

8. Landscape

8.1. Masterplan Overview

LANDSCAPE CONTEXT





Cambridge North sits within a varied landscape context, between the Network Rail railway line to the east and the Bramblefields Local Nature Reserve, allotments and neighbourhoods to the west. Offices and business uses sit adjacent to the north; to the south are the recently constructed landscape enhancements associated with the Novotel Hotel and the public space at Cambridge Square.

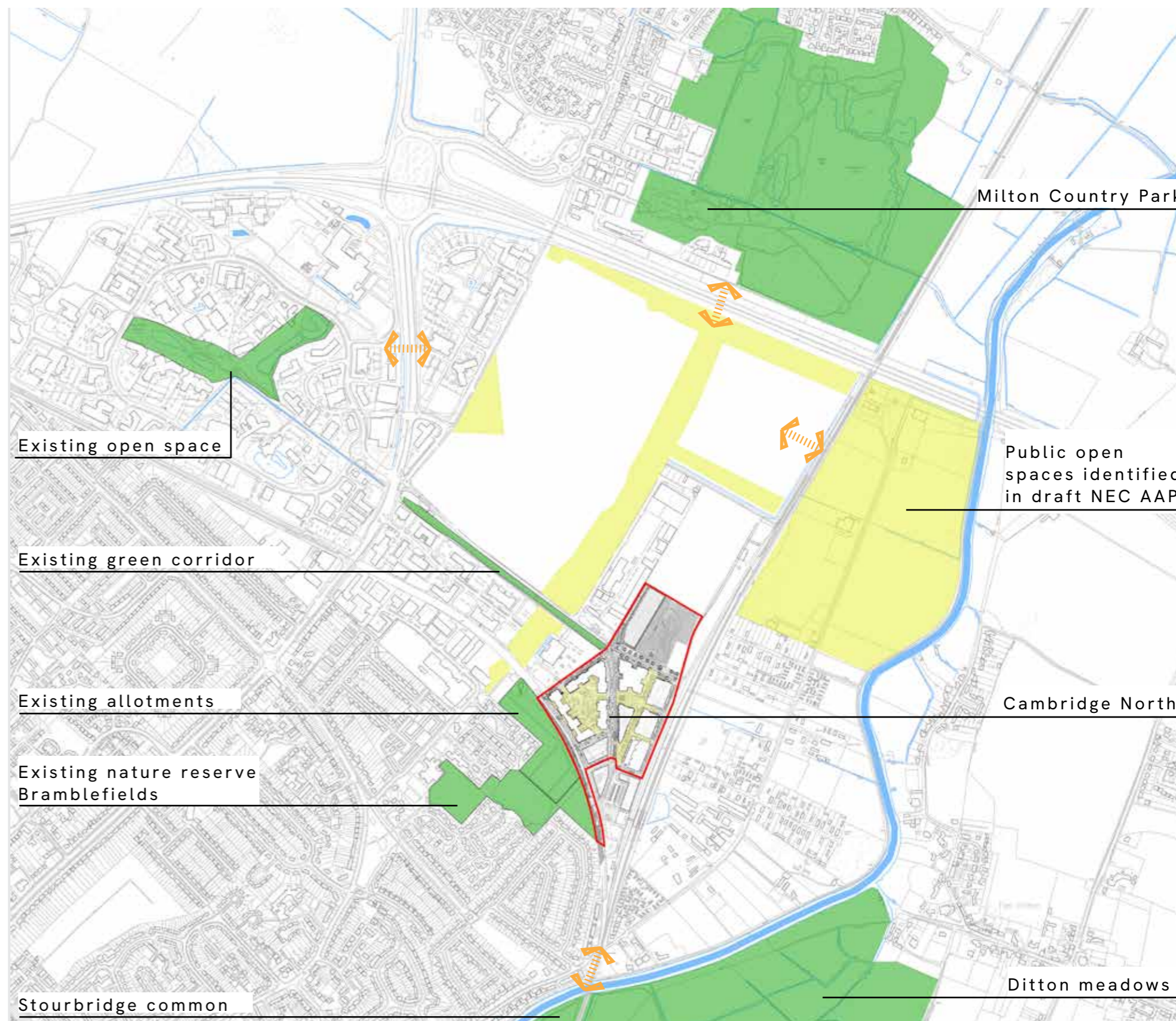
Existing green infrastructure in the immediate context includes a green 'finger' associated with the First Drain along Cowley Road, and a linear tree belt along the Guided Busway to the west, separating the site visually from the allotments.

In the wider context Milton Country Park, Ditton Meadows and Stourbridge Common offer recreation and open space on a large scale. Future green spaces have also been proposed as part of strategic initiatives for the Northeast Cambridge Area Action Plan. Open space proposals for Cambridge North would form an entryway to these wider green spaces, creating links to an almost continuous green network for the benefit of Cambridge.

Please refer to the Landscape and Open Space Strategy document for the full report.

Legend:

-  Future pedestrian / cycle link
-  Existing open space
-  Proposed open space
-  The River Cam



LANDSCAPE VISION

LANDSCAPE DESIGN PRINCIPLES:

- A well considered arrangement of buildings set within a network of external spaces of different scales and characters;
- Green space at the heart of the development, that creates a unified amenity for residents and office workers alike;
- Legible link to the railway station for vehicles, cycles and pedestrians
- Roof spaces should be intelligently used, creating biodiverse green roof systems integrated with residential amenity and working spaces.
- A low speed environment with legible surfaces and a high quality pedestrian realm; and
- Vistas using built form and planting to assist in place-making and orientation.



ART & PLAY:

- Create opportunities for public art settings, on both large and small scale. Potential focal points include the axis running between the residential quarter and Chesterton Square, Cowley Circus and the 'wilder areas': the Wild Park and the swale of Station Row;
- Integrate play with social spaces, so that there is informal play 'as you go' strategy. Equipped play area contain plenty of seating for carers and parents;
- Natural play - stones, logs and 'found' pieces - is part of the residential garden 'scene' and is easil assimilated for seating for young people and adults.



LANDSCAPE LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN



LANDSCAPE MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

MATERIALS AND DETAILING

- A simple palette of robust materials;
- Low maintenance public spaces;
- Distinctiveness and sense of place, through material references to historic use as railway sidings, including rough-edged and characterful textures, such as timber and corten steel;
- In places, a 'mosaic' of soft paving colours variation, evoking the mosaic seedbed of the site's biodiversity;
- Paving choices, pattern and colour used to aid legibility; and
- Overall a high quality and welcoming public realm.



STREET FURNITURE

- High quality street furniture set at frequent intervals within public spaces, often integrated with planting beds;
- Furniture to compliment the language of the hard landscape materiality: corten and timber, stone and textured or polished concrete;
- Simple forms, often linear and horizontal, reminiscent of lines of train wagons or sidings;
- Frequent additions of backrests and armrests;
- Chunky timbers for pergolas and platforms in the residential gardens; and
- Kerbs 'grow' out of raised kerbs to become low perching places.



LANDSCAPE KEY AREAS MATERIAL PROFILES

CHESTERTON SQUARE



CORTEN STEEL

STATION ROW



CHUNKY CONSERVATION KERBS

CHESTERTON GARDENS

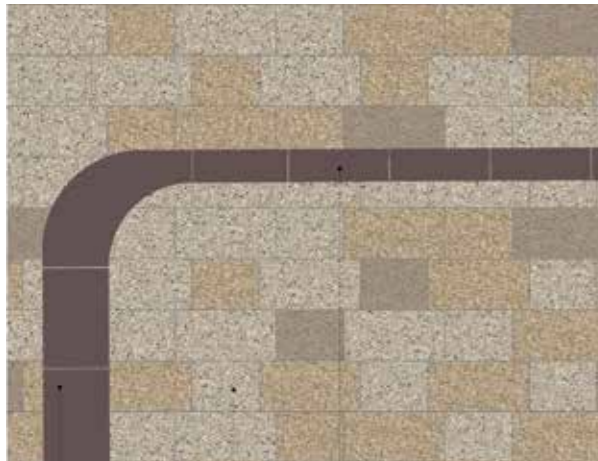


BUFF CONCRETE PAVING IN RANDOM
'HALF AND WHOLE' MIX

WILD PARK



BREEDON GRAVEL PATH WITH
INFORMAL EDGE



WARM TONES 'MOSAIC' AND A
STRONG PAVING BAND



GRANITE SETTS, BOTH FLAMED AND
TUMBLED



RAISED CONCRETE SEATING KERBS



BOARDWALK OVER OPEN MOSAIC
HABITAT



SELF BINDING GRAVEL UNDER
TREES



CYCLE PATH: PINK TONED VARIATION
ON CHESTERTON SQUARE



ROUGH TIMBER & 'FOUND' OBJECTS



FALLEN LOGS AND PLANKS

8.2. Key Areas

LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN: RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL



Chesterton Gardens

Extensive tree planting, lawn mounds, sinuous paths and exuberant planting provides a residential setting. Play areas, pergolas for gatherings and niche seating areas.

Courtyards

West-facing residents' courtyards, overlooking tree belt. Seating and tree planting.

Milton Way

Pocket park and passageway for cyclists, office worker spill-out space and residents. Raised planters sit over basements, with integrated seating.

Station Row

Linear swale with ecologically diverse plantings, seating-steps and causeway crossings.

Chesterton Square

Public square with a grid of pruned shade trees, water feature jets and 'sky mirror' and raised beds over basements. Planting, seating, and a 'follow me' paving band enlivens the space.

Station Row

Linear swale with ecologically diverse plantings, seating-steps and causeway crossings.

Piazza

Pocket park at termination of Station Row, with wide crossing path to One Milton Avenue and the Residential Quarter.



KEY SPACES CHESTERTON SQUARE



Box headed trees over Rolled aggregate



Fountains become reflecting pools



Mosaic paving evokes the mixed seed bed of the Open Mosaic Habitat (OMH)



Jet fountain feature to be enjoyed by all ages



Corten seating with timber benches, backed by spilly contemporary planting



A continuous wide paving band turns and diverts, evoking a journey and rail sidings

KEY SPACES STATION ROW



Interpretation board explaining ecology and SUDs principles



Narrow causeways to have visually permeable railing



Chunky kerb with wide margin of granite setts



Hardwood timber slatted seating atop concrete base



Naturalistic moisture tolerant planting



Wide steps down to water margin

KEY SPACES CHESTERTON GARDENS



Level lawns and a variety of seating choices



Play integrated into social spaces. Organic flowing lines.



Irregular chunky oak pergola



Multiple locations of natural play elements



High quality, timber-based play equipment



Narrow planks shortcuts into play area add adventure

KEY SPACES WILD PARK

Proposed Open Mosaic Habitat seeding

Existing Open Mosaic Habitat seeding

Selective retention of existing trees and scrub (shown indicatively)



Logistics/construction compound

Natural play area

Timber board walk across existing open mosaic habitat

Existing cat C tree group to be selectively thinned and removed to allow open mosaic seed bed to germinate

All board walks are interactive: with (stationary) train wheels evoking a wagon base; and 'sounding' sensory surface or affixed sound play feature

Natural play area

Proposed native tree clusters

Visitor cycle parking - Sheffield cycle stands



Deadwood, brush piles, hibernacula

Interpretation board

Transplanted Coppiced willows

Rustic timber bench

Natural play - fallen logs/stumps and timber play sculpture

Balancing pond with moisture tolerant seeding to banks

Circular pedestrian recreational route around balancing pond, laid to Breedon gravel

Platform decking/shelter for socialising

Future cycle link to the north

Interpretation board

Entrance to Network Rail compound

KEY SPACES WILD PARK



Breedon gravel surfaced paths through meadow grassland existing trees/scrub



Timber balancing equipment



Mown paths leading to seating areas



Open Mosaic species supplemented with additional seeding of the same and compatible species seed mix



Timber structure/shelter for informal seating



Multiple opportunities for natural play

8.3. Meanwhile uses

LANDSCAPE TYPICAL MEANWHILE POP UP PARK

MEANWHILE USES

The stepped construction of Cambridge North phases provides excellent opportunities for 'meanwhile' uses of otherwise empty brownfield areas, providing active and attractive temporary spaces for the new occupants of early phases. Following the completion of the Multi-storey car park, the southern area of the triangle site (the site for S8), the space can be converted into a temporary social space, with seating, food vans and night-time lighting. Community gardens and trees and planting beds of Open Mosaic species in upcycled planters would provide greening of the space. Events (films, performances) with deck chair seating could be set up on the temporary lawn for after work lingering.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Further construction of residential spaces would provide the interest and population for a community garden space, set up with raised beds in part of the meanwhile space. Demand for growing space could also be satisfied by an extension of the community gardens, to the empty sites at the future 1 Milton Avenue and the Meanwhile Space on the triangle site helping to activate these areas. When the final buildings are complete, the community gardens would be incorporated into future allotments or integrated growing as part of the next phase of residential development to the north of Cowley Road.

Coffee kiosks

'Upcycled' timber seating platforms

Open mosaic habitat seeding in timber planters with interpretation boards

Trees in Large timber planters

'Upcycled' low raised timber planter allotment beds with seating (335m2 Area shown)

Bicycle parking

Food truck turning

Seasonal lawn or flexible space

'Upcycled' timber benches

Pergola with catenary lighting

Food truck areas

Enclosure/ storage for community growing



Areas of Meanwhile Use

