

Green Infrastructure and Landscape Strategy

The Masterplan for the Energy Park has been developed in conjunction with the projects Landscape Architects (BCA Design) and informed by a Strategic Visual Review, from which a Green Infrastructure Strategy and Illustrative Landscape Masterplan have been produced.

Landscape Strategy

The landscape strategy has been informed by a site survey of existing landscape features on the site, with key areas of woodland planting retained and incorporated as part of the proposals.

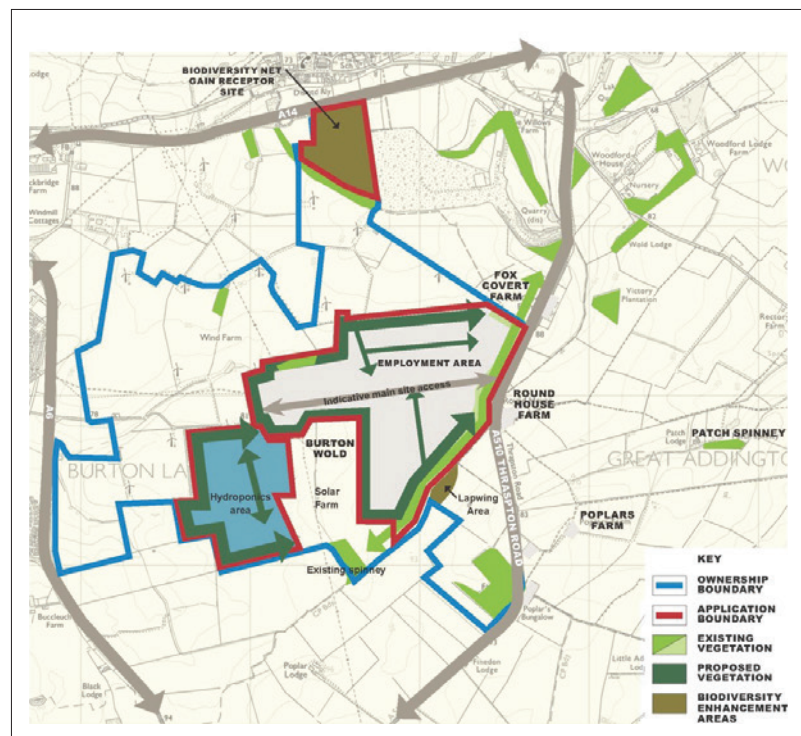
A key aim of the landscape strategy is to establish blocks of woodland and tree planting (green infrastructure) at a scale that will relate to the proposed built form. This provides the opportunity for habitat creation, with woodland, grassland, hedgerows, and drainage features such as swales provided within the scheme.

Strategic Landscape buffers at the perimeter of the development include elevated bunds that can be planted with tree and other landscape features to help integrate the development into the surrounding context.

Heritage assets such as The Grade II Listed Round House building have also informed the landscape strategy.

Green Infrastructure Strategy

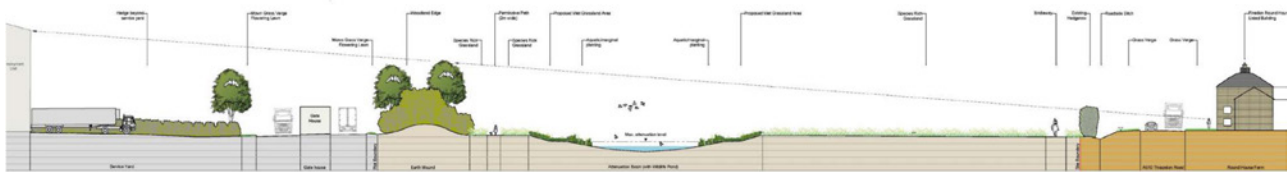
The overall GI strategy is based upon utilising existing site features, including hedgerows, woodland, and spinneys, as a basis for developing a strong landscape setting for the development, enhancing biodiversity and ecological connectivity across the site and, opening up a network of amenity routes and green corridors.



Visual Assessment and Proposed Building Heights

As part of the review of the Masterplan, the maximum building height has reduced from 30 to 25 metres, with lower maximum building heights at the plots nearer to the A510 Thrapston Road. This has been informed by the strategic visual review, and consideration of possible mitigation measures built into the proposals. Landform and woodland planting will be used with the creation of planted bunds around the boundary to provide screening from views around the site. The width of these landscape buffer zones, and the tree species selected, have been designed to ensure that visual impacts from the proposed development are reduced and minimised. There will be a range of tree stock sizes used in the green infrastructure, ranging in height from 1.8 metres (feathered trees) to 5 metres (extra heavy standard trees).

As the site is on the Wold plateau between the rivers Nene and Ise, the roof lines of any new buildings will be seen against the sky from most viewpoints. The colour of the materials used on the buildings will be selected to blend in with this background.



CROSS SECTION TO THE ROUND HOUSE

Where the site fronts onto Thrapston Road (A510) a new traffic roundabout will be constructed, to allow suitable access into the energy park. At the site entrance, office buildings will provide a business park character on the edge of a grassland meadow, which continues south around the setting of The Round House. The park access road leads from the new roundabout west into the site. Where the road curves around the technology zone, existing trees will be retained to provide a green backdrop and an element of maturity in the new park. As the road continues into the site, it is set within a landscape corridor comprising of grass verges designed to collect rainwater, foot and cycle ways and defined by a tree lined avenue. Outdoor amenity spaces will also be provided, offering staff the opportunity to sit, eat and socialise outdoors and away from their working environment.

The majority of the existing farmland will be retained for agriculture. The Energy Park will also have a high percentage of land devoted to green infrastructure and habitat enhancement.

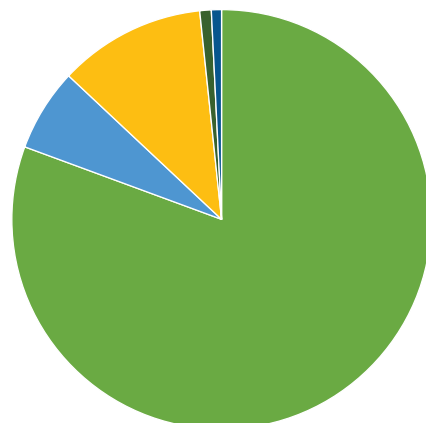
New hedgerows will be planted to replace any removed as part of the proposals. This new planting will include a mixture of various native species to maximise biodiversity benefits.

In total, the new planting for the Energy Park will include provision of 1,400 new trees planted at the site

New drainage/water features integrated into the landscape strategy

Areas have been identified specifically for biodiversity and habitat enhancement.

Greater public access will also be provided through walking routes around the Energy Park site to complement Public Rights of Way.



- Retained farmland
- BNG area
- Green infrastructure
- Blue infrastructure
- Remaining land for development