Welcome



Welcome to our virtual exhibition about the proposed preparation of a Masterplan for Land West of Mildenhall.

The purpose of this consultation is explained here.

This exhibition has been prepared by one of the main landowners and site promoters of this Masterplan area (Suffolk County Council) in consultation with West Suffolk Council.

This exhibition comprises:

- Background Information in these exhibition boards but also here;
- Masterplan Frameworks for consultation I these exhibition boards but also here;
- Additional supporting information, which is accessible via hyperlinks within these exhibition boards;
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) located here; and
- A Questionnaire and opportunity for leaving feedback here.

At the current time, whilst it is not possible to undertake face to face consultation events, we are providing you with as many ways to provide feedback and view this presentation as possible.

If you would like to comment, the ways to do so can be found on the feedback and next steps board, which is the final in the series of these presentation boards. All comments must be received by 15th February 2021.

The Site



The site looking north towards the Air Base



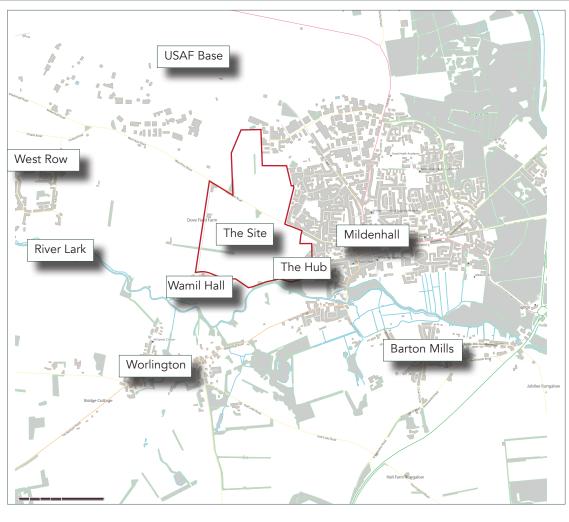
The site looking west towards the West Row

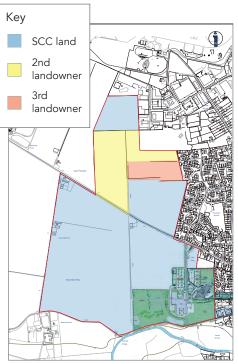


The site looking east towards The Hub



Entrance to Wamil Hall (listed building)





The Site

The Masterplan relates to Land West of Mildenhall. The site is an area of 97ha of arable land which adjoins the existing settlement of Mildenhall along its western edge. The site extends to the existing employment areas in the north of Mildenhall (south of the airbase), with the settlement edge of Mildenhall in the east, open countryside and River Lark corridor to the south, and open countryside to the west.

The site is crossed by West Row Road in an east to west direction. Located within the south east of the site is the Mildenhall Hub, which is a Public Services Hub that includes Office, Leisure, Health, Emergency and Educational Facilities. The Mildenhall Hub is part of the same allocation, SA4 (a), within the Local Plan

Landownership

The plan adjacent shows ownership of land within the area allocated for the Masterplan. Suffolk County Council (SCC) is in control of a substantial part of the Masterplan area and is working jointly with some of the adjoining landowners to deliver this Masterplan. SCC has identified this Masterplan as an opportunity to drive forward early delivery of housing and infrastructure pursuant to its corporate objectives of increasing the supply of housing in the County and improve access to housing and affordability.

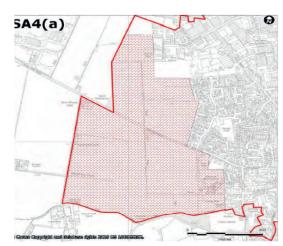
Policy Context

The policy context for this site is set out within the West Suffolk Local Plan, which comprises the former Forest Heath Core Strategy (2010), the Single Issue Review (2019) and the Joint Development Management Plan Document (2015) and the Site Allocations Local Plan (2019).

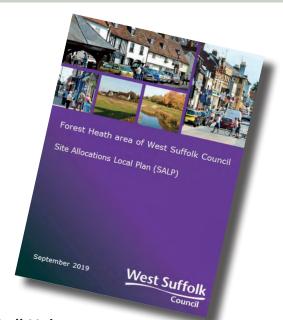
West Suffolk has also recently completed a Issues and Options Local Plan consultation in December 2020.

The Site Allocations Local Plan (2019) Policy SA4: Focus of growth 'Land West of Mildenhall' allocates this site as an area of 97ha land for mixed use development comprising of the following indicative capacity:

- 1,300 dwellings, 30% affordable;
- 5ha employment minimum;
- Primary School and Early Years;
- 10ha of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG);
- Strategic Open Space, Allotments;
- Local Centre; and
- Public Services and Leisure Facilities



Site Allocations Local Plan Extract showing mixed use allocation.



Mildenhall Hub

The public services and leisure facilities sought by Policy SA4 is being proactively delivered at the Mildenhall Hub, which is a public services project to create a 'One Public Estate' within a shared services hub (more information https://www.mildenhallhub.info/info/).

The plan opposite shows the recently approved site plan for the 'Mildenhall Hub' project which is currently under construction and is located within the south east corner of the Masterplan site area and will not therefore form part of this current consultation.

The Local Plan seeks delivery of these proposed 1300 new homes alongside supporting land uses and infrastructure in the period up to 2031.

The eventual Masterplan will set out a vision and delivery mechanism to deliver these policy requirements.



The Masterplanning Process

What is a Masterplan?

Masterplans are strategic documents which set the vision and implementation strategy for a development. Masterplans focus on site specific strategies such as the scale and layout of development, mix of uses, transport and green infrastructure. Masterplans do not undertake detailed design and infrastructure planning as this is undertaken at the planning application stage which would follow the approval of a Masterplan.

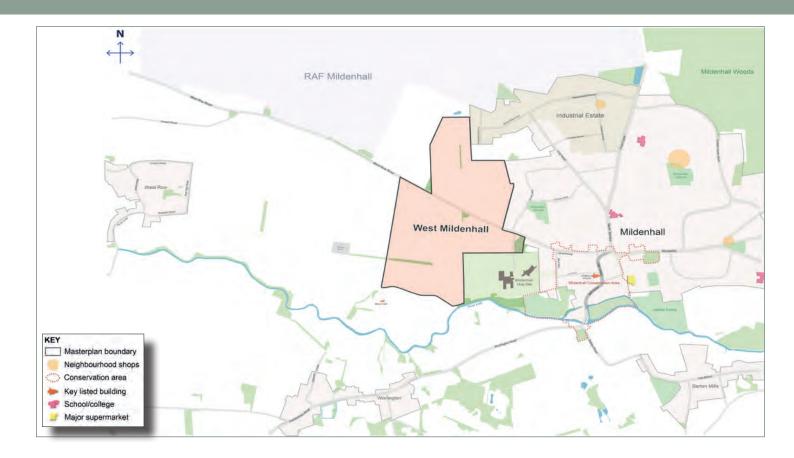
The Masterplan Process

West Suffolk Council's (hereafter referred to as WSC) Local Plan requires a Masterplan for this site to be approved by the Council before any planning applications are determined. Prior to this consultation SCC has undertaken extensive local stakeholder consultation, with surrounding Parish Council's including technical stakeholder workshops. That engagement was undertaken through video conferencing and document share because it has not been possible throughout 2020 to undertake face to face events.

This consultation marks the first public consultation with the wider community by SCC. All feedback received by SCC as part of this and future public consultation will be considered and modifications made, where appropriate, by SCC, prior to the Masterplan being considered for adoption by WSC. The flow chart below maps out the key stages of the Masterplan process and charts the stage of this current consultation.



Context Analysis



The Masterplan area is located on the western fringe of Mildenhall and is shown coloured in light red on the plan above. Mildenhall is a vibrant market town and centre for employment in manufacturing, engineering, pharmaceuticals and electronics, with the majority of these uses are located to the north of the Masterplan site in the towns main industrial area (as shown on the plan), with some office space in the town centre.

Mildenhall has a vibrant town centre, located to the east of the Masterplan area, which offers a range of shops and services including two supermarkets, local convenience stores, comparison shops and services, restaurants and public houses and a bus station providing good public transport links with other towns and villages. Some of these are indicated on this plan.

The Masterplan area is subject to a number of urban fringe influences, predominantly to the north and east. These include the existing peripheral residential properties along the eastern edge of the site, which was added to the historic centre of the town during a 30 year period spanning from the 1970s to the 1990s and has resulted in expansion of the town west and an estate of primarily detached family housing.

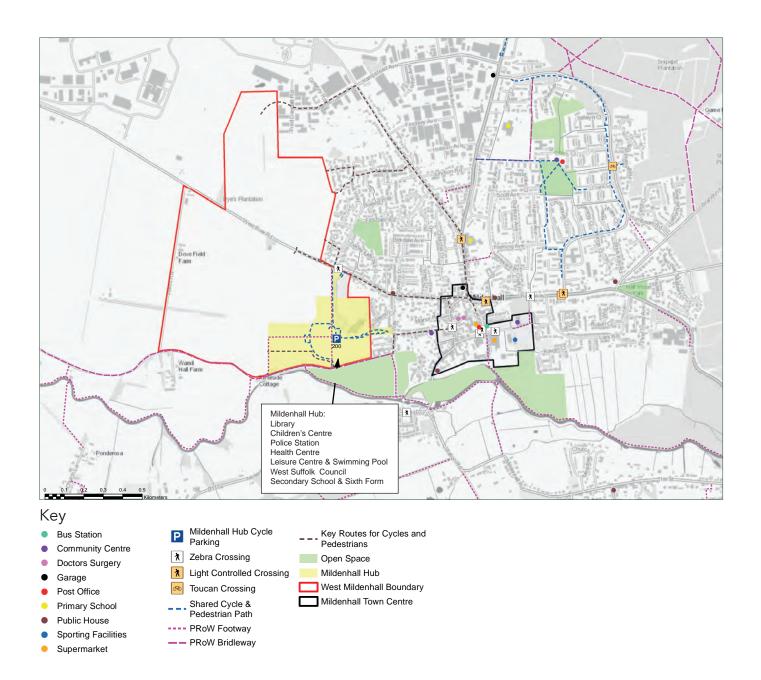
To the north is the towns main industrial estate and RAF Mildenhall (an active military base currently occupied by the United States Air Forces in Europe) both are characterised by large scale industrial buildings and aircraft which are dominant in the landscape.

The River Lark and its water meadows are a key natural characteristic south of the town providing a green and blue corridor used for leisure and recreation and links to nearby settlements. To the west is open arable farmland and beyond is the neighbouring village of West Row.

Further information relating to the key characteristics of the surrounding villages is provided here.



Context Analysis

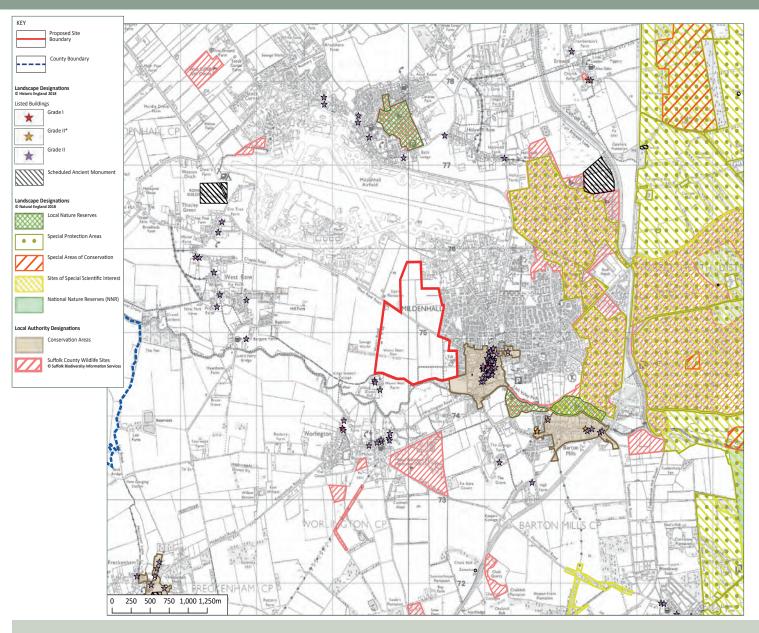


The plan above identifies the existing pedestrian and cycle paths and Public Rights of Way that will provide connection and movement between the Materplan area and the existing services and facilities within the town. The Mildenhall town centre falls within a 1km radius of the site and is highly accessible by pedestrian and cycling routes.

Bus service provision and connections between the Masterplan area and the town are also shown here.

Please read this exhibition material in conjunction with the virtual exhibition at www.westofmildenhall.co.uk

Natural & Built Environment



The plan above identifies nature conservation sites within of note within and around Mildenhall and built heritage in the form of listed building and conservation areas.

Four statutory designated nature conservation sites are located within 2km of the site. This includes The Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA) which is a designated internationally protected habitat area with the aim to protect breeding and resting sites for threatened bird species and is located within 1.3km to the east of the site. The Breckland SPA is vulnerable from recreation pressures that result from new developments and therefore site specific mitigation will be required as part of this masterplan. Further information concerning the natural environment is provided here

Heritage assets within the more immediate environs of the Masterplan area include the Grade II listed buildings at Wamil Hall (a 16th-century house) to the south west of the site, the Mildenhall Conservation Area to the south east and there are some long ranging views across the Conservation Area towards the tower of the distant Church of St Mary (Grade I listed). This masterplan should seek to preserve some of the long ranging views to the church, which is identified as contributing to the conservation area, and protect the Wamil Short Row tree belt to protect the setting of Wamil Hall. Further information concerning the built environment is provided here.

Technical Constraints

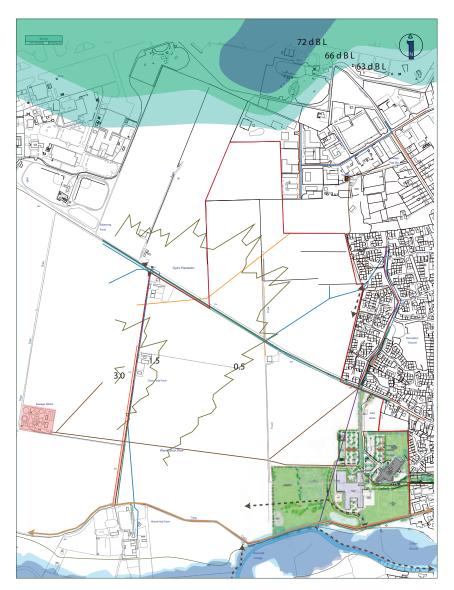
A review of existing technical data has been mapped to understand if there are any constraints that will influence the Masterplan Frameworks.

Utilities

There are a number of utilities that cross the site as shown on the plan below. These will inform the detailed design at the planning application stage.

Odour

The site is within 300m of the Mildenhall Sewage Treatment Works (STW). An odour assessment has been carried out using emissions data and has determined the risk of odour nuisance would be minimal, and odour does not represent a constraint to the Masterplan area. The Masterplan will also be designed with odour in mind and ensure that there are no residential receptors located within 400m of the STW.



KEY

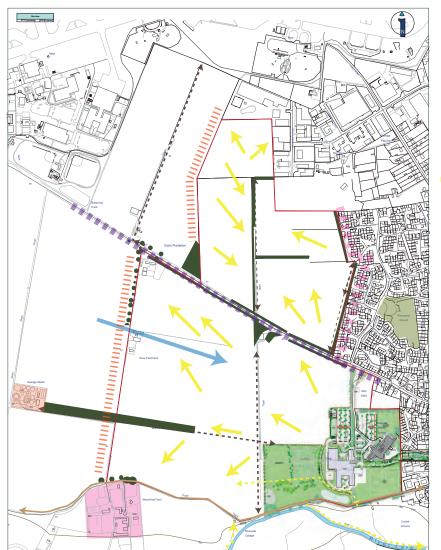


Noise

Based on the military aircraft noise contours, noise surveys and traffic flow predictions it has been possible to assess the worst case noise levels affecting the site. We have completed an initial noise risk assessment in accordance with National Guidance that places the site in the low-medium risk categories for both day and night noise. The site falls entirely outside of the RAF Mildenhall noise contour map.

Noise does not therefore present a constraint to this Masterplan.

Existing Constraints





Topography

The site is gererally flat with shallow slopes north to south and east to west as represented by the yellow arrows on the adjacent plan. Please find here a more detailed contour plan.

Existing Vegetation

There are some existing hedgerows and a few trees on the site which will be retained and enhanced.

Public Rlights of Way

The PROWs that border the site's south and south east boundary will be retained.

Settlement Edge

The design of development on the eastern edge will be sensitive to the existing settlement.

Views

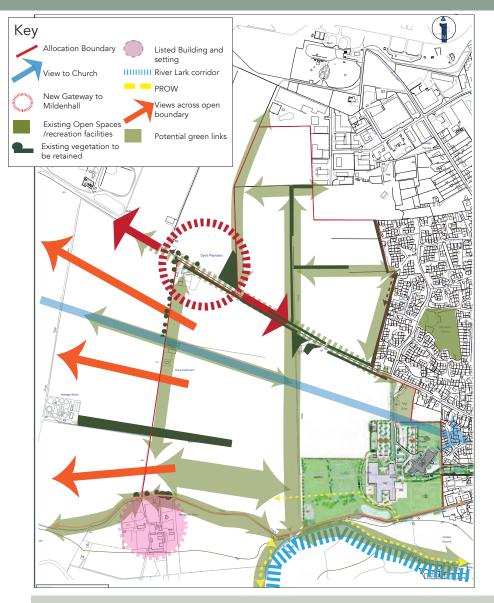
Development could retain long-ranging views of the parish church in the east is retained to avoid any adverse effects. It is also recommended that a landscape buffer remains around Wamil Hall to mitigate against new development.

Flooding

The Environment Agency flood maps for planning show that the site falls within Flood Zone 1, which has a low probability of flooding and therefore flood risk does not represent a constraint to development of this site or the location of more vulnerable land uses, such as residential.

A review of the site specific constraints have not identified any insurmountable issues that would prevent achievement of the policy expectations for this mixed use development of this site.

Landscape Opportunities





View west towards West Row





The River Lark

St Mary'church



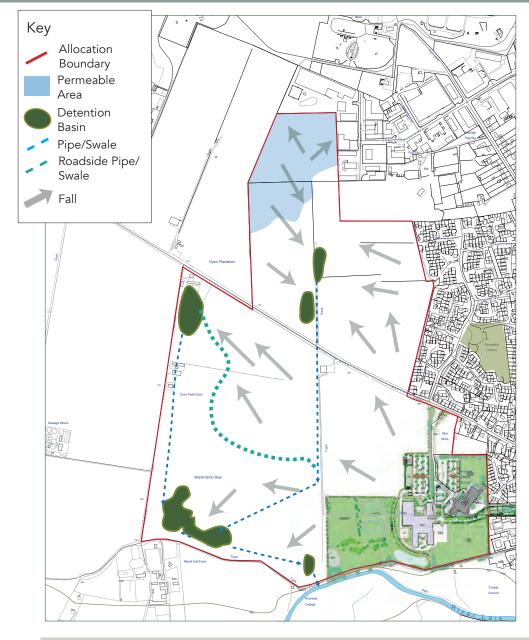
View east towards the church (circled)

Landscape Opportunities

The site lies to the west of Mildenhall and is largely flat offering expansive views across the agricultural land to the west. The tower of St Mary's Church can be seen from the site and surrounding landscape.

The site contains little in the way of vegetation, both within the site and on the western boundary. There is a more well developed network of hedges and tree lines to the north. A small copse lies south of West Row Road in the centre of the site. The intention is to retain as much of the existing vegetation as possible. The opportunity exists to increase significantly the level of tree cover in the area, using blocks of woodland along the western edge to help fragment views of the proposed development.

A pleasant river valley lies to the south around the River Lark. Public Rights of Way within and adjacent to the site afford good connections into the river valley, the town and the wider landscape. Further connections can be formed to connect into the town and the park on Comet Way to the east, the Hub to the south east and the existing allotments.





Example of a part wet detention basin



Example of a dry detention basin



Example of a road side swale



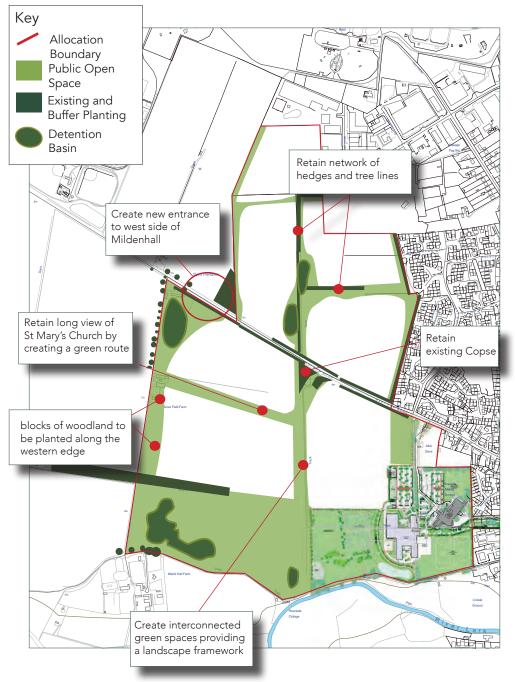
Example of a green route swale

Drainage Strategy (Blue Infrastructure)

This board illustrates a conceptual drainage strategy for the site utilising Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems taking into account the site levels and features within a framework and your feedback will inform the evolution of the Masterplan. The drainage strategy is designed to ensure that surface water flowing from the site is directed into the RiverLark and the rate of flow is managed, taking into account an allowance for future climate change and ensuring wherever possible a betterment on the current situation. This accords with best practice Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

To achieve this, a number of drainage measures are proposed to manage and control water flows across the site and their discharge into River Lark. These measures include on plot attenuation for the commercial land uses in the north of the site, swales (specifically designed drainage ditches) and attenuation basins (dry basins) that hold water within the site at times of heavy rainfall, with a 48HR drain rate (but are otherwise dry and useable) and enable water to be released at a steady rate. The strategy accords with the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) Design Guide and will also include additional capacity for climate change.

Landscape





View south to existing hedgerow



View to copse to be retained



View toward Church



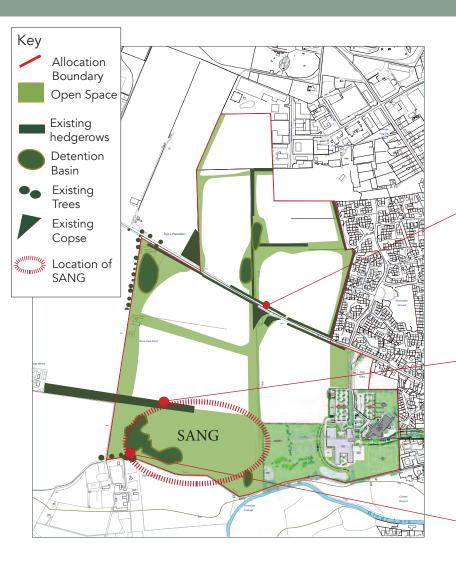
River Lark

Landscape

This plan illustrates a response to the landscape context and characteristics of the site and identifies an approach to integrating landscape and ecological features within a framework and your feedback will inform the evolution of the Masterplan. The landscape framework has been designed with a focus on a living landscape that benefits all. As such, habitats of importance (specifically trees, hedge rows and woodlands) will be retained, protected and enhanced within the scheme to provide improved habitat to protected species in the long term.

A network of interconnected green spaces is proposed around the retained vegetation and Rights of Way. This would link together the existing features of the site and provide a landscape framework for the development, and a new edge and gateway into Mildenhall.

Ecology





Existing hedgerows to be retained



Potential Bat foraging to be protected



Existing trees to be retained

Ecology

This plan illustrates a response to the ecological context and characteristics of the site and identifies an approach to integrating landscape and ecological features within a framework.

The landscape framework has been designed with a focus on a living landscape that benefits all. As such, habitats of importance (specifically trees, hedge rows and woodlands) will be retained, protected and enhanced within the scheme to provide improved habitat to protected species in the long term.

The drainage strategy has been designed to complement existing landscape and ecological features to provide a green / blue corridor through the site, providing a multifunctional open space for residents and wildlife. A lasting management regime will be established to ensure that the habitats are maintained in optimum condition for protected species. The grassland areas will be managed as wildflower meadows, with scrub patches, providing habitats that are in decline elsewhere within the existing agricultural landscape.

The provision of 'Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space' known as a SANG will also form a key strategic aspect of the Masterplan's ecological framework.

The SANG

Suitable Accessible Natural GreenSpace

Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space

The Site Allocations Local Plan Policy SA4 (Focus of growth land west of Mildenhall) requires the provision of a Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space (known as a SANG) of at least 10ha within this Masterplan as part of a number of measures to avoid a damaging increase in visitors to the Breckland SPA.

The SANG will be designed at the planning application stage but for the purposes of the Masterplan the framework plans illustrate that the SANG, will be connected encouraging visitor uses, includes destination play space and promotes dog friendly facilities and access routes will be promoted. A particular requirement is provision of a circular walk of 2.3km to 2.5km around the SANG which can be achieved in a number of locations around the site as shown here.

Further information regarding the requirements of the SANG is provided here.



Gravel paths and rural boundary fence



Dog walking routes

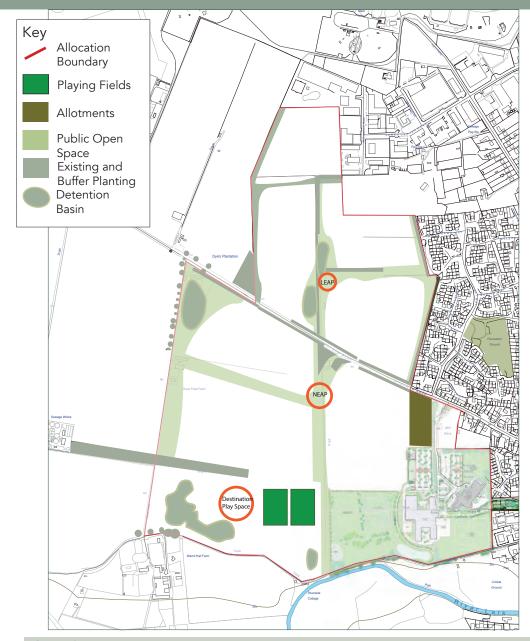


Natural landscape features



Areas of meadow planting

Open Space





Informal Open Space



Formal Open Space



Playing Fields



Play Space



Allotments

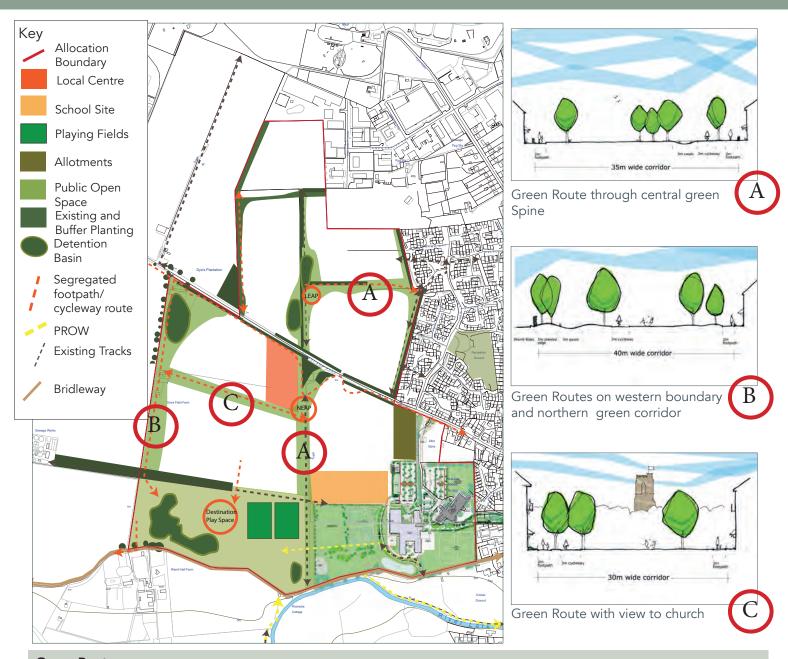
Open Space

Recreation and other forms of open space, such as allotments, parks, sports pitches, will be delivered as supporting infrastructure alongside the provision of new homes. This plan illustrates how recreation and open spaces could be provided and integrated within the wider landscape framework.

The Masterplan provides a well-connected network of multi-functional open spaces and formal provision exceeding 17 hectares of open space in addition to over 10 hectares of SANG provision. Play spaces, known as Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP) and larger Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAP), are proposed to be evenly distributed throughout the Masterplan to give good access to land north and south of West Row Road and form part of larger multi-functional open spaces. A destination play space providing natural play is included within the SANG. Provision for additional allotments is made adjacent to existing provision and sports pitches can be found adjacent to the existing leisure facilities at the Mildenhall Hub to the south east.

It is proposed to make these spaces well connected to the existing settlement through walking and cycling networks boosting recreation provision across the town.

Green Routes



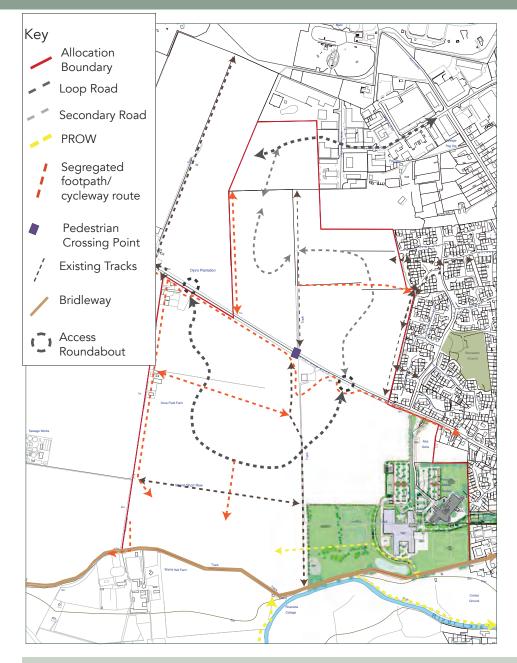
Green Routes

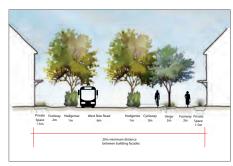
This plan illustrates how green routes could be provided and integrated within the wider landscape framework.

The purpose of the green routes is to provide a series of walking and cycling routes through a network of accessible natural green space soft landscaped corridors which will also visually integrate this development into the existing landscape and break up the built form. The green routes will integrate the communities north and south of West Row Road providing recreation and commuting for pedestrian and cyclists (rather than being solely dependent on the highway network) and provide direct connections around the site and beyond in the east-west to the river recreation corridor to the south east, Mildenhall Hub, the town centre to the east and link to existing public rights of way connecting with surrounding villages.

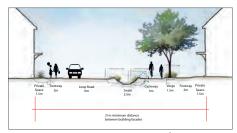
Sections A, B and C show the minimum distances between built form either side of green routes. Further information regarding the use of these spaces is provided here.

Movement Framework

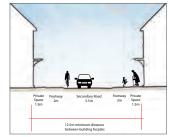




West Row Road



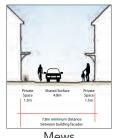
Primary Loop Road



Secondary Road



Tertiary Road



Mews

Movement Framework

This plan illustrates at a strategic high level where the main movement infrastructure (pedestrian, cycle and vehicular) could be designed and integrated within the town.

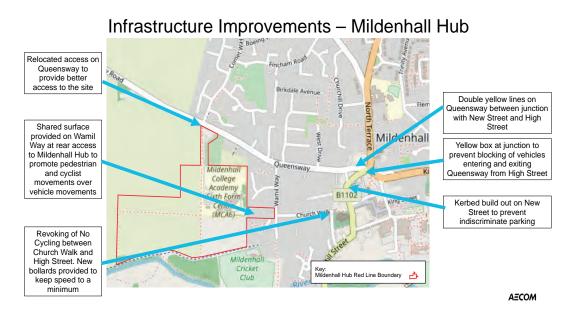
Illustrative sections of the minimum widths of the type of road networks that will serve the development (in addition to the green routes) is shown for information.

More information concerning pedestrian and cycle movement desire lines, and how crossing between green routes and the highway, could be achieved in the Masterplan is provided here.

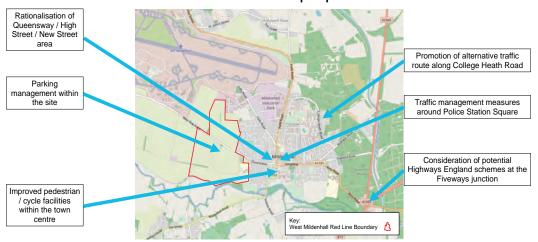
A potential bus services strategy for the site is also provided here.

Please provide us with your feedback concerning this information here Please read this exhibition material in conjunction with the virtual exhibition at www.westofmildenhall.co.uk

Transport Infrastructure



What potential transport infrastructure or mitigation is required as a result of this proposal?



Transport Infrastructure

Whilst this stage of the Masterplan is to provide a visioning framework until detailed design and infrastructure planning is undertaken during the preparation of a planning application consideration has been given to the potential transport infrastructure that is required as a result of this mixed use development. This is illustrative at this stage until detailed design and assessment work is undertaken at later stages of the process.

A=COM

There is already committed transport infrastructure due to commence shortly alongside the completion of the Mildenhall Hub – see image above.

There will be a requirement for further transport infrastructure to accommodate this level of development within the town and potential improvement strategies are shown on this plan.

Land Use Framework





Artist's Impression of apartments



Artist's impression of Local Centre



Artist's impression of Primary School



Artist's impression of a Residential Street

Land Use Framework

This land use plan has been informed by a thorough assessment of constraint mapping and guiding frameworks illustrated through the previous presentation boards. The land use plan above identifies the potential development areas and land use allocation. The greatest land take within the Masterplan will be proposed for residential use in accordance with the primary objective of the allocation for this site and will, incorporate a wide range of housing types.

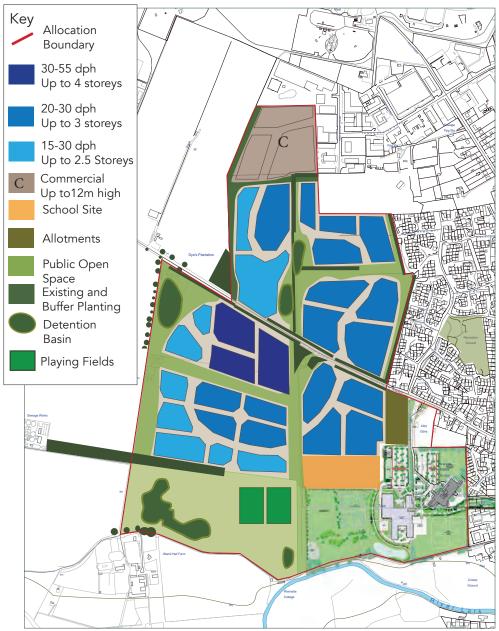
A number of supporting non-residential uses are also proposed within the Masterplan These include:

- •Local Centre, which will provide supporting business and community uses, complementary to the creation of a walkable neighbourhood;
- •Land for a primary school (this will be delivered by SCC in the future);
- •Employment (5 hectares of land); and
- •Adult Care Services (80 beds).

For options on different locations for the Local Centre and School please see the Development Framework Plan here



Density and Heights





Example of 50 dwellings per hectare (dph)



Example of 30 dwellings per hectare (dph)



Example of 15 dwellings per hectare (dph)

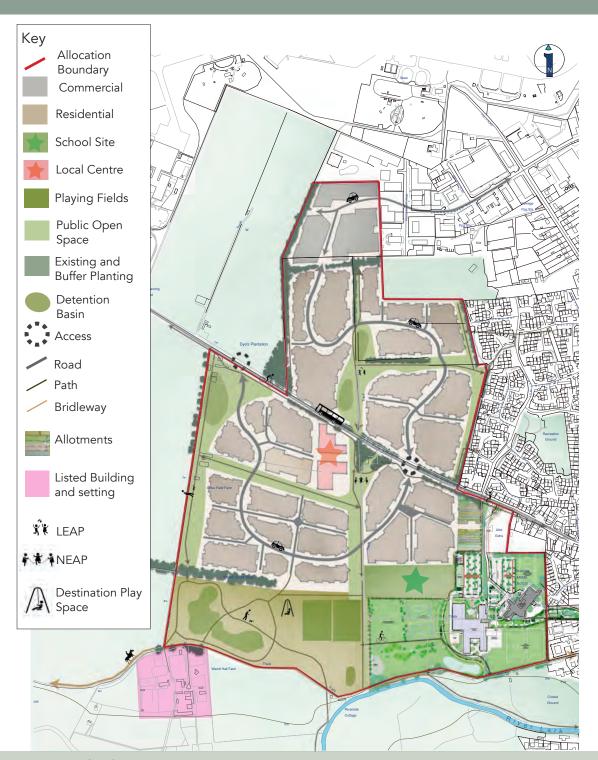
Density Framework

The Density and Heights Framework Plan sets out the different density bands and different storey heights within different parts of the site. This is the starting point of the three dimensional design work that will follow as the Masterplan is developed.

The most dense part of the site is around the local centre and Adult Care Services (ACS), where elderly and supported housing will be provided, may be up to four storey (three storey apartments with under croft parking). The lowest density part of the site is on the western edge at the interface with the countryside. Here buildings will generally be two storey. The remainder of the site will be a medium density, to match the existing western edge of Mildenhall, with buildings generally at 2 storeys but with the potential to have some three storey in key locations or as landmark buildings.

It is important to read the density and storey heights plan in conjunction with the Urban Design Framework Plan and the Character Area Plan located here

Master Framework Plan



Master Framework Plan

The plan above represents the Master Framework Plan which brings together the foregoing framework plans to present a vision and implementation strategy for this site. This will form a key component of the final Masterplan document.

We are seeking your views on this current option for the Masterplan and your feedback will inform the final Masterplan.

Feedback & Next Steps

Thank you for taking the time to review this exhibition of Suffolk County Council's preliminary options for the production of a Masterplan for this site, which is allocated for mixed use development in the recently adopted Local Plan.

We hope that you have found these boards informative and helpful. It is quick and simple to provide comments and all feedback will be considered and inform the development of this Masterplan, ahead of consultation on a 'preferred options' consultation in the summer of 2021.

In light of current restrictions, the consultation period will run for six weeks between the 4th January 2021 and the 15th February 2021, so please ensure that all feedback is received by the 15th February 2021, when the consultation will close.

If you would like to provide feedback, there are several ways to do this:

Online: The easiest way to provide feedback directly is to do so by completing our online questionnaire located here

Email: We will accept feedback by emailing our team on feedback@westofmildenhall.co.uk

Post: All properties in Mildenhall have been sent a brochure and feedback form. Complete and return the form in the freepost envelope provided. All feedback, including personal data, will be shared with the Council in accordance with relevant data protection requirements. Please see the feedback form and our website for our privacy statement and opt out details.

Freephone: Call our freephone hotline on 0800 464 7596 to provide feedback by phone to Phase 2 Planning.

By letter: It is recommended that you use the other forms of communication however we will accept comments submitted by post. If you do submit your comment by post, you need to include your name and address. You can send your comments to: Phase 2 Planning, 270 Avenue West, Skyline 120, Great Notley, Braintree, Essex, CM77 7AA.

It is quick and simple to provide comments and all feedback will be considered and modifications made, where appropriate, ahead of submission of the Masterplan to West Suffolk District Council In light of current restrictions, the consultation period has been extended from six weeks to ten weeks, so please ensure that all feedback is received by 31st January 2021, when the consultation will close.