

3.7.2 PLOTS 1-3 PIERCY&COMPANY ARCHITECTS

A family of three elegant brick volumes. Simple, stepped forms to create a rhythm along Fitzroy Park.



3.7.3 PLOT 4 FATHOM ARCHITECTS

A simple brick building, primarily made up of three solid retaining garden walls. Massing sunk into the ground to reduce the visual impact as much as possible.







3.7.4 PLOT 5PIERCY&COMPANY ARCHITECTS

A simple 2 storey building set into the landscape to create an elegant brick pavilion overlooking the pond.

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4.0 Landscape Design

Prepared by LUC



[ABOVE] DILAPIDATED TENNIS COURT [BELOW] EXISTING ORCHARD

[ABOVE] SILTED & OVERSHADOWED POND [BELOW] CONCRETE PANEL FENCE TO MILLFIELD LANE

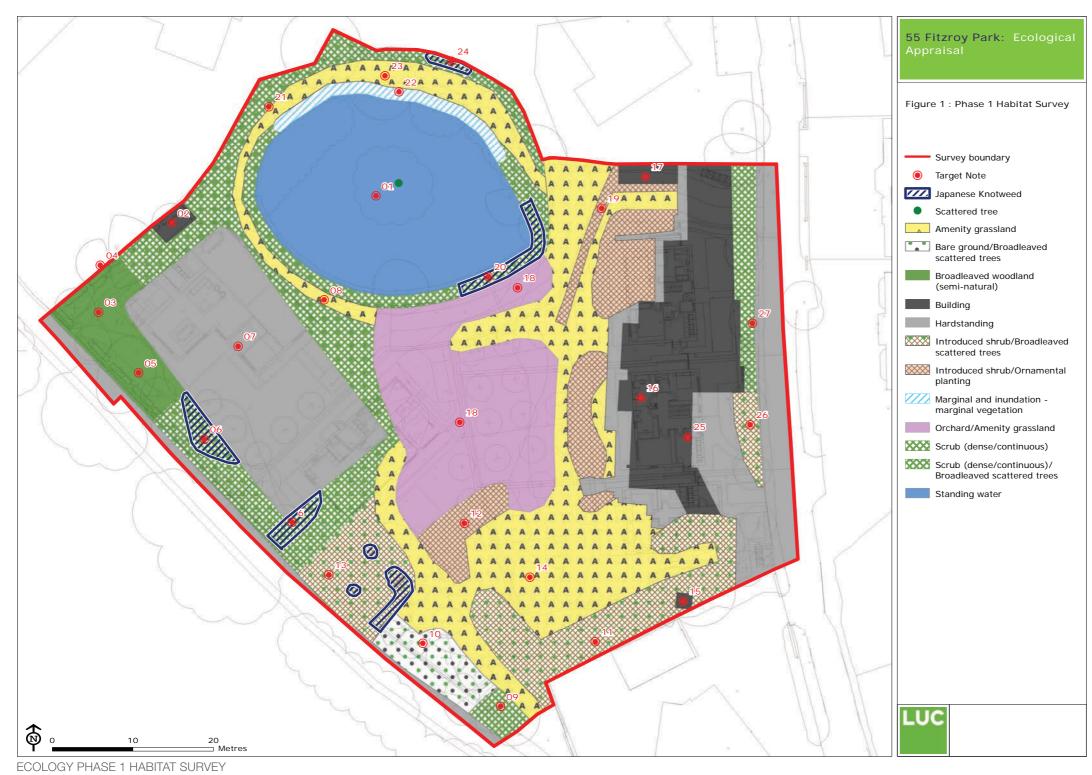
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4.1 Landscape & Ecology Baseline

4.1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site currently consists of a long and low mainly built frontage to Fitzroy Park backed by a large and partially overgrown rear garden. The garden contains a dilapidated hard tennis court, heavily silted and over shadowed naturally fed pond and the remains of an orchard. The rear of the garden is particularly overgrown consisting of numerous unmanaged trees and self-sown and unmanaged shrubberies. The boundary with Millfield Lane consists of an intrusive concrete panel fence and unmanaged planting which is at odds with the otherwise semi-rural character of the lane.

The density of the Millfield Lane perimeter and the mainly built up frontage together with the density of vegetation within the site mean that the site makes limited and uncertain contribution to local landscape character. Although designated as Metropolitan Open Land these attributes allow very little awareness of this open space and its essentially undeveloped core.



4.1.2 ECOLOGY

The application includes an independent Ecology Report which records the extensive surveys undertaken on the site, an assessment of the site's baseline condition and sensitivities together with proposed mitigation both during construction and as part of the completed scheme.

The baseline survey shows the site to comprise of a mix of amenity grass and ornamental planting, woodland and scrub, standing water and marginal vegetation and orchard. None of these habitats are of particular value. In terms of protected species surveys found an absence of great crested newt, bat roosts and other protected species. The site is used by toad, garden and woodland birds and small mammals.

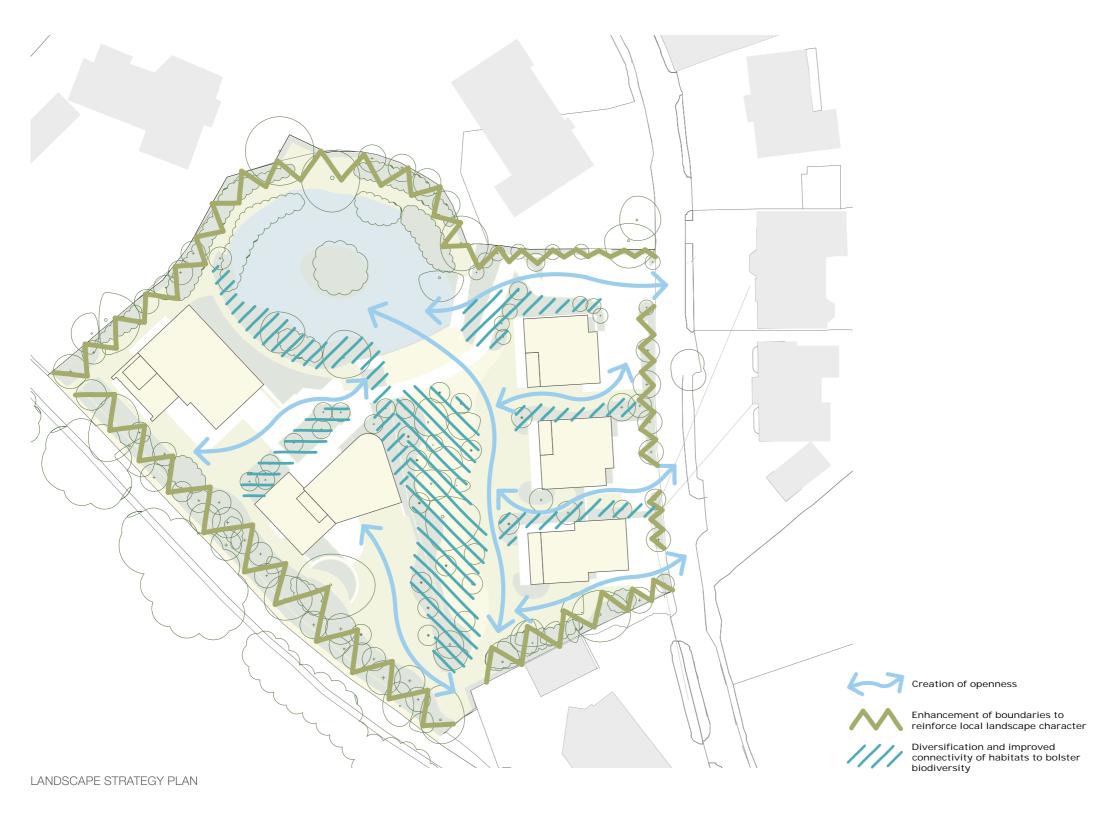
Japanese knotweed is established in a number of locations.

4.1.3 OPPORTUNITIES

The site presents a number of landscape opportunities to enhance its qualities, and public awareness of them and the private open space. Ecologically there are significant opportunities of habitat enhancement and added ecological connectivity in particular. Common to both sets of opportunities are the pond and its surroundings, the boundary with Millfield Lane, the boundaries between the proposed plots, and the orchard.

4.1.4 CHALLENGES

Construction on such a constricted site presents particular challenges to site assets that will be retained and enhanced. Considerable early work has gone into mitigation to avoid construction related damage.



4.2 Landscape Strategy

4.2.1 LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

The landscape strategy responds to the need for five plots and the planning context set out in earlier sections, particularly the expectations of the Metropolitan Open Land policy. Other drivers include the need to retain local landscape character and the ecological opportunities outlined above.

The objectives of the landscape strategy are to:

- Increase the quality and perceived sense of openness of the site
- Reinforce and enhance the local landscape character
- Protect, enhance and improve the connectivity of existing habitats
- Provide sustainable ecological gain
- Naturalise the boundaries to integrate the site into the surrounding landscape
- Create a landscape masterplan which is fully integrated and is more than the sum of its parts

The landscape masterplan achieves this by using a number of initiatives which include:

Creating a sense of openness

Enhancing visual openness from Fitzroy Park with reduced built frontage and more openings compared to the existing situation; maximising openness of the site interior by minimising boundaries between plots 1 to 3, and ensuring no visibility of buildings from Millfield Lane. The pond will now be visible from Fitzroy Park

Reinforcing local landscape character Introducing a naturalness of style and materials, significantly enhancing the rural character of Millfield Lane and consolidating the different

character of Fitzroy Park

• Bolstering Biodiversity

Establishing ecological corridors to provide strong connectivity between the Heath and Fitzroy Park area, significant enhancement of the pond and its associated habitats, and the consolidation and extension of other habitats including the retained orchard, extensive green roofs and the grass/tree mosaic



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4.3 Landscape Masterplan

4.3.1 LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

The Landscape masterplan [see drawing overleaf] contains a number of key elements and proposals which are summarised as:

Fitzroy Park frontage

Each of the three buildings have small paved forecourts with parking for a single car and a seminatural hedge along the site boundary. There are views to the interior of the site between the buildings. Access to Plots 4 and 5 is via a forecourt north of Plot 1 with parking for two cars. The design allows views of the pond from Fitzroy Park and a sense of openness absent from the current situation. The semi-rural character of the road frontage is reinforced.

Access to Plots 4 and 5

This is by a ramped pedestrian path which descends to both plots. It is rural in character and provides good elevated views of the pond.

Pond and surroundings

Vegetation around the pond is selectively reduced to increase light levels, improve water quality and increase the pond's visibility. Other works include desilting, bank treatments, creation of an orbital grass path including boardwalk, extension of the pond as a swale to take surface water runoff from gardens of Plots 1-3 and new ecologically based planting. These works will result in significant and sustainable landscape and ecological benefits.

Site and plot boundaries

Most of these are treated as living boundaries consisting of native-rich hedgerows with existing and proposed trees and grassland edges. These will provide considerable ecological and screening benefit. Radiating from the pond these will provide valuable added ecological connectivity. The exception will be the rear gardens to plots 1, 2 and 3 which will be treated as a single space allowing visual connectivity with the pond and contributing to a sense of added openness.

Millfield Lane boundary

The rural character of the Lane is enhanced by the replacement of the concrete panel fence with a fence within a native hedge and retention of the majority of existing trees.

