THE LATTENBURYS
HUNTINGDONSHIRE



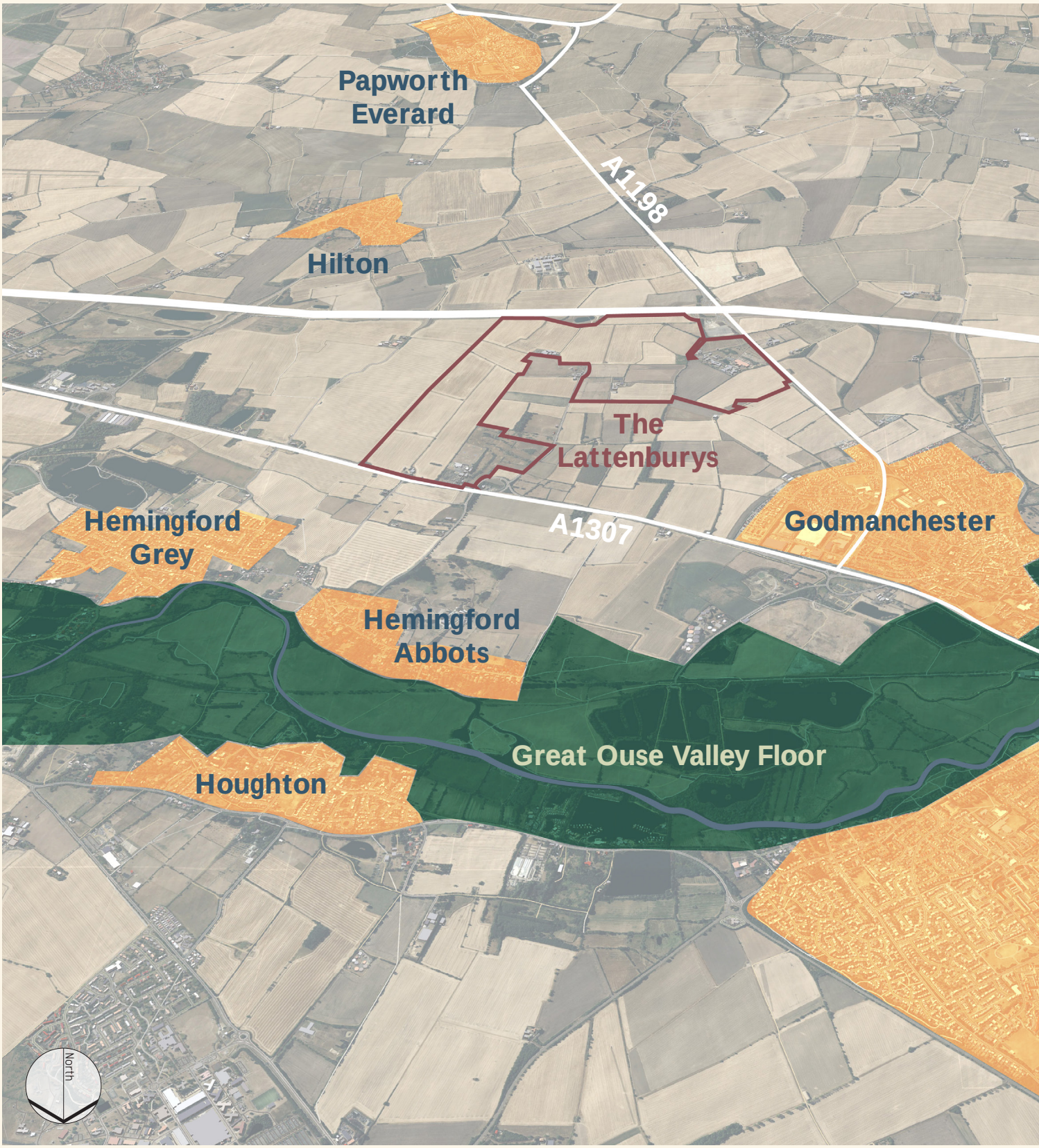
Green Infrastructure Vision

Unlocking strategic benefits through landscape-led growth

Allocation Hemingford Abbots 1: The Lattenburys

LDA
October 2026

moats way
Huntingdonshire



↑ Plan showing site within context of wider area



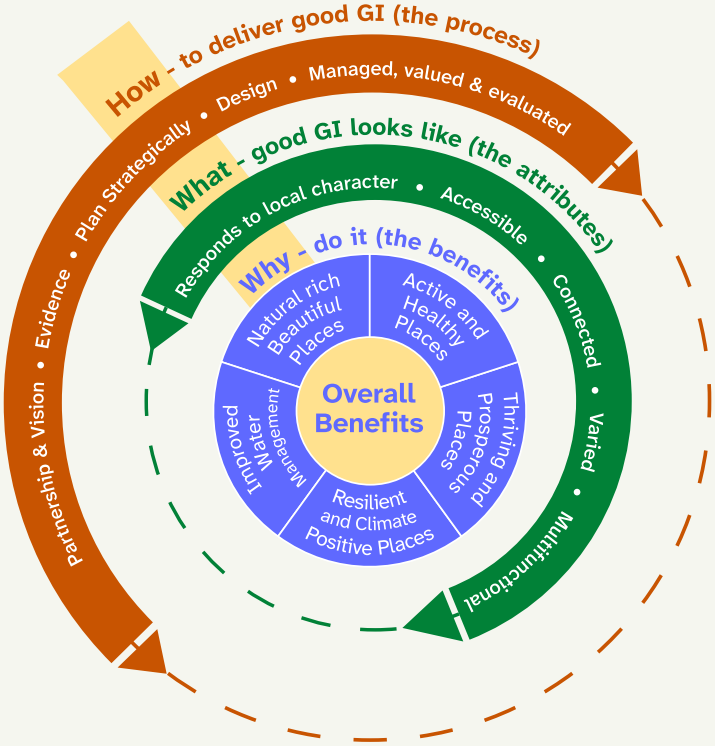
Introduction

Green Infrastructure encompasses the landscapes, habitats, open spaces and movement networks that support healthy communities, thriving wildlife and resilient environments.

The Lattenburys occupies a unique position between the South East Claylands and the wider Great Ouse landscape. Its draft allocation within Huntingdonshire's emerging Local Plan recognises how delivering two new villages can deliver meaningful green infrastructure that makes a difference to the local area.

This document explores how an environmentally-led approach to delivering the Lattenburys can contribute to nature recovery, climate resilience, recreation, active travel and local identity whilst supporting the creation of two new villages.

Delivering Good Green Infrastructure



Green Infrastructure is a key thread that runs through Huntingdonshire District Council's adopted local plan, with even greater emphasis placed on its importance within the emerging local plan.

As part of the Reg 19 Local Plan consultation, Green Infrastructure is mentioned by HDC in four of their fifteen Strategic Objectives central to the future planning of Huntingdonshire. HDC states that 'Protecting, enhancing and promoting our blue and green infrastructure...forms a vital part of our strategy for growth and change'.

Within the draft local plan several Green Infrastructure Priority Areas are identified that have the potential to consolidate and link important habitats and facilitate access improvements. One of these is the Great Ouse Valley that includes a series of significant nature reserves comprising former gravel pits, wetland meadows and wet woodland habitats.

The site's proximity to this district wide resource carries with it the opportunity to deliver against the strategic objectives of the district, as well as catering to the needs of the local community,

To achieve the requisite Green Infrastructure standards, the Reg 19 Local Plan points to **Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework.**

Launched in January 2023, the framework seeks to define what good green infrastructure should "look like".

Covering five Why, five What and five How principles,the framework sets a benchmark for the quantity and quality of Green Infrastructure in England's villages, towns, and countryside to enable the delivery of multiple benefits for people and nature.

These 15 principles have underpinned the approach to the overarching vision at The Lattenbury's. Incorporating sound green infrastructure planning and design from the outset will help ensure the full potential of the draft allocation is realised, contributing to nature recovery

and unlocking the associated benefits for climate change, and health and wellbeing.

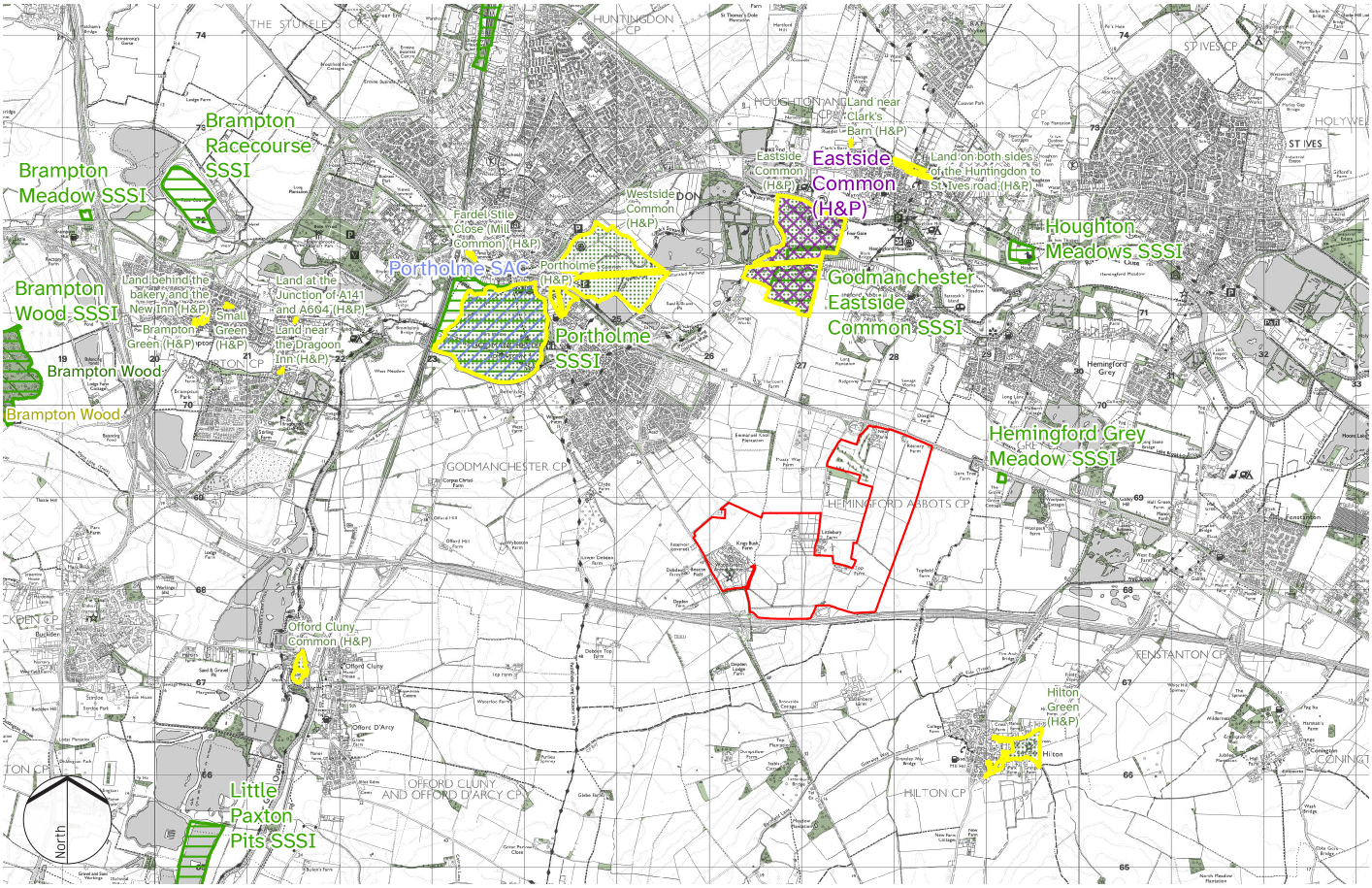
Strategic Objectives

Within the Council's evidence base there are several documents that set the strategic direction for the provision of Green Infrastructure and the protection of important open spaces. These include:

- Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011
- Adopted Huntingdonshire Local Plan 2019
- Emerging Huntingdonshire Draft Local Plan to 2046. (re: Draft Policy LP 12)
- Huntingdonshire Future Places Strategy 2023
- Interim Huntingdonshire Nature Recovery Network Report 2024
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2025
- Huntingdonshire Landscape & Townscape SPD 2022
- Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines 1991
- Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020-2030
- Doubling Nature - A Vision for the Natural Future of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough in 2050

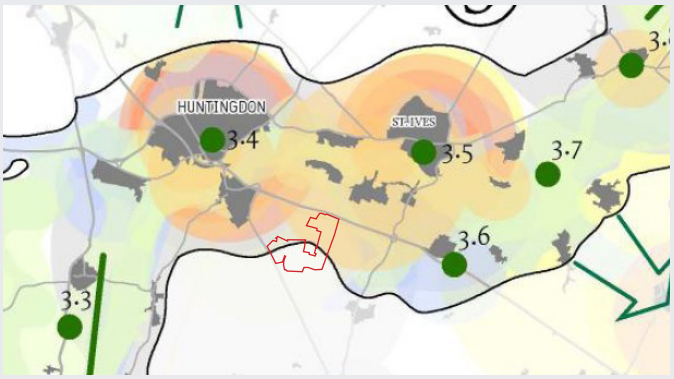
These documents collectively promote:

- Connected landscapes;
- Ecological networks;
- Nature recovery and habitat creation;
- Access to nature and recreation;
- Active travel and healthy lifestyles;
- Water and climate resilience; and
- Multifunctional green infrastructure

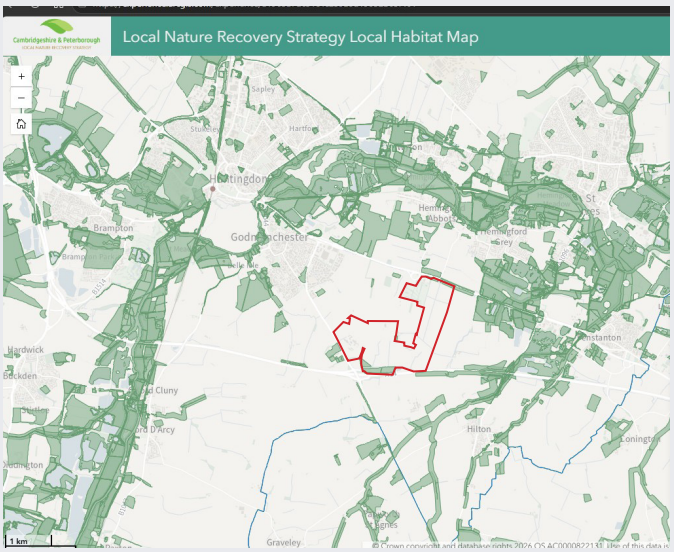


↑ Plan showing ecology context of Site

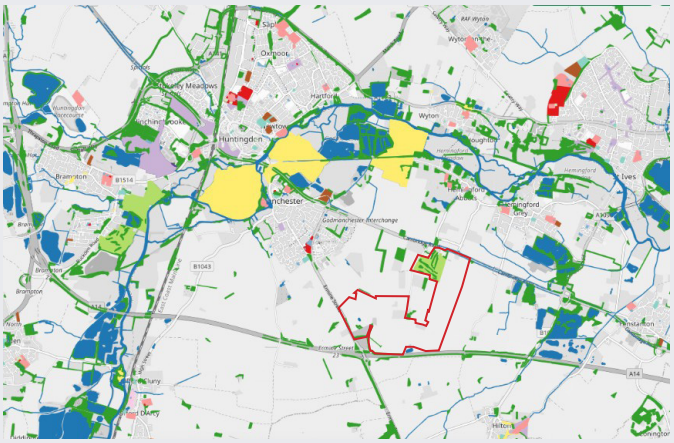
Nature: What we know



Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy - Page 81



LNRS Interactive map A gap in GI between Great Ouse Valley and new A14



Natural England Green and Blue infrastructure Frame work interactive map.

Great Ouse Valley: An asset on our doorstep

The Lattenburys sit immediately south of the Great Ouse Valley Priority Area (HDC emerging Local Plan & Huntingdonshire Nature Recovery Network Report) and partially within Cambridgeshire's Green Infrastruture Strategic Area 3: Great Ouse. The Great Ouse forms a key landscape corridor across Cambridgeshire and contains a variety of habitats that are of particular importance to biodiversity, as can be seen from the LNRS extract where there is an intensity of opportunity areas that follow the path of the Great Ouse (centre left image).

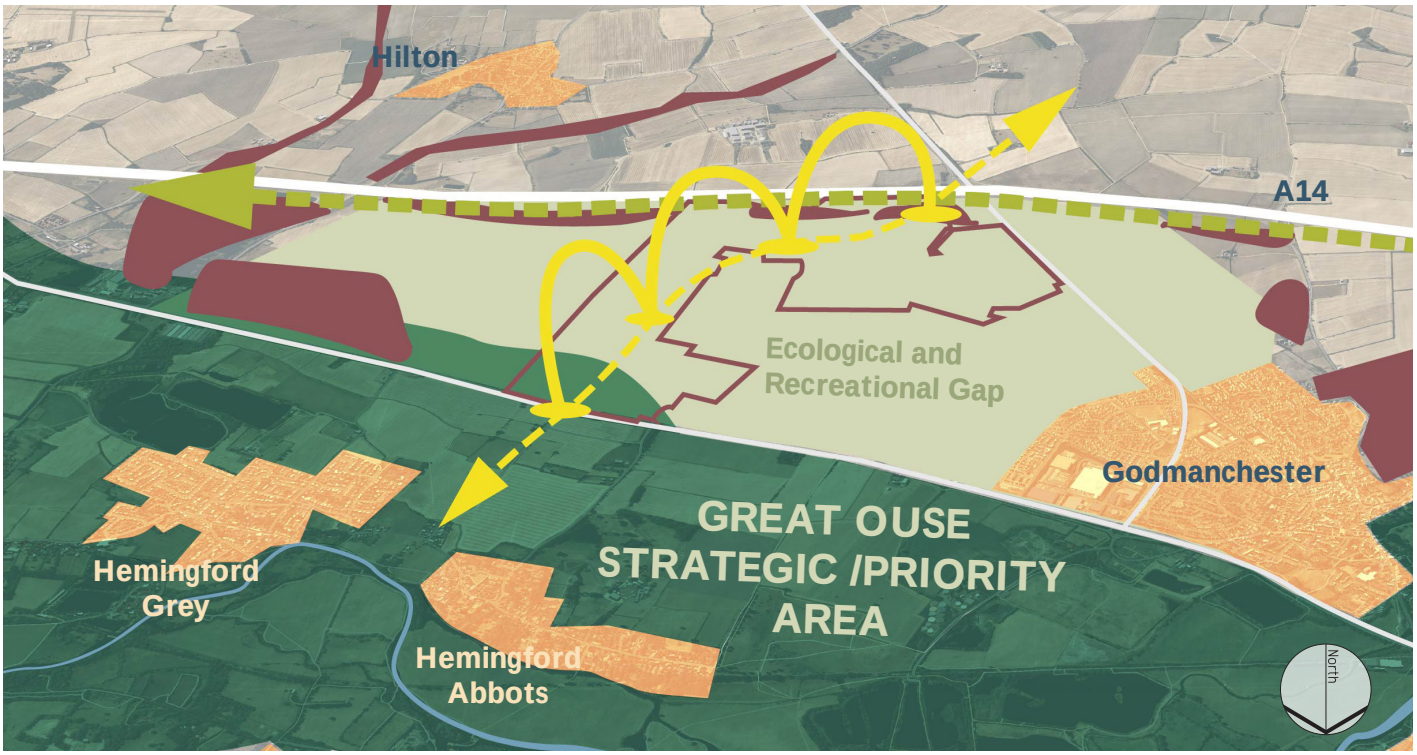
The valley provides many opportunities for leisure and recreation given its areas of common land, open spaces, navigable waterways and many routes for pedestrians, cyclists and horseriders, as illustrated on Natural England's Green and Blue Infrastructure Framework Interactive Map (bottom left image).

The Great Ouse has a chain of towns and villages that follow the valley, and this brings the need for growth, that creates demands on the area's green infrastructure.

From the images to the left, it is clear that there is a sharp contrast from land along the Great Ouse which provides a rich, diverse mix of ecology and recreation to a conspicuous void south and east of the valley.

The Lattenburys is extremely well placed to plug the gap in green and blue infrastructure, not only to potentially safeguard more sensitive areas of the Great Ouse from recreational pressure, but also assisting the Priority Area and Strategic Area with meeting targets to reverse the decline in biodiversity, mitigate and adapt to climate change, delivering sustainable growth and supporting health and wellbeing.

Why the Lattenburys is a strategic opportunity for nature



A Landscape of Creation

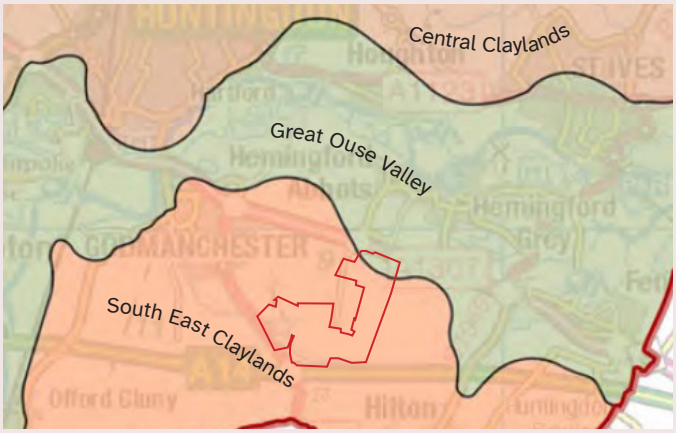
- LNRS opportunity area
- A14 opportunity ecological corridor
- Stepping stones of habitat connecting assets north to south corridor

The site is generally comprised of large scale arable fields with a mix of hedgerow and ditch field boundaries that overall do not deliver high-value habitats. The site is sandwiched between the high value Great Ouse valley to the north and a potential ecology corridor following the A14, with a number of local nature recovery opportunity areas identified, to the south.

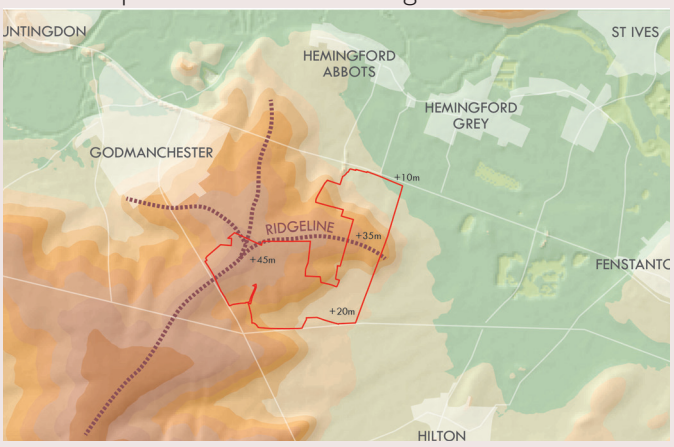
The Lattenburys can deliver a green and blue infrastructure that boosts biodiversity and recreation in an area that is poorly performing. It can also create a physical link between the Great Ouse and the A14 corridor for wildlife and people through delivering stepping stones of habitats that connect landscapes beyond the site.

The opportunity is to create woodland, meadow and wetland habitats that act as stepping stones between existing assets and contribute to larger scale nature recovery objectives.

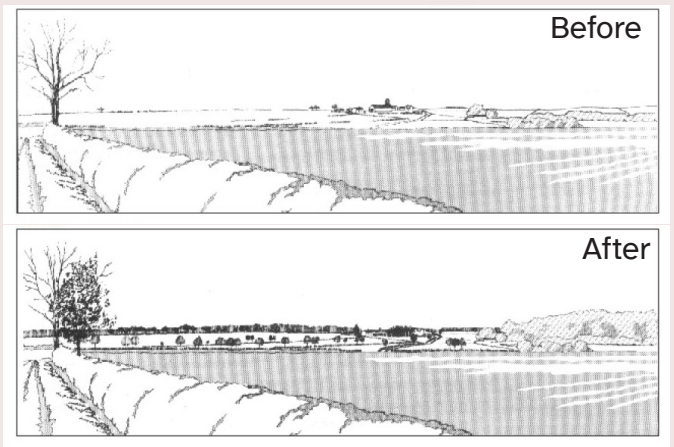
Landscape: What we know



Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Supplementary Planning Document 2022 - Chapter 3 - Landscape Character Areas Page 4



Topography with associated ridgeline



Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines - Page 47 - Area 3 Western Claylands opportunity to enhance key characteristics

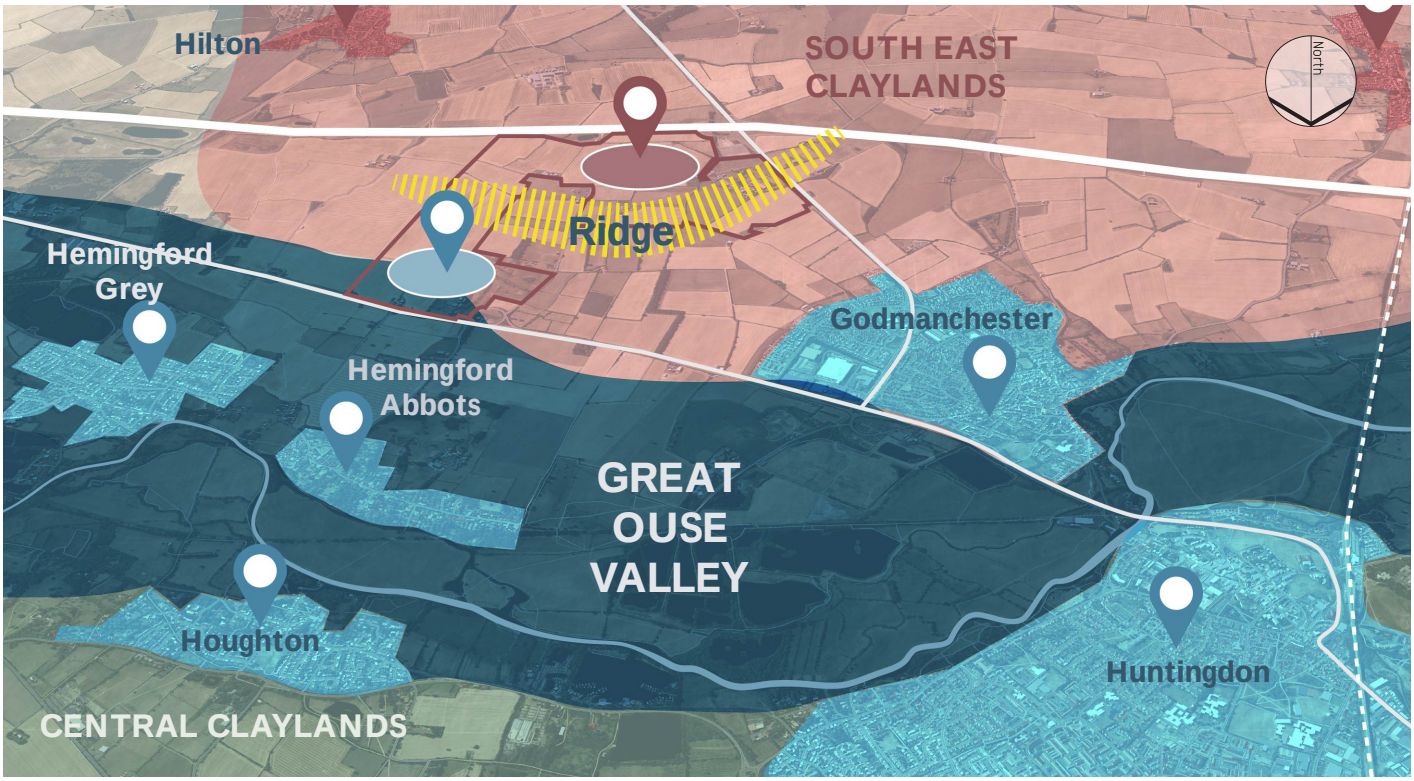
A place of transitioning character

Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape (HLT) SPD (2022) identifies two landscape character areas that cross the site as illustrated in plan to top left. Primarily the site is located within the South East Claylands, with the north-east of the site located within the Great Ouse Valley. The characteristics of South East Clayland are broadly: a gently undulating plateau; tall hedgerows and frequent hedgerow trees; increased woodland cover in the south; and sparsely settled. Great Ouse Valley key characteristics of relevance are broadly: mosaic of land uses; towns and large villages with strong relationship to river; and wetlands, flood meadows and unimproved grassland of high ecological value.

This transitioning character can also be identified in the topography of the land within and surrounding the site where the lower lying ground associated with the Great Ouse is found to the north and higher, gently undulating land is found to the south-west associated with the clayland plateau. A localised ridge associated with the plateau crosses through the site in an east-west direction. This provides a physical feature that helps to define the transition between the Great Ouse Valley and South East Claylands.

Ridgelines, like the one that crosses through the site, are referred to in Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines (CLG) (Cambridgeshire County Council, 1991) related to Area 3 Western Claylands (that includes the site) and HLT South East Claylands, where woodlands and tree belts upon hills/ridgelines help to define topography and deliver wooded skylines that are a key characteristic of the area. It is noted in both documents that within the area associated with the site, woodland cover is limited and that this wooded characteristic should be strengthened through new woodland and tree belt planting in order to create wooded skylines. The 'before and after' images (bottom left) from CLG for Area 3 exemplify the desired approach, and could quite easily be interpreted as a view towards the site.

Why The Lattenburys can enhance landscape character



Character inspired proposals

New South East Claylands village

New Great Ouse Valley village

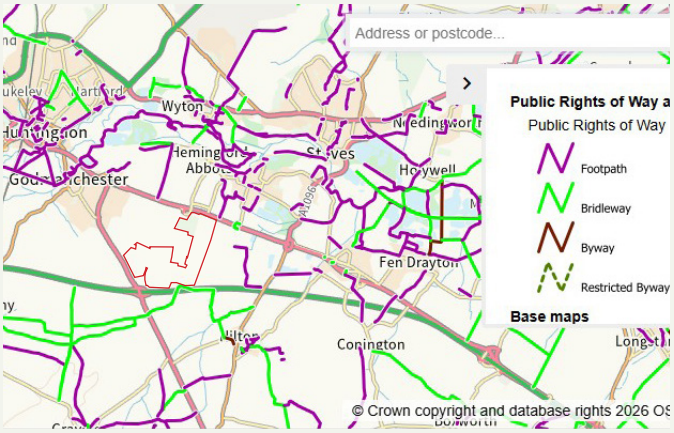
Given that the site is located across two landscape character areas, the opportunity is to create a village in each area to the north and south that are inspired by the characteristics of each.

The village within the north of the site, largely located within the Great Ouse Valley should be designed with meadows, wetlands and hedgerows as key defining landscape features. The village in the south of the site within South East Claylands should use woodlands, tree belts and tall hedgerows as features to help create a more intimate and leafy place.

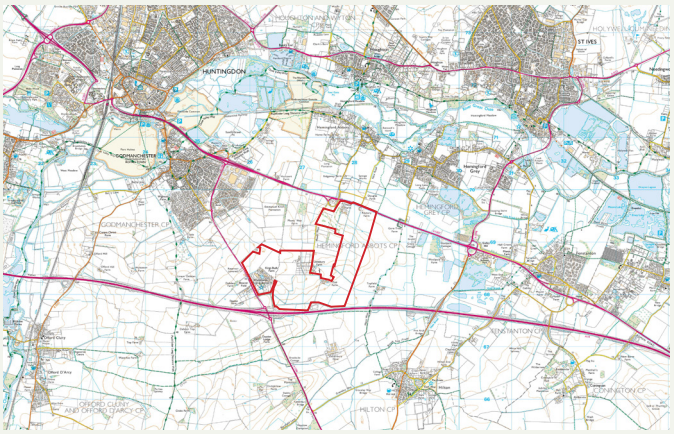
The ridge that runs across the site will provide a natural separation between the two villages, but also delivers the opportunity to plant trees and woodland that would restore the wooded skyline characteristic of the South East Claylands.

By using landscape character as inspiration for creating distinct places, the proposals will create a mix of habitats that are not only appropriate for the area, but will also assist with mitigating impacts on landscape and visual receptors in the wider area.

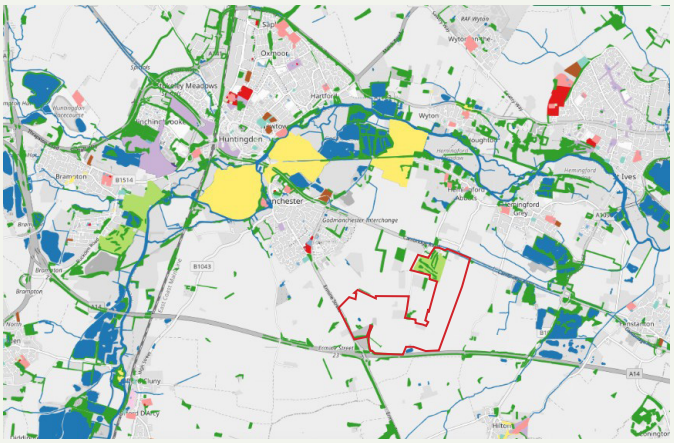
Connections: What we know



Cambridgeshire Public Rights of Way



Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map



Natural England Green and Blue infrastructure Frame work interactive map.

A gap in routes and open spaces

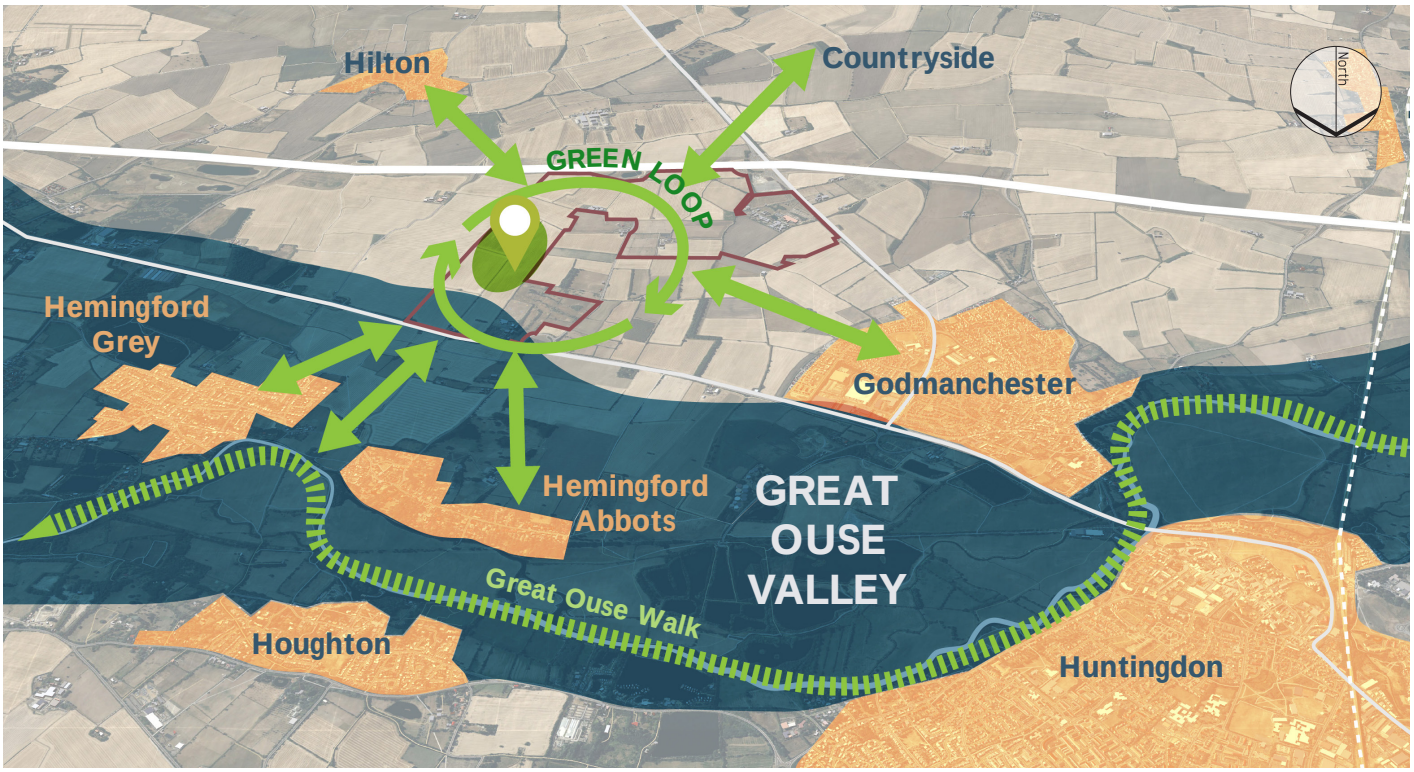
Within the Great Ouse valley, there are a large variety of recreational routes through public rights of way and long distance walks, such as Ouse Valley Way and Pathfinder Long Distance Walk that criss-cross the area. South of the A14, there are also a wide variety of public rights of way that connect villages and farmsteads within the wider landscape.

There is a notable gap in recreational connections between the A1307 and the A14 west of Godmanchester. Given that the A1307 and A14 are significant barriers to movement north-south, the lack of rights of way through this area means that interconnections between the Great Ouse and its associated settlements (Huntingdon, St Ives, the Hemingfords etc) are limited to the wider countryside south of the A14, including the village of Hilton.

In terms of accessible open spaces, once again, the Great Ouse Valley is well supplied with Godmanchester Eastside Common, Westside Common and Port Holme Common, as well as Hinchingbrooke Country Park. There are also nature reserves at Fen Drayton Lakes and Houghton Meadows. Altogether these create a significant and varied recreational resource for the area.

It is notable that there is a significant gap in accessible green infrastructure beyond the Great Ouse valley. A former golf course is located in the north-west of the site, adjacent to the A1307, which means that there is currently no accessible green space within, or immediately adjacent, to the site.

Why The Lattenburys is an opportunity for recreation



Movement Through Landscape

The Lattenburys is of a scale that can deliver new recreational connections that link to existing routes improving access to key destinations (such as Great Ouse valley, local towns etc.) and the wider countryside. The Lattenburys can provide the missing piece of the jigsaw for connectivity in the area.

Proposed Community Park

Connection opportunities to key destinations

In order to encourage active travel, a 'green loop' can be delivered that provides a circular recreational loop for pedestrians, cyclists and potentially horse riders between the two new villages. Connections towards existing links to key local destinations would be accessed off this green loop.

In addition to extending connections, The Lattenburys can also deliver a range of new publicly accessible green spaces alongside the proposed development, including parks, allotments, semi-natural spaces and formal sports provision. This would ensure that a wide range of activities for people are created to enable healthy and active lifestyles. In particular, a community park located on the ridge of the site, between the two villages, will provide significant open space, whilst also enhancing landscape character through woodland creation.

Green Infrastructure Vision

Given the opportunities uncovered in the preceding pages, The Lattenburys can deliver a landscape-led development that contributes to nature recovery, strengthens green infrastructure networks, supports healthy and active lifestyles and reinforce the distinctive character of the area. The following vision objectives describe the outcomes the landscape framework is intended to achieve.

Vision Objectives



Nature Recovery

Creating a variety of habitats such as woodland, meadow and wetland that strengthen ecological connectivity to existing assets and contribute to nature recovery and biodiversity improvements across the wider landscape.



Enhancing Character

Creating distinctive places that are inspired by the key characteristics of the South East Claylands and Great Ouse Valley of which The Lattenburys straddle.



A Wooded Ridge & Park

Establishing tree belts and woodlands along the ridgeline and within a hilltop community park in order to restore a wooded skyline to the wider landscape that increases tree canopy cover, in addition to street trees and trees in open spaces.



Connected for Recreation

Enabling valued recreational connections with neighbouring towns, villages and public rights of way through a coherent green infrastructure network within the Lattenburys that encourages active travel and healthy lifestyles.



Green Loop

Using landscape as the framework for walking, cycling and recreation, connecting people with services in The Lattenburys villages, open spaces and the wider countryside, making active travel easy and attractive.



Water in the Landscape

Using blue-green infrastructure to support flood resilience, biodiversity, landscape character and environmental quality whilst contributing positively to the wider Great Ouse catchment.



Spaces for All

A variety of open spaces in The Lattenburys for all users from formal to informal recreation, natural spaces to play spaces that encourage inclusiveness, social interactions and a healthy lifestyle.

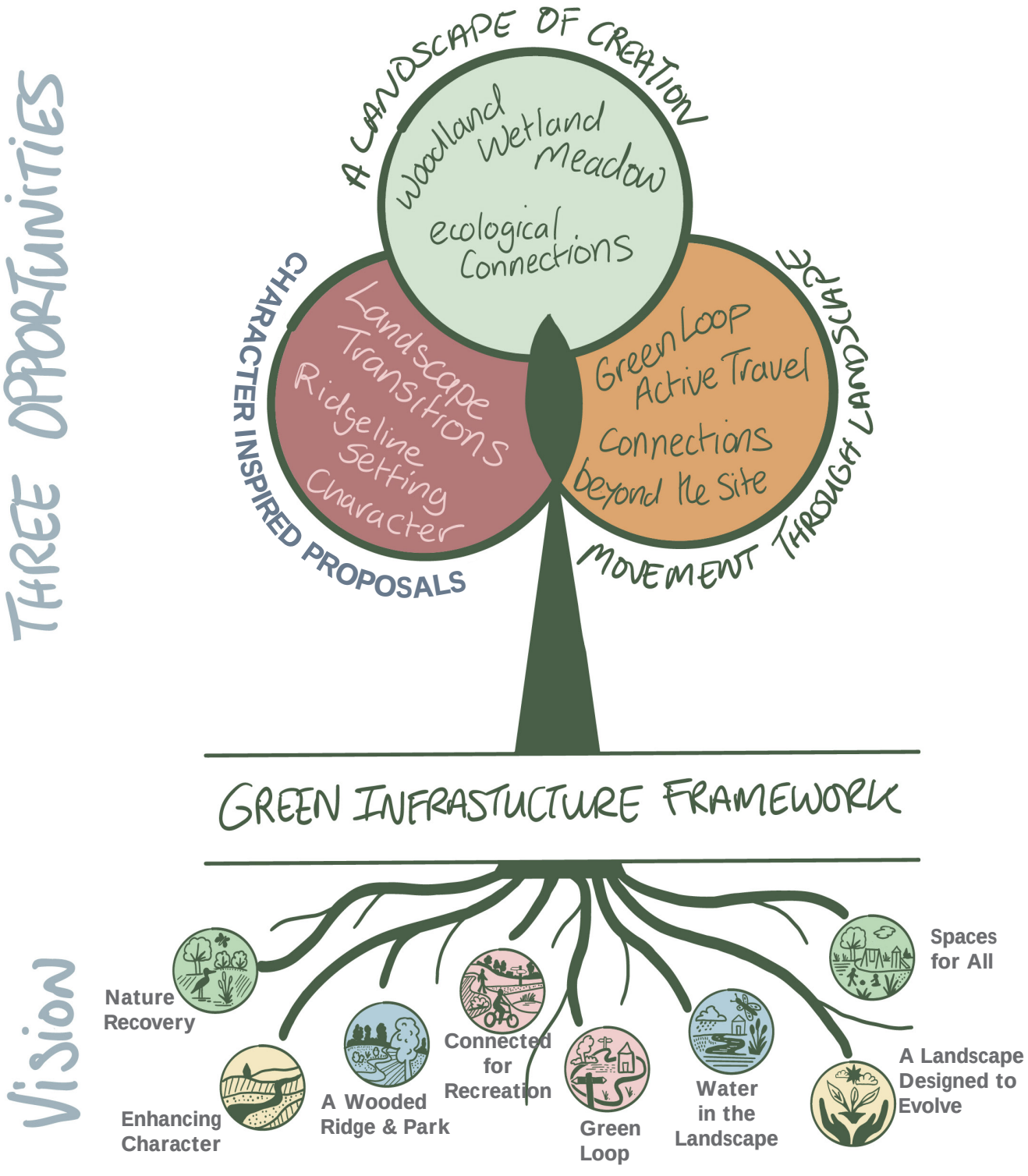


A Landscape Designed to Evolve

Embedding stewardship and long-term management to ensure environmental and community benefits grow over time, as well as a place that is climate resilient.

BRINGING THE VISION TOGETHER

Green Infrastructure is not mitigation. It is the organising framework that brings together nature, movement, water, character and community.



Emerging Green Infrastructure Framework

The Green Infrastructure framework begins to translate the strategic narrative into a series of interconnected landscape components



A Wooded Ridge

- c. 34ha of new tree belt and woodland planting (13% of total 252 ha site) upon higher ground in the centre of the site
- c. 27ha of the above is associated with one large area of new woodland
- Woods and tree belts are located adjacent or between existing field boundary features, enhancing and strengthening wildlife corridors east-west across the site.
- Restoring wooded skyline characteristics of the South East Claylands in a recognised area lacking in woodland features
- Strong visual and place-making role to ensure tree canopy creates the visible skyline to local views, as opposed to proposed built form.



Villages Rooted in Place

- A variety of habitat delivered alongside villages including meadow, wetlands, woodland and hedgerows that will significantly increase biodiversity potential from current agricultural use and deliver nature recovery at a landscape scale.
- Villages deliver habitats and landscape features associated with their respective landscape character areas either within South East Claylands or Great Ouse Valley that deliver identity and local distinctiveness
- Meadows, wetlands and hedgerows primarily delivered in the north village.
- Tree belts and woodlands primarily delivered in the south village
- A diversity of distinctive accessible green spaces integrated throughout villages.



The Green Loop & Connections Beyond the Site

- c. 7km of new publicly accessible recreation routes delivered across the site associated with Green Loop and connections to local destinations
- Opportunity for ecological connectivity alongside movement routes



Green Space Network



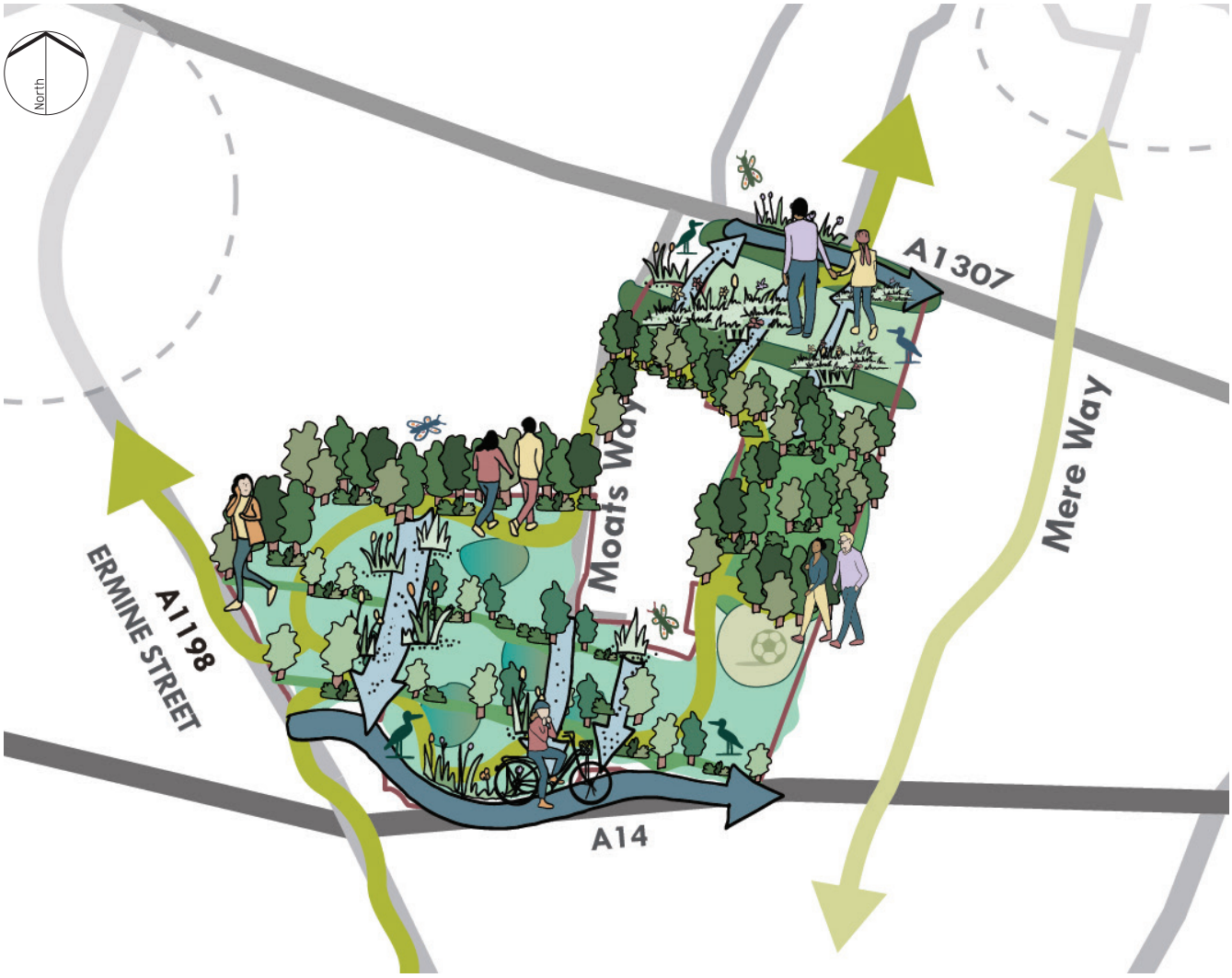
Blue-Green Corridors

Functional Open Spaces

- The Lattenburys will deliver c. 100ha of green space, including areas for formal use (i.e. parks, sports, provision and allotments) assisting deficiency in accessible green infrastructure in the area.
- North village will deliver east-west aligned 'meadows' intersected by 'pollinator swales'
- South village will deliver a variety of 'doorstep greens' that align with intersections between 'wooded rides' and 'leafy channels'.
- A new park created: Lattenbury Woods - a community park focussed around a woodland with glades that includes sports provision.
- Green space equates to approximately c. 40% of the total site area.
- Sustainable drainage will be used as part of the green space infrastructure utilising existing ditches where possible and creating a series of attenuation basins through out the villages that drain to the lowest points of the site to maximise flood resilience and manage water sustainably.
- Sustainable drainage solutions to reflect local landscape character, with more open grassland swales and wetland to the north and leafy, wooded vegetation associated to the south.

The Lattenburys Green Infrastructure Vision

A place that reinforces and strengthens biodiversity, local character, accessible landscapes, connectivity, sustainability and climate resilience. Ensuring that the environment and people can thrive together.



Overall Green Infrastructure Strategy for The Lattenburys that has fed into the Illustrative Masterplan on the opposite page

The Lattenburys Illustrative Masterplan





Settling into Landscape



Integrate Nature and Water



The Green Loop



THE LATTENBURYS

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

LDĀDESIGN