

BROOKLANDS RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY, MILTON KEYNES: MULTIFUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN



Location: East Milton Keynes

Client: Places for People and Haddon Estates

David Lock Associates prepared the award winning master plan for Brooklands as a walkable neighbourhood. This included land for over 2,500 mixed tenure homes with supporting community facilities including schools and a comprehensive network of over 50ha of open space and landscape on the 160ha site. The overarching landscape strategy for the site includes a 3.5km long 26ha wooded ridge, a 14ha public park and a 10ha Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) to ensure that greenfield runoff rates were not exceeded.

The ridge (which provides visual screening from the adjacent M1 motorway) provides replacement trees, open rooms and areas of 'food for free' whilst delivering acoustic

and air quality benefits to the locality as well as a key element in the strategic landscape of the site.

Existing features such as a local water course were integrated and complimented with new landscape and drainage features, in the form of landscaped rippled pools leading to water bodies, a seasonal wet / dry area and a dam so as to maximize biodiversity objectives in an area known as Brooklands Meadows (see photos above).

Elsewhere, in both Brooklands Meadows and the public park, areas of active and passive play have been integrated around such constraints as flood plains, archaeologically sensitive areas and the alignment of the future MK to Bedford Waterway.

The strategic landscaping has been delivered in the initial phases of the 20 year development programme. This has allowed the hydrological regime, the planting and opportunities for play to establish early in the programme providing both an attractive and a functional setting for the early phases of residential development.

Highly commended by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and highlighted as best practice by Sport England's Active Design guidance, leisure routes connect to the network of streets within the site and the wider network of walking and cycling routes. This means the landscape and facilities, including play areas and sports, are highly accessible for existing and new residents alike.