

Appendix 8.4: Landscape Character Zones

8.1 Introduction

Development Landscape Character Zones (LCZs) are a standard/secondary mitigation measure to be secured through a suitably-worded condition/the reserved matters processes, which outline the overarching landscape strategy for the Proposed Development.

The illustrative strategic landscape design as illustrated in *Figure 8.9: Illustrative Landscape Masterplan* has been divided into character zones with distinct functions and design approaches, as shown in *Figure 8.8: Landscape Character Zones Plan* and described below.

8.2 LCZ 1: Southleigh Parkland

- Create an accessible greenspace at Southleigh Park as an informal country park whilst conserving and enhancing the existing parkland features.
- Provide views of the parkland from Southleigh House and new areas of public access at the northern edge of the parkland.
- Retain existing parkland trees and woodland copses as focal points, anchoring the space.
- New canopy tree planting above hedgerows will form a legible edge to development on the south-western edge of the parkland and reinforce the existing wooded perimeter character of the parkland; balanced with providing strong development frontages offering surveillance and legibility at key access gateway points between the development and the parkland.
- Introduce areas of wetland to the south to diversify and add focal interest to the space, as well as acting as an important SuDS feature.
- Structure formed of wildflower grassland & mown paths, in mosaic with existing and proposed trees and woodland.
- Potential for a well-integrated natural play area.

Provide footpath links from the Proposed Development and the settlement edge of Emsworth to create a shared recreational resource.

8.3 LCZ 2: Woodland Corridors (2a - Southleigh Road and Eastleigh Road, 2b - Bartons Road)

- Wooded structure plays an important role in the sense of separation between Havant and Emsworth, acting as a structural transition between the two settlements and creating the perception of a change in settlement identity when travelling along roads between the settlements.
- Woodland planting including canopy trees and understorey and reinforcement of existing vegetation to maintain the enclosed character of these roadways, reflecting the character of nearby roads passing through woodland areas, such as the northern part of Horndean Road and Emsworth Common Road. Notably at 2b, along Bartons Road, this

reinforcement should provide connectivity between existing woodland within the Site and the woodland network along Bartons Road and beyond to the north and east.

- Provide visual and physical containment to the Proposed Development from the roadways and reflect existing precedents on Bartons Road in providing the perception of separation from the existing settlement edge of Emsworth.
- Woodland planting should use locally distinctive tree species, including oak at canopy; and holly in understorey.
- These corridors will strengthen structural connectivity as part of a wider network connecting to Southleigh Forest to the north-east.
- 2a - Provide a wetland area between Southleigh Road and Southleigh Farm, creating a sense of place and a natural setting to the farm complex.
- Potential for woodland west of Southleigh Farm to be made available for uses such as natural play, pump track and forest school, thinning the structure subject to proposed uses and detailed arboricultural advice.
- A community orchard in the east of zone 2b should act as a positive and welcoming arrival point into the Proposed Development at Bartons Road, providing a transition between the wider wooded landscape to the north and the Proposed Development.
- This area would also provide a recreational resource for residents, including movement routes, play seating and picnic areas.
- In the north-western corner of Zone 2b, there is the potential for the proposed built form to present a positive frontage to the roadway to the west, creating a sense of arrival to the scheme.

8.4 LCZ 3: West Brook Wetlands

- Reinforce the legibility of the stream corridor and valley floor character, creating a strong sense of place.
- Introduce mixed wetland areas as part of a natural landscape including species-rich grassland and wetland with clumps of native scrub, trees and pockets of wet woodland, as well as marginal planting and scrub on the banks of swales / basins.
- Potential for basins to provide focal features along this edge and reinforce landform legibility.
- Provide a physical and perceptual separation between settlements and, over time, visual softening of the Proposed Development. The introduction of canopy trees and understorey / scrub, alongside the basins and along edges of development will help to provide a sense of visual, physical and perceptual separation between the proposed built form within the Site and the existing development in Emsworth. This structural planting will provide continuity with the character of Southleigh Park to the north and a visually interesting foreground to views.
- Provide movement corridors and potential for other recreational uses, including seating, picnics, engagement with nature, exercise and play for older children.
- Provide footpath links from the Proposed Development and the settlement edge of Emsworth to create a shared recreational resource.

8.5 LCZ 4: Southleigh Ditch Corridors (4a - Coastal Plain, 4b – Bartons Hill)

- Retain and enhance, wherever feasible, the existing field ditch network as key blue corridors, acting as structural features framing the pattern of the proposed built form. These corridors will strengthen the landscape pattern, reinforce landscape character and create a distinctive sense of place.
- Provide north-south and east-west GBI connectivity, linking the parkland, proposed wetlands and extensive peripheral GBI to the south. Seek opportunities to provide active travel routes aligning with these GBI routes.
- Existing mature trees should be retained and additional hedgerow scrub and canopy tree planting will be provided, reinforcing the structure of these features, identified as degraded in local character assessments.
- Provide new blue infrastructure corridors where appropriate, notably in Zone 4b, where there is not an existing ditch network. These routes should connect existing blue infrastructure networks (such as that in Normandy Way to the north-west of the Site) to proposed basins.
- Create a variety of blue and green corridors, some of formal urban character and others remaining more naturalistic.
- Some corridors, such as those in the south of Zone 4b, should contain broader blue infrastructure features such as basins and wetlands but should retain movement and connectivity as a key function.
- To the north of Zone 4b, ensure that the blue infrastructure routes and planting within them align with and allow for framed corridor views to the distant horizon of Hayling Island (part of Chichester Harbour National Landscape).
- Form focal features within the development area and orientate built form and road networks toward them to create a positive interrelationship with the natural setting.
- Provide a positive relationship with the existing development at Normandy Way to the west of Zone 4b, to reinforce the integration of the proposed development as part of Havant. Similarly, there should be a robust landscape character setting to the existing residential development at Eastleigh Road (including a listed building).
- Provide recreational movement corridors along and across the blue infrastructure routes to allow for the enjoyment of the landscape as well as the possible provision of well-integrated recreational features such as seating, picnics, opportunities for engagement with nature, exercise and play such as trim-trail routes.

8.6 LCZ 5: Local Centre

- Positive frontages towards the roadway create a sense of arrival to the proposed development/Havant, enhancing the character of the existing entrance along Southleigh Road.
- Opportunity for a hard and soft landscaped public realm, comprising a market square in the settlement centre, to provide a sense of community and reinforce the focal quality of the Local Centre.
- Street trees and public art to reinforce townscape legibility and sense of place at heart of the development.

- Potential for flexible uses – performance, produce, community events.
- Potential for play/games areas, focusing on inclusion and multi-functionality. Potential for linkage with adjacent woodland in LCZ 2a.

8.7 LCZ 6: Neighbourhood Greens

- Dispersed neighbourhood greens provide focal spaces at the heart of the residential areas.
- Local communal recreational spaces, acting as doorstep green spaces serving the local community.
- Opportunity for planting or the use of public art to create positive focal features, views towards which should be provided from adjacent roads and blue/green infrastructure corridors to create scenic endpoints to views along them, acting as positive local destinations.
- Opportunities to provide multifunctional recreational infrastructure such as seating, picnic tables, outdoor gyms, and play to provide opportunities for a variety of users.
- Adjacent built form should front onto these green spaces as a positive focal feature, also enabling natural surveillance of these greens, creating ownership and a safer atmosphere.

8.8 LCZ 7: Primary Routes

- Main vehicular movement corridors through the Proposed Development providing legible connecting routes through the scheme and connecting to the existing road network (Southleigh Road, Eastleigh Road and Bartons Road).
- Street trees where appropriate to provide legibility of the route, continuity of character and soften the interface between the road and built form.
- Areas of amenity grass along the edge of the residential road to provide a more formal setting.
- Focal trees at nodal points of streets should be used to create seasonal visual interest and help with wayfinding.
- Strong emphasis on creating a calming influence on traffic, promoting a human scale and an environment for people including providing alternatives to cycling / walking on the road.