

## 05.3 Himley Woods

### 5.3.3 Landscape Character

This area forms a part of the linked public realm landscapes of Himley Farm. It takes its character from the existing presence of the two Newt habitats within it. The designation increases the area of habitat appropriate for newts and through linking this area to wider landscape habitats and designations allows the newts to travel and inhabit wider areas.

- The existing newt ponds to be enhanced to create an ecology corridor. Informal pathways, play areas and quieter areas for habitat and wildlife observation meandering through the corridor.
- A formal residential parkland links the newt corridor to the village green with the existing woodland creating a natural buffer and setting to the proposed housing.





## 05.3 Himley Woods



View from a house across parkland towards woodland edge



### 05.3 Himley Woods

Central east-west cycle and footpaths amongst parkland

Residential parkland along newt protection corridor

Dwellings focused around natural protected landscape

Dwellings set amongst woodland edge







Educational and interactive play elements centred around ecology and wildlife



Linear pocket play parks



Fruit trees and shared semi-public orchards



Wildlife corridor with paths running above water line



# 05

## 5.4 Himley Park

- 5.4.1 Developing the Place
- 5.4.2 Neighbourhood Character
- 5.4.3 Landscape Character



## 05.4 Himley Park

### 5.4.1 Developing the Place

At Himley Park, the neighbourhood character seeks to reflect both its location on the Middleton Stoney Road as well as the topographical qualities of the area, particularly in respect of the influence on the SUDS strategy.

A number of options have been explored which are summarised below.



Option 01  
Semi-open GI courts of terraced housing with external routes



Option 02  
Sun-oriented texture with individual car access and minimized cars routes



Option 03  
Maximized sun orientation and contiguity with clustered car parking



Option 04  
East connection of Main road with urban texture fading into GI



Option 05  
Two main GI corridors with housing facing directly both private gardens and GI



Option 06  
Interstitial and continuous GI with tertiary roads loops



## 05.4 Himley Park

### 5.4.2 Neighbourhood Character

**An intricate and intimate neighbourhood, with dwellings focused around a dense network of green corridors and a variety of landscaped open spaces.**

At Himley Park dwellings generally line 'community gardens' running mostly east - west. Either back gardens or front doors open onto to these green corridors with additional footpaths and cycle paths connecting to Himley Green, the schools, local facilities and to Bicester beyond, along a richly landscaped strip dotted with attenuation ponds.

Along main motor vehicle routes and intersections a more formal and urban approach is taken to the layout though still in tune with the intricate nature of the neighbourhood.

Along Middleton Stoney Road, we are proposing a variety of non-residential uses, such as a veterinary clinic, employment spaces and hotel. The facilities here would serve both residents from the wider locality as well as the residents of NW Bicester, serving to integrate the development with Bicester and beyond.

Housing here is provided in the form of small groups of terraces or detached dwellings. Apartment buildings or larger dwellings bring presence along primary routes, or areas of significant landscaping, such as the woodland buffer to the east.

#### KEY PRINCIPLES

- A more informal housing typology and layout, as a transition between the denser nature of development of the boulevard to the east and north and more open nature of the rural edge to the west.
- Groups of dwellings centred around local 'community gardens'
- A mix of uses on Middleton Stoney Road, serving not just residents here but those from a broader catchment, to integrate Himley Village within the wider Bicester / Oxfordshire population.





## 05.4 Himley Park

### 5.4.3 Landscape Character

Walking from the village green towards the hotel or your home a series of large residential and small neighbourhood parks and green movement corridors offer a rich variety to enjoy.

Meandering pathways through open areas of long grass and meadows provide a pleasant stroll to the pub or for pleasure whilst areas of shorter grass invite for sitting down, play and family get togethers.

Clusters of trees give structure to the overall areas and define pockets of open areas, play and shelter to the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Formal path and cycleways link the area together providing off road movement corridors with allotments, orchards, play and social areas placed along the route.

The dwellings feel part of the generous green spaces with informal boundary treatment such as hedges or espalier fruit trees to allow residents to enjoy the overall green setting as much as possible and to encourage alternative modes of transport.

Smaller neighbourhood parks with blurred boundaries between the private and the public allow for informal play and community areas for neighbours to meet, children to play and smaller growing areas.

Neighbourhood park with informal play and small areas for neighbours to meet, sit and relax

Enhanced hedgerow/ movement corridor

Residential park with formal play, allotments, orchards and clear circulation route

