

Response to feedback received at the first public consultation event

Key theme	Response
Taking into account drainage and flash flooding	<p>Water is a key theme in the landscape proposals of the SLMP and a sound drainage and surface water management strategy is integral to the layout and function of Gilston Area. The SLMP landscape will accommodate the majority of the strategic surface drainage features for the Villages and this open space plays a vital role in maintaining the water quality and flood mitigation commitments of the development.</p> <p>The surface drainage infrastructure provides an opportunity to enhance the proposed high quality public realm and open green spaces by integrating a network of SuDS features such as rain gardens, swales, wet ponds and dry basins, that outfall to the tributary valleys. These features could be developed to have multi-functional benefits including enhancing amenity and biodiversity value.</p>
Inclusion of ecological buffer zones	<p>The design code includes a design requirement for the creation and protection of habitats.</p> <p>This includes the creation of buffer zones around existing woodland, waterways, hedgerows and veteran trees.</p> <p>The Regulatory Plans identify Nature Priority Zones within the SLMP landscape. The primary aim of these zones is to create high quality ecological connectivity by creating a rich mosaic of habitats. The delivery of these will be coordinated with the project ecologist at the Reserved Matters stage.</p>
Walking and cycling routes	<p>The SLMP will contribute to achieving the target of 60% of trips being by sustainable modes across the Gilston Area development. The active travel network is instrumental in delivering this. Encouraging people to walk and cycle across the development will reduce air pollution, lower carbon emissions and will provide health and well-being benefits.</p> <p>To ensure the active travel network is accessible to all, a range of route typologies are to be delivered, catering to different abilities and levels of experience.</p>
Retention of farming areas	<p>Productive landscapes are proposed as part of Countryside Parks at Eastwick Wood and Hunsdon Airfield.</p> <p>Each home within the Village Development must be within circa 1000m of a Community Food Production site (as defined within the Development Specification – Allotments/Community Orchard); the sites must be well connected and easy to reach by active travel modes.</p>

Woodland management	Places for People and Taylor Wimpey will create a new stewardship and legacy organisation prior to first occupation to own and manage all the public facilities which will ensure they are fully maintained in perpetuity. This organisation will own and manage the community facilities such as country parks, play spaces, allotments, community gardens, green and public open spaces, sports pitches and community facilities including the woodland.
Encourage wildlife	<p>Strategies for protecting existing and enhanced habitats from the pressures of increased use include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of types of activities acceptable in each type of landscape based on their biodiversity requirements in balance with other uses • Definition of Nature Priority Zones within the landscape as defined within the Regulatory Plans • Sensitive responses to lighting requirements in areas of ecological importance • Provision for appropriate seasonal responses to increase protections during breeding seasons (e.g. temporary fencing) and strategies for protection of sensitive areas such as watercourses from dog walking through an informative wayfinding and interpretation strategy