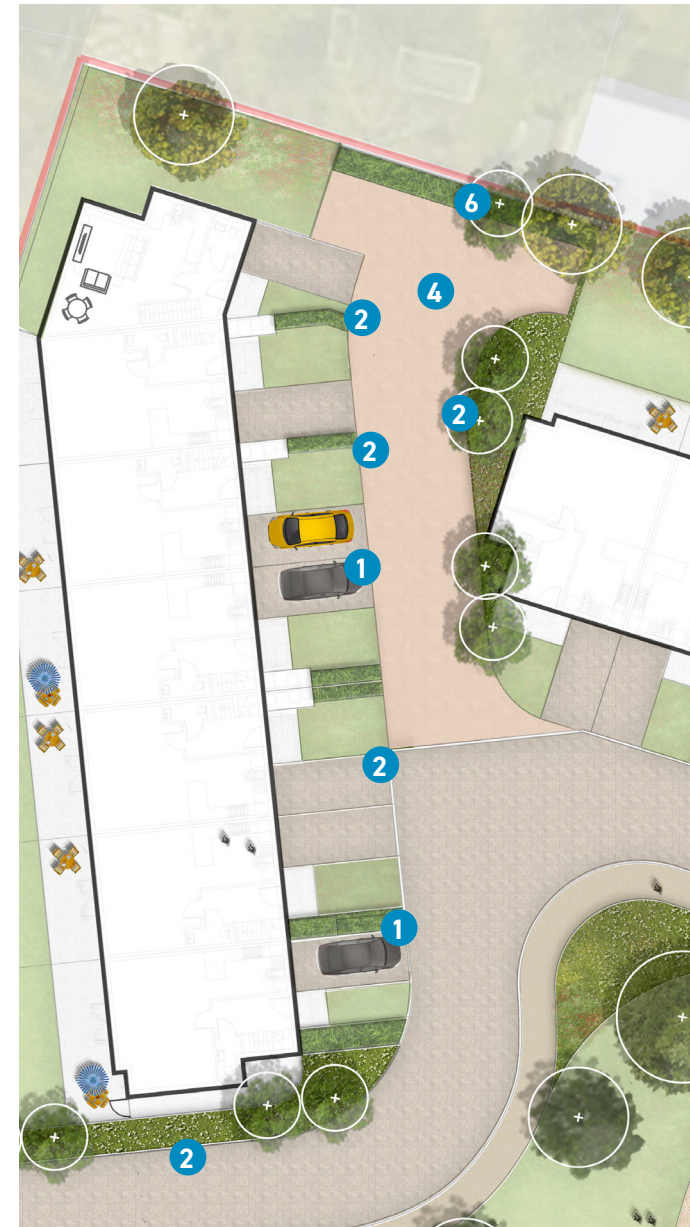
The turning area at the end of the new street uses permeable grasscrete as opposed to traditional paving to provide a more subtle transition to the surrounding planting and trees.

- 1 Private front gardens with lawn and defensive hedging
- 2 SUDS/Rain Garden with clustered street trees
- 3 Crossing Point
- 4 Paved mews pedestrian shared space
- 5 Bin storage facility
- 6 Planted buffer to screen development/ play area and terminate views
- 7 Reinforced grass / Grasscrete with flush kerb
- 8 Tree and planting buffer
- 9 Railing with swing gate
- 10 Pedestrian connection to Coombe Road

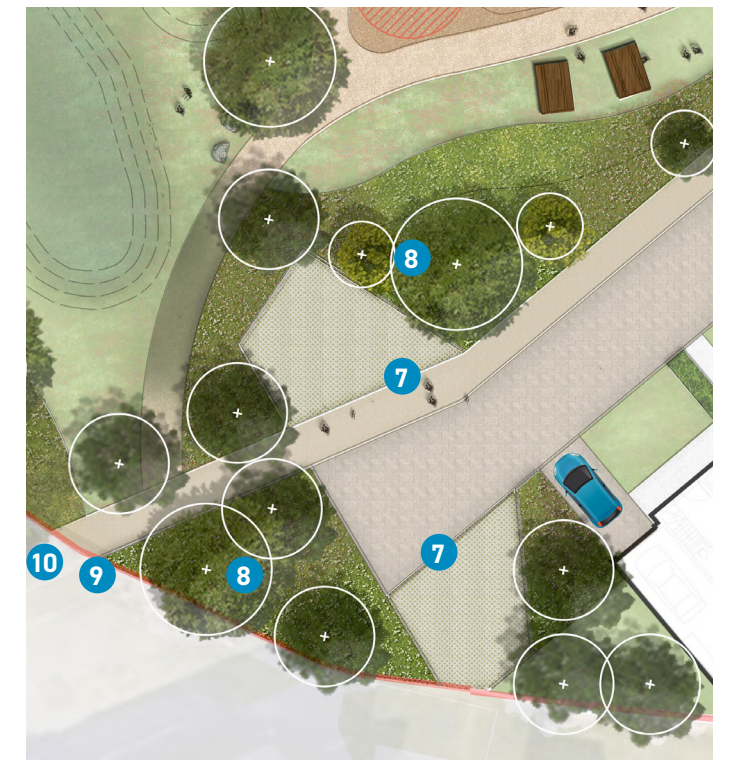
Southern Mews



Northern Mews



Vehicle Turning Area



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3 Landscape Vision and Approach

Community Green

A large green open space and play area which provides connections to existing streets and opportunities for drainage basin, play, leisure, events and recreation.

Key Principles:

- > Open space that encourages social interaction with nature and other users
- > Central SuDS basin feeding into wider green infrastructure network
- > Pedestrian connections to existing roads / paths
- > Multi functional and flexible in use to accommodate community events
- > Providing a range of site-appropriate play opportunities



3 Landscape Vision and Approach

Community Green

The Community Green forms the major external residential amenity within the scheme. Comprising opportunities for natural and prescriptive play, a kick-about space, planted buffering to existing residences, and picnic areas, the central green and drainage basin is open and accessible to all.

- 1 Mounded play area with timber logs and stepping stones
- 2 Central play space with prescriptive elements for all-ages play
- 3 Footpath connections
- 4 2 x visitor car parks
- 5 Play-along-the-way fitness route
- 6 Picnic tables
- 7 Planted buffer to screen development/play area
- 8 Large specimen trees to frame site edges
- 9 Wildflower clear-zone for turning visibility
- 10 Kick-about space
- 11 Drainage Basin



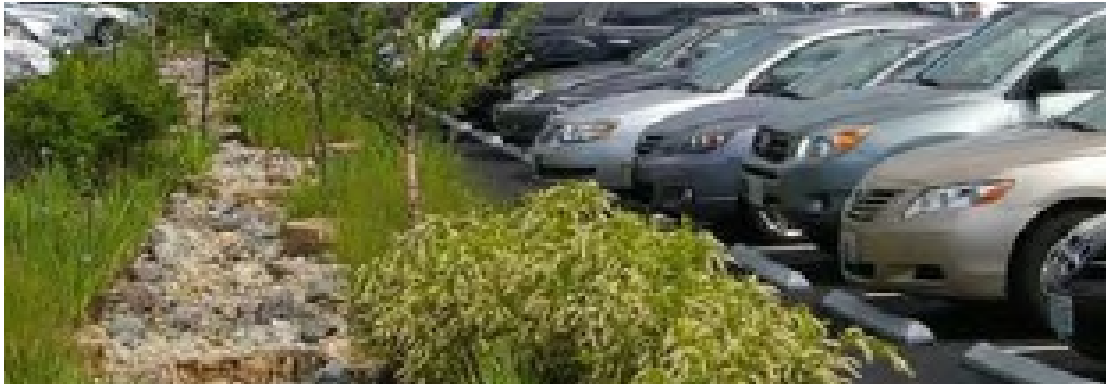
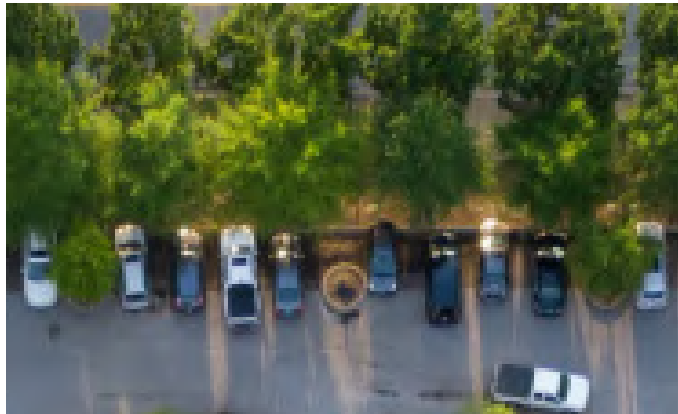
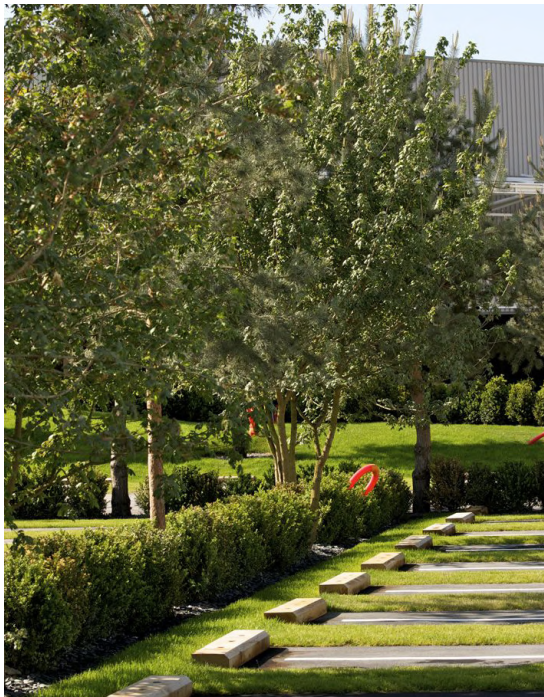
3 Landscape Vision and Approach

Carpark

A large area of car parking which utilises permeable surfacing and soft landscape to provide screening and introduce greening where appropriate.

Key Principles:

- > Providing space for users to park
- > Street trees to provide screening
- > SuDs opportunities and permeable paving, where appropriate.



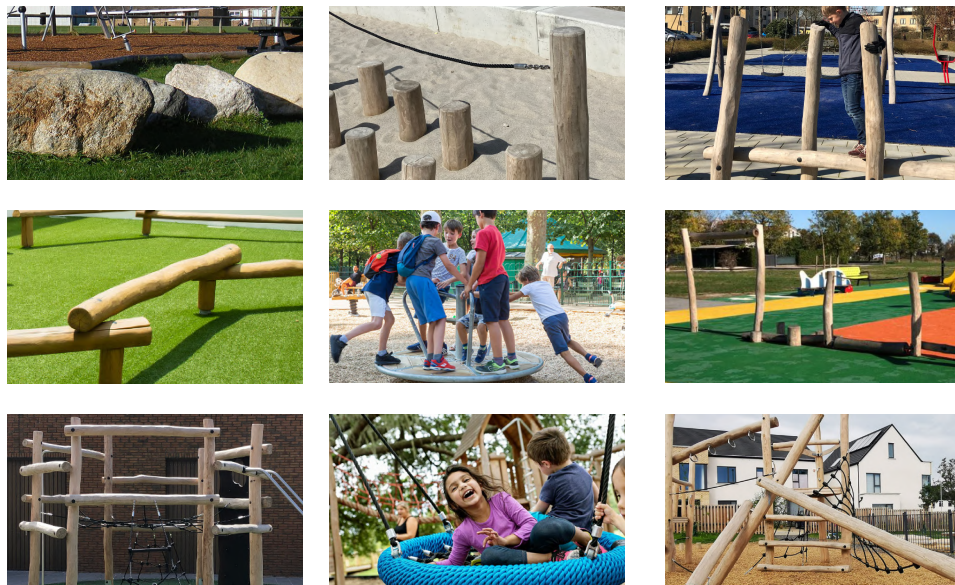
04 Landscape Strategies

4 Landscape Strategies

Play Strategy

The landscape design includes for a variety of play spaces and experiences with increasing levels of risk suitable for all ages play. A timber-centric palette of elements is proposed, in keeping with the local residential aesthetic.

The central open lawn space allows for flexible play as well as been able to host community events.



- Open green area
- Larger play space
- Small scale play and play on the way opportunities
- Opportunity for street greening



4 Landscape Strategies

Surface Strategy

Surfaces are proposed as part of a robust palette of materials. Changes in colour, size and appearance help dictate the areas which are predominantly pedestrian, vehicular or shared.



Entrance Road
Asphalt



Raised Tables
Sienna Silver
100 x 100mm



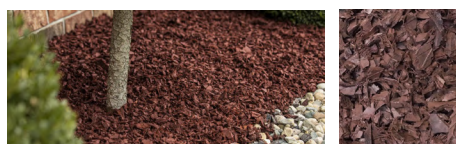
Homezone - Vehicular
Jura Grey Braemar
200 x 100mm



Park Paths
Self Binding Gravel



Homezone - Shared Surface
Arran Stone Braemar
200 x 100mm



Surface Type 08
Brown Rubber Mulch



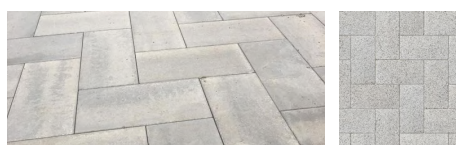
Footpaths
Alto Silver Braemar
300 x 200mm



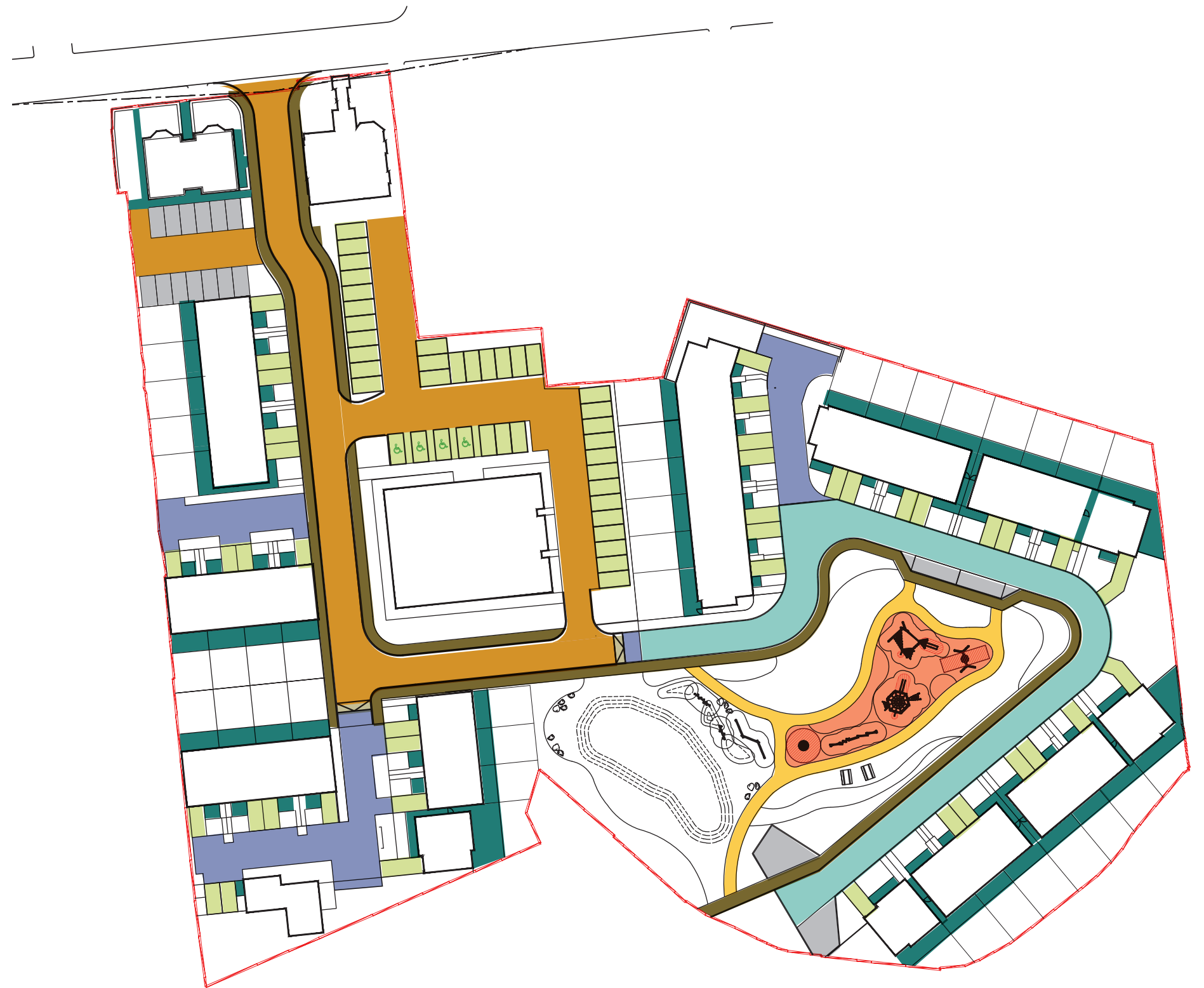
Surface Type 09
Fusion Silver
300x200mm



Carparks and Turning
Grasscrete



Surface Type 10
Fusion Silver
200 x 100mm



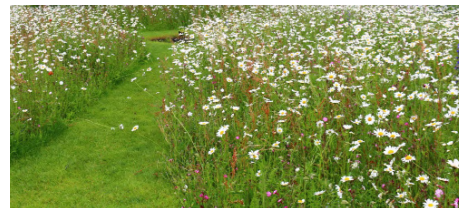
4 Landscape Strategies

Planting Strategy

The proposed planting forms part of a simple, repetitive palette and provide a distinctive and low-maintenance base which allows residents to curate their own gardens in the future. Larger shrubby buffer planting is proposed against existing residential boundaries where views and proximity may be sensitive, while a lush palette of amenity and SUDS planting makes up the majority of the road and parkside spaces. Wildflower is included in areas where vehicular visibility is a constraint, and where ecological elements, such as bird and bat boxes, could be proposed.



Species Rich Lawn



Native Enriched Wildflower



Residential Hedge

- Native species with climbing plants to provide seasonal colour and variation.



Parkside Buffer

- A distinct line of defence between the park and roadways/existing residential to provide a vegetated buffer.



Amenity Planting

- Vehicle-side species to provide a low-growing, lush palette underneath proposed street trees, or within surgery carpark.



SUDS Planting

- Rich and colourful species which are suited to inundation
- Provide a dense palette of species in SuDS features across the scheme.



4 Landscape Strategies

Tree Strategy

A palette of well formed, largely native specimens makes up the tree array at St Joseph's. The intent here is to introduce additional species variety into the existing residential palette and include planting which provides visual interest, seasonal variation, seeds and fruits for wildlife or has key wayfinding mechanisms (height, colour, form etc).



Liquidambar styraciflua

Gleditsia triacanthos

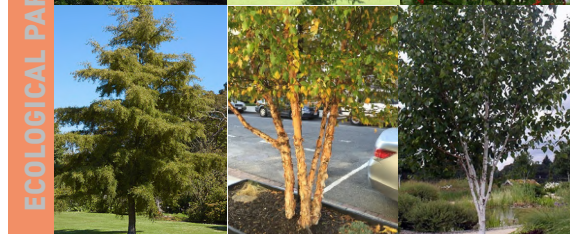
Acer platanoides



Betula pendula

Acer campestre

Sorbus aucuparia



Alnus glutinosa

Betula nigra

Betula utilis var. jacquemontii



Liquidambar styraciflua 'Fastigiata'

Carpinus betulus 'Frans Fontaine'

Fagus sylvatica



Prunus 'Pandora'

Prunus 'Okame'

Prunus 'Royal Burgundy'



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