

Landscape Strategy

COMMUNITY GREEN

The Community Green will be a focus for residents, comprising an attractive amenity and functional area, a pocket park which lies at the focal point of paths and cycleways.

Activities include picnic spaces, informal kick around areas, and play spaces enclosed by colourful shrub planting. One of the more interesting features will be the Community Orchard and Woodland, an area of fruiting and amenity trees managed and run by a management committee organised by those who live in Nursery Fields, thereby providing local ownership. A sitting area will overlook the play space and take advantage of a glimpse to the Cathedral.

The community green will be enclosed by hedges and indigenous trees, reflecting the local area, underplanted by meadow grass with mown paths.

Key

 Cathedral view



PLAY STRATEGY

Play should be an intrinsic part of the open space and gardens, as children of all ages are themselves part of the community. Therefore, all open spaces will bear this in mind in their design, with linear play and exercise trails and play features located next to bench seats.

Formal play space is required in addition, with local areas of play enclosed by attractive planting and fences, and with parent's sitting spaces within them.

Equipped areas of play will be available for older children, and these will be located within the open spaces overlooked by dwellings.

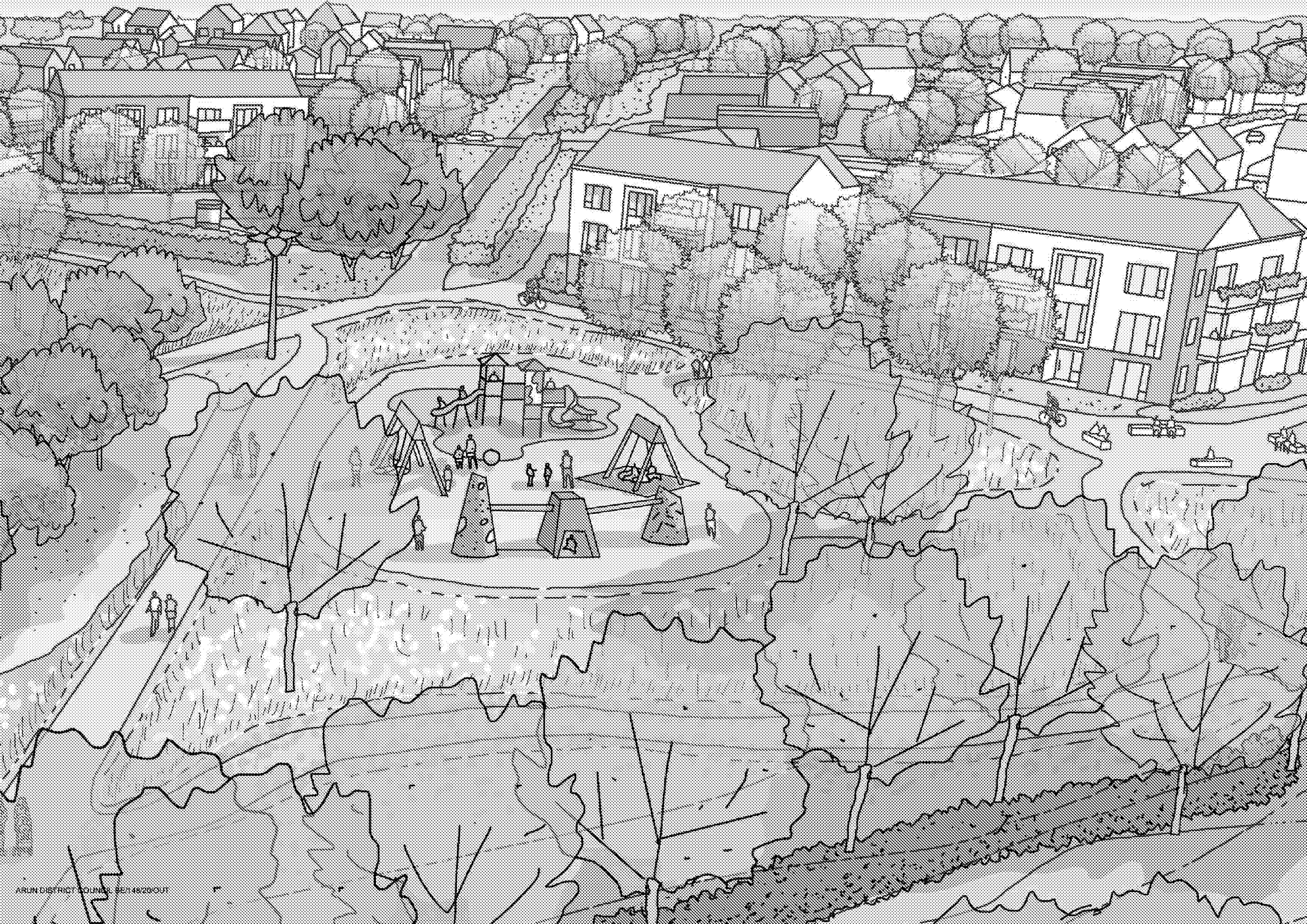
Key

-  LAP (Local Area of Play)
-  LEAP (Local Equipped Area of Play)
-  Combined LEAP and NEAP
(Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play)





Artist's impression of the Community Green from the western corner of the site boundary



Landscape Strategy

GREEN CORRIDORS

The new areas of housing will be separated and defined by clearly defined green corridors, generously sized from 10m to 15m wide.

New trees will be planted to create generous leafy spaces of locally indigenous trees and shrubs, with colourful meadow grass beneath the trees. These linear spaces will be an attractive linking element for the open space network, and belong to the community, with soft surfaced paths, mown grass paths and sitting areas.

Each corridor will be focussed upon a landscape feature of interest, such as the play mound, with its viewpoint, the community green, or local woodland.

Key

 Viewpoint mound

 Artist's impression viewpoint





Artist's impression of the central green corridor, looking towards the viewpoint mound

Landscape Strategy

ECOLOGICAL AREAS AND BUFFER ZONES

A special feature of Nursery Fields is the natural spaces that will surround the houses. These provide the ability for residents to feel part of their countryside. Rather than the left over spaces seen on many modern developments, these natural spaces will create fascinating wetland landscapes with circuitous paths between and around the ponds, some of which will be seasonally wet, and sensitively fenced for safety.

These areas will be full of wildlife and provide the opportunity for residents to enjoy the nature on their doorstep. Species will all be locally indigenous, and the management will be local.

A 10m planted buffer of local tree and shrub species including poplar and willow will enclose the cemetery extension and ensure that a quiet and reflective nature is created, and its purpose respected. Rural, pedestrian gates will be provided from local footpaths.



Sustainable Drainage Features

Surface water runoff from the proposed development will be attenuated on-site and discharged to the existing boundary ditches at the annual greenfield rate.

The attenuation facilities comprise several shallow basins around the edges of the development. The basins will manage runoff from their respective impermeable catchment areas for up to and including the 1 in 100 annual probability storm including 40 % climate change allowance. The depths of the basins account for the expected shallow groundwater at the site (a programme of winter groundwater monitoring is currently underway).

The conveyance and treatment network upstream of the attenuation basins will include (under-drained) swales, grassed (planted) filter drains and SuDS planters.



Illustrative Drainage Features Plan

Management and Maintenance

A site management plan will be agreed with the local authority as part of detailed design and form part of the application.

- The plant stock for the proposals will be locally sourced and will be maintained for a minimum of 3 years, thereafter by the management company.
- Materials for hedgerows will be locally indigenous and robust.
- The Cemetery edge will be planted with suitable evergreens, such as yew.
- Tree planting within the housing of the nursery site will comprise upright street trees and densely planted flowering shrubs to be agreed with the local authority
- All planted areas will be mulched with 75mm composted wood bark and organic matter dug into the soils.

Public green areas and public realm within the parcels will be maintained by private management companies set by the developer after completion, who will develop a detailed plan for the ongoing maintenance of the shared aspects of the development. There will also be an opportunity to involve the community in the long term maintenance of specific areas such as the community orchard.