

6.0 CHARACTER AREAS

6.1 LIDSEY RIFE LINEAR PARK

Running in a north-south direction, the valley of the Lidsey Rife should form the basis of a new linear park within the development proposals.

The Lidsey Rife [1] should underpin the overall landscape framework, with the linear park forming a significant and multifunctional resource; the existing riparian corridor should be enhanced to enrich the range of on-site habitats alongside enhancements to the tributaries that should create a network of significant wildlife corridors.

A new footpath/cycleway [2] is proposed between Eastergate and Lidsey that should follow the route of the rife and should connect into the main recreational routes in and around the Site. Amenity open space within the linear park should offer opportunities for informal recreation alongside designated play areas, including a NEAP and other outdoor provision [3] and play trails.

The existing vegetation associated with the Lidsey Rife should be retained and the riparian character of the valley should be amplified through new wet woodland and understorey planting [4] set within wet meadows. The tributaries to the rife should be landscaped with tree planting and wet meadows [5] to provide a subtle differentiation in character and to define these routes visually (as found within the fields to the south of the overall development site) and as ecological corridors.

The section of the park to the north of the railway to the East-West Link should be characterised as a transitional or woodland edge habitat with a predominance of meadow and tree planting as specimen or in groups [6]. Recreational access should be facilitated by mown footpaths through the meadows.

The area to the north of this should form a more open amenity space [7], with close mown grassed areas offering opportunities for informal recreation and a cricket pitch. This approach should respect the setting of the Grade II* listed St. George's Church and should preserve a visual connection [8].

Play provision within the park should comprise a destination play space (NEAP and other outdoor provision) where timber equipment and natural landscape elements should compliment the surrounding landscape character. Timber and natural landscape elements should form a trim trail creating opportunities for 'play along the way' throughout the park.

Finally, the linear park should incorporate a number of SuDS basins [9] that should be designed and landscaped so as to support a variety of habitat types, including permanent water, marginal, damp and wet meadows.



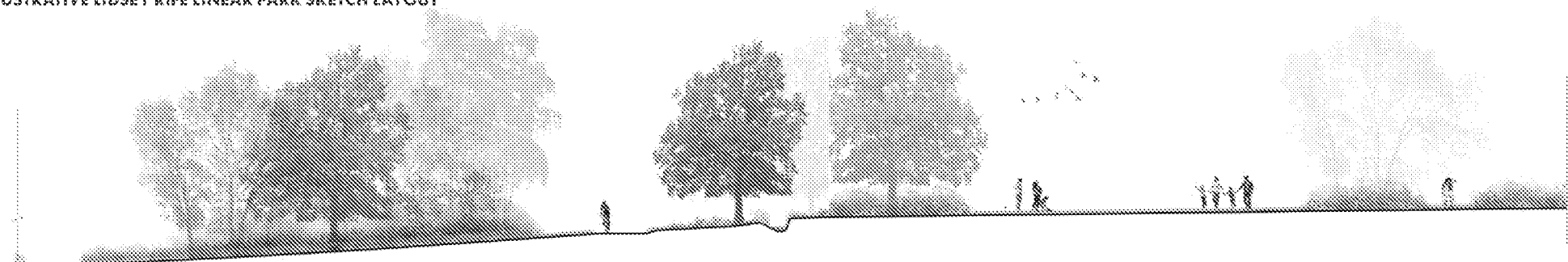
ILLUSTRATIVE LIDSEY RIFE LINEAR PARK SKETCH LAYOUT



KEY PLAN

LEGEND

- 1 LIDSEY RIFE VALLEY
- 2 FOOTPATH/CYCLEWAY
- 3 DESTINATION PLAY SPACE (NEAP)
- 4 WET WOODLAND AND SCRUB
- 5 WET MEADOWS
- 6 SPECIMEN & COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING
- 7 OPEN AMENITY SPACE
- 8 VISUAL LINK TO ST. GEORGE CHURCH
- 9 WETLANDS / SUDS BASINS



ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION THROUGH LIDSEY RIFE AND TRIBUTARY

ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION THROUGH LINEAR PARK MEADOWS

CHARACTER AREAS

6.2 GREEN LINK

The Green Link wraps around the northern and eastern extents of the Site. It connects the Lidsey Rife Linear Park with Barham and the development parcel to the south of the railway line.

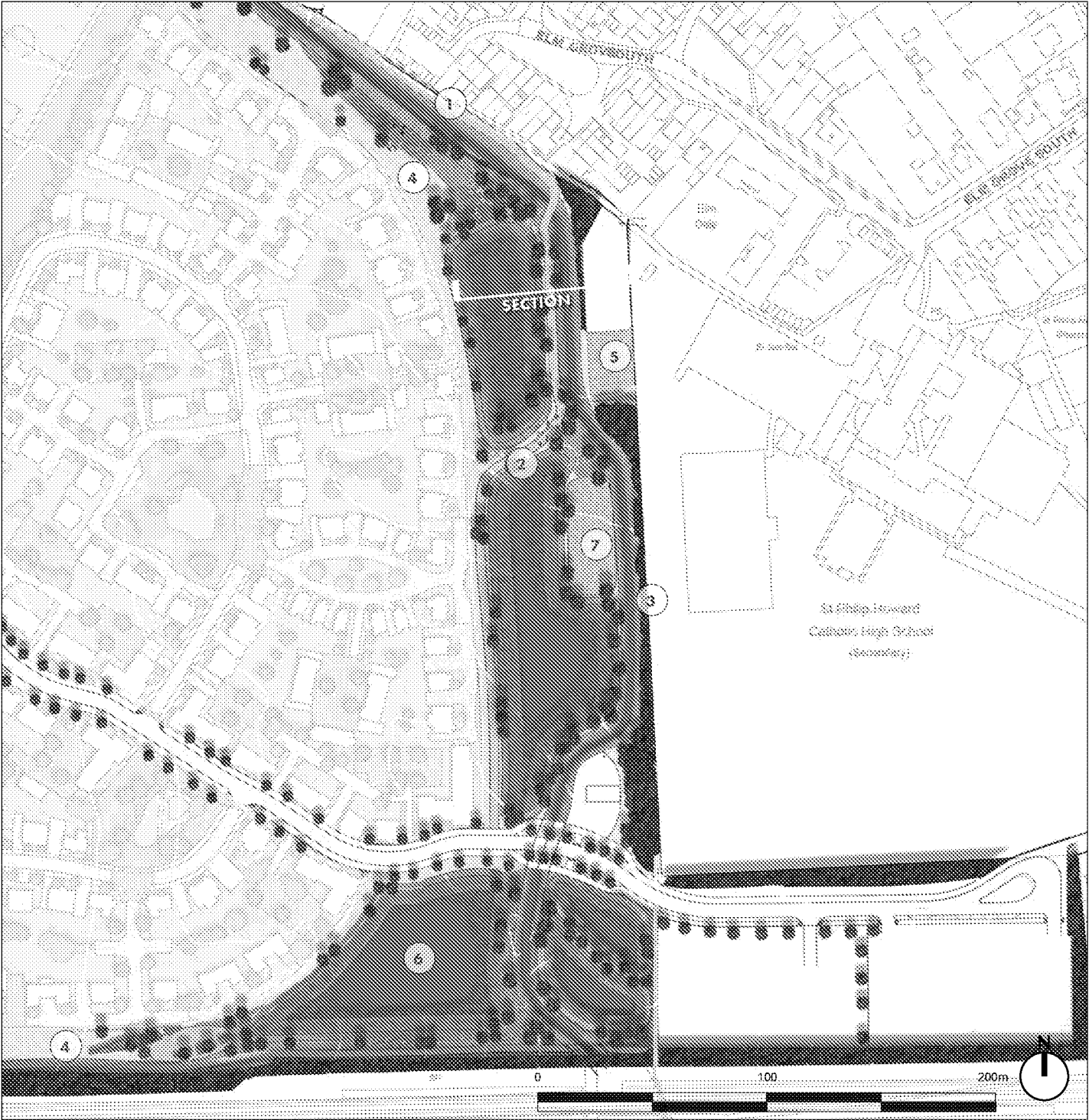
A footpath and cycleway footpath runs along the alignment of the existing public right of way [1], and diverts around the wetland along the eastern Site boundary with St. Philip Howard School [2].

The Green Link should function as a series of interlinked spaces connected by the pedestrian footpath and unified by the new woodland, tree planting and species rich meadow/grassland margins that should define the Site boundary [3].

Sections of the link should comprise informal close mown amenity spaces fronting the new housing [4] offering opportunities for informal recreation. A destination play space consisting of a NEAP and MUGA adjacent to the school should provide a focal point offering opportunities for dynamic and challenging play [5].

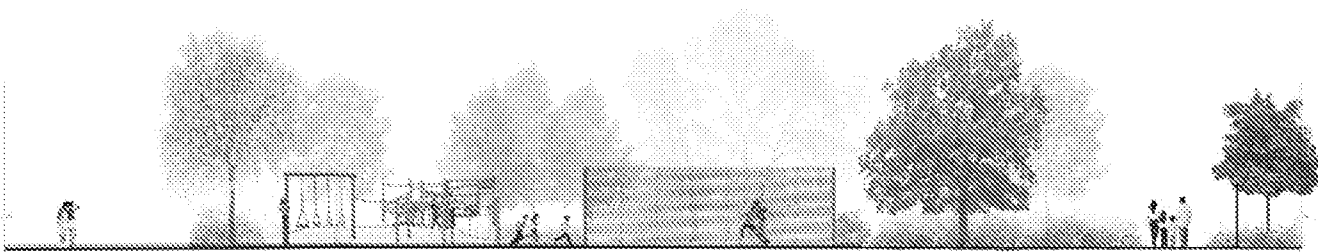
New SuDS basins [6] are clustered to form the character of a complex wetland system which should be planted with marginal and meadow planting. There are opportunities for the southern-most area of the Green Link to be designed to incorporate a LEAP alongside the SuDS basins [7].

Overall, the Green Link offers a variety of recreational opportunities, both formal and informal, and the potential for a number of different habitat typologies, from woodland to meadow, wetland to marginal areas associated with the proposed SuDS basins.

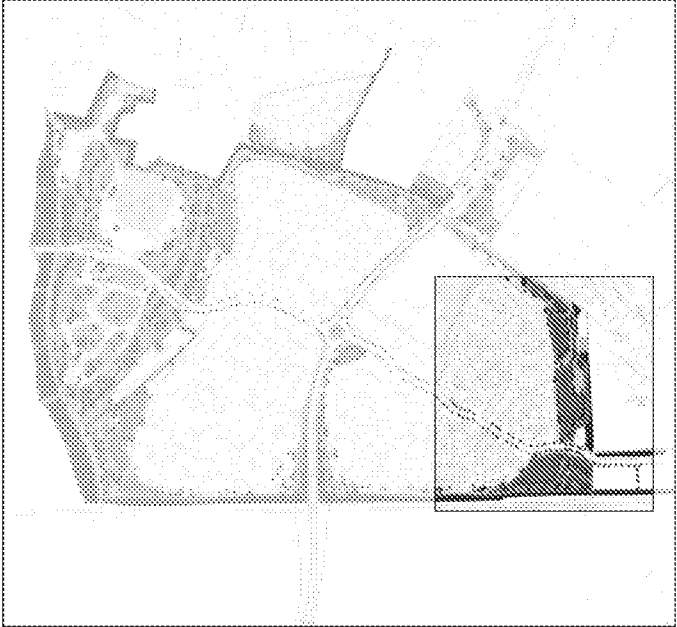


ILLUSTRATIVE GREEN LINK SKETCH LAYOUT

- LEGEND
- 1 EXISTING PROW ENHANCED TO FOOTPATH/CYCLEWAY
 - 2 NEW FOOTPATH/CYCLEWAY
 - 3 WOODLAND, TREE AND MEADOW TO BOUNDARIES
 - 4 OPEN AMENITY SPACE
 - 5 INDICATIVE LOCATION OF MULTI-USE GAMES AREA
 - 6 WETLAND
 - 7 ILLUSTRATIVE LOCATION OF DESTINATION PLAY SPACE (NEAP)



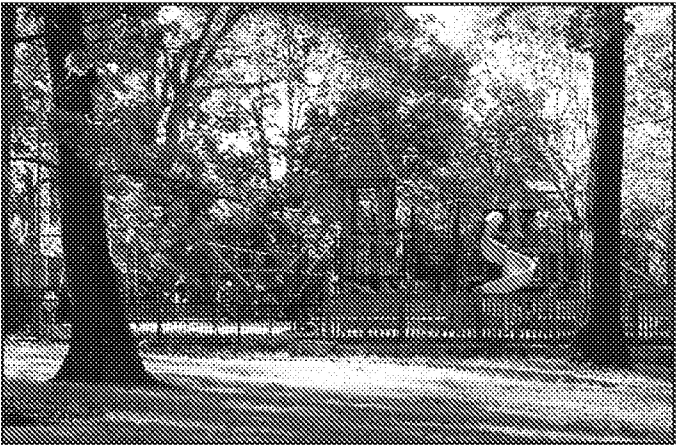
ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION THROUGH BOUNDARY LANDSCAPING, MEADOWS, PLAY AREA AND AMENITY OPEN SPACE



KEY PLAN



ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE: ECOLOGICAL WETLAND



ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE: DESTINATION PLAY SPACE

CHARACTER AREAS

6.3 GREEN CORRIDORS

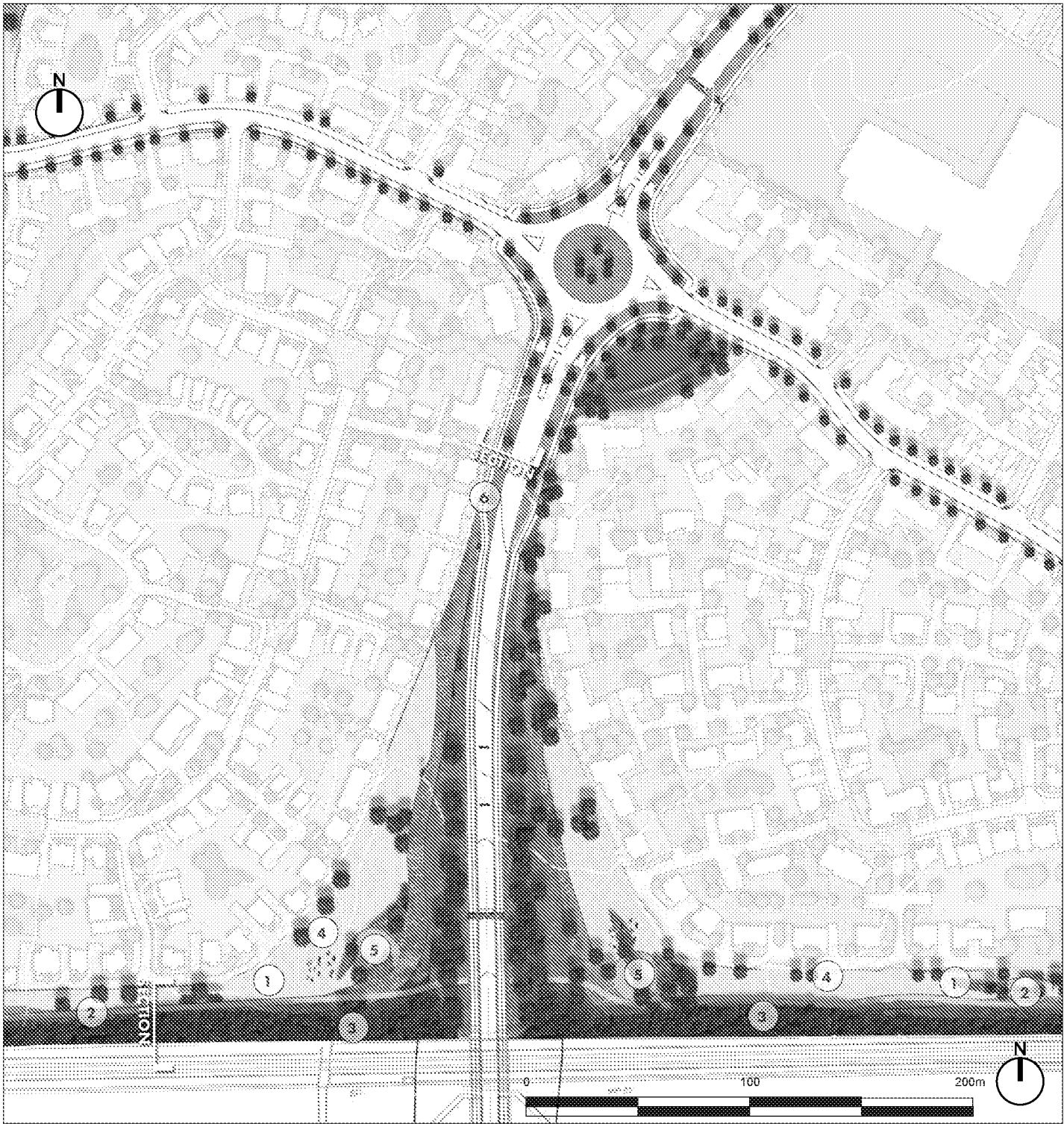
The Green Corridors bound the southern development parcels immediately north of the railway line. They function as an ecological buffer to the railway line, attractive local amenity space, and a greenway to Barnham Station, the Green Link and the Lidsey Rife Linear Park

The southern Green Corridor alongside the railway should form a key connection between the linear park in the east and the Green Link to the west [1]. This corridor should have a transitional character comprising recreational development edge and linear woodland. A footpath/cycleway should run the length of the corridor [2] crossing under the new A29 link road, to the south of which a landscaped buffer comprising new native shaw woodland and grassland meadow edge [3] should form an ecological corridor and visual separation between the new housing and railway line. To the north of the footpath, amenity grassed areas [4] should offer opportunities for informal recreation and relaxation alongside a number of play areas [5] (LEAPs and LAPs) comprising timber equipment and natural landscape elements.

A second Green Corridor realigned to the A29 should run through this phase of the development. The landscape approach for this corridor should be to establish swathes of linear wet meadows [6] that should enrich the biodiversity value of this corridor.

The wide verges adjacent to the carriageway should contain drainage swales landscaped with grassland or wildflower meadows and tree planting where possible. A second and wider swathe of wildflower meadow should be established between the footway and residential parcel edge. The land profile of these meadows could be dished to potentially accommodate surface water runoff from the adjacent residential areas thus creating damp areas and further diversifying the scope for plant species.

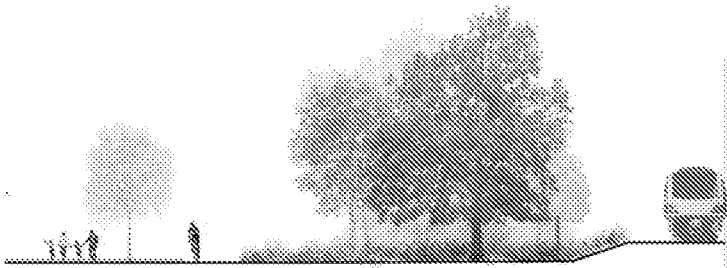
Opportunities exist throughout the Green Corridors for further ecological enhancements, such as hibernacula and butterfly banks.



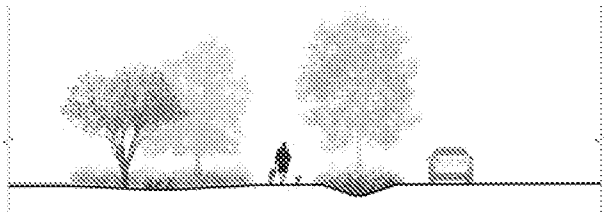
ILLUSTRATIVE GREEN CORRIDORS SKETCH LAYOUT

LEGEND

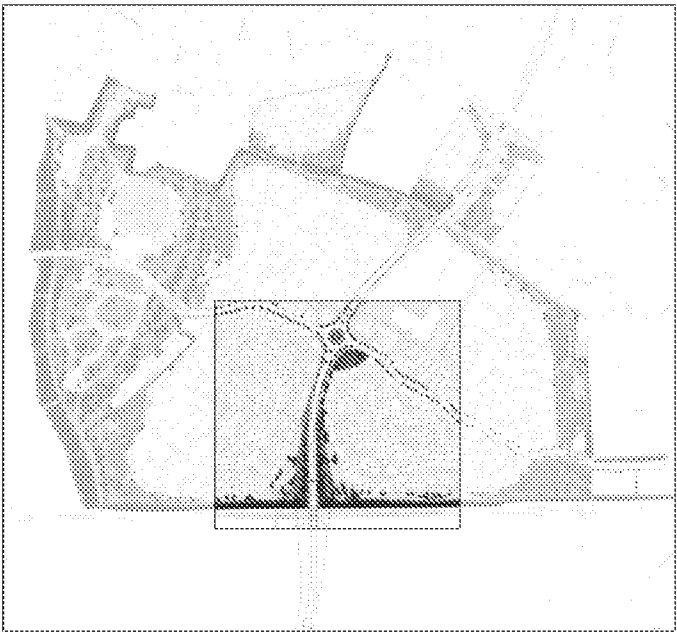
- 1 SOUTHERN GREEN CORRIDOR
- 2 FOOTPATH/CYCLEWAY
- 3 NATIVE SHAW WOODLAND WITH GRASSLAND EDGE
- 4 OPEN AMENITY SPACE
- 5 PLAY SPACE (LEAP)
- 6 LINEAR MEADOW GREEN CORRIDOR



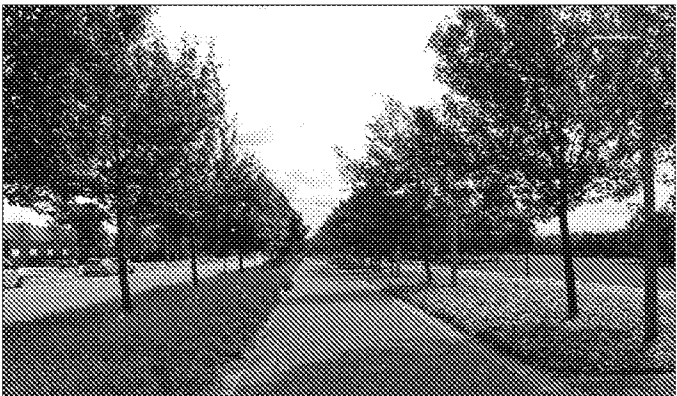
ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION THROUGH SOUTHERN GREEN CORRIDOR



ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION THROUGH LINEAR MEADOWS



KEY PLAN



ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE: DOUBLE ROW OF TREE PLANTING TO ROAD



ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE: STRUCTURAL LANDSCAPE EDGE TO AMENITY SPACE

7.0 PLANTING STRATEGY

7.1 LIDSEY RIFE VALLEY CORRIDOR

The proposals seek to enhance the existing lowland meadow character of the Lidsey Rife Corridor by retaining the existing vegetation and establishing a species rich wet meadow to the edge of the rife. Alongside this, wet woodland planting will be established along the corridor that will add structure within the landscape and assist with new habitat creation.

Riparian woodland [5] should be established along the course of the rife predominantly comprising crack willow [*Salix fragilis*], white willow [*Salix alba*], alder [*Alnus glutinosa*] and silver birch [*Betula pendula*].

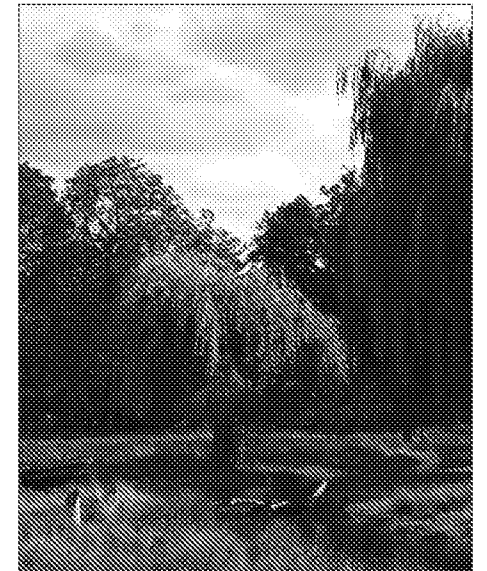
A scrub ecotone will develop at the edge of the woodland as a transition into grassland, which will require a specific management regime to prevent natural succession into woodland.

A variety of tree forms as standard, feathered, or multi-stem will add interest to the scheme. Lower shrubs will be planted in a matrix pattern and a nursery crop of native grassland and meadow mixes will then be sown to continue to build on the ecologically beneficial palette, thus creating a sustainable thicket woodland. The management of this area will allow pioneer trees to create the initial arboreal cover and allow slower growing species to establish and continue to support ecosystems.

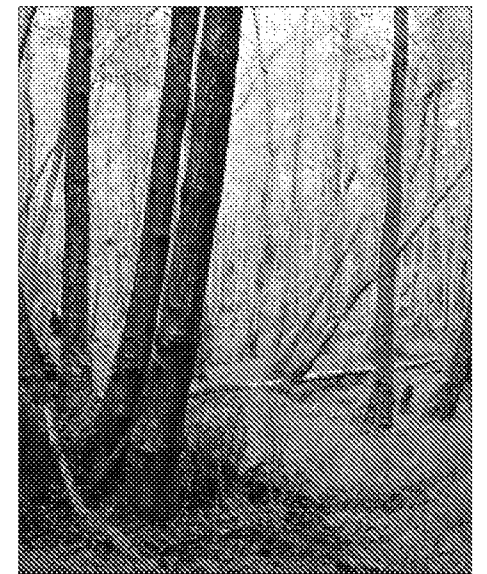
Riparian scrub includes osier [*Salix viminalis*], grey willow [*Salix cinerea*], goat willow [*Salix caprea*], and dogwood [*Cornus sanguinea*].



INDICATIVE LIDSEY RIFE CORRIDOR PLAN [NOT TO SCALE]



PRECEDENT IMAGE: RIPARIAN WOODLAND



CARR, OR WET WOODLAND

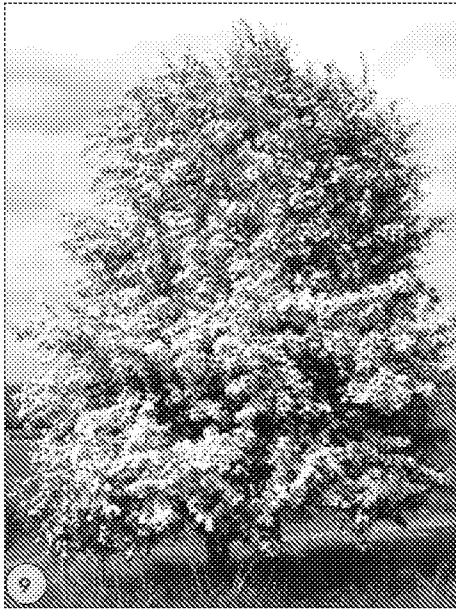
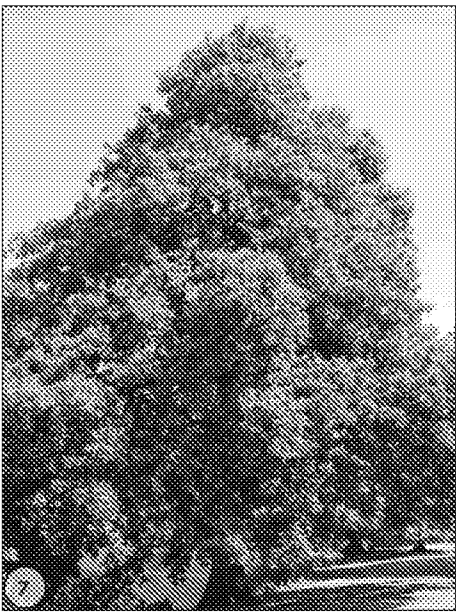
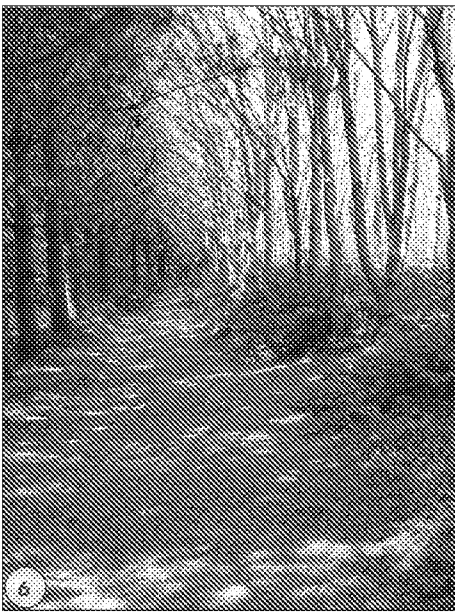
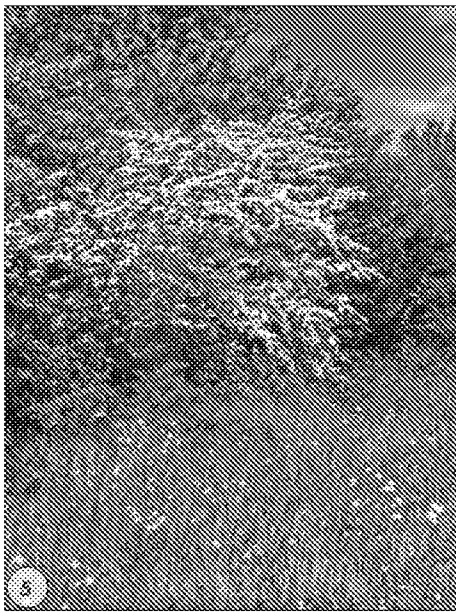
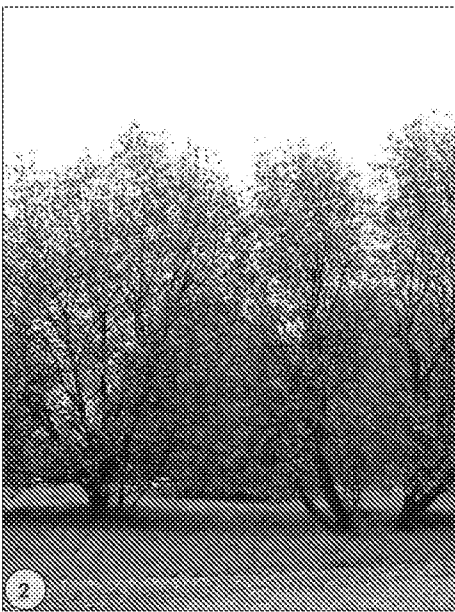
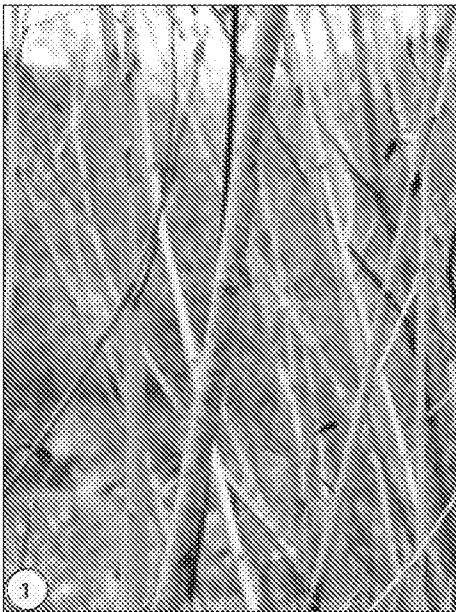


PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN OF EXISTING CONDITION OF LIDSEY RIFE CORRIDOR

PLANTING STRATEGY

7.1.1 LIDSEY RIFE CORRIDOR INDICATIVE PLANTING PALETTE

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Salix viminalis | Osier |
| 2. Salix caprea | Goat Willow |
| 3. Salix cinerea | Grey Willow |
| 4. Oak [shown as mature] | Quercus robur |
| 5. Mix native hedgerow- nature corridors | |
| 6. Woodland paths | |
| 7. Alder [shown as mature] | Ainus glutinosa |
| 8. Corylus avellana | Hazel |
| 9. Crataegus monogyna | Hawthorn |
| 10. Euonymus europaeus | Spindle |
| 11. Hyacinthoides, Galium & Mercurialis perennis | |
| 12. Dogwood | Cornus sanguinea |



PLANTING STRATEGY

7.2 WOODLAND

Aside from the Lidsey Rife corridor, woodland throughout the site falls broadly into five types: shaw woodland, copse, tree belt, riparian tree belt and riparian woodland. Riparian woodlands include trees along the rife corridors and adjacent to SuDs basins.

New shaw, or linear, woodland [1] will be established along the site boundaries, for example along the southern boundary with the railway line. Species will include pedunculate oak [*Quercus robur*], small-leaved lime [*Tilia cordata*], hornbeam [*Carpinus betulus*], field maple [*Acer campestre*], common beech [*Fagus sylvatica*] and silver birch [*Betula pendula*].

This will be achieved through a planting and management regime that ensures a full and developed canopy with no shrub understorey, but with a rich cover of woodland perennials, such as wild garlic, bluebell, wood avens, selfheal and red campion.

Copse planting [2] will comprise native climax broadleaf species planted in small groups to replicate the character of woodland pasture. Typical species would include oak [*Quercus robur*], small-leaved lime [*Tilia cordata*] and hornbeam [*Carpinus betulus*].

Planting of specimen climax broadleaf species will create focal points within the open grassland [3]. They also frame views of keys assets and features around the development, for example, St George's Church. Species will be predominantly native, such as common beech [*Fagus sylvatica*], silver birch [*Betula pendula*], wild cherry [*Prunus avium*], bird cherry [*Prunus padus*].

Riparian tree belts [4] should be established along the rife tributary corridors within the linear park to define these routes with a character subtly different to the Lidsey Rife corridor. These tree belts will comprise large native species tolerant of wet conditions, such as white willow [*Salix alba*], alder [*Alnus glutinosa*] and aspen [*Populus tremula*].

LEGEND

- 1 SHAW WOODLAND
- 2 COPSE
- 3 SPECIMEN PLANTING
- 4 RIPARIAN TREE BELTS



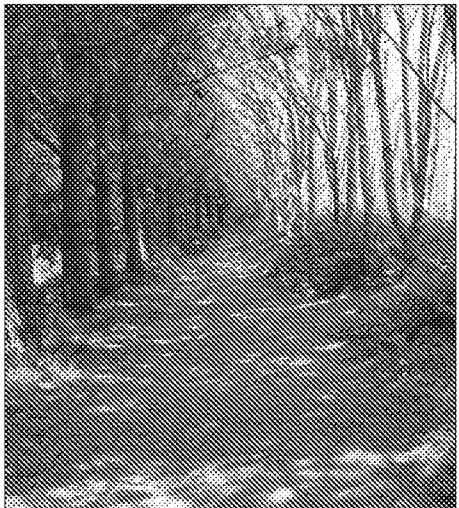
INDICATIVE WOODLAND PLANTING PLAN [NOT TO SCALE]



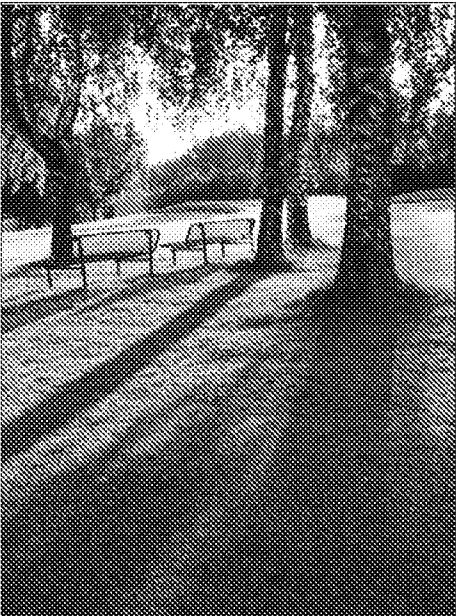
SPECIMEN PLANTING IN MEADOW



RIPARIAN WOODLAND [SHOWN AS NEWLY ESTABLISHED]



PRECEDENT IMAGE: SHAW WOODLAND WITH NATURAL PATH



BIRCH COPSE

PLANTING STRATEGY

7.2.1 WOODLAND INDICATIVE PALETTE

1. Acer campestre

2. Alnus glutinosa

3. Fagus sylvatica

4. Common oak

5. Horse chestnut

6. Sweet chestnut

7. Small-leaved lime

8. Sambucus nigra

9. Crataegus monogyna

10. White willow

11. Elm 'New Horizon'

12. Silver birch
- Filed Maple

Common Alder

Beech

Quercus robur

Aesculus hippocastanum

Castanea sativa

Tilia cordata

Common Elder

Hawthorn

Salix alba

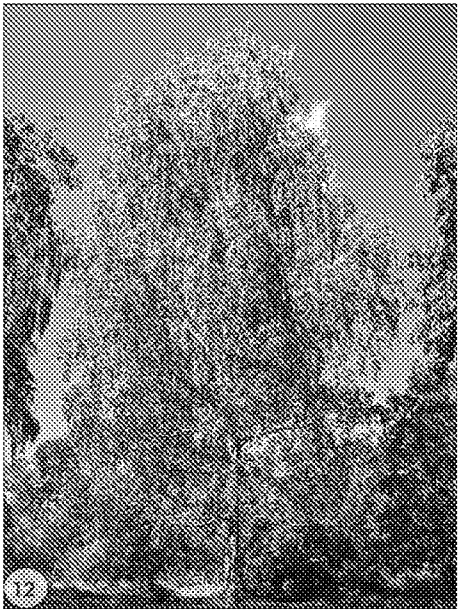
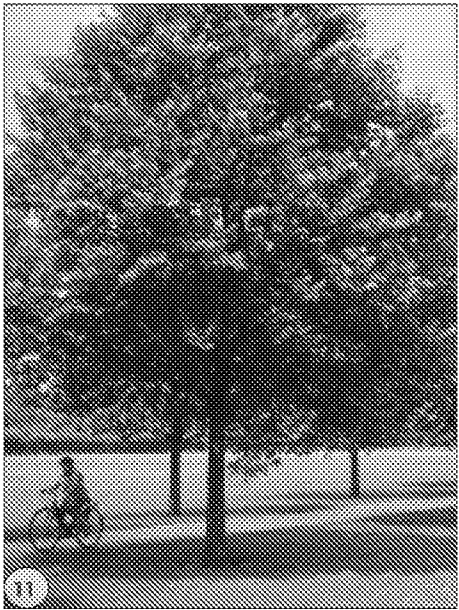
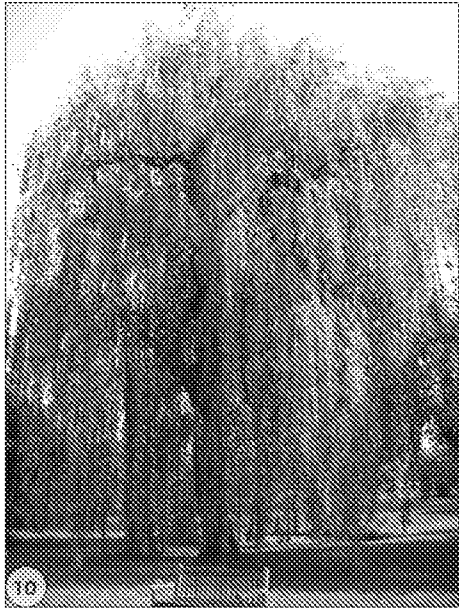
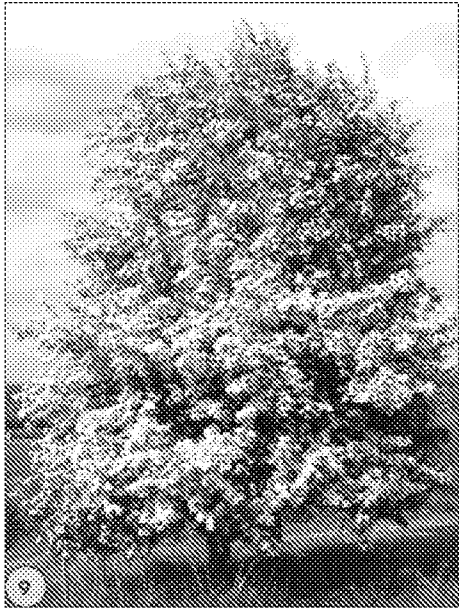
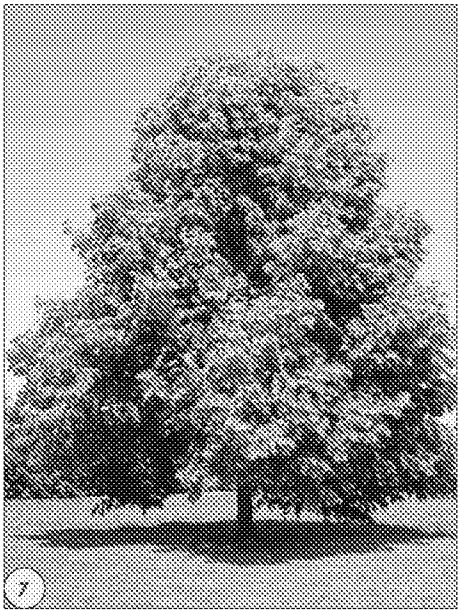
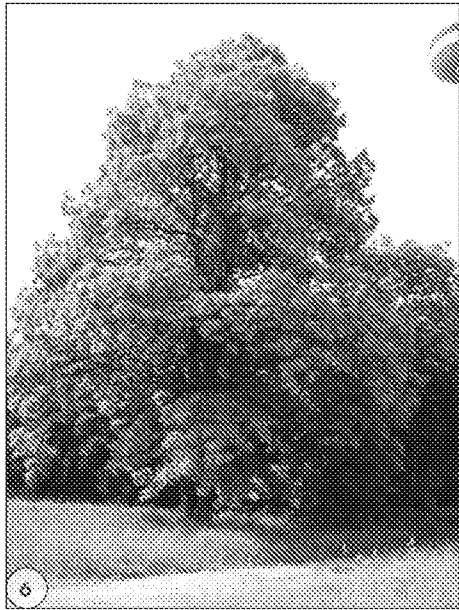
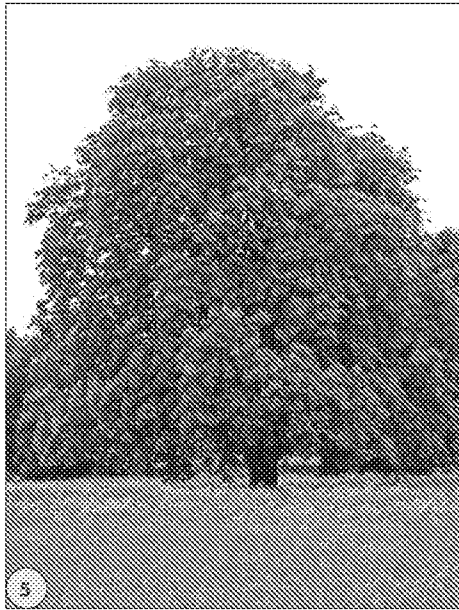
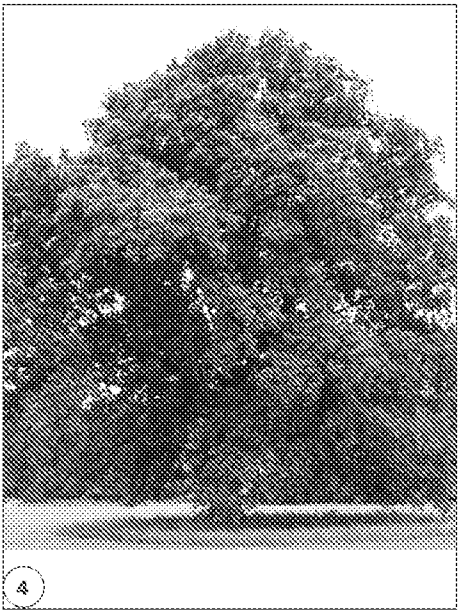
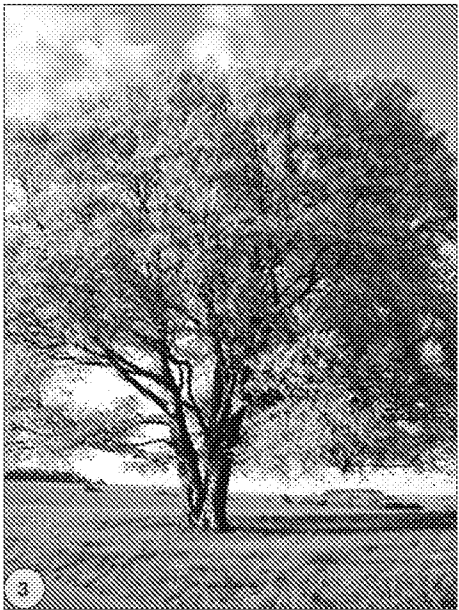
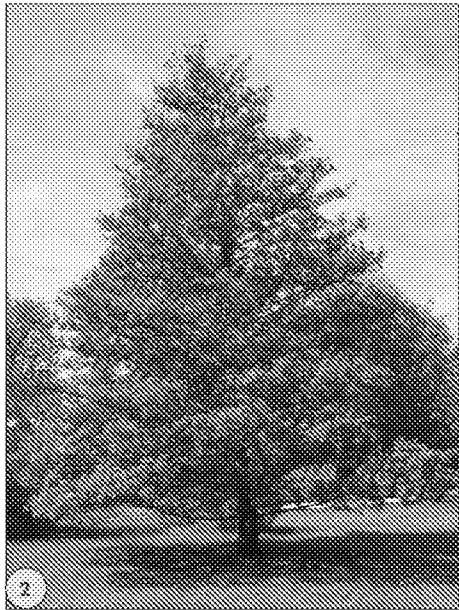
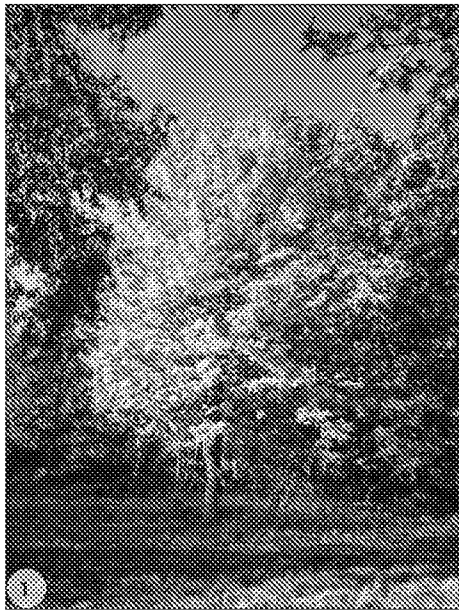
Ulmus 'New Horizon'

Betula pendula

The woodland creation and improvement with the addition of native trees such as oak and ash, wildlife-rich woodland wildflowers such as the bluebell and wild daffodil, all enrich the site.

The proposed hedges, woodland, scrub and riparian areas build on these selected habitats. They create a of corridors linking the surrounding and wider landscape. Woodland habitats provide a food source that supports a wide and diverse wildlife ecology.

A big threat to woodland is the lack of management. Woodland management, including coppicing, enhances the flora and many scarce and declining fauna species, by the process of regular disturbance. In some areas, a conscious decision may be made to 'leave alone' so that natural processes of regeneration can take their course.



PLANTING STRATEGY

7.3 STREET TREE PLANTING

The proposed tree planting strategy helps inform the character of the street scape and is key in defining the types of tree form, scale and user interaction, which in turn defines the usability and comfort of the streets.

Tree planting within the proposed development will be key in visually defining primary, secondary and tertiary routes. Along with hard surface treatment, tree selection will also be important in communicating street hierarchy.

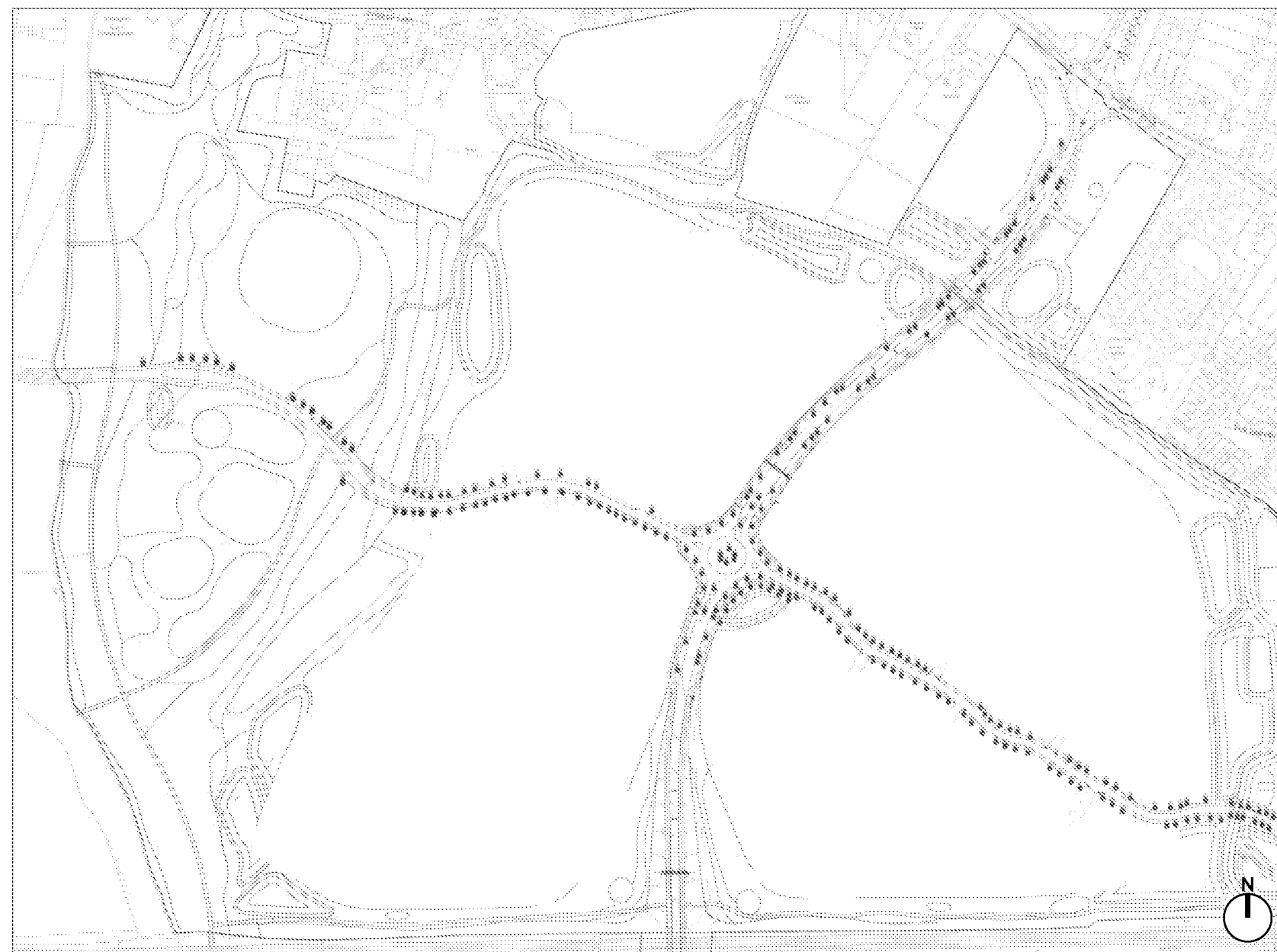
Street trees could also form landmarks that signify a particular local or transition between character areas. Furthermore, tree planting should be proposed at key junctions and be complemented where appropriate with shrub planting.

The National Planning Policy Framework states the following:

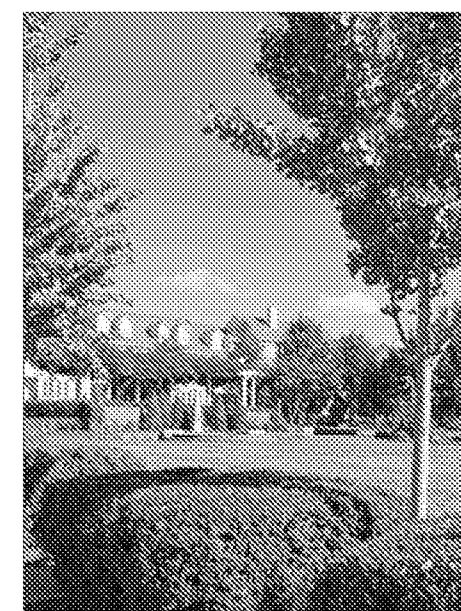
"Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments, and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change....[Proposals] should ensure that new streets are tree-lined....Unless, in specific cases, there are clear, justifiable and compelling reasons why this would be inappropriate"

For primary routes, such as the Spine Road, tree planting at regular intervals of a minimum of 20m could create a legible and varied street scene to all users. Tree planting should also highlight key junctions along the primary routes, whilst taking into account appropriate visibility splays. On secondary routes tree planting could be proposed at regular intervals of a minimum of 40m.

Tree species for primary streets, such as the spine road, will include resistant Elm [*Ulmus* 'New Horizon'], Small-leaved Lime [*Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire'] and Norway Maple [*Acer platanoides* 'Crimson Sentry']. Tree species along secondary roads will include Field Maple [*Acer campestre* 'Elsrijk'], Cherry plum [*Prunus cerasifera* 'Nigra'] and Hornbeam [*Carpinus betulus* 'Frans Fontaine'].



INDICATIVE STREET TREE PLAN (NOT TO SCALE)



PRECEDENT IMAGE: POCKET PARK



PRECEDENT IMAGE: GREEN CORRIDORS THROUGH RESIDENTIAL AREAS



PRECEDENT IMAGE: STREET TREES WITH HERBACEOUS GRASSES



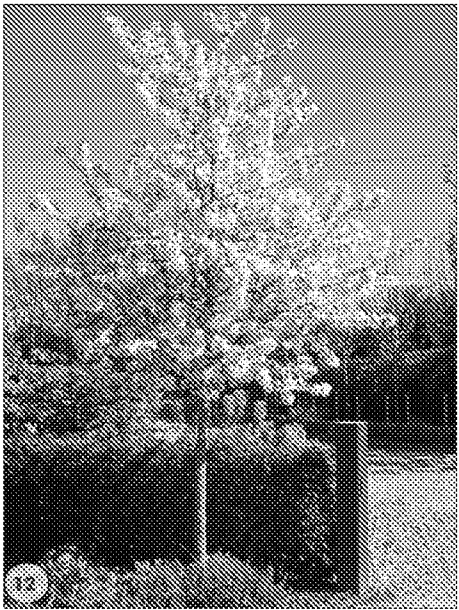
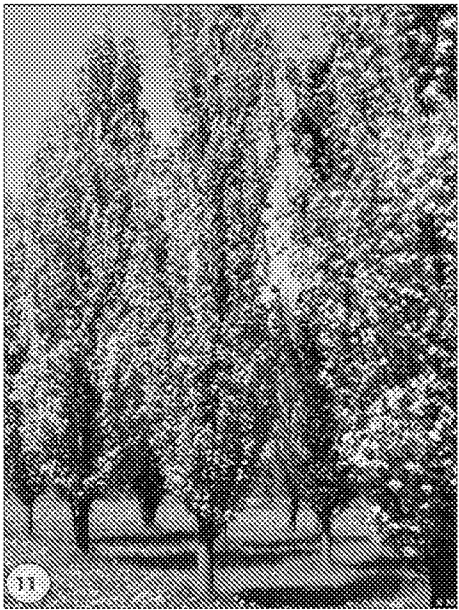
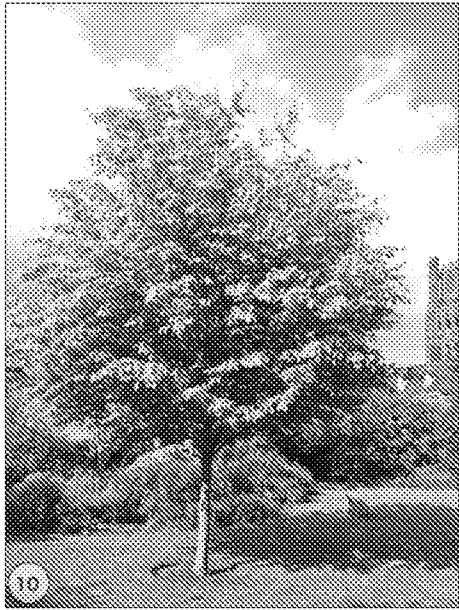
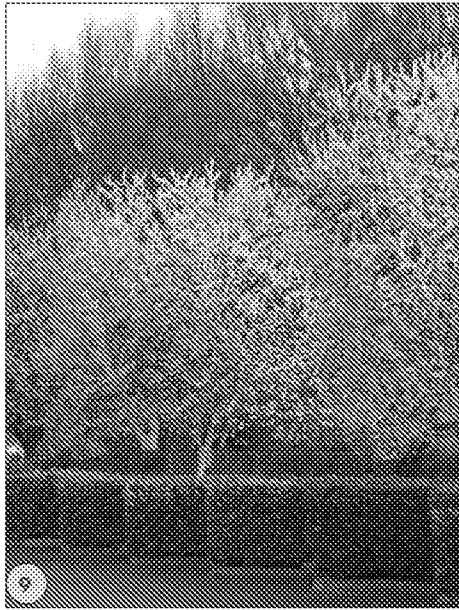
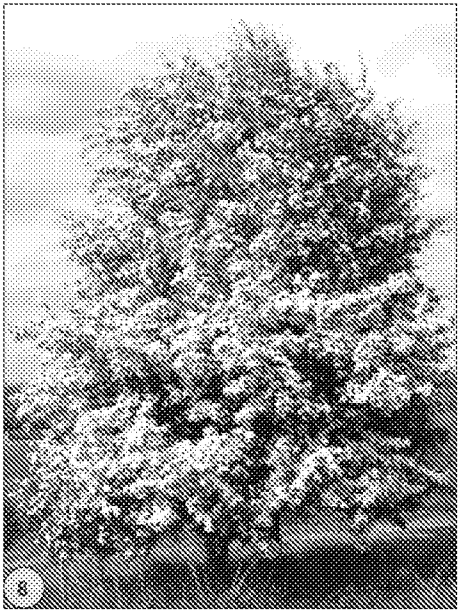
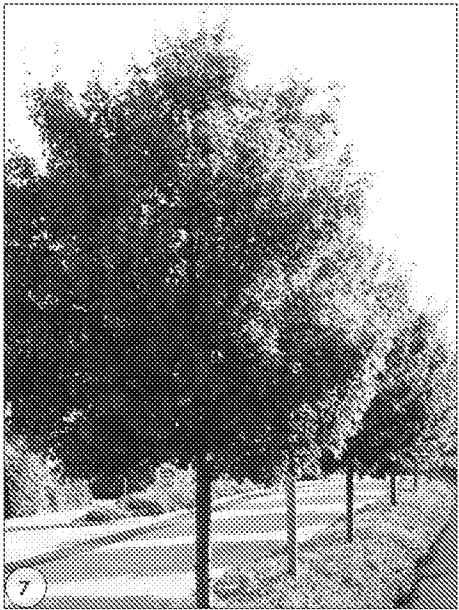
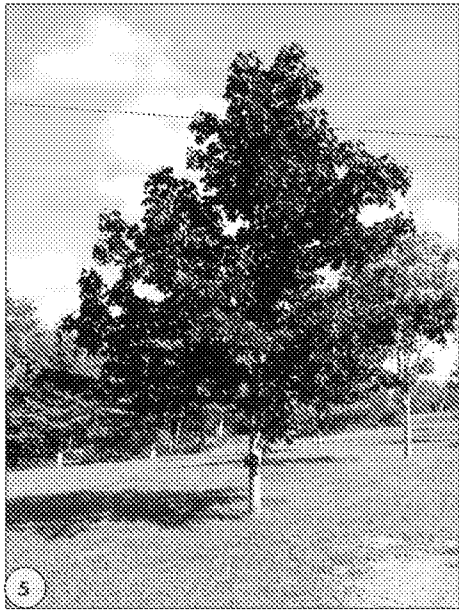
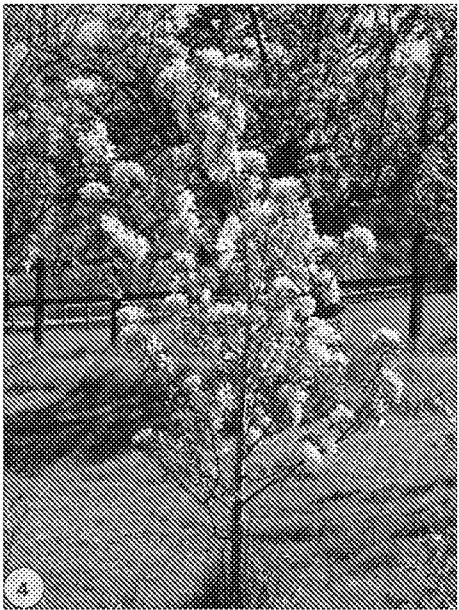
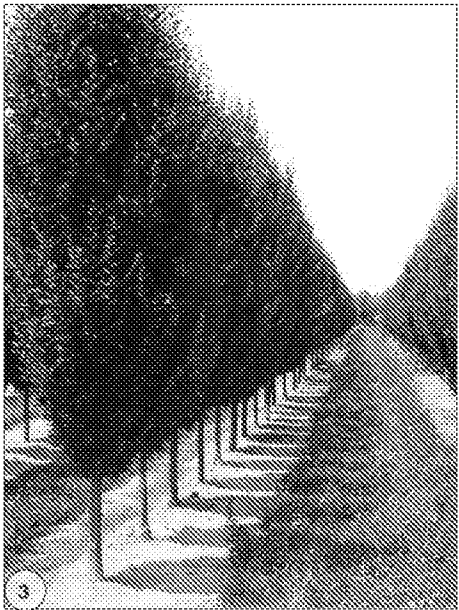
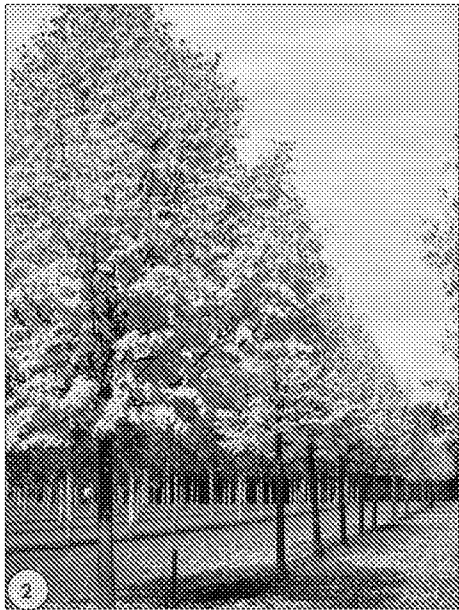
PRECEDENT IMAGE: ROADSIDE ORCHARD

PLANTING STRATEGY

7.3.1 STREET TREE INDICATIVE PALETTE

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Ulmus 'New Horizon' | Elm |
| 2. Tilia cordata 'Greenspire' | Lime |
| 3. Carpinus betulus 'Frans Fontaine' | Hornbeam |
| 4. Malus sylvestris 'John Downie' | Apple |
| 5. Acer platanoides 'Crimson Sentry' | Norway Maple |
| 6. Tilia cordata 'Greenspire' | Lime |
| 7. Acer campestre 'Elsrijk' | Field Maple |
| 8. Crataegus monogyna | Hawthorn |
| 9. Prunus cerasifera 'Nigra' | Cherry Plum |
| 10. Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Robin Hill' | |
| 11. Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck' | Beech |
| 12. Malus sylvestris 'Evereste' | Apple |

Street trees should be selected for their suitability regarding location, foliage, seasonality, blossom and fruit.



PLANTING STRATEGY

7.4 PARKLAND & MEADOW

The parkland or amenity areas comprise a range of different open spaces for both casual and organised recreation and leisure activities. These include passive, 'small-group', intimate leisure activities such as walking, picnicking, resting or outdoor learning [1] alongside a potential cricket pitch and more informal kick-about open spaces [2].

Amenity areas for non-pitch activities should be sown with a species-rich flowering grassland that may include lady's bedstraw [*Galium verum*], rough hawkbit [*Leontodon hispidus*], oxeye-daisy [*Leucanthemum vulgare*], birdsfoot trefoil [*Lotus corniculatus*], cowslip [*Primula veris*], selfheal [*Prunella vulgaris*], meadow buttercup [*Ranunculus acris*], wild red clover [*Trifolium pratense*], common bent [*Agrostis capillaris*], crested dogtail [*Cynosurus cristatus*], red fescue [*Festuca rubra*], and smaller cat's-tail [*Phleum bertolonii*].

Outdoor facilities for organised sport, such as natural turf pitches, should be planned, designed, and constructed to the relevant agreed standard. Consideration should be given to the impact of natural turf on the surrounding habitats, such that aggressive non-native species do not encroach into the native meadows, and that subsequent maintenance regimes avoid any negative impacts of spray drift on the flora and fauna of adjacent habitats.

Meadows form a transition between the amenity grassland and the various woodland types or the proposed built-up areas. They represent sinuous ecological corridors for invertebrates and aid with integrating amenity and ecology to deliver the principle of 'nature and play at your front door'.

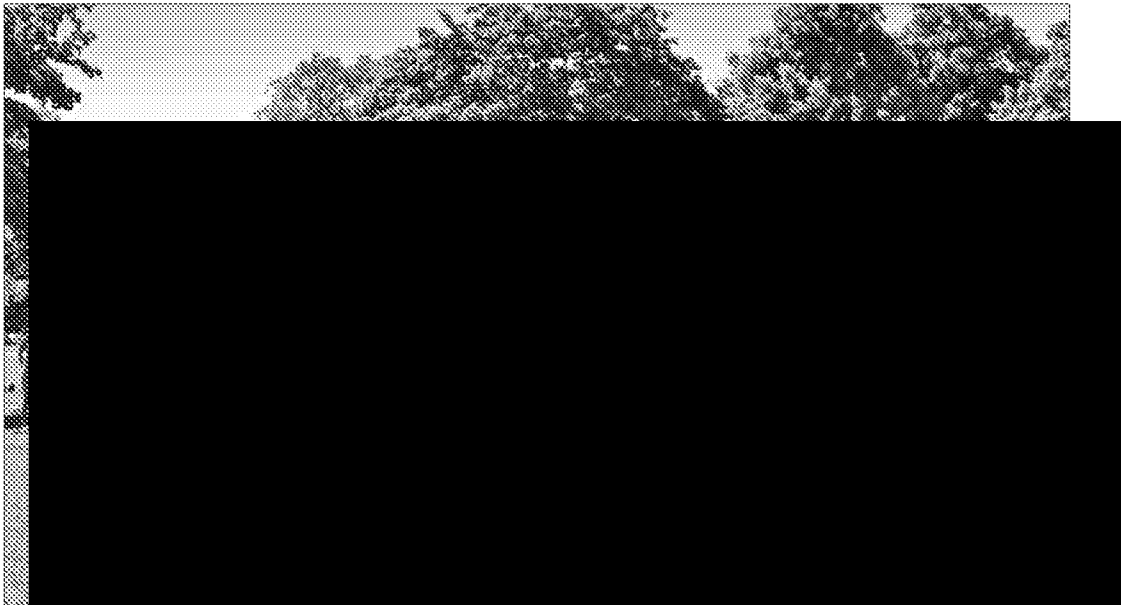
Tussock grassland and wildflower meadows [3] will mark a transition between woodland planting and amenity areas to ensure a gradation of species and habitat. Grass pathways could be cut through the meadow to enable access to the woodlands beyond, encouraging access to nature.

LEGEND

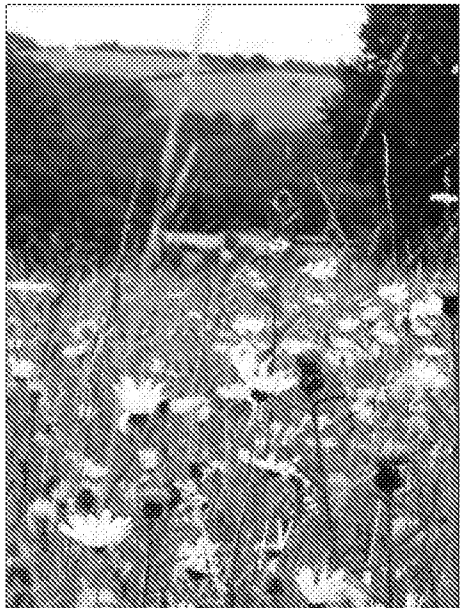
- 1 INFORMAL AMENITY SPACE
- 2 POTENTIAL CRICKET PITCH
- 3 WILDFLOWER/GRASSLAND MEADOWS



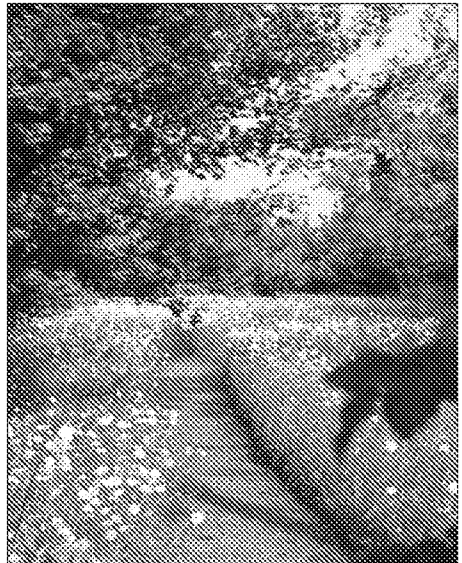
PRECEDENT IMAGE: CHILDREN PLAYING CRICKET



PRECEDENT IMAGE: PEOPLE RELAXING IN PARKLAND



PRECEDENT IMAGE: WILDFLOWER MEADOW



PRECEDENT IMAGE: MOWN PATH THROUGH MEADOW

PLANTING STRATEGY

7.8 EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE MEADOW & GRASSLAND

A collection of meadow seed mixes could prevail across the Site including EM5F. This contains a good range of the wild flowers once common in unimproved flower-rich lowland meadows. It is ideally suited to the Loamy soils on site.

1. Wet meadow mix

2. *Betonica officinalis*

3. *Daucus carota*

4. *Centaurea nigra*

5. *Leucanthemum vulgare*

6. *Rumex acetosa*

7. *Festuca rubra*

8. *Agrimonia eupatoria*

9. *Agrostis capillaris*

10. *Urtica dioica*

11. *Knautia arvensis*

12. *Geranium pratense*
- Belony

Wild Carrot

Common Knapweed

Oxeye Daisy

Common Sorrel

Red Fescue

Agrimony

Common Bent

Stinging nettle

Field scabious

Meadow Crane's-bill

Other species could include :

- Centaurea scabiosa*

Geranium pratense

Leontodon hispidus

Lotus corniculatu

Medicago lupulina

Poterium sanguisorba (*Sanguisorba minor*)

Prunella vulgaris

Ranunculus acris

Vicia cracca

Agrimonia eupatoria

Anthoxanthum odoratum
- Greater Knapwee

Meadow Crane's-bill

Rough Hawkbit

Birdsfoot Trefoil

Black Medick

Salad Burnet

Selfheal

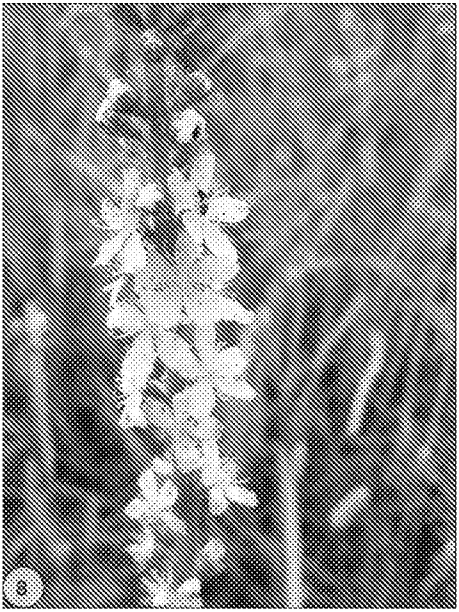
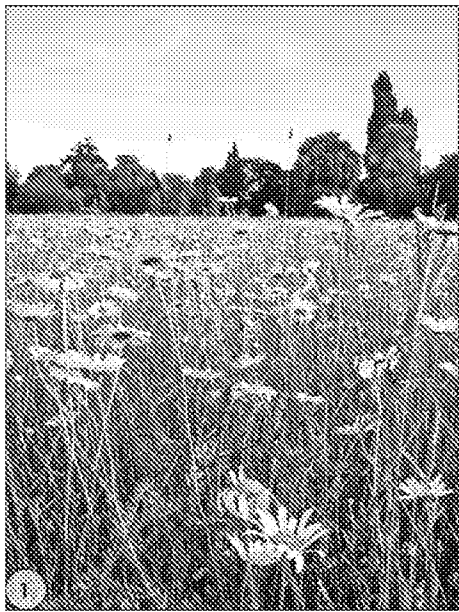
Meadow Buttercup

Tufted Vetch

Agrimony

Sweet Vernal-grass

A wildflower mix EM8, for wetland sites could be used along with Hedgerow mixes EM10.



PLANTING STRATEGY

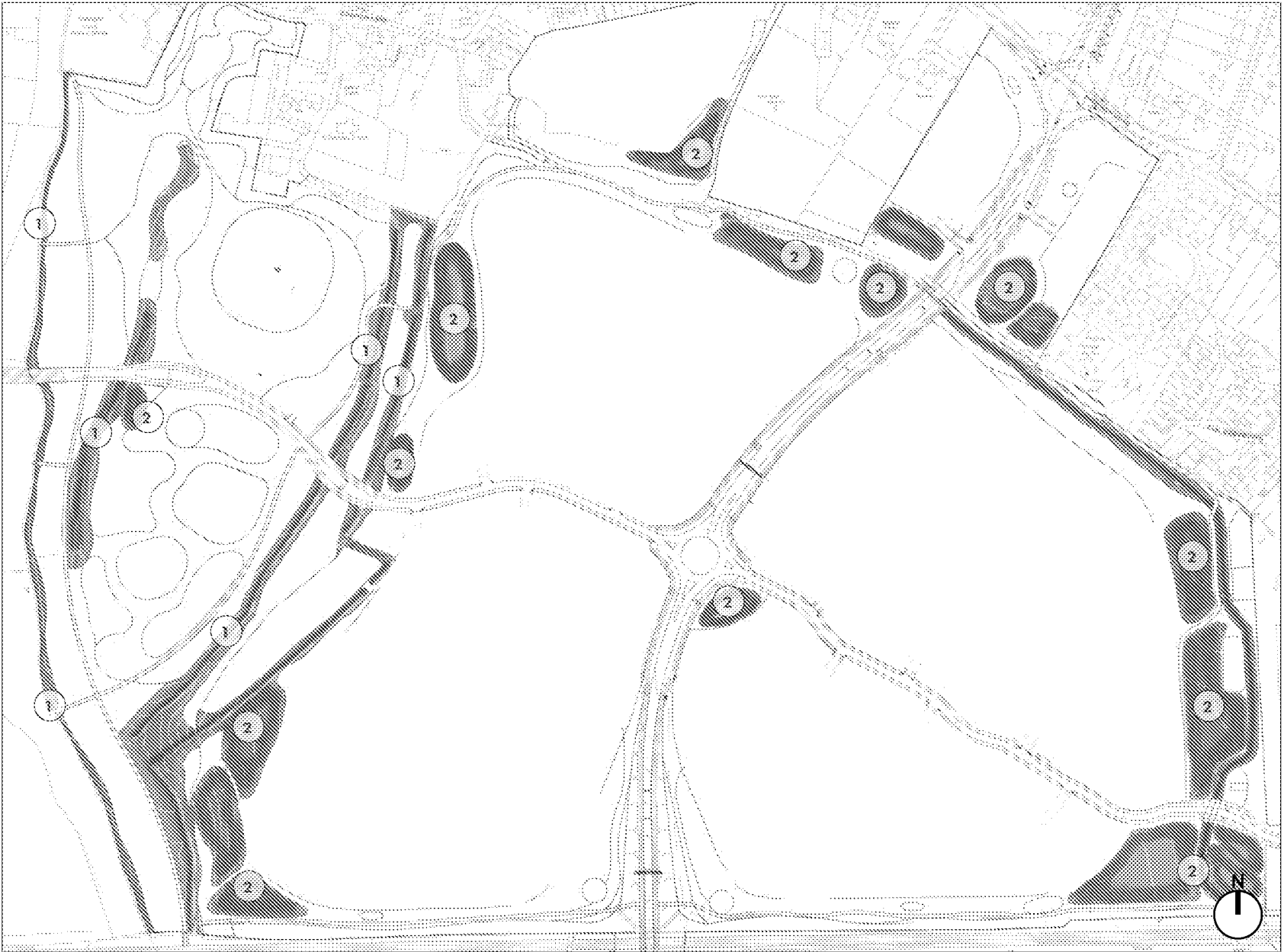
7.5 WETLANDS

Existing low-lying areas within the rife tributary corridors [1] should be enhanced with tree belts within wet meadow seeding in order to establish these routes with a character subtly different to the Lidsey Rife corridor. These tree belts will comprise large native species tolerant of wet conditions, such as white willow [*Salix alba*], alder [*Alnus glutinosa*] and aspen [*Populus tremula*].

New features designed to accept surface water as part of the overall SuDS strategy [2], such as swales, basins, and ponds, should be planted according to the anticipated moisture level of the substrate. Proposals should therefore be derived from close coordination with the relevant geotechnical engineer or soil scientist, and ecologist.

Where SuDS ponds are to be provided for attenuation and treatment of surface water, basin profiles should be designed to accommodate marginal zones that will enhance year-round biodiversity. Planting within and around these features, and particularly the broad undulating drawdown zones, should be developed in conjunction with an ecologist.

The indicative palette makes provision for marginal planting to the attenuation basins, the drawdown zone, underwater bars and deep-water zones.



INDICATIVE WETLAND PLAN [NOT TO SCALE]



PRECEDENT IMAGE: WET MEADOW



RE-PROFILED DITCH

LEGEND

- 1 RIFE TRIBUTARY CORRIDORS
- 2 SUDS BASINS



SUDS POND ADJACENT TO RESIDENTIAL AREA



POND WITH WOODED BACKDROP



WET MEADOW

PLANTING STRATEGY

7.5.1 WETLANDS INDICATIVE PALETTE

1. Menyanthes trifoliata

2. Butomus umbellatus

3. Ranunculus lingua

4. Veronica beccabunga

5. Mentha aquatica

6. Callitha palustris

7. Iris pseudacorus

8. Lythrum salicaria

9. Lysimachia vulgaris

10. Carex riparia

11. Juncus inflexus

12. Cornus sanguinea
- Bogbean

Flowering rush

Spearwort

Brooklime

Water mint

Marsh marigold

Yellow flag

Purple-loosestrife

Yellow loosestrife

Greater pond-sedge

Hard rush

Common dogwood

The plant groups alter through the different habitats in the landscape. The river tributaries should include unimproved neutral grasslands and woodland with dogwoods and willows, through to more open semi-improved grassland and wildflower meadows.

Habitats of native species require a management regime of a type to retain the harmonious balance. These may include:

Shallow water emergent plants

- Amphibious bistort

Water forget-me-not

Lesser spearwort

Arrowhead
- Persicaria amphibia

Myosotis scorpioides

Ranunculus flammula

Sagittaria sagittifolia

Tall emergent plants

- Sparganium erectum

Alisma plantago-aquatica

Carex riparia

Typha angustifolia
- Branched bur-reed

Water plantain

Greater pond-sedge

Lesser bulrush

Marginal and bog plants

- Ajuga reptans

Cardamine pratensis

Lychnis flos-cuculi

Marsh woundwort

Great willowherb

Common reed
- Bugle

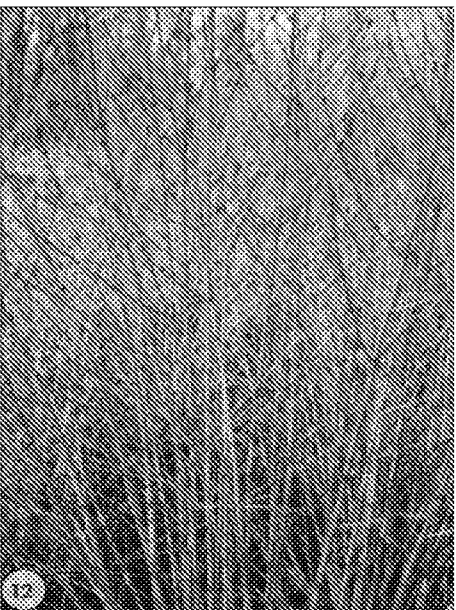
Lady's smock

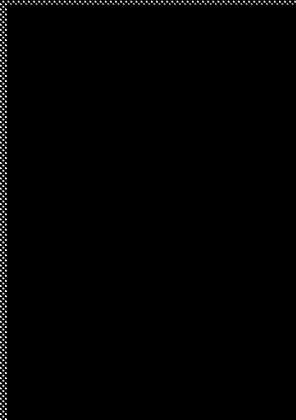
Ragged-robin

Stachys palustris

Epilobium hirsutum

Phragmites australis





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