

4.9 Incorporating Landscape into Design

Reasoned Justification

- 4.74 Good quality landscaping should make an important contribution to good design. All development proposals will be expected to respect the character and distinctiveness of the local landscape, its pattern, vegetation type and landform; the Landscape Character Assessment provides advice on this.
- 4.75 Where this is relevant the design and specification of planting should support the strategy for new **green infrastructure** and **biodiversity**, and it will need to be resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- 4.76 Where possible, new development will be required to incorporate areas for Sustainable Drainage Systems; appropriate landscaping will be particularly important to ensuring the successful appearance and performance of these areas.
- 4.77 The landscaping of new development in towns and villages should also respect local built character and the **historic environment** – the South Norfolk Place-Making Guide and Conservation Areas character appraisals highlight important characteristics and guide how landscaping design might respond. Other factors such as ‘designing out crime’ and facilitating pedestrian movement will also have a bearing on landscape design.
- 4.78 The ‘soft’ (planting) and ‘hard’ (e.g. paving, street furniture) elements of a landscape design should be an integral part of a design and development, and should be considered from the outset. The design of boundary treatments can be particularly important, for example facing onto public spaces, on the edge of settlements / open countryside and facing public highways.

Policy DM 4.9 Incorporating landscape into design

Where appropriate, detailed development proposals must demonstrate a high quality of landscape design, implementation and management as an integral part of the new development.

The provision for new planted features (such as tree belts, hedgerows, wild flowers and specimen trees) is expected to form part of development proposals from their outset and should provide an appropriate landscape setting for the scheme.

‘Hard’ landscape features (such as paving, kerb stones, street furniture, boundary treatments etc) will reflect and where possible enhance locally

distinctive character and styles where relevant; or innovative contemporary solutions reflecting local context and reinforcing or creating local distinctiveness and the setting of the development.

Landscape schemes will be required to respect the character and distinctiveness of the local landscape and should ensure that any land remodelling respects the local topographic character in terms of height, slope, angle and character. Landscape schemes should be clearly and properly specified.

Notes

- The importance and multiple benefits of incorporating trees, and soft landscaping into development is clearly identified the **National Planning Policy Framework** Section 11 and the **Joint Core Strategy** Objectives 1, 8 and 9, and Policies 1 and 2.
- The Joint Core Strategy requires development to further the achievement of the **Green Infrastructure Strategy** and *Norfolk Biodiversity Action Plan*.
<http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans/>
- Policies DM 1.1 and 1.4 require development to make a net enhancement of the environment and take opportunities to protect and reflect local distinctiveness. Policy DM 3.8 sets out design principles that include incorporating landscaping as an integral part of design.
- The identified Landscape Character Areas in the district are detailed in the **South Norfolk Landscape Assessment** (Vol. 1 – Landscape Types of South Norfolk, Vol.2 – Landscape Character Areas of the Norwich Policy Area, and Vol. 4 – Landscape Character Areas of the Rural Policy Area).
- The **South Norfolk Place-Making Guide SPD**, **Development in the Historic Environment SPD** and *Conservation Area character appraisals and management plans* provide guidance on appropriate landscaping
<http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/planning/4021.asp>