Old Oak and Park Royal Landscape Primer

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for Old Oak & Park Royal Development Corporation

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OPDC
OLD OAK AND PARK ROYAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Introduction

This document:

This **Landscape Primer** sets out the summary landscape vision for the Victoria Road and Old Oak Lane area of Old Oak and Park Royal. With large scale change imminent in the local area, it is key to establish a set of principles that enable a sensitive and positive transformation around Victoria Road and Old Oak Lane. As separate developments are brought forward, each should contribute to the building of a coherent and characterful landscape for the area as a whole; the purpose of this document is to enable this process.

This **Landscape Primer** is supported by a number of studies, each of which looks at different areas in more detail. The studies referred to in this document are listed here and available from OPDC.

Old Oak and Park Royal Landscape Primer

Author: JCLA
(Jonathan Cook Landscape Architects)

Contents
Introduction
Sitewide Landscape Objectives
Character Areas & Design application:
- Railway Lands
- Grand Union Canal
- Primary Streets
- Industrial Areas
- Housing & Residential
- Parks & Open Spaces

Summary
Next steps
Appendix

Key Reference Studies:

Western Lands Landscape Strategy

Author: JCLA
(Jonathan Cook Landscape Architects)

Contents
1: Introduction
2: Setting
3: Approach inc. Guiding Principles
4: Tactics
  4A: Spatial types
  4B: Landscape strategies
5: Conclusion

Ecology and Biodiversity Strategy

Author: London Wildlife Trust

Contents
Section One:
Context & Policy
Vision

Section Two:
Ecology areas
Urban design typologies
Design opportunities for biodiversity

Canal Placemaking Strategy

Author: DK-CM Architects & JCLA

Contents
1: Introduction
2: Context
3: Vision
4: Strategy
5: Scenarios
6: Delivery
7: Toolbox
8: Supporting information

Park Royal Atlas

Published by: GLA
GLA, TfL and LB Ealing, Brent, H&F

OPDC Planning Strategies

In development
eg. Environmental Goals

Best Practice Guidance

Including
- Living Roofs (GRO)
- SUDs manual (CIRIA)
- Healthy Streets (TfL)
- CEEQUAL / Building with Nature

Guiding Principles:

Informed by the development of the landscape through time and the strategies needed for it to be a place where both people and nature can thrive in the future, the **Landscape Strategy** document sets out an approach founded on the notion of land in which everybody has a stakeholding, including wildlife; as well as the critical influence of climate change, requiring a landscape of resilience, inclusivity, adaptability and care. It establishes three 'Guiding Principles' that form a framework to guide an overarching approach to the landscape development across the area: to **work within the setting**, to **build the idea of the common** and to **establish a resilient landscape**. They can be summarised as:

Contextual and characterful

Work within the setting:
Establishes a common atmosphere and character for the landscape, aiding in the building of a common identity. Roots landscape proposals in their surroundings and celebrates the unique qualities of sites.

Key points:
- Respond to the historic character
- Explore the landscape signature of the Middlesex landscape & Hampstead ridge
- Engage with topography & views
- Celebrate engineering & infrastructure
- Acknowledge the changing context.

Accessible for all

Build the idea of the common:
Encourages the building of a collective sense of use for the landscape; creating a landscape that is open for exploration and engagement, generous and accessible to all - both humans and wildlife.

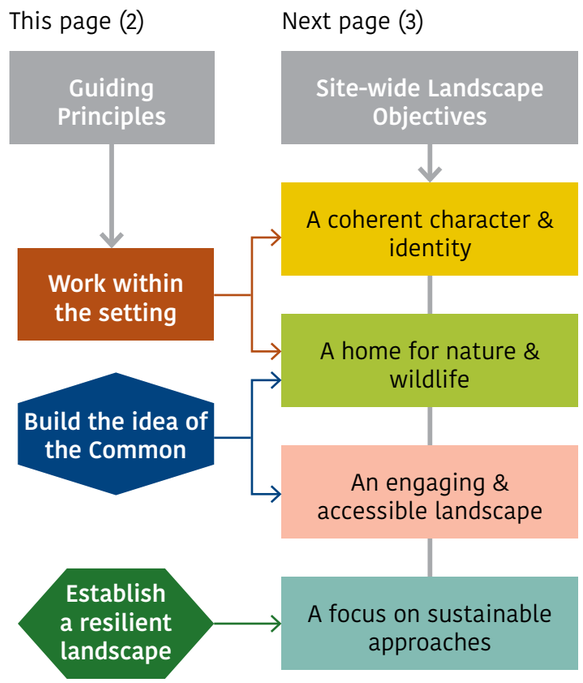
Key points:
- Establish a collective identity
- Develop a free & accessible landscape
- Include multiple users and uses
- Make it playful & engaging
- Design for people and wildlife
- Include edibles and 'Food for free'.

Sustainable and resilient

Establish a resilient landscape:
Fostering a sustainable approach to the landscape; using green and blue infrastructure to create a climate resilient city with experiential and ecological richness, and multifunctional long-term benefits.

Key points:
- Build sustainability into proposals
- Celebrate natural resources
- Offer radical increases in biodiversity and ecological value
- Expand the social, environmental & economic value of green infrastructure.

To achieve development according to these guiding principles, this **Landscape Primer** sets out four 'site-wide' objectives which should be applied to landscape development in order to build a collective landscape signature; these are described in more detail on the next page.



Sitewide Landscape Objectives

To achieve a coherent, enjoyable and sustainable landscape, new projects should seek to respond to a set of overall objectives for the local area, acknowledging the diverse set of requirements, constraints and opportunities that play a part in their development.

A coherent character & identity

- Enhance and extend a variety of landscape typologies of the Middlesex landscape, including **woodlands, grassland and meadows, wetland and hedgerow boundaries.**
- Acknowledge, celebrate and enhance **physical characteristics** of the site, including topography, geology and soils.
- Create **productive communal space** within open space and new developments.
- Include **large trees** within public realm, streets and developments for character, longevity and sustainable benefits.

Horsenden Hill in the wider vicinity contains traces of old Middlesex with grassland, woodland and panoramic views making visible the underlying characteristics of the region and revealing traces of a historic landscape signature.

A home for nature & wildlife

- **Buffer and extend natural habitats**, including measures to support local flora & fauna.
- Repair existing severances and **connect linear habitats and wider ecological networks.**
- Design to **maximise ecological value and biodiversity net gain** including native species.
- Include dedicated **wildlife areas** within green spaces and **open mosaic habitats** within built & constrained areas.
- Design, implement and manage soft landscape in a way that **emulates natural complexity** and allows species to reach their natural form.

Kidbrooke Village development near the River Quaggy in south-east London includes measures for significant ecological gain including habitat creation and extension, open water & wetland, biodiverse roofs and hibernacular features.

An engaging & accessible landscape

- Engage people in the **design, agency and management of their spaces**; from co-design, implementation and management.
- Maximise **opportunities for play and engagement with the natural world**, through creative and physical connections.
- Design, implement and manage landscapes in **holistically accessible ways;** physical, sensory and interpretive.
- Expand existing and include provision for **edible landscapes** in both formal and spontaneous ways.

The Abundant Amelia project in Southwark creates a mini-commons within public street space outside a primary school, offering edible fruit trees, diverse & colourful understorey planting and street furniture within communal space.

A focus on sustainable approaches

- Design to **prioritise urban greening and experience at ground level** through microclimate analysis.
- Design, implement and manage landscapes to be **robust, climate resilient and self-sustaining**.
- Maximise the **sustainable use of water & soils.**
- Actively promote the sourcing and use of **reclaimed, recycled or local** materials through incentives and best practice guidance.
- Include measures for **local provenance and/ or sourcing**, contributing to a lower carbon and hyper-local economy.

Sheffield's 'Grey to Green' scheme reclaims highway space for pedestrian and cycle routes through the city centre, bordered by climate resilience robust and drought tolerant planting in a holistic sustainable drainage system.

Character Area: **Railway Lands**

With a character inherently linked to wider scale movement & transport, railway lands form a significant amount of the green space that supports the habitat, species and ecological networks of the area, and offer opportunities for engagement with their unique qualities.

Character Area Objectives

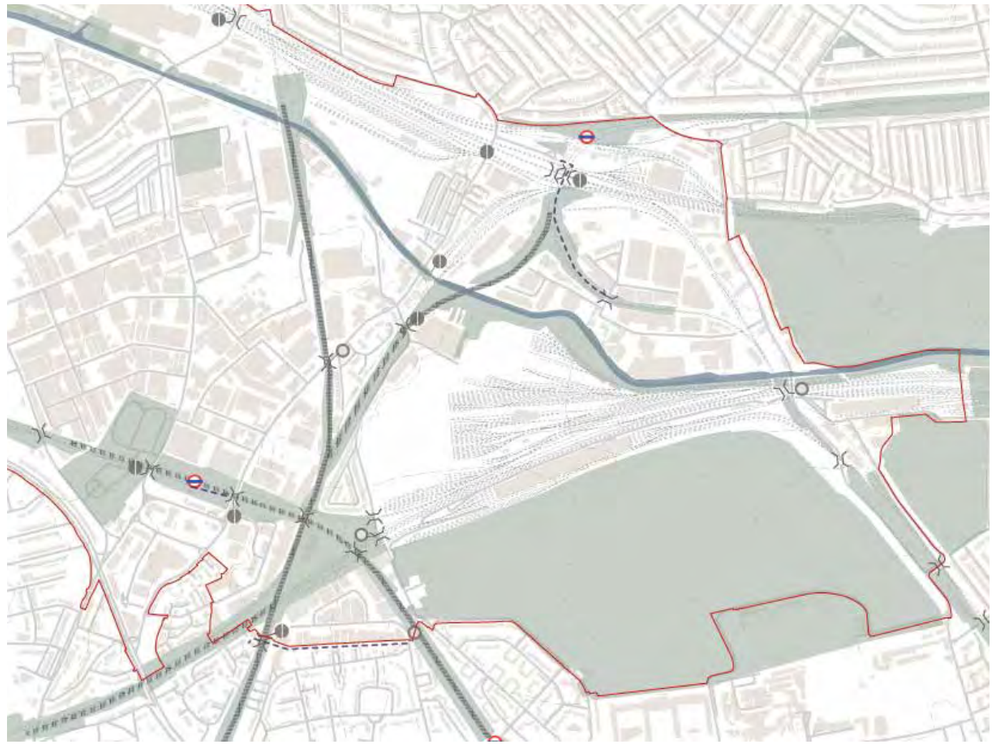
R1 **Value the railway network as a positive local asset:**
Acknowledge and value the character of the transport network, and the role it has played in shaping the development of the local area.

R2 **Enhance their experiential value:**
Celebrate unique railway qualities, environments and infrastructure, opening up views and access to the public where possible, at stations, bridges or footpath links.

R3 **Consider key adjacencies and uses:**
Design & develop appropriate boundaries that are both relevant to end uses, and that preserve and enhance the spatial, visual and auditory qualities of the railway.

R4 **Support & enhance specific habitats, flora and fauna:**
Extend and buffer existing habitats and enhance environments in a way that responds to Network Rail operational and management requirements.

R5 **Extend ecological connectivity:**
Build on the designation of railway lands as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and their function as habitat and ecological corridors.



KEY

- Stations
- Bridges
- Footpath links
- SINC sites
- Embankments
- Cuttings
- Views - high points
- Views - low points

Guiding Principles

- Contextual and characterful
- Accessible for all
- Sustainable and resilient

Old Oak and Park Royal Landscape Primer

Willesden Junction tracks and station

Character Area Opportunities

- **R1** Public realm station improvements can help to shape the important role of the rail network in the area's development.
- **R2** Unique moments of public interaction with the railway trackside give opportunities for drama and excitement.
- **R3** Appropriate offsets and soft buffers to residential and industrial uses to enhance experience, connectivity and ecological benefit.
- **R4** Supporting wildlife to thrive in relatively undisturbed and 'wild' environs subject to intensive but infrequent management.
- **R5** Enhancing the value of the railway corridors as SINC sites by extending and buffering habitats for flora and fauna, and communicating their value to visitors - for example, with interpretation pieces.

North Acton corridor from Victoria Road

Design Application: **Railway Lands**

Design Clues

R1
> **Consider the section profile of the railway** and design in layers according to the situation; a cutting, an embankment, a bridge crossing or access point - see section diagrams (right) for illustrations.
> Support **interaction with the railway for people and wildlife** where possible - for example, using disused sidings as pedestrian/cycle link, or interpretation for nature watching from station platforms.

R2
> Celebrate **traditional railway features** within design language, such as high and low bridge points, signal box structures, stone banks, or land drains with sustainable drainage potential.
> Use **typical railway materials** creatively to **maximise opportunities for biodiversity** - for example, stone gabion walls as hibernacular habitats or aggregate ballast as open mosaic environments.

R3
> **Design edges carefully**, promoting visual permeability, amenity benefit and ecological connectivity.
> Where there is a need for secure boundary line treatments, implement **low maintenance greening features** such as robust native climbers planted at the base of mesh fences.

R4
> Work within **Network Rail management guidelines and operational requirements** - for example, by including NR supported species such as native Field maple that contributes to character & biodiversity.
> Reflect **railway species** within neighbouring developments (refer to Appendix planting palettes).

R5
> **Extend & buffer existing habitats** for species that thrive in restricted access environments.
> **Identify & repair severances** in the habitat and movement network.
> **Prioritise dark skies** and avoid artificial light spill to comply with operational requirements and strengthen the ecological corridor for foraging species, in acknowledgment of SINC status.

Dis-used railway sidings re-purposed as pedestrian/cycle links

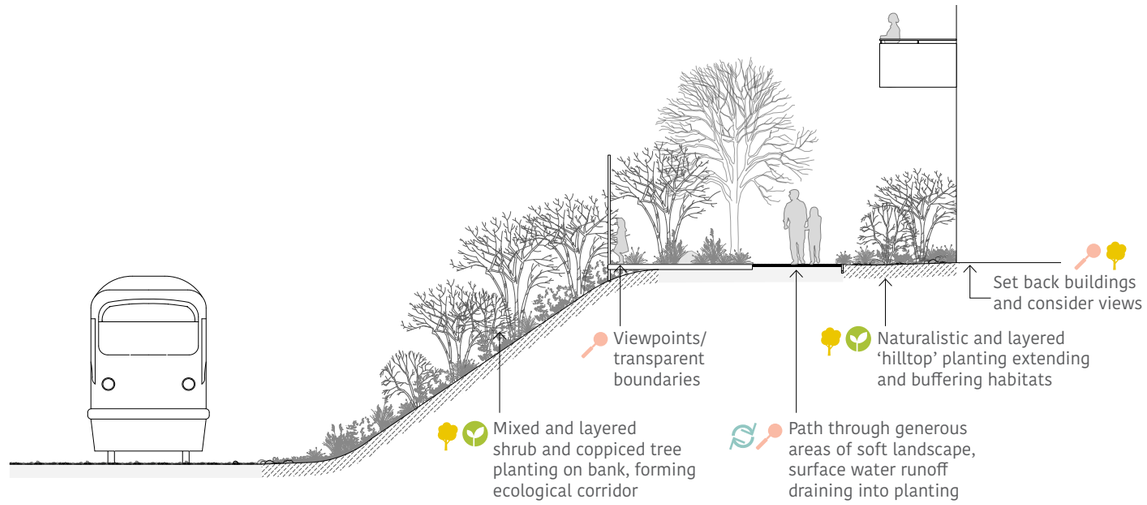
Character railway features within design language

Greening measures to soften secure fence lines for more pleasant route

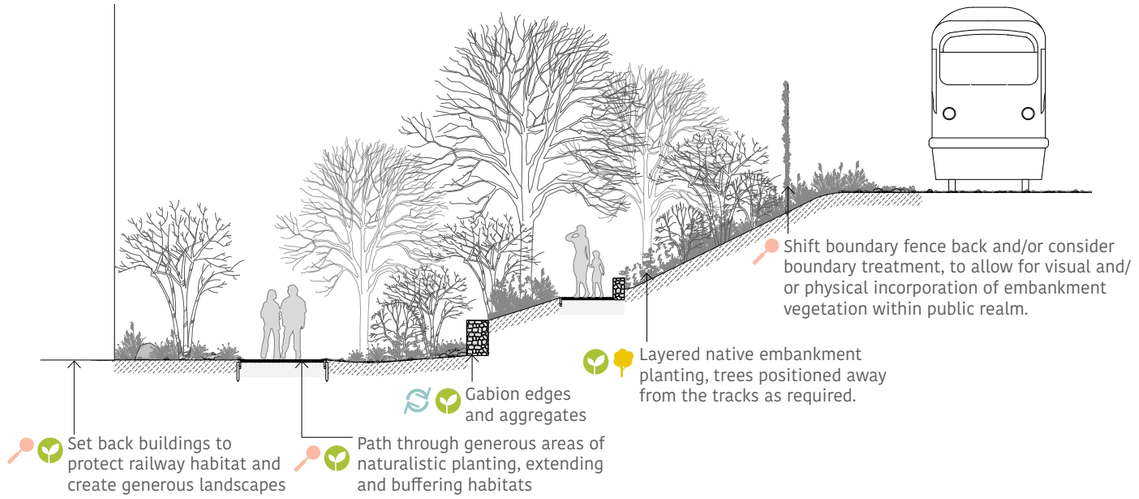
Traditional gabion retaining walls with potential for habitat provision

Native species colonising railway aggregate ballast

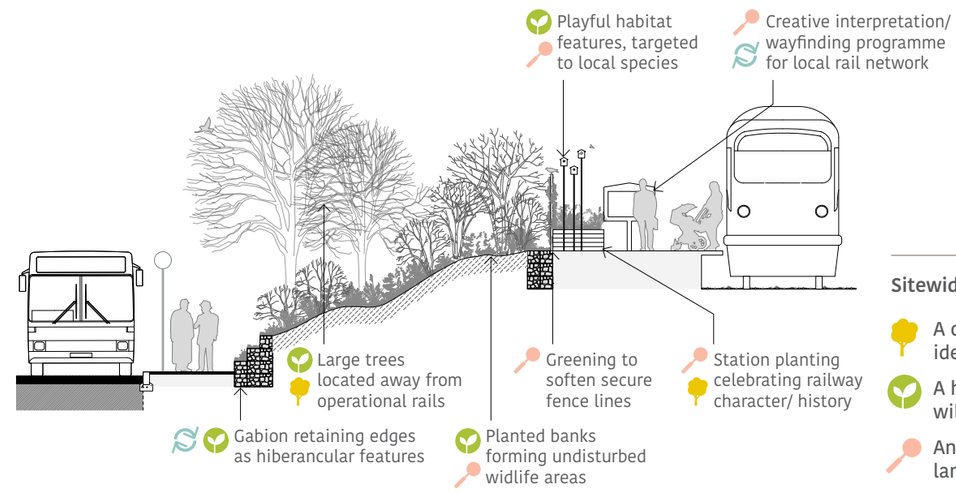
Prioritise dark skies and mitigate light spill from adjacent industry



Railway cutting



Railway Embankment



Railway station / access

Sitewide Landscape Objectives

- A coherent character & identity
- A home for nature & wildlife
- An engaging & accessible landscape
- A focus on sustainable approaches

Character Area: **Grand Union Canal**

Running as a green and blue ribbon from east to west through the area, the Grand Union canal corridor supports a wide variety of wildlife and provides a tranquil pedestrian and cycle route, bordered by mature vegetation, dark skies and hidden histories.

Character Area Objectives

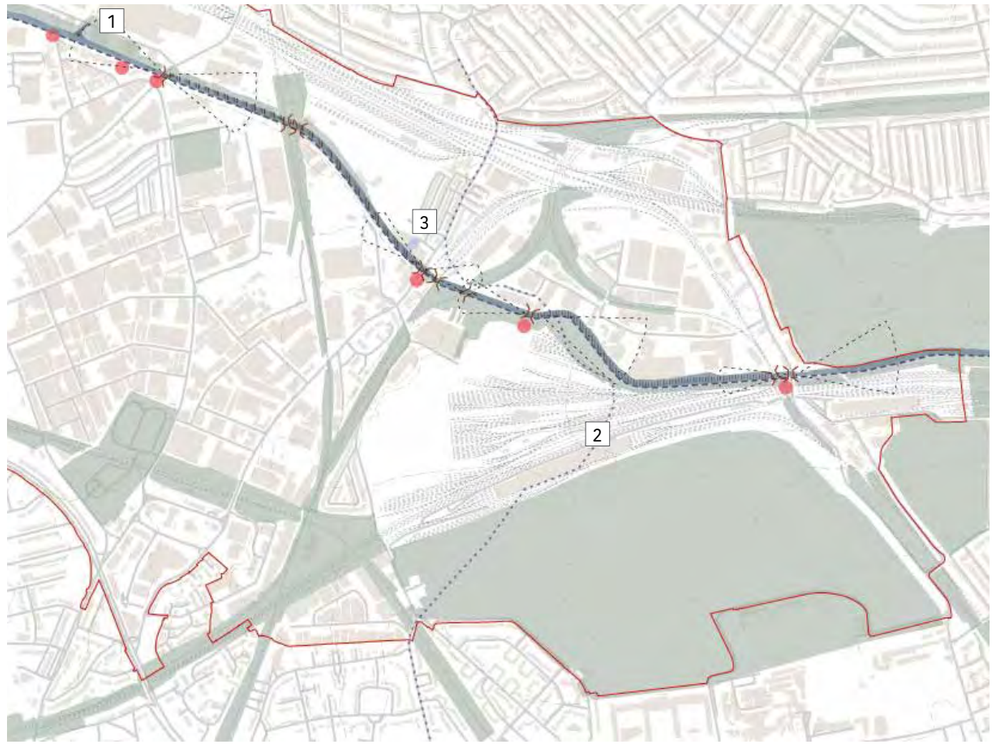
C1 **Protect the canal as a valuable asset - a front, not a back :**
Acknowledge and value the role of the canal as a vital green and blue ecological and transport link through the area, with a unique character.

C2 **Improve accessibility in physical, visual & experiential terms:**
Open up the canal corridor to users in a physical and perceptual sense, whilst maintaining its tranquil qualities and slower pace.

C3 **Effective mixing of users including cyclists and pedestrians:**
Consider improvements such as widening the towpath where possible or providing a variety of routes to allow users to effectively share space.

C4 **Maximise the biodiversity offer, particularly on the offside:**
Often flanked by mature woodland and dense scrub, the 'offiside' of the canal should be protected to continue its role as a vital undisturbed and dark ecological corridor.

C5 **Support & enhance the specific habitats, flora and fauna of the canal:**
The canal corridor supports a wide range of aquatic and terrestrial habitats and species; consider how their range and influence can be extended and buffered.



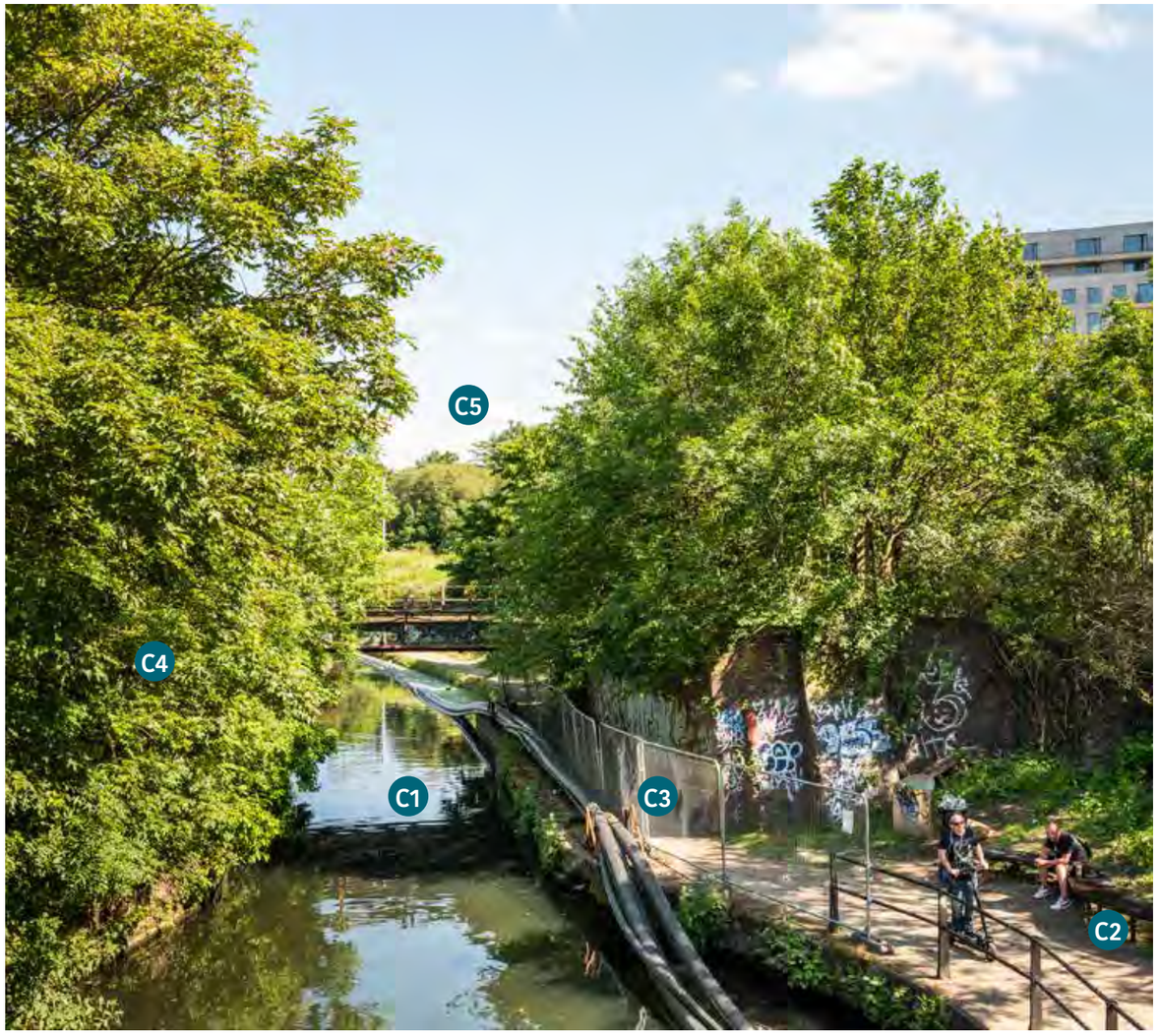
KEY

- Canal
- Bridges
- Towpath
- Canal access
- Long views
- Embankments
- Cuttings
- SINC sites

1. Brent feeder
3. Stamford Brook
2. Former Nurse's Dock

Guiding Principles

- Contextual and characterful
- Accessible for all
- Sustainable and resilient



Old Oak Lane bridge & towpath access point

Character Area Opportunities

- **C1** The unique character and east-west link of the canal should be celebrated as a positive asset and balanced with protection of this quiet, green asset.
- **C2** Improving access, permeability and new connections between road and canal level, particularly at bridge points, such as at Old Oak Lane towpath ramp.
- **C3** Consider widening of towpath or a choice of routes where possible including alternative cycle routes.
- **C4** Manage the canal corridor to maximise biodiversity and ecological value, and support wildlife to thrive in relatively undisturbed environs subject to little human intervention.
- **C5** Enhancing the value of the canal corridor as a SINC site by extending and buffering habitats for flora and fauna, and prioritising dark skies.

Towpath at Acton Lane, looking East

Design Application: **Grand Union Canal**

Design Clues

C1 > Allow the **canal influence to extend** into adjacent developments in character, spatial and connectivity terms - for example, by opening up access, views and thematic links where possible
> Celebrate **traditional canal features** within design language, including bridges, access points, materials and markers.

C2 > Build knowledge of the rich ecology of the canal corridor; **changing perceptions and encouraging appreciation** for the 'urban wild'.
> Within zones for new moorings, consider a **continuous soft verge** for character, biodiversity and safety, while affording privacy to boats.

C3 > **Widen the towpath route** where possible, exploring a variety of methods including alternative fast movement routes, floating walkways and playful trails (for more information, refer to the Canal Placemaking Strategy).

C4 > **Improve water quality** by identifying and remediating existing sources of pollution.
> Include measures to develop a **successional wetland edge** on the canal offside, contributing to riparian character & habitat types (refer to Appendix planting palettes).

C5 > Include **open water, reed beds, filtration and attenuation areas** linked to canal within adjacent new developments, and use as a focus for communal activities.
> **Prioritise dark skies** and avoid artificial light to strengthen the ecological corridor for habitat and foraging species such as bats, in acknowledgment of Metropolitan SINC status.

Characterful & biodiverse planting at towpath access points

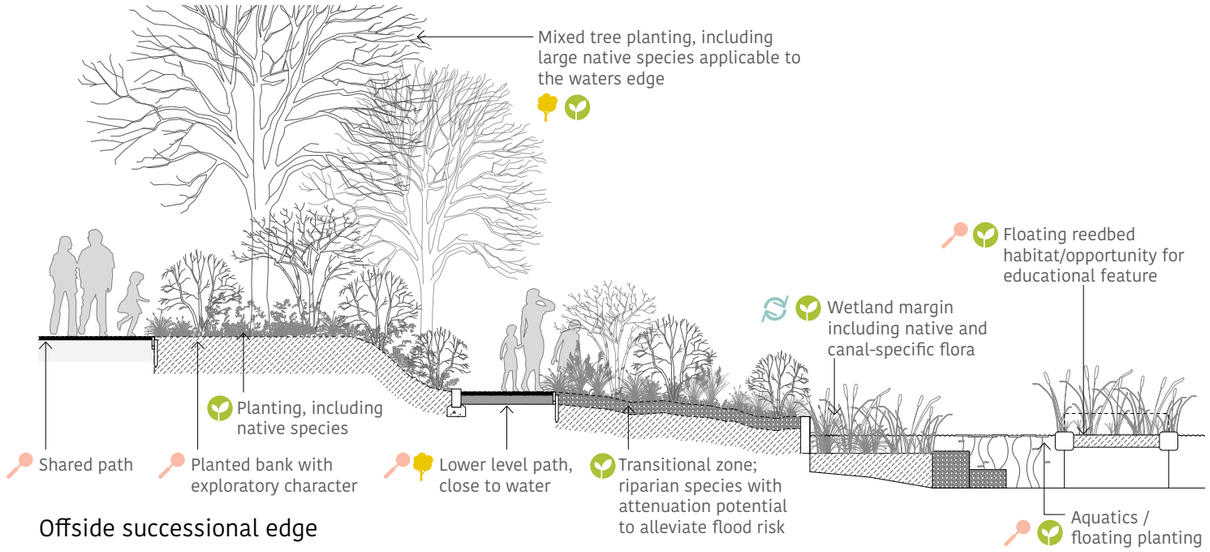
Using the design language of the canal to tell its story

Moments of dramatic infrastructure & character of the 'wild offside'

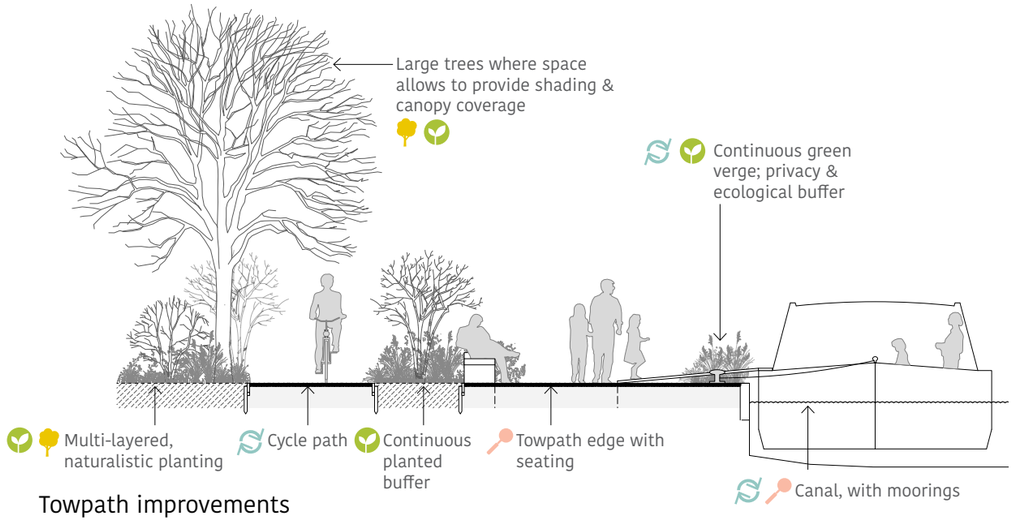
Areas of open water and attenuation in communal gathering spaces

Rest places in build-outs along the towpath link

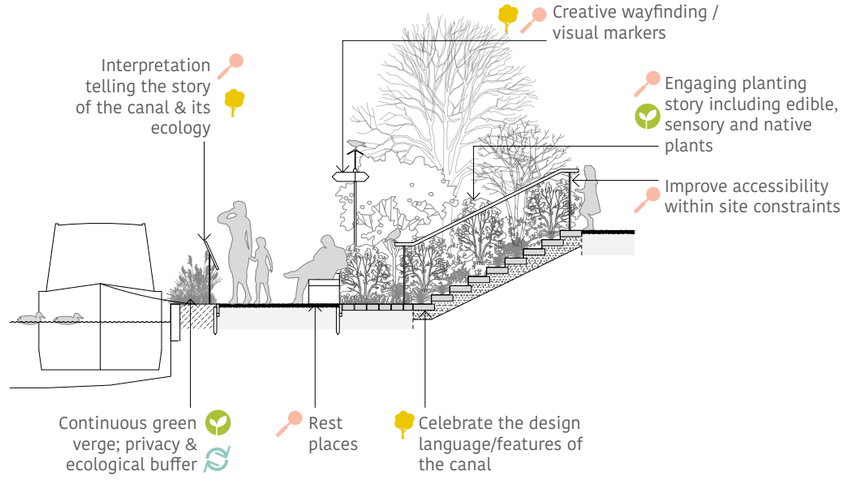
The canal as a valuable dark corridor for migratory foraging species



Offside successional edge



Towpath improvements



Access points

Sitewide Landscape Objectives

- A coherent character & identity
- A home for nature & wildlife
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- A focus on sustainable approaches

Character Area: **Primary Streets**

The development of Primary Streets should support active travel and healthy lifestyles by becoming characterful places in their own right; positive net contributors to the amenity & biodiversity value of the local area, with holistic water strategies and a considered material approach.

Key Objectives

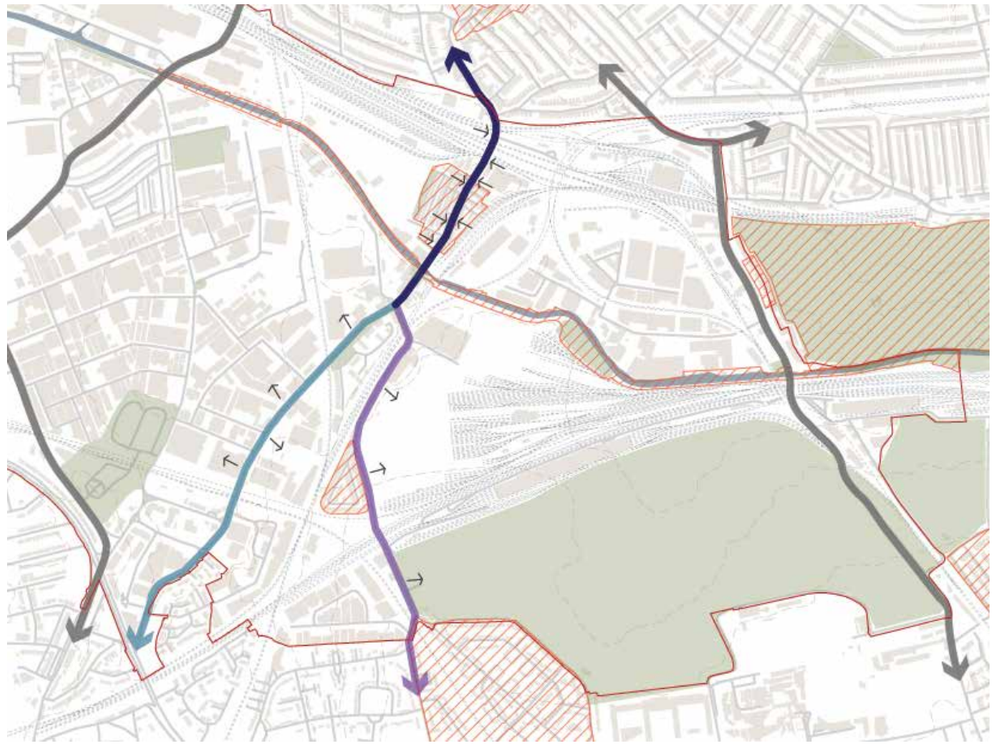
S1 **Accessible and healthy streets in physical, visual & experiential terms:**
Streets should be considered as key pieces of the public realm, and designed according to physical and perceptual accessibility requirements.

S2 **Positive contributors to biodiversity and part of the wider ecological network:**
Ensure that Primary Streets form an integral part of wider ecological links, with large trees, connected canopies, generous planting and linear habitat features.

S3 **Prioritising Green Infrastructure in offering solutions for constrained spaces:**
In working with existing urban grain, prioritise solutions for constrained widths by prioritising the environmental, social and economic value of Green Infrastructure.

S4 **Safe cycling and pedestrian access, as well as vehicle movement:**
Mindful of their role as key transport corridors within the local area, Primary Streets should safely accommodate all forms of traffic, from pedestrians to large vehicles

S5 **Adjacent developments to positively contribute to the streetscape:**
Where significant development sites sit adjacent to primary streets, they should offer space to the street to enable a more generous accommodation of uses.



KEY

- Old Oak Lane
- Victoria Road
- Old Oak Common Lane
- Other Primary Streets
- Conservation areas
- →← Constrained streets
- ←→ Potential for expanded street

Guiding Principles

- Contextual and characterful
- Accessible for all
- Sustainable and resilient

Victoria Road

Character Area Opportunities

- S1 Key public uses along streets, such as bus stops and residential street entrances, should be designed as features
- S2 Opportunities for planting including large tree species with connected canopies and adequate rooting volumes bring multiple amenity, greening and biodiversity benefits
- S3 Where streets are constrained by physical features, prioritise pedestrians & cyclists - under bridges, for example.
- S4 Consider segregated cycle lane provision along key transport corridors to encourage healthy & active travel
- S5 Explore requirements for adjacent development to contribute land to street, offering more generosity to the public realm and contributing to local character, sustainability and biodiversity.

Old Oak Lane

Design Application: **Primary Streets**

Design Clues

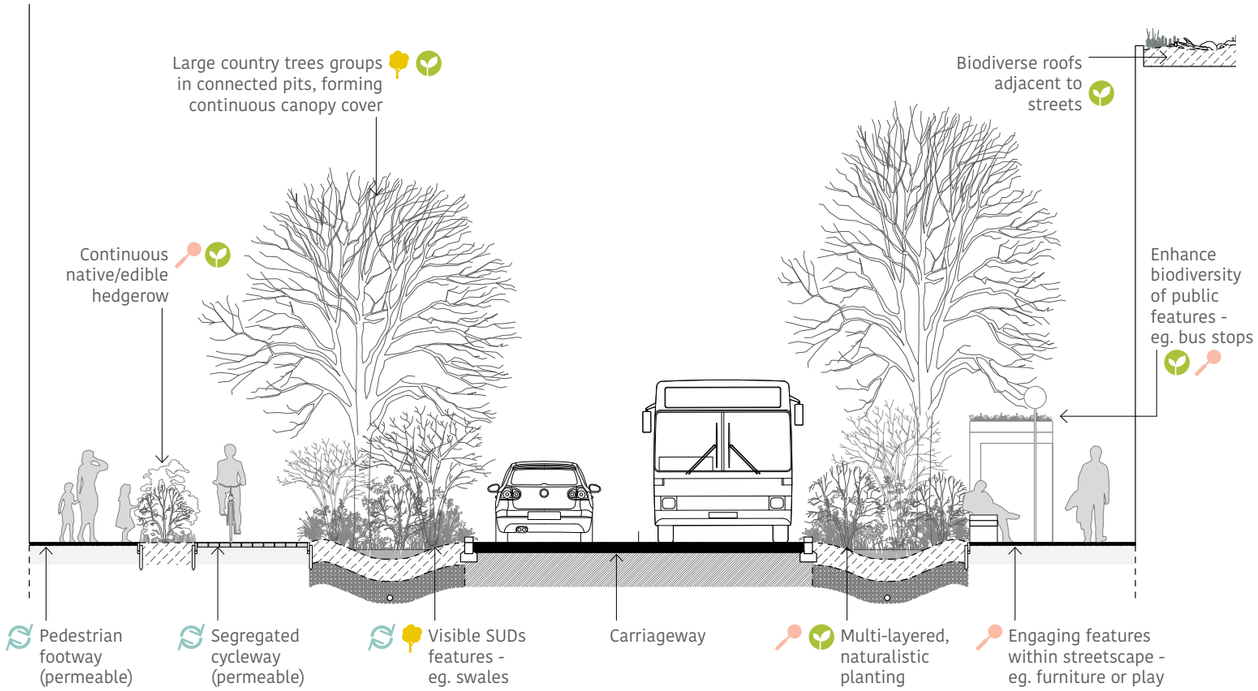
S1 > Implement a joined-up strategy to ensure a **continuous green landscape character** along Primary Streets, reinforcing positive connections across the wider area based on safety and movement.
> Prioritise the **delivery of green infrastructure at ground level** and within the public realm, improving micro-climate and mitigating impacts of tall buildings such as wind tunnels or overshadowing.

S2 > Establish **linear landscape features such as native, edible hedgerows** within Primary Streets, creating thematic links and ecological movement corridors (refer to Appendix planting palettes).
> Encourage methods to allow for **safe and connected crossings** for all ages, abilities and species - for example, by providing habitat areas adjacent to signalised crossings

S3 > Consider opportunities for **large, country tree species** planted in generous groups with connected tree pits, instead of singular avenues (for more information, refer to the Landscape Strategy).
> Integrate **sustainable drainage and water sensitive design** proposals holistically into street design, and consider opportunities for **visible water features**, contributing towards the wider character - for example, generous linear swales characterising the 'Middlesex Landscape'.

S4 > Consider **segregated cycle lanes** where appropriate, encouraging active travel within the area.
> Enhance the **experiential and playful value of public features** within the streetscape, such as bus stops or incidental play opportunities.

S5 > Provide incentives for **developers adjacent to Primary Streets** to contribute public realm space to streets, through planning obligations such as targeted S106 gains.



Expanded street
Eg. adjacent to new development

Large trees act as marker points, with wider countryside character

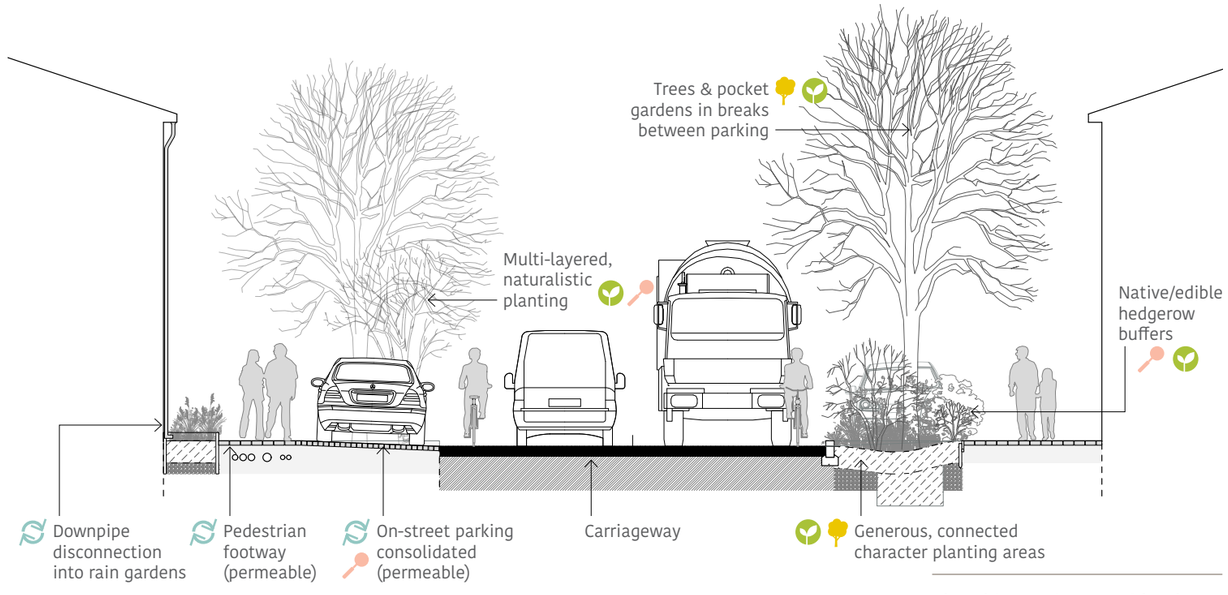
Generous green verges giving character to busy pedestrian routes

SUDs planting and trees to intercept, take up and attenuate water

Robust and hard-wearing modular materials used in streets

Segregated cycle lanes from traffic where space allows

Playful, engaging features with fruiting plants at an 'Edible bus stop'



Constrained street
Eg. within existing residential areas

Note: the design of streets should consider appropriate widths to support planting

Sitewide Landscape Objectives

- A coherent character & identity
- A home for nature & wildlife
- An engaging & accessible landscape
- A focus on sustainable approaches

Character Area: **Industrial Areas**

Landscape within industrial areas should respond to the challenge of making working environments more accessible and ecologically friendly by prioritising environmental improvements, considering human experience and promoting integration within the wider tapestry of uses.

Key Objectives

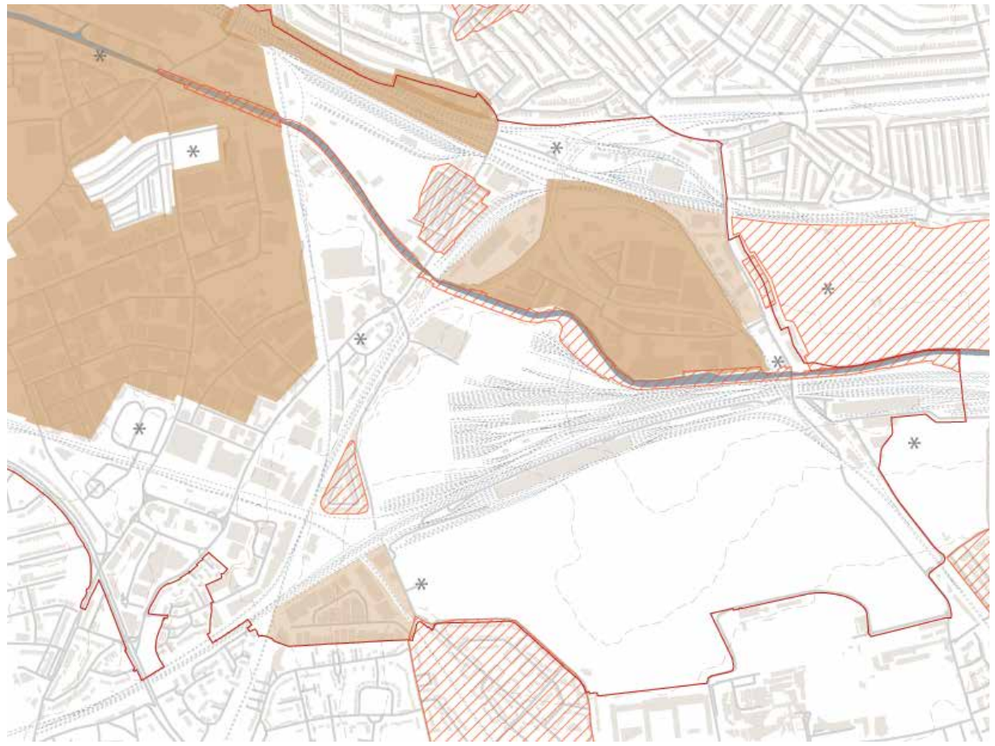
I1 **Humanise the external environment:**
Improve external spaces with better access and connection to landscape & nature and integrate industrial areas more seamlessly into the local area for public benefit.

I2 **Provide good foot & cycle access away from vehicles:**
Mindful of the need for regular traffic movements, the pedestrian environment at ground level should be given prominence, with walking & cycling improvements.

I3 **Offer an expression and celebration of industry and making within the local area:**
Celebrate the wealth of production and talent, linking to the Park Royal Atlas, with expression that can include strong identities, material language, or interpretation.

I4 **Maximise biodiversity within specificities of industrial uses:**
Consider where opportunities for ecological gain complement industrial uses, including extensive roofs, open mosaic habitats, low-tech green walls and dark skies.

I5 **Deal with contamination (ground, soils and water) on site:**
Create a healthier environment using soft landscape to reduce pollution and treat potential issues at source to prevent impacts on surroundings.



KEY

- Strategic Industrial Land areas
- Other industrial areas
- Conservation areas
- Open green spaces in proximity to industrial areas

Guiding Principles

- Contextual and characterful
- Accessible for all
- Sustainable and resilient

Park Royal Depot / Chase Road

Character Area Opportunities

- I1 Consider implementation or incentives to create staff gardens or rest areas for employees, allowing them to engage with nature
- I2 Prioritise improvements to the footway, including addressing uneven surfaces to improve accessibility within the public environment along Primary & Local/Secondary streets
- I3 Promote opportunities for local businesses to celebrate their skills and output, through direct (eg. signage) or thematic (eg. material) references
- I4 Soften hard boundaries with landscape treatment and consider creative greening opportunities on street corners, blank walls/facades or roofscapes
- I5 Consider sustainable drainage, filtration or attenuation systems implemented on site, contributing to both businesses and public realm.

Barretts Green Road / Disraeli Road

Design Application: **Industrial Areas**

Design Clues

I1 > Consider opportunities to create **'mini commons'; gardens or rest places** within the public realm or on plot for staff breaks, visitor engagement and access to nature.
> Include relevant and appropriate planting species within proposals, including **self-willed, resilient plant communities** able to tolerate harsher urban environments (refer to Appendix planting palettes).

I1 > Create greener and **more pleasant pedestrian and cycle journeys** through industrial areas by integrating trees and rain gardens within parking areas, or implementing shared foot/cycle ways away from heavy traffic routes along Primary and Local/Secondary streets.

I1 > Celebrate the **processes, manufacturing and materials** of industrial areas within design proposals, supporting connected communities with a strong local identity (refer to the Park Royal Atlas).
> Integrate **industrial features within design language** and explore potential for **added habitat value**, such as stone gabion edges, planted mesh security screens or living bio-barriers.

I1 > Consider opportunities for large scale extensive & biodiverse roofscapes and/or vertical greening on buildings, creating a **expansive network of undisturbed habitat** areas supporting local species.
> Prioritising **low-frequency, mechanical management** over highly intensive, chemical controls.
> Prioritise dark skies where possible to support biodiversity enhancement in less densely populated areas; consider using sensor triggers after dark, baffles to street lighting, or downward facing lights.

I1 > Include measure for **preventing and mitigating contamination on site**, dealing with water, ground, soil and water quality - for example, reed bed filtration or soil phytoremediation.

Marker trees create visual green links through constrained areas

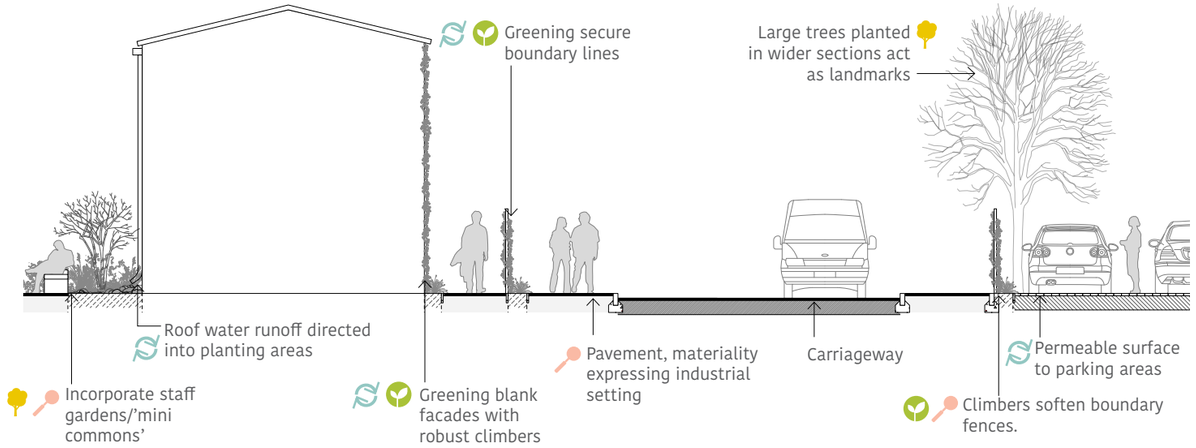
Mixed native/edible hedgerows used to soften boundaries

Allow large species of climbers, including natives, to cover bare walls

Naturalistic SuDS planting to attenuate & filter water run-off

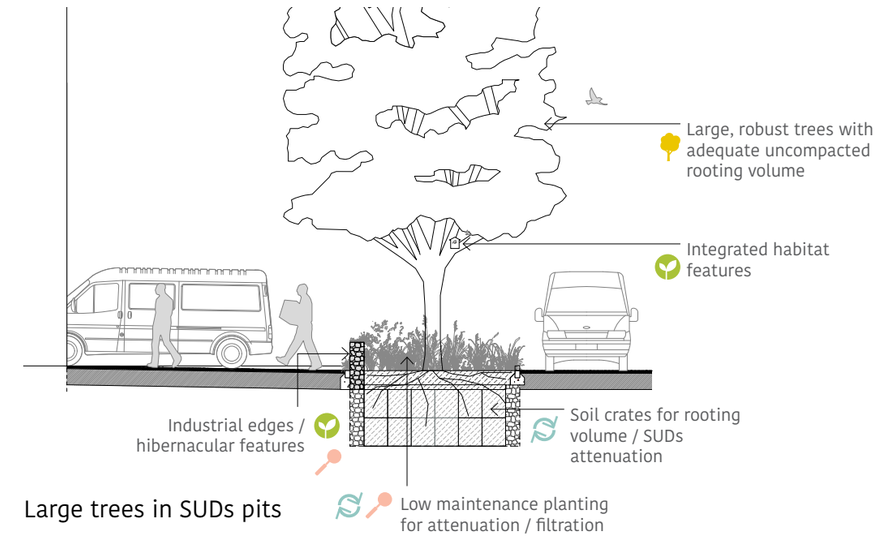
Gabion edges provide boundary conditions and habitat for colonising

Open mosaic habitats of aggregates and acid grassland species.



Local/Secondary street

Primary street



Large trees in SUDs pits

Note: the design of streets should consider appropriate widths to support planting

Sitewide Landscape Objectives

- A coherent character & identity
- A home for nature & wildlife
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- A focus on sustainable approaches

Character Area: **Housing & Residential**

Both new and existing residential areas have the potential to offer an engaging, accessible and generous external environment that encourages a collective sense of use within a landscape that is open for exploration and accommodates both humans and wildlife equally.

Key Objectives

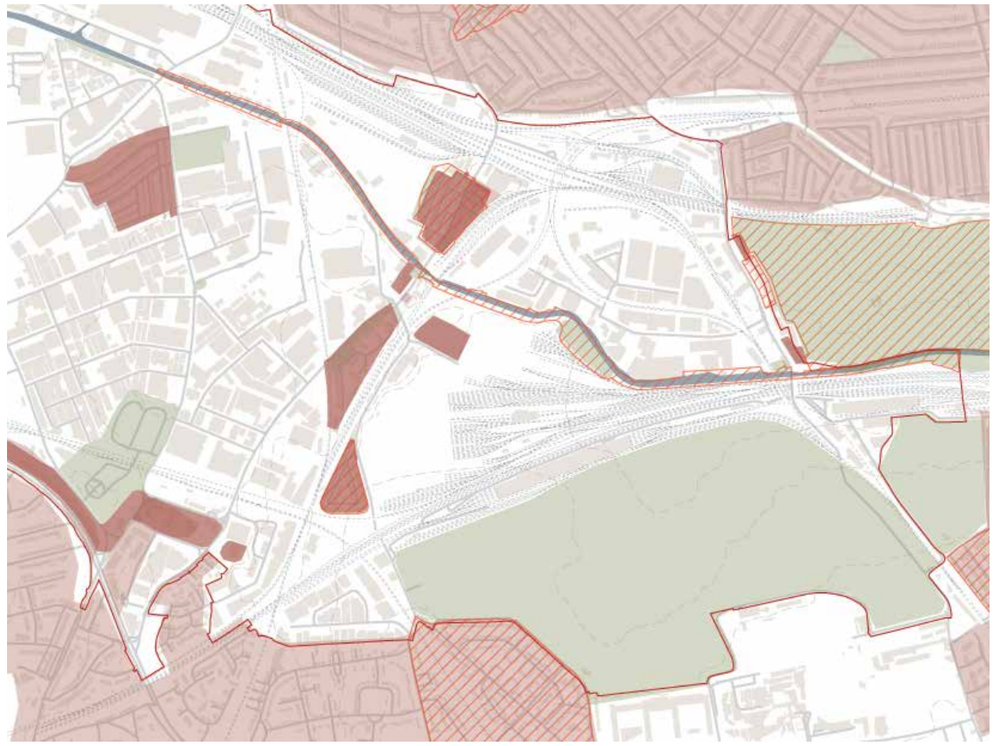
H1 **Establish identity and a collective presence on the street:**
Improve external spaces with better access and connection to landscape & nature and ensure each development actively contributes to the collective environment.

H2 **Integrate communal activities, play and growing on site:**
Include play for all ages within the landscape, combined with other activities such as edible planting - both formal provision and spontaneous 'pick and eat'.

H3 **Achieve greening, amenity and ecological value at ground level:**
Prioritise pedestrians, cyclists, children and less mobile people and the design & delivery of a high Urban Greening Factor at ground level.

H4 **Collect, use, recycle and celebrate water:**
Use holistic and connected water strategies, with opportunities for engagement, education and appreciation to make the most of this natural resource.

H5 **Make a home for wildlife as well as people:**
Welcome and encourage non-human users into residential areas by designing buildings, landscape & planting to maximise ecological value.



KEY

- Existing residential areas
- Existing surrounding residential
- Conservation areas
- Green space

Guiding Principles

- Contextual and characterful
- Accessible for all
- Sustainable and resilient

Old Oak and Park Royal Landscape Primer

Railway Cottages, Old Oak Lane

Character Area Opportunities

- H1 Support existing community incentives to establish a collective identity, and build in characterful street presence within new developments
- H2 Improve the pedestrian experience by prioritising improvements at ground level and carefully considering microclimate design & adaptation
- H3 Develop an accessible, inclusive and engaging public realm, including a variety of spaces for activity, rest and play
- H4 Retrofit SUDs systems include harvesting, recycling and attenuation within existing housing areas and design into new developments from the outset
- H5 Acknowledge that humans are not the only occupants of the landscape and built environment; design and/or adapt places to be as welcoming to wildlife as they are to people.

Oaklands development, Old Oak Common Lane

Design Application: **Housing & Residential**

Design Clues

H1 > Mark the **presence of residential areas to establish identity and ownership** - for example, by creating 'mini commons' with character planting, playful elements and furniture at street corners.
> Include provision for **edible planting;** both formal growing spaces (eg. allotments or orchards) and spontaneous opportunities (eg. edible hedgerows or fruit trees in the public realm).

H2 > Consider **playful landscapes** that **appeal to all the senses for all ages, abilities and demographics** - for example, by including tactile plant foliage, colour and scent (refer to Appendix planting palettes).
> Include community engagement and agency at each step of the process; from co-design, community implementation opportunities and on-going management/aftercare.

H3 > Prioritise **greening measures at ground level** to address specific conditions created by large new buildings, including wind effect, daylight/sunlight levels, overshadowing & microclimate.
> Consider basement parking for new developments, allowing the **public realm at ground level to prioritise public and shared uses** such as gathering, play or relaxation.

H4 > Celebrate water as a natural resource by integrating **water sensitive design**, including greywater harvesting/recycling, downpipe disconnection and reduced irrigation requirements.
> Consider **areas of open water** integrated into developments, contributing to wider landscape character, acting as focal point for communal gathering and mitigating the urban heat island effect.

H5 > Encourage a **holistic strategy for roofscapes & vertical landscapes** as dynamic habitats able to support a wide range of local and/or threatened species using reclaimed/recycled materials.

Character planting on the street, marking identity of residential areas

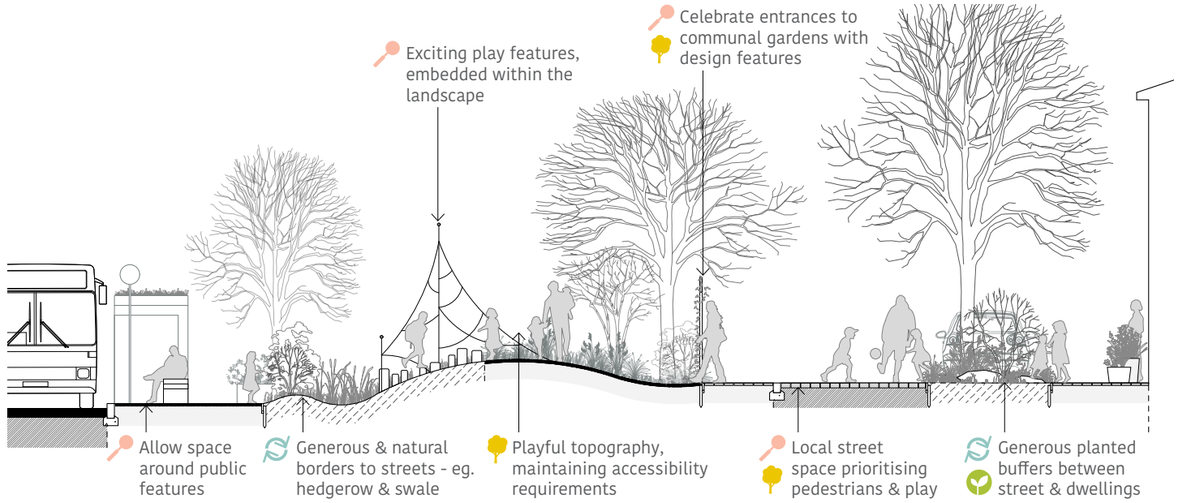
Residential streets with shared space and generous buffers

Water basins in common areas act as gathering points for communities

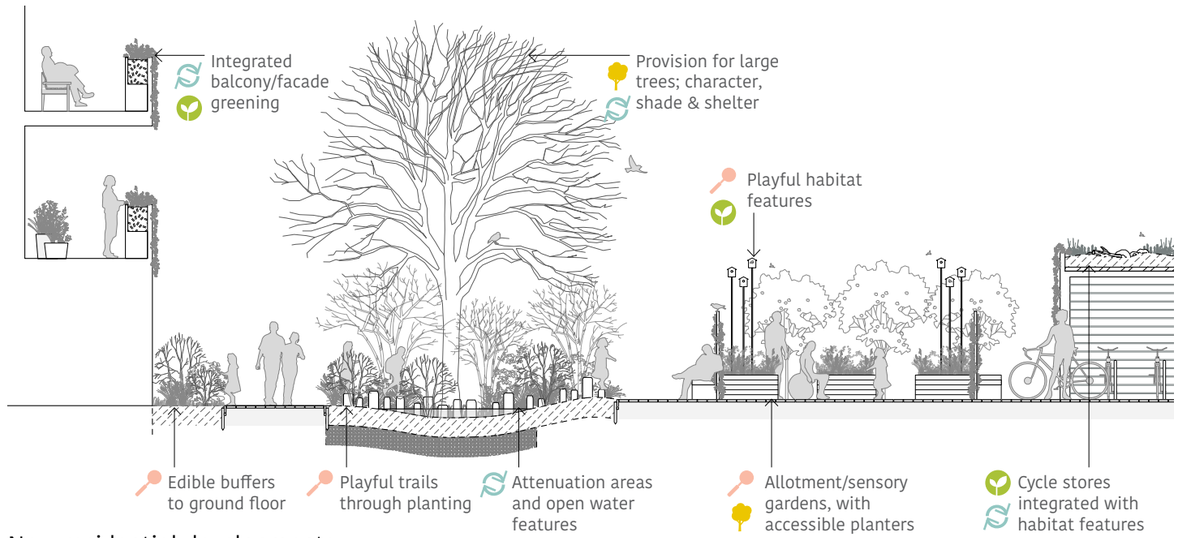
Biodiverse roofs supporting a wide variety of plant & animal species

Mix of play for all ages including both formal and spontaneous

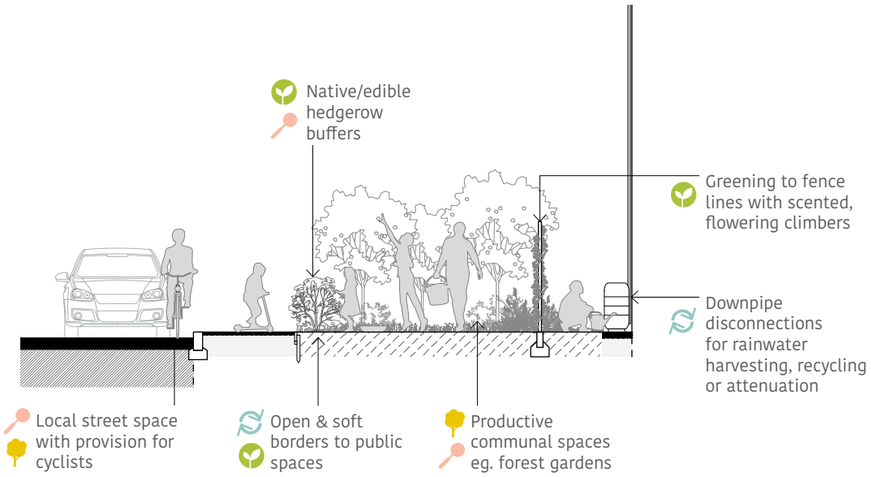
Productive trees managed and harvested by local residents



Existing residential, with open space adjacent



New residential developments



Productive pocket gardens / 'mini commons'

Sitewide Landscape Objectives

- A coherent character & identity
- A home for nature & wildlife
- An engaging & accessible landscape
- A focus on sustainable approaches

Character Area: **Parks & Open Spaces**

Open spaces across the area play a key role in fostering a multifunctional and sustainable approach to the landscape; they should include a mix of scales, both open and sheltered spaces, long views balanced with moments of discovery, and thematic links to the 'common'.

Key Objectives

P1 **Foster a collective sense of ownership and the idea of the 'common':**
Fundamental to open spaces should be the idea that everyone is welcome, both human and animal.

P2 **Support an egalitarian and compatible mixing of users and uses:**
Ensure that open spaces are truly accessible in all senses (physical & sensory) and provide for different and complementary uses and users.

P3 **Ensure well-designed, welcoming and appropriate edges & boundaries:**
Consider the appropriateness of boundaries, and prioritise soft, permeable or open boundaries where possible to extend the influence of green space.

P4 **Consider the scale of spaces, from micro to macro; pocket parks to the Scrubs:**
Regardless of size or scale, all open spaces should contribute to the overriding character of the 'Middlesex landscape' with generous open spaces & planting.

P5 **Celebrate natural resources, landscape types and planting communities:**
Include a diverse range of natural landscape types within open spaces that take cues from natural grassland, woodland, hedge & scrub and areas of open water.

KEY

- Existing green space
- Potential new green space
- Existing / developing woodland
- Metropolitan Open Land boundaries

Guiding Principles

- Contextual and characterful
- Accessible for all
- Sustainable and resilient

Wesley Playing Fields; edge to North Acton Road

Character Area Opportunities

- **P1** Build on the local history of common rights of access to open space, by making open spaces in the area free and welcoming to all users
- **P2** Improve access to green space in a holistic sense, ensuring physical accessibility, experiential inclusivity and legible wayfinding to broaden demographic use and tackle local deficiencies
- **P3** Extend landscape character across the local area and support biodiversity by prioritising soft and permeable boundaries offering multiple benefits
- **P4** Encourage a feeling of relaxed generosity in all spaces from the smallest to the largest
- **P5** Celebrate the specificities of local landscape types by providing a wide variety within open spaces; from grassland and wetland to woodland and scrub.

Victoria Gardens; 'In the Making' co-design project

Design Application: **Parks & Open Spaces**

Design Clues

P1
> **Reveal hidden histories** within open spaces by referencing historic landscape development - for example, remnants of 'Old Holte Wood' (for more information, refer to the Landscape Strategy).
> Consider educational programmes such as **outdoor classrooms, nature trails or recreational routes**, linked with local schools or colleges.

P2
> Include **communal productive landscapes** such as orchards, apiaries or harvesting/coppicing areas, contributing to the wider landscape character and a sense of collective ownership .
> Prioritise **openness and visual permeability** at borders or edges of large open spaces.

P3
> Use **soft boundaries where appropriate** - for example mixed native hedgerows, incorporating edible species for both humans and wildlife or attenuation swales (refer to Appendix planting palettes).
> Where hard boundaries are necessary (eg. where there is an identified danger), use planting to **soften appearance and increase biodiversity value**.

P4
> Celebrate **long views** afforded by open space and topography, **opening up or revealing gradually**.
> Integrate creative wayfinding, thematically **linking areas of green space** into a publicly accessible joined-up green and blue network.

P5
> Celebrate the **physical features of the natural landscape**, allowing them to open out into generous areas - a swale opening out into pond, for example.
> Implement **appropriate management techniques** with consideration for non-human users - for example, spring meadows mown for summer use or un-mown areas under trees with seasonal bulbs.

Use soft boundaries such as swales, tree belts or mixed native hedgerows

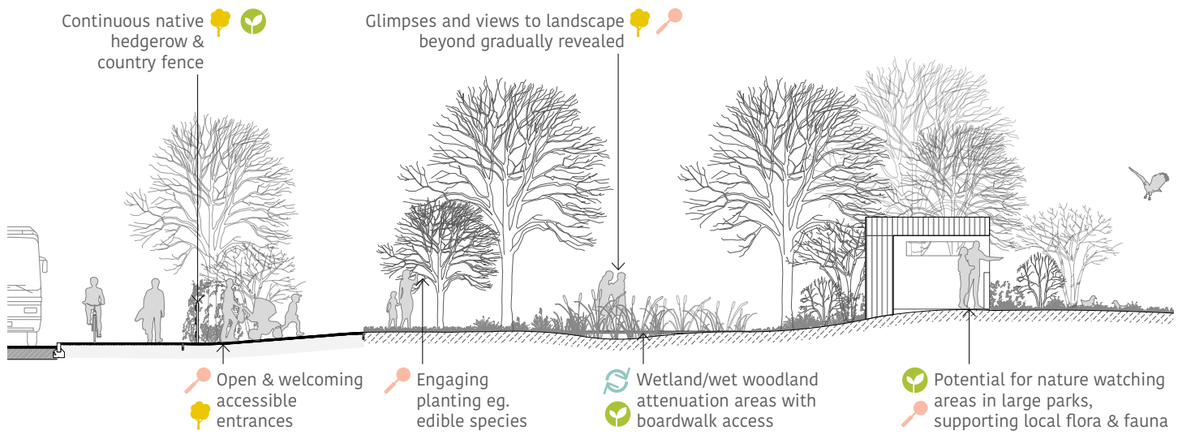
Plant large native countryside trees with the right growing conditions

Include areas of open water for amenity & biodiversity value.

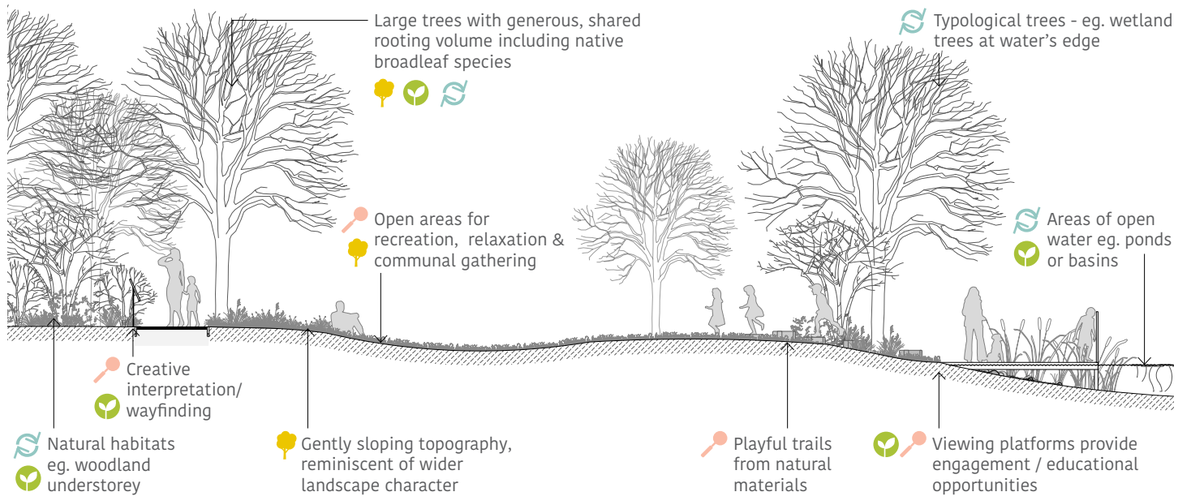
Encourage community engagement and sense of ownership

Mimic natural habitats and encourage appreciation of the 'wild'

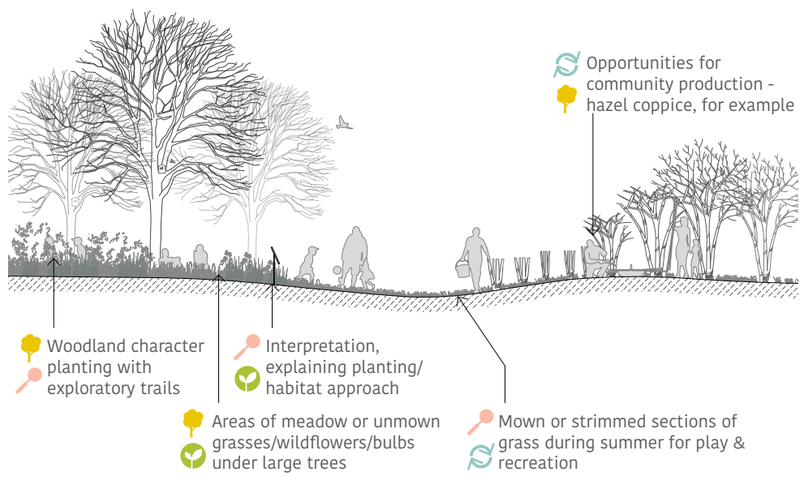
Prioritise native species and non-native species with biodiversity value



Large park & public realm edge



Community / Neighbourhood Park



Communal productive areas

Sitewide Landscape Objectives

- A coherent character & identity
- A home for nature & wildlife
- An engaging & accessible landscape
- A focus on sustainable approaches

Summary:
A Holistic Green Network

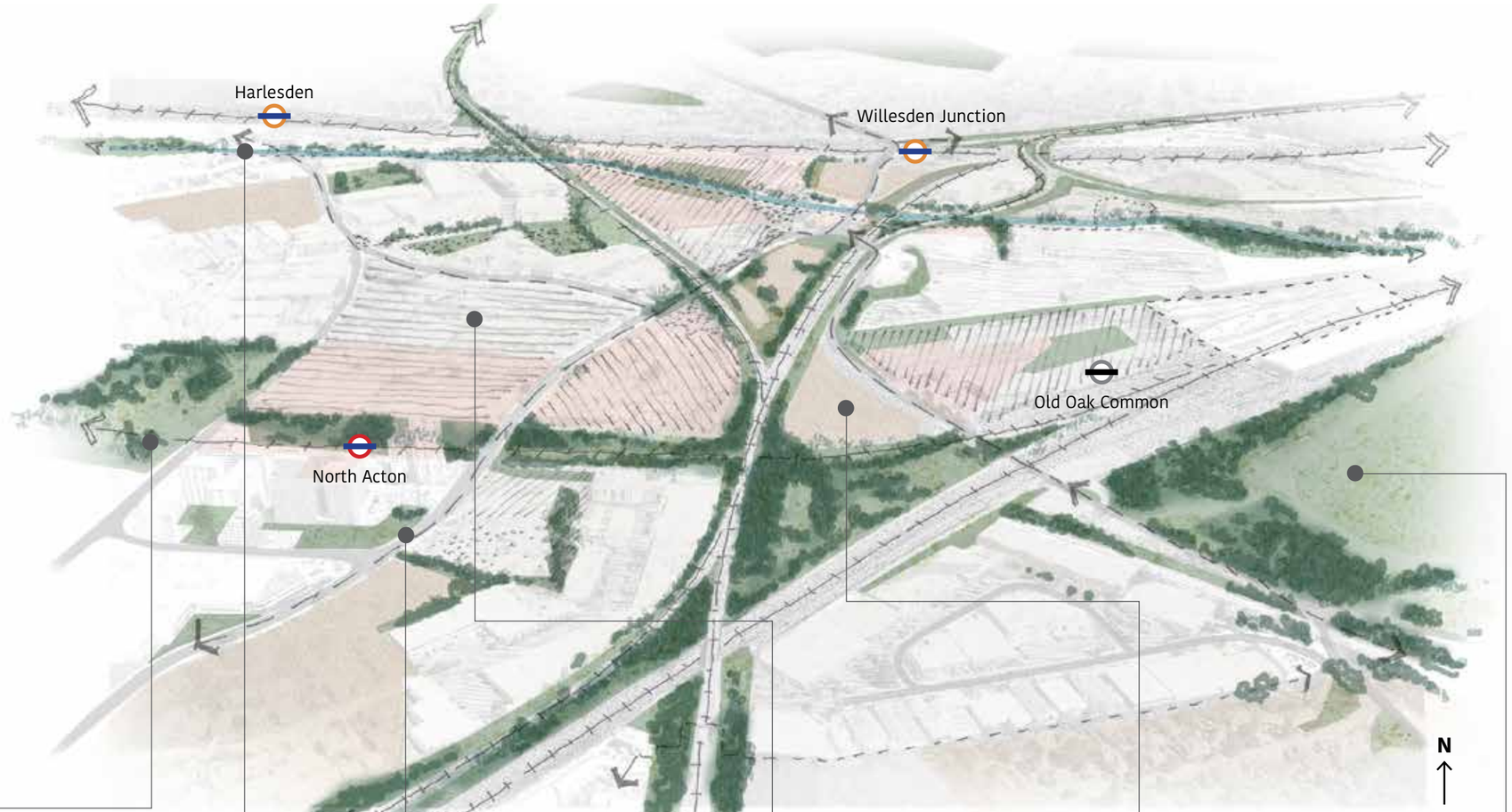
This vision for a coherent and accessible green and blue landscape network has the potential to enhance character, biodiversity and accessibility, fostering a collective identity for the Old Oak & Park Royal landscape.

This **Landscape Primer**, and the accompanying **Landscape Strategy**, sets out a vision for development of the landscape within Old Oak & Park Royal.

This **Landscape Primer**, in conjunction with the **Landscape Strategy** and other reference studies, can be used as a guide to shape development, establishing a landscape signature for the area based on the principles of resilience, inclusivity, adaptability and care.

Developing an approach that is generous, open for engagement, and supportive of the local inhabitants can in turn help local human, animal and plant communities to enrich the complex tapestry of users and uses that exists within the local landscape.

Through consideration, adoption and development by design teams as projects come forward, both for public realm and development sites, the existing underlying landscape character of the wider Middlesex Landscape and the historic notion of common land can be woven together with new ways to address the climate and biodiversity emergency, building a landscape that is coherent and characterful, sustainable and resilient, and accessible for all.



Railway Lands

An extensive network of connected linear habitats and ecological movement corridors, offering opportunities for engagement with their unique qualities.

Grand Union Canal

A green and blue ribbon threaded through the area, supporting wildlife, mature vegetation, dark skies, tranquil routes and a sense of the urban wild.

Primary Streets

Healthy streets as characterful places, supporting active travel, significant biodiversity value, holistic water strategies and a considered material approach.

Industrial Areas

Opportunities for improvements to local amenity and ecology by prioritising sustainable, accessible and ecological benefits within a working landscape.

Housing & Residential

An engaging, accessible and generous landscape that is open for exploration, stimulates the senses and accommodates both humans and wildlife equally.

Parks & Open Spaces

Open spaces with a multifunctional and sustainable approach, including a mix of uses and users and thematically linked by a sense of the 'common'.

APPENDIX

Contents

Note: Reference should also be made to the palettes within the **Landscape Strategy:**

> Natural Planting Groups - A palette to achieve multi-layered, naturalistic planting groups, offering multiple benefits for humans & wildlife, and giving room for the wild and natural.

> Resilient Planting Mixes - A palette to achieve resilience in planting mixes, building year-round cover and character, and integrating a self-sustaining and ecologically rich planting approach.

> Food for Free - A palette to support the establishment of a free and accessible edible landscape, engaging and opportunistic, offering rich rewards for both humans and wildlife.

A.1 Green Routes Network

Existing green and blue network:

The existing landscape and open spaces across the local area consist of many high quality parks, gardens, ecological networks, and green and blue corridors. However, due to the nature and scale of development in this piece of the Middlesex countryside, the current landscape spaces suffer from a lack of connectivity, cohesion, and feeling part of a whole.

Many pieces make up this complex tapestry of uses, including:
> Green & blue networks; open and vegetated space & ecological corridors
> Infrastructure; roads, rails and movement routes
> Industrial & commercial space; active business areas
> Residential areas; housing and communal clusters

Joining up the network; establishing a set of connected 'reen loops':

To make the most of the existing network of valued green spaces, and new spaces coming forward as part of development proposals, there is the opportunity to 'join the dots' by creating 'green loop' connections across the local area; a network of active travel routes connecting parks and green spaces, taking people from home, work or school to major public transport nodes and neighbourhood centres via valued spaces, contributing to the public realm and improving the everyday experience of those living and working in the area.

This vision for a connected network of 'green loops' across the area could allow everyone to live within a few minutes of a connected 'green loop', offering safe, generous and accessible pedestrian routes across the local area, connecting both existing and proposed open green spaces. By focussing on the loops as safe, green and pleasant routes, incorporating sustainable drainage principles, urban greening and significant gains for biodiversity, the loops can become valued spaces in themselves, contributing to the public realm.

Wider loops:

Supporting the network of local green loops, a wider connectivity network can improve access to wider green space and centres of activity; for example, St Mary's/Kensal Green cemetery and Acton Lane/Park Royal area.
These wider loops could extend the principles of the local green loops, increasing accessibility, greening, sustainability and biodiversity in routes, linking development within OPDC to its wider surroundings. Improvements to existing walking and cycling routes can help to unify the character and visual coherence of the wider access network.

Diagram showing the 'green loops' that could be established across the area

A.2 Green Routes Network

Key Precedents

1. The Greenway, Stratford, East London (2012):
The Greenway is a 2.5km linear park following the course of the Northen Outfall sewer, connecting a network of green spaces within the lower Lea Valley, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and Stratford. It forms a valuable open space, and a safe, commuter route for pedestrians and cyclists. Refurbishment of this neglected open space into a linear green park route included a careful material re-use strategy, providing narrative, texture and brownfield open mosaic habitats using reclaimed waste aggregates allowed to colonise by locally significant planting. The habitats of the Greenway form a continuous ecological corridor from inner London out to the Thames marshes, and are home to an important array of flora and fauna.

2. The Missing Link, Vauxhall, South London (2014):
The Vauxhall Missing Link is an urban design framework for Vauxhall, creating a strong connection between the Vauxhall/Nine Elms/Battersea regeneration site and the South Bank. The public realm strategy aims to improve identity and visual coherence, prioritising urban greening and sustainable urban drainage with generous planting areas to define and routes and form a buffer between pedestrians/cyclists/vehicular traffic, increasing biodiversity and reducing urban heat island effect, surface water flooding and carbon emissions

3. Grey to Green, Sheffield (2014):
The Grey to Green scheme in Sheffield is the UK's largest retro-fit SuDS project, and also the UK's largest inner city 'Green Street'. The scheme has been implemented along the length of an inner city dual carriage-way, which was reduced from four lanes to two. This space was used to form extensive areas of rain gardens and bioswales, with widened pavement spaces forming safe and connected green routes through the heart of the city.

4. Promenade plantée (Coulée Vert), Paris (1994):
The Promenade Plantée was the world's first elevated park (first phase completed in 1994) and the first 'green space' constructed on a viaduct. The entire route is 4.5km, with a 1.5km elevated section on the old viaduct, after which the promenade descends to street level and makes use of disused railway tunnels as part of the pedestrian and cycle route. Parts of this section run between 10m high walls, lined with climbers.


1.


2.


3.


4.

A.2 Green Routes Network

Facilitating the ‘green loops’

In order to facilitate the concept of the ‘Green loops’, the following steps should be undertaken to determine feasibility:

> Carry out a detailed survey for each of the loops
> Identify existing infrastructure that can be used
> Identify additional infrastructure required for delivery
> Provide high level design strategies to form the basis for a landscape masterplan, including:

- Strategic open spaces / linear parks / junctions
- Joining up transport nodes
- Bridges & crossings (rail, canal and streets)
- Highways amendments / cycle segregation
- Addressing primary streets (eg. by enhancing through adjacent development)
- Drainage & utilities integration
- Temporary neighbours (eg. HS2)

Initial summary of key delivery points:

1: Wesley Fields to the canal at upper level
- New link through industrial businesses
- Maintain at high level (‘Upper Grand Union line’) to preserve tranquillity of towpath at lower level
- Redundant arches on the Dudding Hill Line railway bridge could be utilised.

2: New park and canal crossing
- New canal crossing as part of new park space within Channel Gate Road development site
- Linking north and south sides of the canal at high level (‘Upper Grand Union line’) to preserve tranquillity of towpath at lower level.

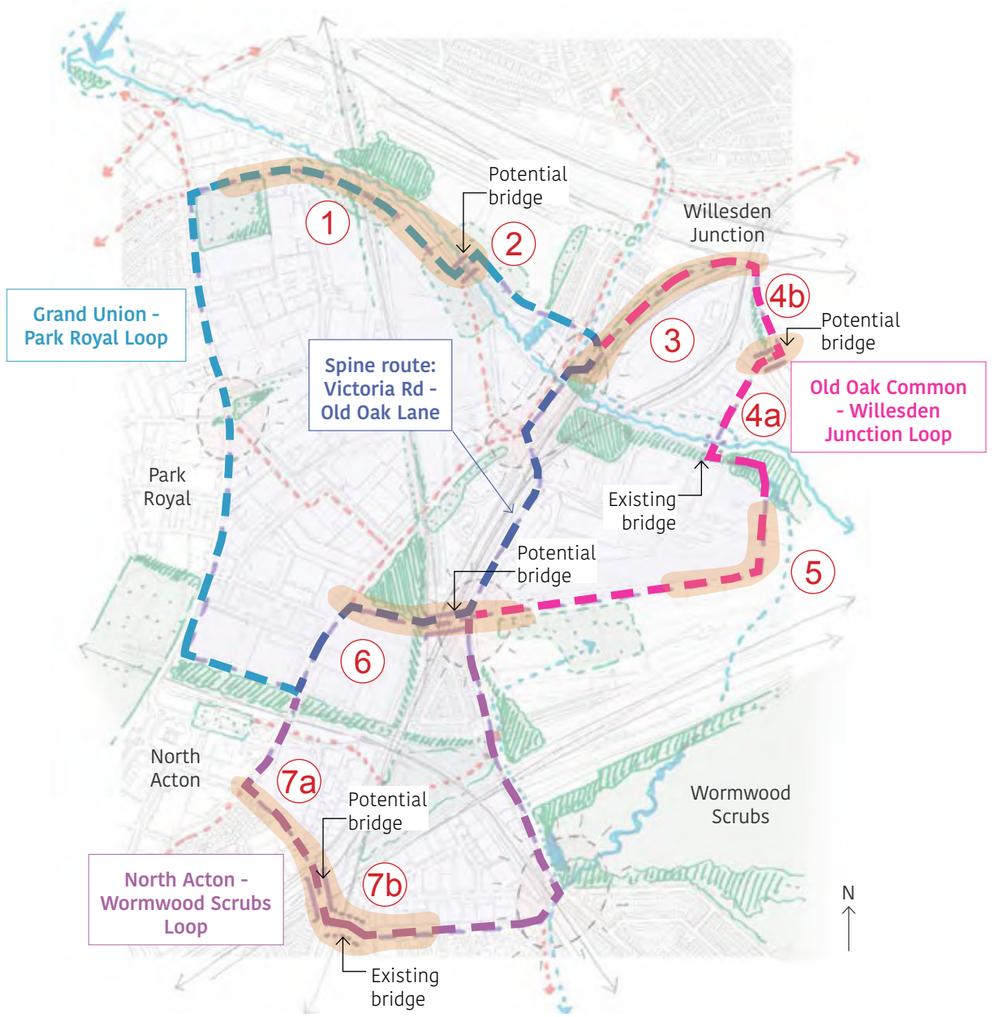
3. Old Oak Lane to Willesden Junction via disused railway sidings
- New link from the canal at Old Oak Lane to Willesden Junction station
- Respond to constrained street width within Railway cottages Conservation Area by providing alternative route for pedestrians and cycles off road
- Potential to use disused railway sidings as new linear park route, as an appropriate development use for this site.

4: Hythe Road to Willesden Junction link
- New crossing over the railway from Hythe Road to join existing pedestrian path to Willesden Junction station
- Improving links from industrial areas and Scrubs Lane entrances
- Helping to provide additional access points on to the footpath, improving safety and visibility.

5: Old Oak Common station link to Birchwood and canal towpath
- Consider a direct link to Birchwood nature reserve, running adjacent to the course of the Stamford Brook
- A more direct connection from station public realm to Birchwood, connecting to the existing canal footbridge into Hythe Road.

6: Victoria Road to Old Oak Common Station
- New link from Victoria Road through ‘shield’ site to OOC station
- Strategically identified in OPDC wider routes study
- Could integrate with potential new woodland space as public and wildlife amenity, and buffer to railway corridor at north end of shield site.

7: Victoria Road to Westway Estate link
- New link to join up the pedestrian path running behind the Westway estate with Victoria Road
- Forming a direct pedestrian link to the Scrubs from North Acton and residential areas
- New crossing over the railway required; existing crossing over Dudding Hill Line can be used and improved.



Wesley Fields northern boundary - potential for new link to the canal

Bridge arches on the Dudding Hill line - potential for new pedestrian/cycle link

Stretch of canal between development sites - potential for new bridge crossing

Disused railway sidings adjacent to Old Oak Lane - potential for new pedestrian/ cycle park link from Old Oak lane to Willesden Junction Station

View to railway from Hythe Road canal bridge - potential for link to WJ station footpath

Existing pedestrian path to WJ station - potential for upgrade/improvement

View through industry from Victoria Road - potential for new link to the Scrubs

Existing railway pedestrian crossing - potential for upgrade/improvement

Planting Character Palettes

B.1 Railway Lands

Planting proposals in proximity to the railway have the opportunity to reference wider stories of travel and migration, reflect and complement the varied stages of ecological succession present along the tracks, and repair severances or infill gaps in the ecological habitat and movement network.

Note: Any planting palette developed for sites adjacent to the railway will be subject to planting guidelines from Network Rail, available on request.
For more information on indicative planting species, refer to 'Habitat plant communities relevant to Local Ecology Areas' in Strategic Ecology Study.

Character trees

- Trees that reference the later stages of ecological succession as well as the wider migratory/movement character of the railway corridors, relevant to their railway setting, suited to their position on cuttings or embankments and working within Network Rail guidelines where necessary.

Example species:
Large trees:
Field maple - Acer campestre
Birch - Betula sp.
False accacia - Robinia sp.
Pines - Pinus sp.
Wild cherry - Prunus avium

Smaller trees:
Crab apple - Malus sylvestris
Wild pear - Pyrus pyraster
Rowan - Sorbus aucuparia
Hawthorn - Crataegus monogyna

Sub-canopy: Shrub & Scrub layer

- Small trees, shrubs and herbaceous native plants suited to use in planting adjacent to railway corridors and responsive to regular or intensive management techniques.

Example species:
Hawthorn - Crataegus monogyna
Hazel - Corylus avellana
Dogwood - Cornus sanguinea
Elder - Sambucus nigra
Blackthorn - Prunus spinosa
Bird cherry - Prunus padus
Bramble - Rubus fruticosus
Willow (shrub) - Salix sp.
Alder buckthorn - Frangula alnus
Ivy - Hedera helix
Traveller's joy - Clematis vitalba
Honeysuckle - Lonicera periclymenum
Dog rose - Rosa canina
Bramble - Rubus fruticosus
Hop - Humulus lupulus

Grassland edges & verges

- Neutral grassland species, including a variety of annuals, perennials, and native species with high ecological value to support a wide variety of wildlife.

Example species:
Ox-eye daisy - Leucanthmum vulgare
Yarrow - Achillea millefolium
Common knapweed - Centaurea nigra
Field Scabious - Knautia arvensis
Cowslip - Primula veris
Tufted hair grass - Deschampsia cespitosa
Soft rush - Juncus effusus
Red fescue - Festuca rubra
Yorkshire fog - Holcus lanatus
Pignut - Conopodium majus
Bird's foot trefoil - Lotus corniculatus
Meadow foxtail - Alopecurus pratensis

Open mosaic habitats & ruderal species

- Plant species associated with railway environment habitats, including bare ground and areas of aggregate ballast to support open mosaic habitats with ephemeral, self-willed plant communities.

Example species:
Red valerian - Centranthus ruber
Red campion - Silene dioica
Evening primrose - Oenothera biennis
Purple toadflax - Linaria purpurea
Poppy - Papaver sp.
Native thistle species, eg. Cirsium vulgare
Dog rose - Rosa canina
Bramble - Rubus fruticosus
Bird's foot trefoil - Lotus corniculatus
Mullein - Verbascum vulgare
Viper's bugloss - Echium vulgare
Broad-leaved everlasting pea - Lathyrus latifolius

Birch woodland adjacent to railway corridor

Common elder providing food source for wildlife

Ox-eye daisies on railway cutting slope

Common mallow colonnising aggregate ballast

B.2 Grand Union Canal

Planting proposals in proximity to the canal should support the particular and varied wildlife of this vital green & blue corridor, extending the influence of the canal character, extending & buffering habitat and referencing plant species in adjacent development.

Note: Any planting palette developed for sites adjacent to the canal will be subject to planting guidelines from Canal & River Trust, available on request.
For more information on indicative planting species, refer to 'Planting character palettes' under section 7 'Toolbox' of the Canal Placemaking Strategy

Character trees and shrubs

- Planting to support and extend the existing vegetation character of the canal corridor, given the opportunity to reach their natural form where appropriate.

Example species:

Large trees, signalling the presence of the canal:
Alder - Alnus glutinosa
Poplar - Populus sp.
Silver birch - Betula pendula,
Downy birch - Betula pubescens
White willow - Salix alba

Smaller, companion trees:
Crab apple - Malus sylvestris
Rowan - Sorbus aucuparia
Hazel - Coryllys avellana
Hawthorn - Crataegus mongyna
Blackthorn - Prunus spinosa
Goat willow - Salix caprea

Shrubs:
Dogwood - Cornus sanguinea
Willow (shrub) - Salix sp.
Alder buckthorn - Frangula alnus
Holly - Ilex aquifolium
Elder - Sambucus nigra
Flowering currant - Ribes sanguineum
Blackberry - Rubus fructicosus
Dog rose - Rosa canina

Wetland & marginal

- Wetland & marginal vegetation formed of riparian species for enhancing the canal edge, both on accessible and inaccessible banks, and with potential for in-channel planting.

Example species:

Aquatics:
Soft rush - Juncus effusus
Common reed - Phragmites australis
Common club rush - Schoenoplectus lacustris
Lesser bullrush - Typha angustifolia

Marginal:
Flowering rush - Butomus umbellatus
Meadowsweet - Filipendula ulmaria
Yellow flag iris - Iris pseudacorus
Purple loosestrife - Lythrum salicaria
Ragged robin - Silene flos-cuculi

Transitional:
Pendulous sedge - Carex pendula
Dogwood - Cornus alba 'Sibirica'
Hemp agrimony - Eupatorium cannabium
Reed sweet grass - Glyceria maxima
Comfrey - Symphytum officinale

Pendulous sedge forming mounds at waters edge

Grassland / Damp grassland

- Neutral & damp grassland species, including a variety of annuals, perennials, and native species with high ecological value to support a wide variety of wildlife.

Example species:

Neutral grassland:
Tufted hair grass - Deschampsia cespitosa
Ox-eye daisy - Leucanthemum vulgare
Field wood-rush - Luzula campestris
Yorkshire fog - Holcus lanatus
Red fescue - Festuca rubra
Yarrow - Achillea millefolium
Pignut - Conopodium majus
Teasel - Dipsacus fullonum
Birds foot trefoil - Lotus corniculatus

Damp grassland:
Purple moor grass - Molinia caerulea
Water mint - Metha aquatica
Meadowsweet - Filipendula ulmaria
Cuckoo flower - Cardamine pratensis
Ragged robin - Silene flos-cuculi
Purple loosestrife - Lythrum salicaria

Purple loosestrife, a colourful native marginal

Seasonal highlights

- Planting for seasonal qualities, providing variety and interest to animate the canal corridor throughout the year.

Example species:

Winter cover:
Dogwood - Cornus sanguinea
Holly - Ilex aquifolium
Greater/lesser periwinkle - Vinca major, V. minor
Harts tongue fern - Asplenium scolopendrium
Ivy - Hedera helix
Snowdrops - Galanthus nivalis

Spring leaf & blossom:
Hazel - Coryllus avellana
Cherry - Prunus sp.
Foxglove - Digitals purpurea
Daffodil - Narcissus sp.
Bluebell - Hyacinthoides non-scripta

Summer foliage & fruit:
Guelder rose - Vioburnum opulus
Redcurrant - Ribes sp.
Gooseberry - Ribes uva-crispa
Blackberry - Rubus sp.
Hops - Humulus lupulus
Honeysuckle - Lonicera periclymenum

Autumn colour:
Snowy mespilus - Amelanchier lamarckii
Michaelmas daisy (Aster) - Symphyotrichum sp.
Autumn crocus - Colchicum sp.
Crab apple - Malus sylvestris

B.3 Primary Streets

Planting proposals for primary streets should offer dynamic seasonal change, climate resilience, mitigation of issues such as air pollution or the urban heat island effect, opportunities for playful engagement and reference to the wider Middlesex landscape character.

Character & companion trees

- A varied tree story - large trees allowed to reach their full size with adequate rooting volume and space for canopy spread, accompanied by smaller 'companion' trees, with a focus on seasonal qualities and value to wildlife.

Example species:

Large trees:
Oak - Quercus robur (N), Q.palustris
Tulip tree - Liriodendron tulipfera
Hornbeam - Carpinus betulus (N)
Birch - Betula pendula (N), B. pubescens
Alder - Alnus glutinosa (N)
Black pine - Pinus nigra
Spruce - Picea sp.
Larch - Larix decidua
Dawn redwood - Metasequoia glyptostroboides

Companion trees
Cherries - Prunus sp. eg. *Prunus avium (N)
Rowan - Sorbus aucuparia (N)
Crab apple - Malus sylvestris (N)
Wild pear - Pyrus pyraster
Golden alder - Alnus incana 'Aurea'
> consider multi-stem specimens for character

Native Oak trees reflect the Middlesex landscape

Shrubs & hedge plants

- Shrub & hedge plants focussing on seasonal foliage for habitat, flowering and fruiting species, and that can form continuous linear habitat/ landscape features.

Example species:

Beech - Fagus sylvatica
Hornbeam - Carpinus betulus
Hawthorn - Crataegus monogyna
Blackthorn - Prunus spinosa
Guelder Rose - Viburnum opulus
Wayfaring Tree - Viburnum lantana
Crab Apple - Malus sylvestris
Holly - Ilex aquifolium
Dog rose - Rosa canina
Field maple - Acer campestre
Holly - Iliex aquifolium
Guelder rose - Viburnum opulus

Beech hedges offer winter habitat for wildlife

Climate resilience

- Planting to deal with a changing climate; robust, resilient, drought tolerant and able to thrive in urban environments.

Example species:

Capture/removal of particulatre matter from the air - eg. Crataegus mongyna
Light or silver leafs, reflecting sunlight and heat - eg. Artemisia sp., Lychnis coronia 'Alba'
Drought tolerant species - eg. Sesleria nitida, Achillea filipendula, Kniphofia 'Tawney King'
Evergreen, giving year-round shelter/habitat for wildlife - eg. Luzula nivea
Nitrogen fixing plants - eg. Baptisia australis, Lupinus sp
Self-seeding species - eg. Astrantia 'Roma'

Drought tolerant flowering perennials such as Yarrow

Year round interest

- Plant species to ensure year-round interest, supporting dynamic seasonal displays.

Example species:

Year-round or winter interest:
Beech - *Fagus sylvatica (N)
Dogwood - Cornus sanguinea (N), C. alba 'Sibirica';

Winter / Early season flowering:
Hazel - Coryllus avellana
Lenten rose - Helleborus sp., Hellebrous foetidus
Cornelian cherry - Cornus mas
Star magnolia - Magnolia stellata
Winter aconite - Eranthis hyemalis

Evergreen:
Holly - *Ilex aquifolium (N)
Sweet box - Sarcococca confusa, S. hookeriana
Bodnant viburnum - Viburnum x bodnantense
Heavenly bamboo - Nandina domestica
Oregon grape - Mahonia aquifolium, M. x media

Seasonal bulbs:
Daffodils - *Narcissus pseudonarcissus (N), N. poeticus, N. cyclamineus
Bluebells - Hyacinthoides non-scripta (N)
Snowdrops - Galanthus nivalis (N), G. elwesii
Snakes head fritillary - Fritillaria meleagris(N)
Cyclamen - Cyclamen hederifolium

Seasonal colour from bulbs

B.4 Industrial Areas

Planting proposals in industrial areas should maximise the amenity and ecological offer, improve urban greening, diversify species mixes and utilise sustainable drainage or attenuation planting.

Character trees

- Visually striking large urban species capable of reaching a large mature size and given adequate rooting volume and space for canopies to spread.

Example species:

Black poplar - Populus nigra
White poplar - Populus alba
Aspen - Populus tremula
Whitebeam - Sorbus aria
Willow - Salix sp.
Birch - Betula pedula, B. pubescens
Dawn redwood - Metasequoia glytostroboides

Black poplars, striking and tough trees

Scrub & hedgerow

- Species for establishment of naturalistic and self-reliant planting communities, including species able to respond to an infrequent but intensive management technique - eg. coppicing, where appropriate.

Example species:

Hazel - Coryllus avellana
Dogwood - Cornus sanguinea
Guelder rose - Viburnum opulus

Hedgerows
Hawthorn - Crataegus monogyna
Blackthorn - Prunus spinosa
Field maple - Acer campestre
Rugosa roses - Rosa rugosa
Traveller's joy - Clematis vitalba

Vertical greening

- Climbing species that can cover large blank facades and/or provide greening and soften boundary fences in constrained areas where hedges are not feasible.

Example species:

Ivy - Hedera helix
Traveller's joy - Clematis vitalba
Honeysuckle - Lonicera periclymenum
Virginia creeper - Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Hop - Humulus lupulus

Acid Grassland

- Acid grassland species reflecting the dry, harsh growing conditions often found in industrial sites. Including a variety of annuals, perennials, and native species offering seasonal qualities and with high ecological value.

Example species:

Bent grass- Agrostis capillaris
Lady's bedstaw - Galium verum
Heath bedstraw - Galium saxatile
Harebell - Campanula rotundifolia
Burnet saxifrage - Pimpinella saxifraga
Broom - Cytisus scoparius
Red fescue - Festuca rubra
Tormentil - Potentilla erecta
Cats-ear - Hypochaeris radicata
Bird's foot trefoil - Lotus corniculatus

Lady's bedstraw, an acid grassland meadow plant

Open mosaic / Biodiverse roofscapes

- Plant species associated with open mosaic environments, including bare ground, aggregates, recycle materials or vacant plots; self-willed. opportunistic and resilient.

Example species:

Red valerian - Centranthus ruber
Red campion - Silene dioica
Evening primrose - Oenothera biennis
Purple toadflax - Linaria purpurea
Poppy - Papaver sp.
Native thistle species, eg. Cirsium vulgare
Dog rose - Rosa canina
Bramble - Rubus fruticosus
Bird's foot trefoil - Lotus corniculatus
Mullein - Verbascum vulgare
Viper's bugloss - Echium vulgare
Broad-leaved everlasting pea - Lathyrus latifolius
Cornflower - Centaurea cyanus

Common poppy colonnising aggregate ballast

B.5 Housing & Residential

Planting proposals within housing and residential areas should offer sensory stimulation combined with seasonal presence and dynamic change, supporting opportunities for residents involvement in the design, planting and aftercare of their spaces

Character & companion trees

- A varied tree story - large trees allowed to reach their full size with adequate rooting volume and space for canopy spread, accompanied by smaller 'companion' trees, including productive species.

Example species:

Large trees:
Oak - Quercus palustris
Field maple - Acer campestre
Hornbeam - Carpinus betulus
Birch - Betula pendula, B. pubescens
Black pine - Pinus nigra
Larch - Larix decidua

Companion trees:
Cherries - Prunus sp. eg. Prunus avium
Rowan - Sorbus aucuparia
Crab apple - Malus sylvestris
Wild pear - Pyrus pyraster
Magnolia - Magnolia x loebneri 'Merril'

Fruiting trees:
Cherries - Prunus avium cv., P. cerasus cv.
Apples - Malus domestica cv.
Plums - Prunus domestica cv.
Pears - Pyrus communis cv.
Quince - Cydonia oblonga cv.
Rowan - Sorbus aucuparia

Nut trees:
Walnut - Juglans regia
Almond - Prunus dolcis
Cob nut - Corylus avellana

Shrubs & hedge plants

- Shrub & hedge plants focussing on seasonal foliage for habitat, flowering and fruiting species, and that can form continuous linear habitat/ landscape features.

Example species:

Beech - Fagus sylvatica
Hornbeam - Carpinus betulus
Hawthorn - Crataegus monogyna
Blackthorn - Prunus spinosa
Guelder Rose - Viburnum opulus
Wayfaring Tree - Viburnum lantana
Crab Apple - Malus sylvestris
Holly - Ilex aquifolium
Dog rose - Rosa canina
Field maple - Acer campestre
Holly - Iliex aquifolium
Guelder rose - Viburnum opulus

Mixed native hedging including hazel and hawthorn

Productive growing

- Planting with a productive focus to encourage participation in the landscape and build a sense of the common; including trees bearing fruits nuts or edible seeds, soft fruit & berries on shrubs and hedge plants at a human scale, and including native, heritage, exotic or unusual varieties.

> For more information, refer to 'Food for Free' palette in the Landscape Strategy document.

Example species:

Fruiting shrubs & hedges plants:
*Currants - Ribes sanguineum, R. rubrum / nigrum
Gooseberry - Ribes uva-crispa
*Blackberry, raspberry - Rubus sp.
Chokeberry - Amelanchier alnifolia 'Smokey'
Rugosa rose - Rosa rugosa 'Frau Dagmar Hastrup'
*Consider also thornless varieties

Productive climbers & scramblers:
Hops - Humulus lupulus
Bramble - Rubus fruticosus 'Oregon Thornless'
Passionflower - Passiflora caerulea, P. edulis
Raspberry (cane) - Rubus idaeus

Espalier fruit:
Malus varieties, Pyrus varieties, Prunus varieties.

Hops, climbers for fences or walls

Sensory stimulation

- Planting mixes for sensory stimulation with a variety of seasonal colours, foliage textures and shapes, scents and tactile qualities to encourage greater interaction with the natural world.

Example species:

Tufted hair grass - Deschampsia cespitosa
Snowy woodrush - Luzula nivea
Wild strawberry - Fragaria vesca
Sweet woodruff - Galium odoratum
Soft shield fern - Polystichum setiferum
Ox-eye daisy - Leucathemum vulgare
Rosemary - Rosmarinus officinalis
Fennel - Foeniculum vulgare
Quaking oats - Briza media
Lamb's ear - Stachys byzantina

Wild strawberry, groundcover with edible fruits

B.6 Parks & Open Spaces

Planting proposals for parks and open spaces should reinforce the essential elements of the Middlesex countryside, offering a range of habitats and environments.

Woodland character planting

- Planting to establish multi-layered woodland environments.

Example species:

Woodland trees:
Oak - Quercus robur, Q. petraea
Beech - Fagus sylvatica
Birch - Betula pendula, B. pubescens
Wild service tree - Sorbus torminalis
Hazel - Coryllus avellana
Spindle - Euonymopus europaeus

Woodland understorey:
Sweet woodruff - Galium odoratum
Wild garlic - Alium ursinum,
Snowy wood-rsuh - Luzula nivea,
Wood anemone - Anemone nemerosa
Common polypody - Polypodium vulgare
Guelder rose - Viburnum opulus
Michaelmas daisy - Aster macrophyllus
Geraniums - Geranium sylvaticum
Hart's tongue fern - Asplenium scolopendrium
Common spotted orchid - Dactylorhiza fuchsii

Woodland bulbs:
Oak-leaved cyclamen - Cyclamen hederifolium
Snowdrop - Galanthus nivalis
English bluebell - Hycinthoides non-scripta

Woodland understorey with bluebells

Working countryside

- Planting to support the development of a 'working countryside' within larger parks and open spaces, including production, harvest and management techniques

Example species:

Country / silviculture trees:
Black poplar - Populus nigra ssp. betulifolia
Field maple - Acer campestre
Walnut - Juglans regia
Hornbeam - Carpinus betulus
Small-leaved lime - Tilia cordata

Coppice:
Hazel - Coryllus avellana
Chestnut - Castanea sativa
Willow - Salix sp.
Hornbeam - Carpinus betulus

Mixed native hedgerows:
Hawthorn - Crataegus monogyna
Blackthorn - Prunus spinosa
Guelder Rose - Viburnum opulus
Wayfaring Tree - Viburnum lantana
Crab Apple - Malus sylvestris
Holly - Ilex aquifolium
*potential for specific management techniques to be employed eg. laid hedges

Sweet chestnut woodland for coppice

Meadow and grassland

- Native, naturalised and wild plants in their natural form, forming a link with the past and the landscape history. Including areas for the establishment of traditional meadows, with an appropriate management regime.

Example species:

Meadows:
Quaking oats - Briza media
Red fescue - Festuca rubra
Yarrow - Achillea millefolium
Wild carrot - Daucus carota
Cowslip - Primula veris
Lady's bedstraw - Galium verum
Field scabious - Knautia arvensis
Red campion - Silene dioica

Wet meadows:
Quaking oats - Briza media
Red fescue - Festuca rubra
Tufted hair grass - Deschampsia cespitosa
Meadow barley - Hordeum secalinum
Ox-eye daisy - Leucanthemum vulgare
Great burnet - Sanguisorba officinalis
Meadowsweet - Filipendula ulmaria

Amenity grass:
Where areas will be mowed for recreation purposes, consider mixtures that promote species diversity, or include flowering components, eg.
Strong lawn mixture: Emorsgate EG22 (wildseed.co.uk)
Flowering lawn mixture: Emorsgate EL1 (wildseed.co.uk)

Dedicated wildlife planting

- Plants to support the integration of dedicated habitat areas within open spaces, including both annuals and perennials, and locally relevant species of particular benefit to wildlife providing pollen, nectar, berries, food sources at different life stages, or habitat value.

Example species:

Annuals/biannuals:
Bishop's flower - Ammi majus
Poppy - Papaver sp.
Marigold - Calendula sp.
Foxglove - Digitalis purpurea, D. grandiflora cv.
Sunflower - Helianthus sp.

Beneficial species:
Bee balm - Monarda didyma
Betony - Stachys officinalis
Meadowsweet - Filipendula ulmaria
Ox-eye daisy - Leucanthemum vulgare
Primrose - Primula vulgaris
Oregano - Oreganum vulgare
Globe thistle - Echinops ritro

Species with local relevance:
Teasel -Dipsacus fullonum (Brimstone butterfly)
Pussy willow - Salix caprea (Purple Emperor butterfly)
Mature oak trees - Quercus sp. (Purple hairstreak butterfly
Ivy - Hedera helix (birds including owls)
Hawthorn/Blackthorn - Crataegus monogyna / Prunus spinosa (birds including Dunnock)

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