

6.5 Landscape Strategy

6.5.3 TREE PLANTING STRATEGY

Whilst all the landscape elements including paving materials, furniture and planting are all part of the masterplan layout and form, it is really the planting strategy that defines the character of the neighbourhood.

We are proposing to use a simple palette of trees, shrubs and perennials across the entire masterplan but arrange them in a composition according to their category: whether in the informal/naturalistic, semi-formal/sculptural or formal/civic group.

The tree planting strategy helps to reinforce the spatial hierarchy throughout the site.

Avenue trees are planted at regular spacings to add a formal appearance and offer shade and shelter.

The woodland trees are planted in a more informal arrangement to provide a more natural and varied habitat.

Smaller specimen shrubs in raised planters offer vibrant colour and elegance, working with the colours and forms of the surrounding planting beds.

LINEAR PARK



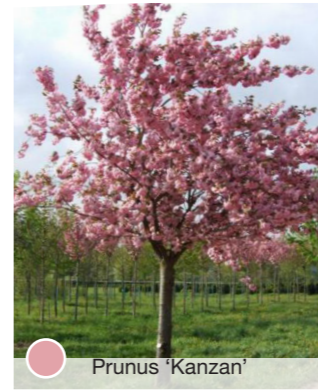
Acer campestre



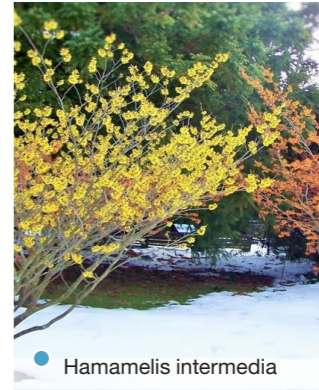
Aesculus x carnea



Sorbus 'Eastern Promise'



Prunus 'Kanzan'



Hamamelis intermedia



Rhus typhina

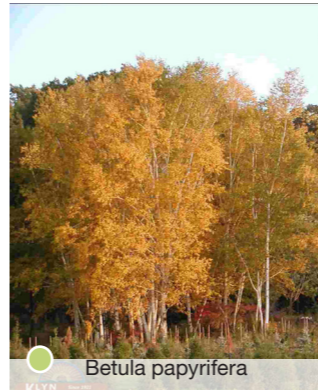
PERIMETER BUFFER



Quercus palustris



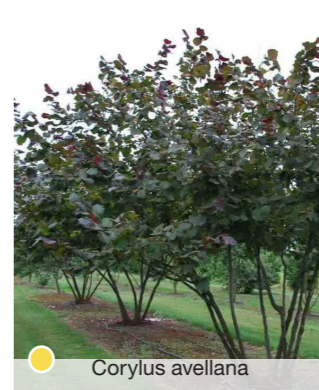
Betula nigra



Betula papyrifera



Betula utilis

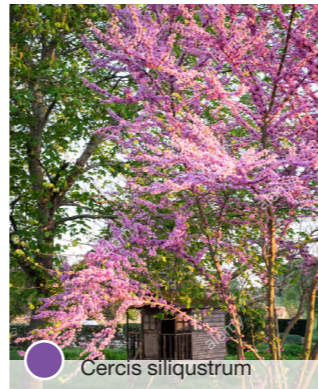


Corylus avellana



Crataegus prunifolia

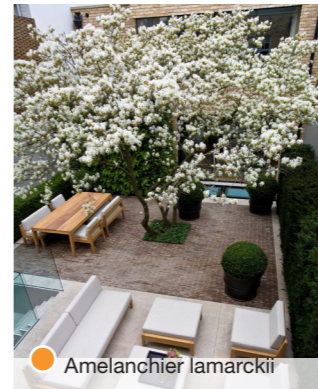
COURTYARDS



Cercis siliqustrum



Koelreuteria paniculata



Amelanchier lamarckii



Cornus kousa



Magnolia stellata

PUBLIC REALM/ SPINE



Pyrus calleryana 'chanticleer'



Liquidambar styraciflua



Liriodendron tulipifera



Quercus Ilex

ORCHARDS



Malus Elstar

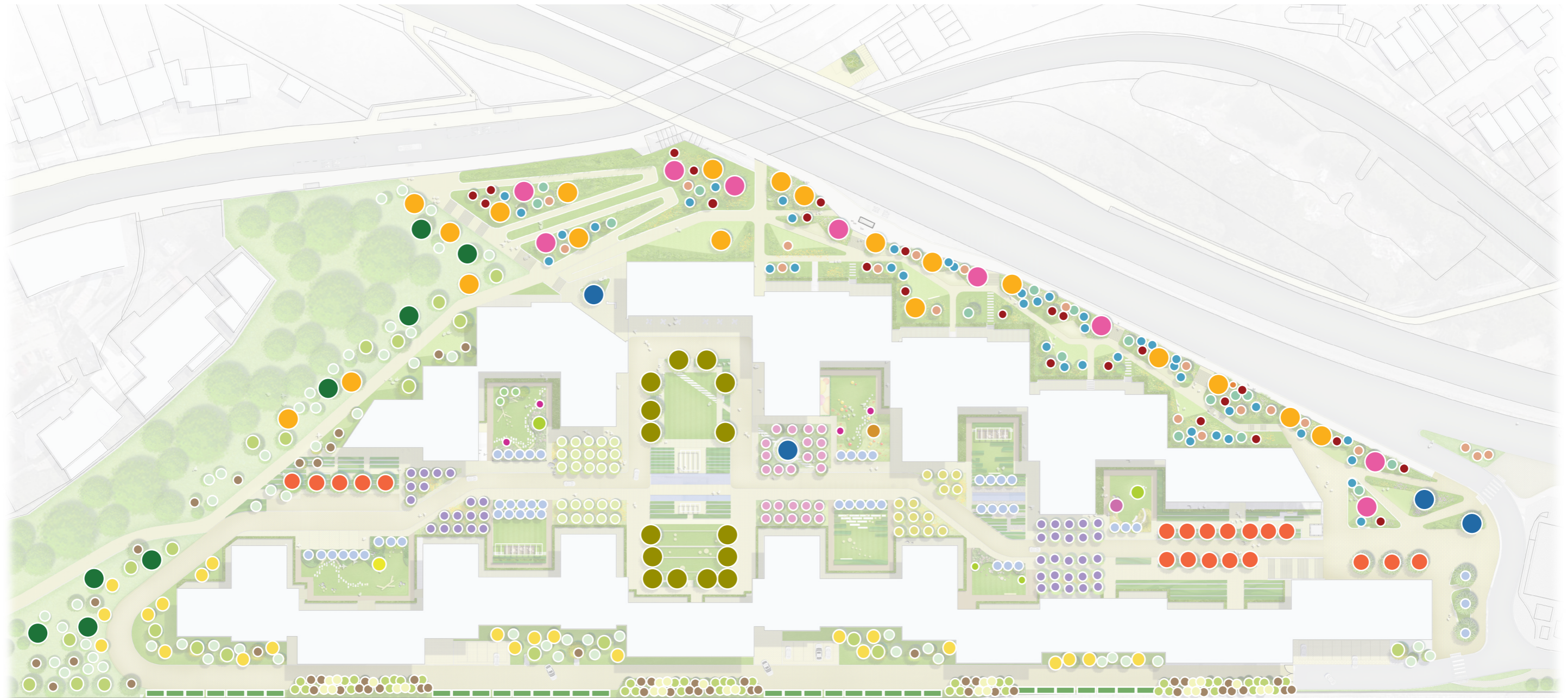


Malus Golden Hornet



Pyrus Beurre Hardy

6.5.3 TREE PLANTING STRATEGY



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|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Acer campestre | Rhus typhina | Corylus avellana | Amelanchier lamarckii | Hamamelis intermedia | Malus Elstar |
| Aesculus x carnea | Quercus palustris | Crataegus prunifolia | Cornus kousa | Betula utilis | Malus Golden Hornet |
| Sorbus 'Eastern Promise' | Betula nigra | Magnolia stellata | Liquidambar styraciflua | Koelreuteria paniculata | Pyrus Beurre Hardy |
| Prunus 'Kanzan' | Betula papyrifera | Cercis siliqustrum | Liriodendron tulipifera | Quercus Ilex | Pyrus calleryana 'chanceleer' |

6.5 Landscape Strategy

6.5.4 SOFT LANDSCAPE MATERIAL PALETTE

The plants selected will include predominantly indigenous species to both reinforce the local character and identity whilst maximizing the ecological and wildlife value of the development for future generations to enjoy.

We have given particular attention to species that flower in the spring and have foliage of a spectacular hue in the autumn, together with evergreen hedges and groundcover for winter cover.

Native species by themselves only offer a certain level of colour and interest throughout the year, so our palette is reinforced with non-native exotic species to provide additional flowering, foliage and texture. This will both enhance the visual amenity and also the ecological value of the landscape with particular support for birds, bats and invertebrates.

We have worked to identify a range of species to maximize the offer to both the human and wildlife community.

The specific plants chosen will respond to their setting and in particular their aspect. The communal gardens through the centre of the development are essentially divided into east and west facing gardens with morning and afternoon sun respectively. The planting will thus reflect these two aspects.

The linear park along Watford Way is a more potentially hostile environment, thus the plants selected will be tolerant of air pollution whilst enhancing the environment for those using the park.



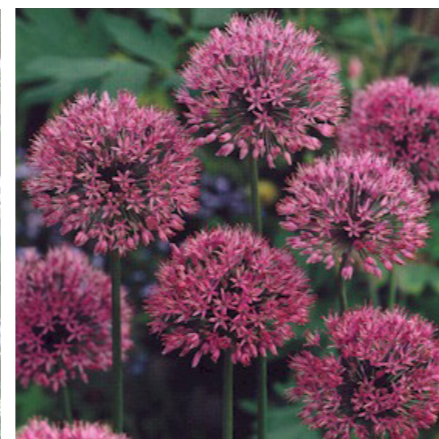
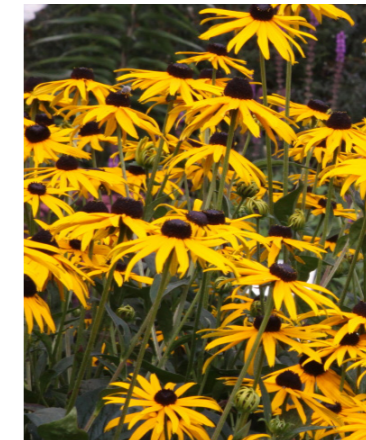
Formal lawn with evergreen structure to the edge



Evergreen structure to the edge



Seasonal interest



Varied texture

6.5.4 SOFT LANDSCAPE MATERIAL PALETTE



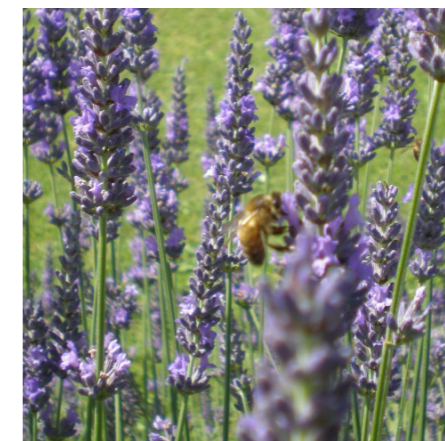
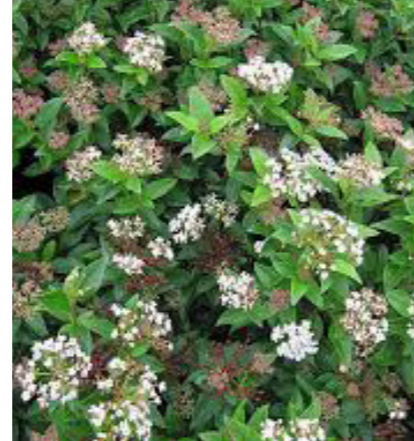
Layered planting



Stepping planters with simple palette



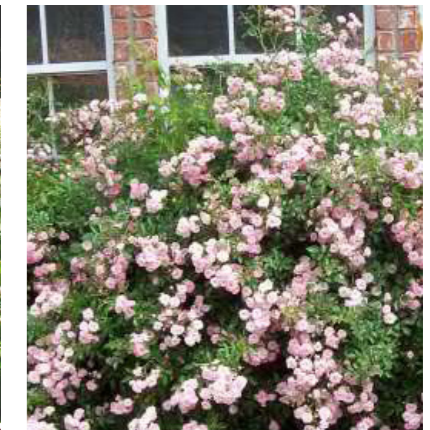
Sense of discovery



Proposed trees with informal character



Open formal lawn with planted edge



6.5 Landscape Strategy

6.5.5 BOUNDARY TREATMENT STRATEGY

The busy roadways to the east and west of the site will demand a robust but sensitive approach to the boundary treatments.

A combination of timber panel acoustic fencing and a woven willow screen fence will help to significantly alleviate noise pollution whilst offering a gentle and natural aesthetic.

Combined with planting and the 'Woodland Edge' this will form an effective boundary solution to these two sides of the site.

The boundary treatments provide a softening aesthetic and year round interest with planting that changes with the seasons. This combination of willow fencing and the woodland edge will help to alleviate the noise and visual impact from the busy roadway.

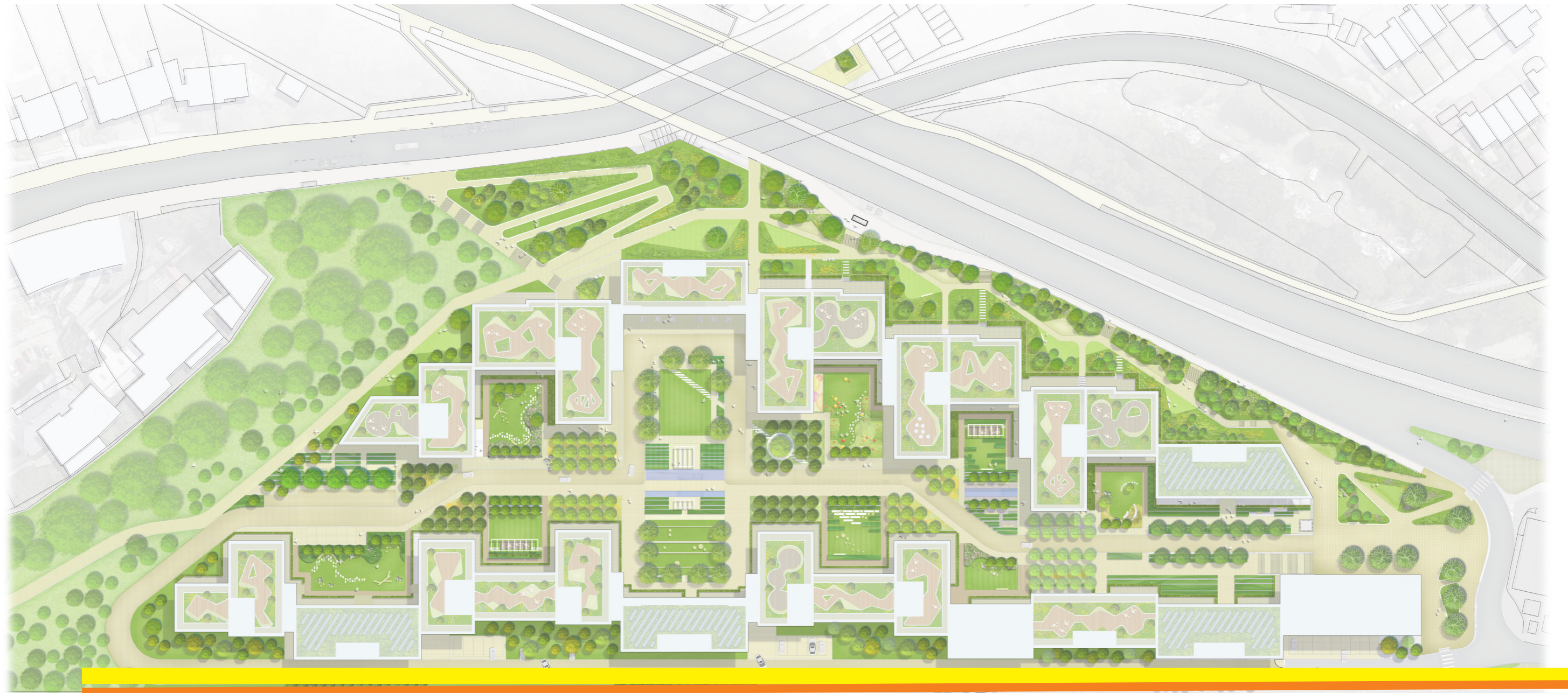


Acoustic timber panel fencing



Woven willow living fencing

6.5.5 BOUNDARY TREATMENT STRATEGY



6.5 Landscape Strategy

6.5.6 MAINTENANCE

Hard landscape materials, sizes and laying patterns have been carefully considered in order to maximise longevity and integrity of the wearing course. This is essential for buildings that expect relatively high footfall due to the nature of the development. The materials have been chosen for their robust nature, while not compromising their visual quality. By exploring the wider landscape, opportunities have arisen for promoting a consistent landscape palette of materials across neighbouring developments.

The landscape contractor will be provided with multiple water supply points. If required, watering of the generous soft landscape will be supplemented by an intelligent automated irrigation system.

As with any investment in landscape comes the adage that, 'it is not what it is today, but what it becomes tomorrow'. A maintenance specification will be produced and incorporated into the planting specification.

A maintenance specification will address issues such as tree crown development and irrigation requirements to ensure the trees in particular are properly established and shaped in accordance with the design aims.



CLIPPING HEDGES TO MAINTAIN A FORMAL SHAPE/APPEARANCE



ROUTINE SOFT LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE



LITTER PICKING ON A REGULAR BASIS



WATERING DURING ESTABLISHMENT

6.5.7 ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Bats

Bats boxes (e.g. Schwegler woodcrete 2FS, 2F, 2FF, FN 1FW bat boxes) can be installed on new buildings and over time on trees (if required). Ideally artificial roosts should be located on or close to existing bat flight-lines, in order to maximise the chances of bats finding and using them. This will be monitored over time.

Birds and Bugs

Bird and bug boxes/units will be located throughout the neighbourhood, on posts, buildings or set within the planting. These will be in accordance with RSPB standards.

Green roofs

We will implement green/brown roofs to the upper exposed levels of the building. For more information, please refer to the architects specification.

Sustainability

Wherever possible materials used on site will have a recycled content. The majority of the block paving specified will have a recycled content of at least 50%.

Not only do the materials specified add to sustainability, but by creating spaces and new residents to be involved with the up-keep of the landscape, we create a sustainable community.



