

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT – LAND NORTH OF GOLDRING CLOSE – HAYLING ISLAND

LANDSCAPE STATEMENT

The site is found within the landscape character area of the Central Hayling Plain, but with, perhaps, with a greater affinity to the adjacent West Town character area. The site character has been described as urban fringe rather than countryside. The aim of the landscape proposals has been to retain and enhance the positive characteristics found in the field structures, ditches, hedgerow vegetation and footpath system.

Where necessary on the boundaries the overgrown Brambles will be removed and the hedgerows supplemented with additional native shrub and tree mixes. The predominant existing tree species is Oak, which is used in the proposals where space and habitat allows, particularly towards the Eastern buffer zone. Elsewhere in the landscape structure, native species such as Field Maple, Hawthorn, Birch, Bird Cherry and Lime have been specified. Although smaller than the Oaks these species are valuable, being indigenous to the landscape and making contribution to the local biodiversity.

Variable mowing regimes have been suggested for the grass areas in the eastern buffer zone and along the east-west hedgerow which divides the two areas of the site. Where the grass areas need to be re-seeded the areas will be sown with a species rich mix suited to being cut twice a year.

Footpaths, both inside and immediately adjacent to the site will be surfaced with hoggin to improve the quality of the paths whilst retaining a rural feel.

The important landscape of the AONB has been protected with additional native hedgerow planting along the entirety of the eastern boundary to ensure a consistent screen from ground level to about 2m, over time. The south eastern boundary to the rear gardens of plots 127 to 131 has been defined with 1.8m green weldmesh fencing to allow light to the new and existing hedgerow plantings.

Elsewhere, the rear garden boundaries will be 1.8m high closeboarded fencing. On the north and south boundaries there are proposals for additional tree planting spaced to suit neighbours own vegetation and garden layout. The species have been chosen from the smaller native species described above.

Internally, the landscape of the housing is themed on front garden hedges in a range of ornamental species suitable for the coastal location. The aim of the hedge theme is to create spacial definition to the private spaces, create height in the landscape and introduce homogeneity and overall character. Hedges of *Cotoneaster franchetii*, *Griselinia littoralis*, *Escallonia* Crimson Spire, *Viburnum tinus* and *Elaeagnus ebbingei* are complemented with small tree species such as *Sorbus aria* “Lutescens”, *Amelanchier* “Robin Hill”, *Sorbus aucuparia* varieties, *Pyrus* “Chanticleer” and flowering *Prunus* varieties. The simple theme allows home owners to develop their own garden within an existing landscape structure.

Planting to the community and social housing areas follows the theme, but supplemented with robust trample resistant planting to the car parking and general areas.

Access points into the site have been treated with a simple low maintenance approach of native and naturalistic planting with native trees.