

**Local Allocation 2: Old
Town, Hemel Hempstead**
Masterplan Document

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Foreword

Six 'Local Allocations' (Green Belt sites identified for housing development and other associated uses) were identified in the Council's strategic plan, called the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy was adopted in September 2013. Further detail on these sites is provided in the Pre-Submission version of the Site Allocations document, upon which the Council is now consulting.

The landowners, in partnership with the Council, have prepared draft master plans for each Local Allocation. These master plans add further detail to the site requirements set out in the Site Allocations document; providing further information on the design and layout of the sites. The Council is taking the opportunity to seek feedback on these master plans at the same time as the Site Allocations consultation.

Do I need to comment?

Many people have already given feedback on these sites through consultation on the Core Strategy or through other consultation events. These responses have been used to help prepare the draft master plans.

You are invited to comment on the draft master plan to help ensure that the final version continues to reflect your views and those of the local community.

What can I comment on?

The principle of allocating these sites is now firmly established and the Council can only consider comments on the details of how they will be delivered.

If you are objecting to parts of the master plan, it would be helpful if you could say what changes you would like to see to the text or accompanying maps.

How do I comment?

Please submit comments online using Dacorum Borough Council's consultation portal.

Alternatively, comments can be sent to the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Team at Dacorum Borough Council using the comments form that is available. You

should use a separate form for each of the different master plans you may wish to comment on.

Copies of the master plans, together with the Pre-Submission Site Allocations document, comments forms and background information can be found on the Council's website www.dacorum.gov.uk, at local libraries or at Borough Council Offices subject to opening times. Comments can be sent electronically or by post, as appropriate, to one of the following addresses:

By consultation portal: <http://consult.dacorum.gov.uk/portal/>

Email forms to: strategic.planning@dacorum.gov.uk

Post forms to: Strategic Planning and Regeneration

Dacorum Borough Council
Civic Centre
Marlowes
Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire
HP1 1HH

All comments received will be publicly available.

The deadline for comments to be received by the Council is *****INSERT*****.

Next Steps

All comments received on the draft master plans will be considered and reported to the Council's Cabinet, together with any recommended changes to their content. It is hoped that the master plans will be adopted by the Council at the same time as the final Site Allocations document. This is expected to be in Spring 2016.

Any further questions?

If you have any further questions regarding any of the issues raised in this document please contact the Strategic Planning and Regeneration team on 01442 228660 or email strategic.planning@dacorum.gov.uk.

Executive summary

Site LA2: Old Town is allocated for residential development within Dacorum Borough Council's Core Strategy. This document forms part of the suite of documents that make up the Local Planning Framework for the Borough. The LA2 site is owned by Dacorum Borough Council and has been allocated for around 80 new homes.

The LA2 site is located close to the historic heart of Hemel Hempstead adjacent to the Old Town Conservation Area and the existing neighbourhood of Highfield. The site has good access to the shops and services located within the historic high street and is also well positioned for access to the new Town Centre.

This masterplan document sets development principles for the form and character of new development and looks at how new development will fit in with the existing surroundings.

The development principles set for the LA2 site in this masterplan are as follows:

Homes

- Around 80 new homes should be provided on site.
- Provide a mix of house types, with some flats and houses, including 40% affordable homes.

Design (design principles for the site are further expanded in the following section)

- Secure a high quality layout and design that respects the character of the Old Town Conservation Area and the setting of its listed buildings, and takes account of the steeply sloping nature of the site.
- Limit housing to two storeys, except where a higher element would create interest and focal points in the street scene.
- Arrange new housing to achieve natural surveillance and provide active and attractive frontages to the main area of open space and Fletcher Way.
- The built form should act as a transition between the Old town and New Town.
- Provide adequate provision for refuse bins and bicycles within residential properties.

Streets and spaces

- Ensure that streets and spaces are designed to add positively to the character of the existing area.
- Avoid over-domination of parked vehicles in the street scene.

Access

- Take the primary road access (and the secondary access if provided) from Fletcher Way.
- Improve the east-west and north-south public footpaths.
- Ensure that pedestrian access to the existing residential areas is maintained and enhanced to encourage the use of existing transport facilities.

Utilities and infrastructure

- The site should link into existing utilities networks.
- Establish the capacity of the existing network and provide extra capacity where needed to serve the development.
- Co-ordinate the design of land drainage with the design for streets and open spaces.

Landscape and open space

- Respect the landscape setting and character of the site.
- Provide around 1 hectare of open space, located mainly on the higher ground adjacent to The Bounce and Townsend.
- Retain the existing important trees at the top of the hill adjacent to The Bounce and Townsend and as many other trees as possible.

Views and surrounding countryside

- Soften views of the development from across the valley and open countryside by the use of carefully designed planting.
- Views of the site from the surrounding areas and open countryside must be taken into consideration

The LA2 site is shown in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document for development from 2021 onwards. It is envisaged that the site will come forward in one phase of development.

1 Purpose

This masterplan has been prepared on behalf of Dacorum Borough Council by Tibbalds Planning and Urban Design to investigate the development options for the land at Cherry Bounce, also known as the Old Town site or Local Allocation 2 (LA2).

The Old Town site is one of a number of sites where the principle of housing development has been established in the Dacorum Core Strategy. This site has been identified as a site for around 80 new homes. The emerging Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) will add detail about the development of the site. The Site Allocations DPD will also remove the site from the currently defined Green Belt and set a new Green Belt boundary. The Core Strategy and Site Allocations DPD will form part of the suite of documents that will make up the Local Plan for Dacorum

The purpose of the masterplan is to set redevelopment principles and a framework through which high quality residential development can be delivered on the site. The masterplan will be used to guide a future planning application on the site. It is also intended to demonstrate how the planning requirements set out in the Site Allocations DPD can be delivered.

The masterplan has explored the technical feasibility of delivering housing development on the site in relation to a number of factors that can affect development. It has also been used as a mechanism to engage with the existing local community. Discussion with local residents during the production of the masterplan has helped to understand their aspirations and concerns for development on the site. Their input has helped to shape the contents of the masterplan and the development principles within it.

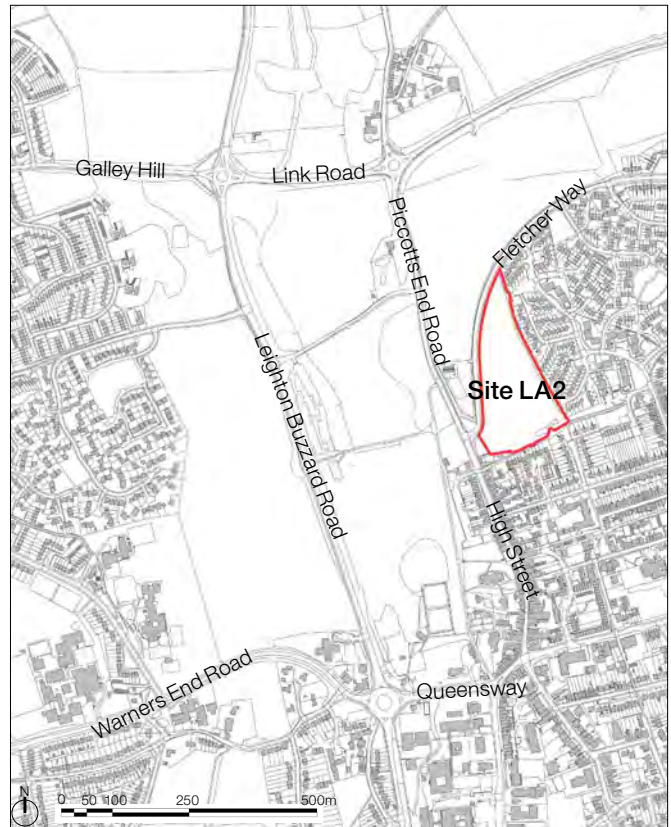


Fig 1.1 Site location plan

2 Context

2.1 Planning Policy and Process

The following section sets out the planning policy context within which the masterplan proposals would be developed. This includes both existing national planning policy and also policies from the Core Strategy and those from the saved Dacorum Borough Local Plan.

NPPF

Adopted in March 2012, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) superseded and replaced all previous national Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements, and now represents the overriding planning policy consideration at national level.

Core Strategy

Dacorum Borough Council adopted the Core Strategy on September 25th 2013, this document contains the main strategic planning policies for the Borough.

The Old Town has been identified as a local allocation for 'around 80 new homes'.

The key principles that have been identified are:

- Two storey housing including around 40% affordable homes
- A contribution must be made towards educational and community facilities
- The layout, design, density and landscaping must be in keeping with the Old Town Conservation Area.
- Impact on the local road network mitigated through promotion of sustainable travel options, including pedestrian links onto Fletcher Way."

The proposal will be delivered as an allocation in the Site Allocations DPD where detailed planning requirements will be established.

In addition the following policies from the Core Strategy are the most relevant for development on the LA2 site:

- Policy CS1: Distribution of Development
- Policy CS3: Managing selected development sites
- Policy CS8: Sustainable Transport
- Policy CS10: Quality of Settlement Design
- Policy CS11: Quality of Neighbourhood Design
- Policy CS12; Quality of site design

- Policy CS13: Quality of the Public Realm
- Policy CS18: Mix of Housing
- Policy CS19: Affordable Housing
- Policy CS23: Social Infrastructure
- Policy CS26: Green Infrastructure
- Policy CS27: Quality of the Historic Environment
- Policy CS28: Carbon emission reductions
- Policy CS29: Sustainable design and construction
- Policy CS35: Infrastructure and developer contributions

Dacorum Borough Local Plan 1991-2011

Although the Core Strategy has been adopted, some of the Local Plan policies are still 'saved' (i.e. they remain operational). These saved policies will gradually be superseded as the Council produces further Development Plan Documents.

The following saved Local Plan policies are particularly relevant to the development of the Old Town site:

- Policy 12: Infrastructure provision and phasing (partly superseded by Core Strategy Policy CS35)
- Policy 13: Planning conditions and planning obligations
- Policy 18: The size of new dwellings
- Policy 21: Density of residential development
- Policy 51: Development and transport impacts
- Policy 54: Highway design
- Policy 57: Provision and management of parking
- Policy 111: Height of buildings
- Policy 113: Exterior lighting
- Policy 120: (Development in Conservation Areas): this policy is relevant because it applies not just within conservation areas, but also to "development proposals outside a conservation area which affect its character and setting"
- Policy 129: Storage and recycling of waste on development sites

Some elements of the appendices to the Dacorum Borough Local Plan 1991-2011 have been superseded by Core Strategy policies. However, for simplicity they are retained in their entirety, until updated and superseded by subsequent Development Plan Documents or decisions. Where there is a conflict between their content and that of the Core Strategy, the Core Strategy will take precedence.

The following Local Plan appendices are particularly relevant to the development of the Old Town Site:

- Appendix 1: Sustainability checklist
- Appendix 3: Layout and design of residential areas
- Appendix 5: Parking provision
- Appendix 6: Open space and play provision
- Appendix 8: Exterior lighting

Supplementary Guidance

The Council has adopted a number of documents to supplement the Local Plan and Core Strategy policies. These documents are used as material planning considerations in deciding planning applications. Where there is a conflict between their content and that of the Core Strategy, the Core Strategy will take precedence. The main documents relevant to the development of the Old Town site are as follows:

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

- Accessibility zones for the application of car parking standards (now incorporated into the Area Based Policies SPG (2004))

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

- Water conservation (2005)
- Energy efficiency and conservation (2005)
- Planning Obligations (2011) – note: the sections relating to affordable housing contributions have been superseded by the 'Affordable Housing SPD
- Accessibility Zones for the application of car parking standards (2002)
- Affordable Housing (2013)

Site Allocations Development Plan Document

Dacorum Borough Council is consulting on the Pre-Submission version of the Site Allocations DPD (i.e. the draft plan) at the same time as this draft masterplan for the Old Town Site. The Pre-Submission DPD includes the following Key Development Principles, which have guided this masterplan and will be used to assess the subsequent planning application:

- Provide a mix of house types, including some flats and houses, including 40% affordable homes.

- Take the primary road access (and the secondary access if provided) from Fletcher Way.
- Secure a high quality layout and design that respects the character of the Old Town Conservation Area and the setting of its listed buildings, and takes account of the steeply sloping nature of the site.
- Built form should act as a transition between the Old Town and New Town.
- Limit housing to two storeys, except where a higher element would create interest and focal points in the street scene.
- Provide around 1 hectare of open space, located mainly on the higher ground adjacent to The Bounce and Townsend.
- Arrange new housing to provide active and attractive frontages to the main area of open space and Fletcher Way
- Avoid over-domination of parked vehicles in the street scene.
- Provide adequate provision for refuse bins and bicycles within residential properties.
- Respect the landscape setting and character of the site.
- Retain the existing important trees at the top of the hill adjacent to The Bounce and Townsend and as many other trees as possible.
- Soften views of the development from across the valley and open countryside by the use of carefully designed planting.
- Improve the east-west and north-south public footpaths.

Comments received on both consultation documents will be considered by the Council before the Site Allocations DPD is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for public examination or the Old Town Site masterplan is adopted.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Dacorum Borough Council has published a draft charging schedule which requires all new buildings which are over 100 sq. metres gross internal floorspace to contribute to the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Subject to the outcome of the examination of CIL, it is expected that some of the infrastructure to support the Old Town site will be secured through CIL, with a limited number of contributions secured through the current S106 mechanism (see section 7 for further information).

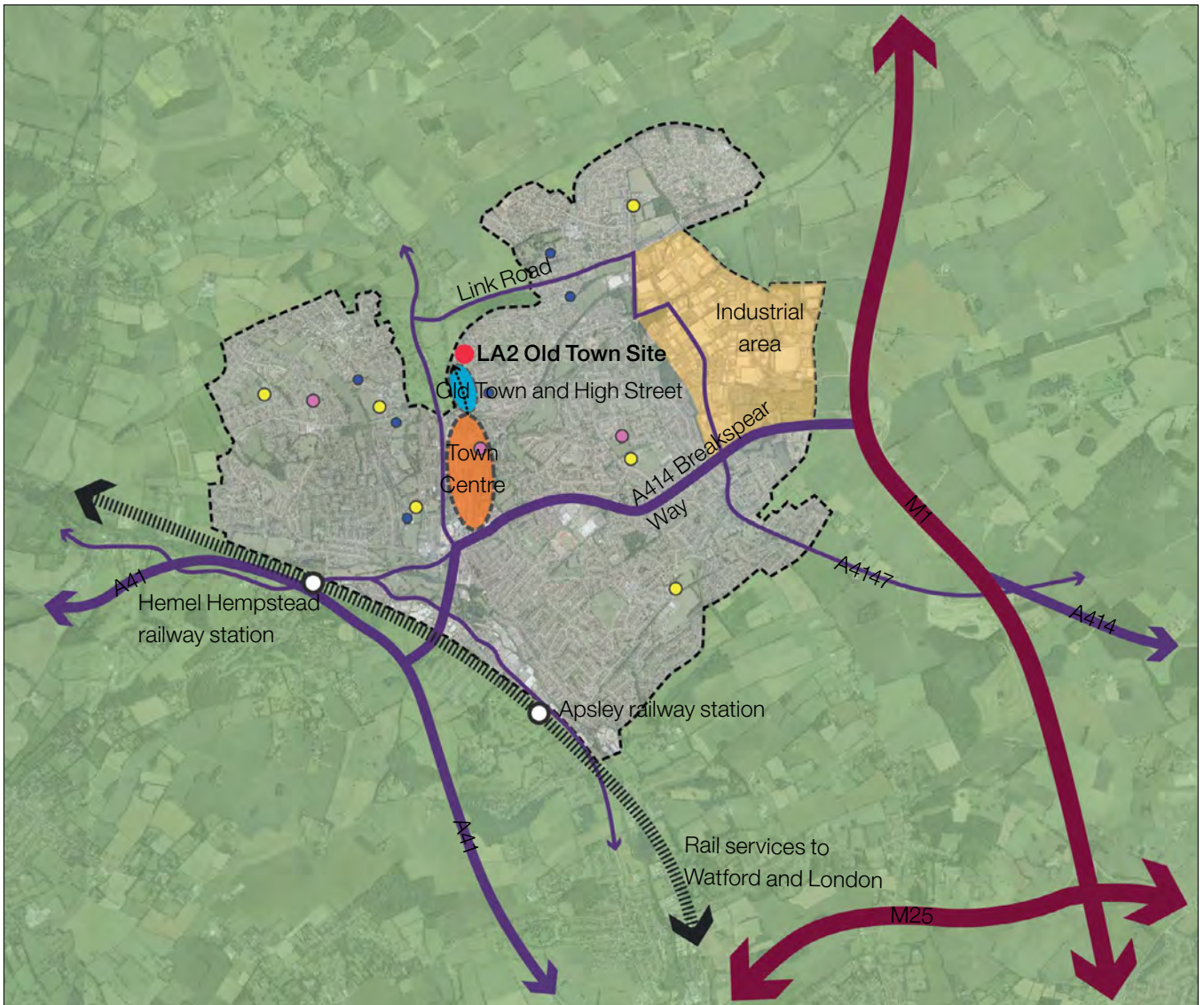


Fig 2.1 The site in relation to the wider context of Hemel Hempstead

- Secondary schools
- Doctors surgeries
- Nearest primary schools to the site

2.2 The site and its surroundings

Location / historic development

There is evidence of settlement at Hemel Hempstead from Roman times in the form of early Roman villas and burial grounds. The next significant phase of development for the town occurred during the 17th and 18th centuries when due to its location on the shortest route between London and the industrial Midlands the settlement grew into a small market town. The town benefited from roads and canals connecting it to the wider area during this phase of industrialisation. The town remained as a small agricultural market town throughout the 19th century, however in the last decades of the century houses and villas to cater for London commuters and workers in the paper industry were starting to be built. The town's largest period of growth was post World War II when it was developed as a New Town. The New Town development began in the 1950s and continued apace until the early 1980s. The new town development enveloped the historic core of the original town.

The LA2 site is located close to the historic town centre of Hemel Hempstead, which is now known as the Old Town and is a designated conservation area. The Old Town is close to the new town centre and existing residential areas.

Location of existing and proposed services

The Old Town site is well located for access to local shops and services. The Old Town High Street contains a number of smaller shops and services including banks, restaurants and cafes. The new town centre is easily accessible from the site and contains a number of larger convenience shops and supermarkets.

Cavendish School in Warners End Road is the nearest secondary school to the site. There are a number of primary schools nearby with the closest being George Street Primary School located within the Old Town.

Heritage / conservation

The site is adjacent to the Old Town Conservation Area. The conservation area is noted for the coherence of the High Street, in particular the dominance of historic listed buildings and intactness of the historic scale and grain. A key aspect to the character of the conservation area is its relationship with the valley setting which is accentuated by a sectional change across at the northern end of the High Street where the eastern side of the High Street is at a higher level than the western side. Views to the spire of St Mary's Church are also a key feature of the area.

The 'Old Town Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Proposals' document was approved by the Council's cabinet in January 2014. It is noted within the appraisal, that the spatial qualities of the conservation area are experienced principally from the approach from Gadebridge Park. On this approach the transition between the semi-enclosed nature of the churchyard at St Mary's Close moving through to the enclosed nature of the High Street is an important characteristic. There is a rich diversity of materials contained within the conservation area including red, purple and brown bricks, timber, render and stucco, flint and terracotta.

Regeneration of the Old Town

A regeneration scheme to enhance the positive, attractive features of the Old Town has recently been completed. Interventions being undertaken include:

- creating a new one-way system for the High Street;
- creating more on street parking;
- improving the public realm to be more in keeping with the character of the Conservation Area; and
- a night time taxi rank installed to support the night time economy of the area.



Fig 2.2: Views to the spire of St Mary's Church are a key feature of the Old Town Conservation Area

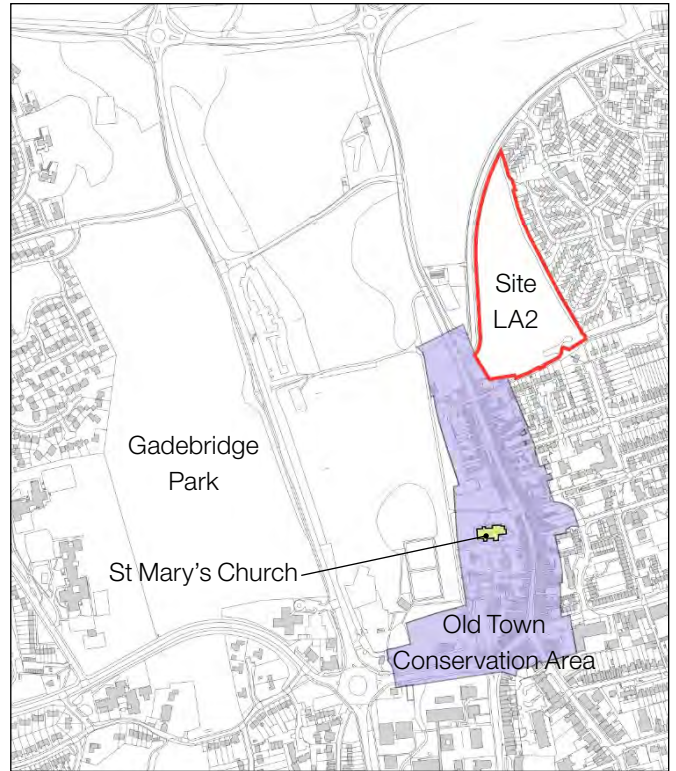


Fig 2.3: Old Town Conservation Area plan



Fig 2.4: The Old Town High Street



Fig 2.5: At the northern end of the High Street the western side of the street is at a lower level reflecting the High Street's location within the Gade Valley.

3 Analysis of the site

This section of the masterplan sets out a site analysis of the Old Town site. It covers the following topics and has been used to inform a consolidated constraints plan which is shown in the next section of this report:

- Archaeology;
- Ecology and trees;
- Landscape and topography;
- Views and visual impact
- Flood risk and drainage
- Highways and access
- Infrastructure (including school capacity and utilities)

3.1 Archaeology

A desk based archaeological assessment was undertaken over Spring / Summer 2013 by Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. The findings of this report indicate that there are no known heritage assets on the site. Aerial photography has revealed the presence of a small field system which possibly belongs to the prehistoric period.

The site has been used solely for agricultural purposes since mediaeval times. Thus the likelihood of heritage assets being found on site from the prehistoric to Roman times is assessed as being moderate. The likelihood of finding heritage assets later than the Roman period is deemed to be unlikely.

Due to the potential presence of a field system it was decided to undertake a geophysical survey of the area. A number of magnetic anomalies were uncovered during the geophysical survey. In order to ensure that any potential archaeological remains do not present a constraint to future development some trial trench survey work was undertaken over the summer of 2013. The results of the trial trenching found no significant archaeological features or artefacts that could relate to a possible small scale field system or the magnetic anomalies that were present. The natural soil sequence across the site was recorded and undisturbed natural stratum was defined in each trench.

Following the various stages of the archaeological assessment, Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Advisor has advised the Council as follows with regard to LA2:

This site was the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and limited field evaluation to test the results of the geophysics. No heritage assets of sufficient quality or extent to represent a constraint on the allocation of the site for housing were identified. However, the percentage of trial trenching was very low, specifically designed to reveal the presence of any archaeological constraints that might affect the allocation of the site for housing. It is possible that discrete archaeological features or small sites may exist in areas not examined during the evaluation which may represent either a constraint on the construction of individual properties/aspects of the development, or require mitigation through the planning process. I, therefore, recommend that further limited archaeological field evaluation is undertaken to inform the determination of an outline application for housing, and what, if any, mitigation is required.

3.2 Ecology and trees

Ecology

Hertfordshire Ecology indicated that it has no ecological information on the site to suggest that there are any constraints. The site could be subject to a Phase 1 Habitat Survey to reach a firm conclusion on ecological issues. However, Hertfordshire Ecology considers that if the site was of some intrinsic importance they would probably be aware of it by now.

Hertfordshire Ecology considers that the most historic belts of trees are locally valuable within the site, and provide a visual and ecological resource. With regard to the trees, Hertfordshire Ecology advises that:

"The B and C rated trees would not present any ecological constraints, although if removed they should be checked by the arboricultural contractor in respect of bat potential, and a consultant appointed if there is good likelihood or evidence of their presence. This is only likely if they are old trees with rot holes, cracks etc. which I would think is very unlikely given their relative age, but it ought to be considered for obvious reasons. Obviously if they could be retained they would already contribute to the ecological resource, although possibly less so if they were all, say, sycamore or exotic species."



Fig 3.1: Plan showing the different categories of trees within the Old Town site

Turning to the issue of how ecology might be handled in a future housing development on the site, Hertfordshire Ecology advises that:

“Once any open areas have been identified for retention, their ecological potential is really reflected partly in what may already be there - for the trees and scrub that would be known, but not for the grassland - and then in what may be created. Then it is all dictated by management. It also depends upon what use the open spaces are expected to provide - general amenity of something more interesting. The topography may limit casual football etc. so areas of longer grass - with paths through - may be more appropriate. These could be sown with a suitable wildflower mix and hopefully be maintained by mowing a few times, lifting the cut with the longest grass. This should contribute and enhance the existing ecology (if not already of some interest) as well as the development as a whole. There is relatively little space to do anything more physical, such as a Community orchard or similar...”

Trees and vegetation

The trees on site have been assessed by the Council’s tree officer for their contribution to the area in terms of visual, historic and conservation interest.

The trees on site fall into two distinct categories;

- those that were planted since the new town was developed; and
- those that were present before the new town’s development.

The older more historic trees sit along the eastern boundary on an historic boundary bank. These trees have been rated as A trees, as they would not be replaceable if they were to be lost.

The majority of the other trees on the site are valuable in that they are pleasant features in a green setting but could be replaced in the short to medium term. These trees have been rated as B trees for this exercise.

There are also some areas of scrub which generally have been rated as C trees as they are of lower quality and less importance. It is worth noting that although they are of a lower quality they do provide some screening to the site in long distance views and from the nearby conservation area, but this effect could be replicated with new planting.



Fig 3.2: The approach to the site from the roundabout at the junction of Fletcher Way, Piccotts End Road and the High Street. The sloping bank to Fletcher Way can be clearly seen.

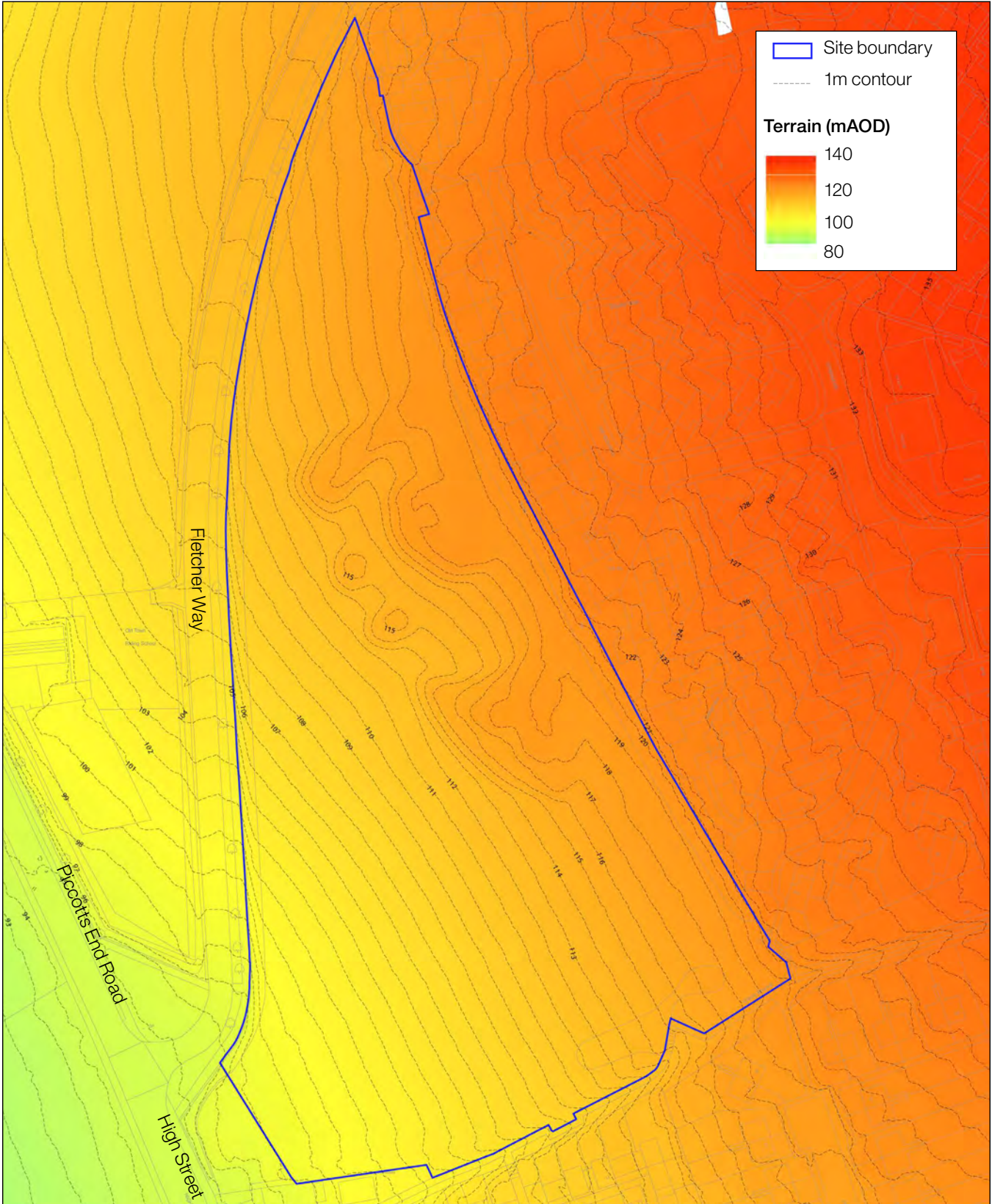


Fig 3.3: Plan indicating the topography of the site as extracted from LiDAR data.



3.4 The Old Town site as seen from the other side of the Gade Valley

3.3 Landscape and views

The site is steeply sloped in some areas, there is a steep bank which runs along the majority of Fletcher Way, apart from this the land is fairly evenly sloped across the whole site with a more level area at the top adjacent to the existing development at The Bounce. The majority of the site has a gradient of 1:10 or greater as shown on the adjacent diagram.

In order to assess the ability to develop the site LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data has been obtained and used to extract the one metre contours shown on the adjacent topography drawing. LiDAR is an optical remote sensing technology that can measure distance through laser technology. LiDAR survey data provides a comprehensive, thorough and economic solution to determining site levels and gradients. The data is ideal for making engineering assessments of earthworks, retaining walls, slope stability and other engineering issues.

The steeply sloping nature of the site presents a challenge to development however an acceptable form of development can be achieved on the site through careful design. There are good precedents of where this has been achieved both within Hemel Hempstead and other locations, for example the existing residential area on the land to the south of the site.

Views

The Old Town site is located within the Gade Valley, due to the sloping nature of the site it benefits from views across the valley and out to the wider countryside.

Visual impact

New housing would not impact in views from the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which is some way away. Housing development on site LA2 would have a limited impact upon views into the site from open countryside to the north. Housing development on the site would be seen within the backdrop of the existing built area and road infrastructure.

The main views of the site would be from the western slopes of the Gade Valley within the existing confines of the town. New housing on the site would not cause great harm to these views as it would be seen in context with the existing development to the east and south of the site. The more mature, high quality trees would be kept as part of a new development with elements of new landscape added to help screen development in long distance views.

Views into the Old Town, Gadebridge Park and across the river valley are a feature of the site and bring the countryside

into the surrounding residential areas. The layout, height and design of new development should retain views at key points, including within the open space and at access points into the site.

Surrounding residential character

The area surrounding the site apart from the historic area around the Old Town predominantly consists of 1960s development that was built as part of the new town expansion. Homes are predominantly two stories and arranged within culs de sac.

3.4 Flood risk and drainage

The site is not within any flood zone and due to the sloping nature of the site is unlikely to suffer from any flooding from nearby water sources. The closest area to the site which suffers flooding is the Gade Valley which the River Gade runs through.

Appropriate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) will be implemented within any new development where technically feasible. This will ensure that the drainage concept and design is considered at an early stage, allowing space to manage surface water, improve water quality and provide amenity and biodiversity value. Pre-application discussion on the drainage strategy and SuDS design is recommended with Hertfordshire County Council (the SuDS Approving Body (SAB)) and Dacorum Borough Council (the local planning authority).

At this site, consideration should be given to the following aspects in relation to surface water management:

- the topography of the site;
- enabling water to infiltrate across the site; and
- ensuring that no additional runoff from the site impacts on the adjacent highway.



Fig 3.5 Extract from Hertfordshire County Council Definitive Footpaths map

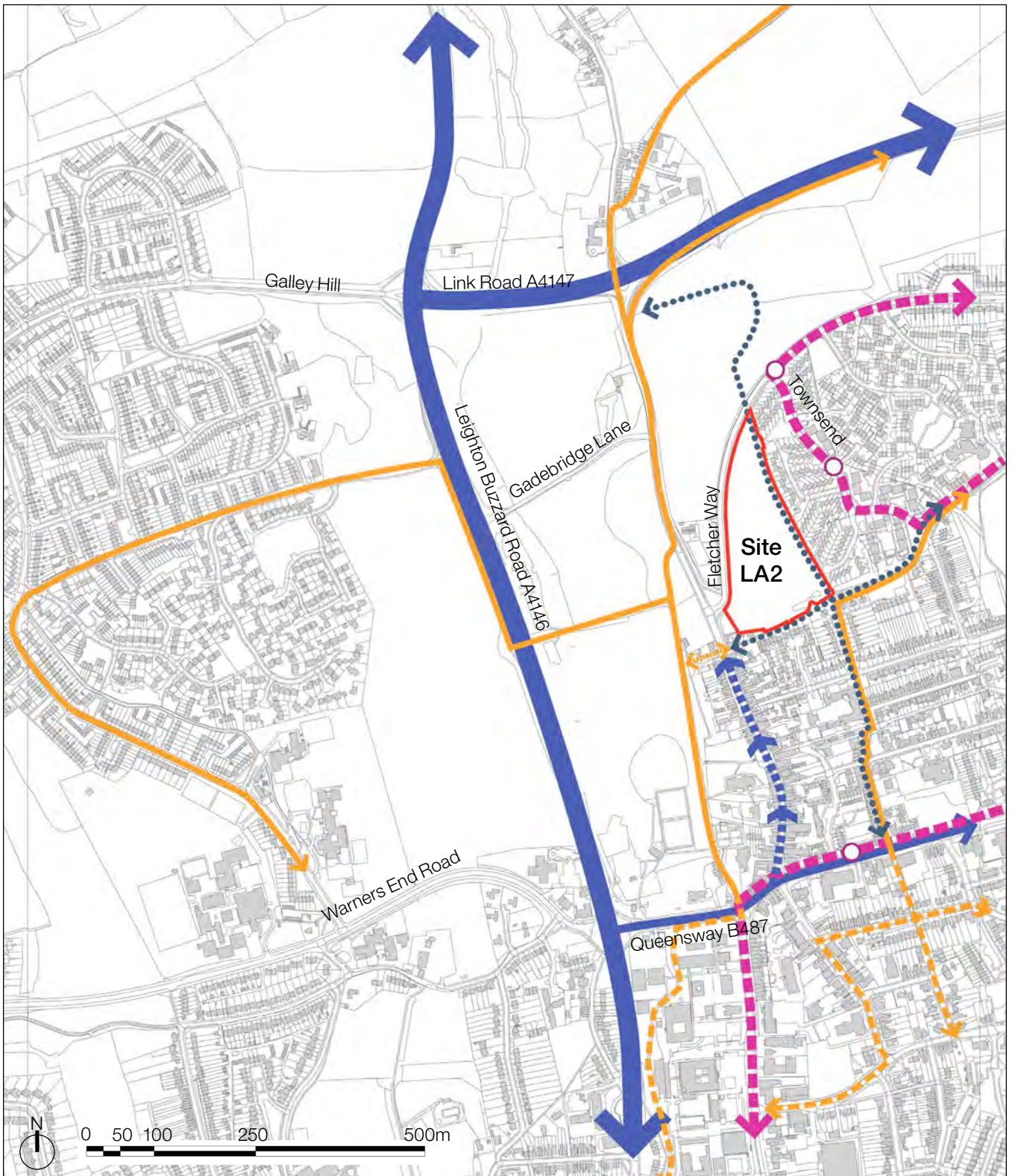
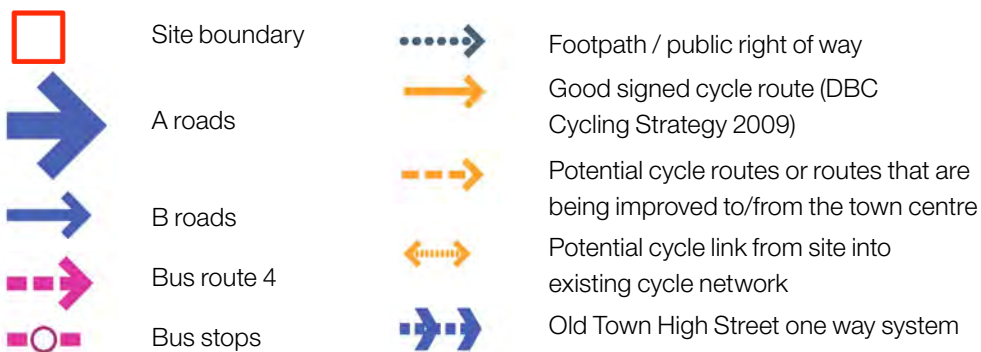


Fig 3.6 Movement network around the site and wider area



3.5 Highways and access

Access

The site can be accessed off one main access from Fletcher Way, which is designated by Hertfordshire County Council as a local access road in the hierarchy. The new access road will need to be designed to accommodate two-way traffic and will be in the region of 5.5 metres wide. The road will need radii suitable for access by service vehicles and pedestrian footways should be provided on each side of the road to connect with the existing footway on Fletcher Way. To ensure there is acceptable access to all of the site a narrower secondary access point would also be appropriate for the northern part of the site. The accesses may or may not be linked. For a site of this size an emergency access point would be desirable although not essential, there is potential for an emergency access point from Townsend. At the planning application stage arrangements for refuse collection and servicing would need to be carefully considered when designing the access arrangements.

In order for new access arrangements to meet Fletcher Way at a suitable gradient the banking that runs along the edge of Fletcher Way will need to be cut. The design of all new access roads should follow guidance contained in the County Council's 'Roads in Hertfordshire' document (<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/transtreets/devmanagment/roadsinherts/>). This document interprets Manual for Streets for Hertfordshire and also includes advice on retaining structures which may be required here due to the level differences and gradients on the site. The gradients on the access roads are likely to be at the steeper end of what is acceptable. Further into the site roads should aim to follow the contours of the site where possible. The potential emergency access point from the site onto Townsend will also be over a considerable change in level and as such some earthworks will be likely. The access point will need careful siting and design in order to minimise the impact on the bank feature.

The visual impact of the access roads and associated earthworks will be minimal, landscaping associated with the junctions will help to minimise impact in long distance views. Each side of the site access junctions will contain

soft landscaping with gentle slopes to open up the entry into the site and provide appropriate levels of visibility in both directions along Fletcher Way for traffic exiting the site.

Wider transport network

The site is well connected in many respects, there are a number of footpaths and cycleways which are of good quality and provide quick, sustainable access to the town centre, adjacent neighbourhoods and open spaces. There are also a number of pedestrian and cycle routes which provide good access to the local countryside for the population.

Many of the existing pedestrian connections from Townsend, The Bounce and Cherry Bounce are currently in a poor condition and not suitable for all users. Development on this site would provide an opportunity to improve these connections and link into the wider footpath and cycle network being proposed as part of the Hemel Hempstead Town Centre Masterplan. Signage and waymaking would be improved as part of any new proposal.

These improved pedestrian connections will facilitate access to the bus stops in Townsend. The need to improve pedestrian routes to the bus stops in Fletcher Way should also be looked at (there is no footway leading to the northbound bus stop).

There are two public rights of way that run along the site boundaries. There is a footpath that runs along the southern boundary of the site, this is outside the current site boundary and would not be affected by development on the site. There is also a footpath that runs through the site on the eastern edge. This footpath is within the site boundary and whilst the exact alignment may change a pedestrian route would be maintained through this part of the site in any development proposals.

The site is also served well by public transport. Bus route 4 runs close to the site and connects the site into Hemel Hempstead Town Centre and the railway station. The bus service is frequent with approximately 3 services per hour during weekday and Saturday peak times, with services being less frequent in the early morning and late evening and on Sundays.

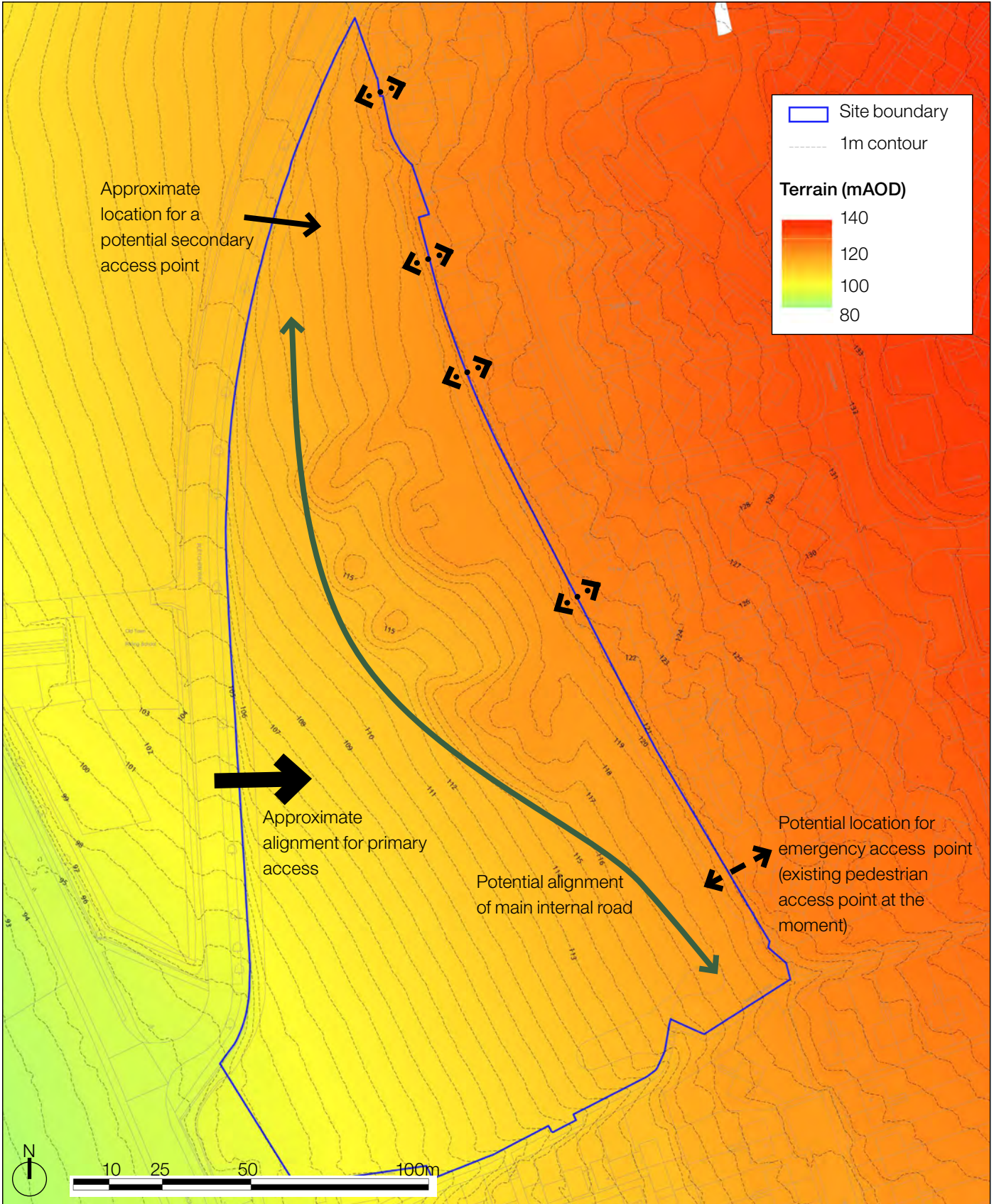


Fig 3.7 Topography and proposed site access

Existing pedestrian access points

3.6 School capacity

The nearest primary school to the site is George Street Primary School within the Old Town which is situated approximately 300m to the south east of the LA2 site. This school is on a constrained site in the Old Town with little space for expansion and is currently at capacity. It is therefore likely that the child yield from the Old Town site would be satisfied by new school sites within the Town Centre.

3.7 Affordable Housing

40% of the total homes will be affordable. This should comprise 75% rented and 25% shared ownership or other forms of intermediate housing (excluding shared equity housing). All affordable homes will be provided as a mix of sizes and types (flats and dwellings) to reflect local needs. At present there is an equal need for 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms.

Accommodation to provide supported housing and independent living (e.g. for the elderly and people with learning, physical and mental disabilities) may contribute towards the affordable housing element of the proposal either for social/affordable rent or shared ownership.

The Council expects affordable housing to be indistinguishable from market housing in terms of design and to be dispersed across the site. The affordable homes should be designed to the Homes and Community Agency design and sustainability standards [<http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/ourwork/design-and-sustainability-standards>] or their equivalent. The Council will work with Registered Providers to ensure, where feasible, a proportion of homes are delivered to meet lifetime homes standards.

The detailed mix of tenure and type of housing will be informed by the latest advice and technical work set out in the Council's Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (www.dacorum.gov.uk/ahspd), and the most up-to-date local housing needs information. Early liaison with a Registered Provider and the Council's Strategic Housing team is essential.

3.8 Planning application requirements

In addition to plans and drawings the following supporting studies may be required as part of an outline planning application for the LA2 Old Town site (depending on the validation requirements at the time of submission):

- Neighbourhood Notification Sheet
- Planning Statement
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Energy Statement
- Site Waste Management Plan
- Tree Survey/Arboricultural Report
- Environmental Impact Statement
- Transport Assessment
- Archaeological Assessment
- Protected Species Survey and Assessment
- Land Contamination Assessment Phase 1 Report
- Lighting Assessment
- Open Space Assessment
- Crime Prevention Measures (to be included within the Design and Access Statement)
- Safer Places Statement
- Affordable Housing Statement
- Planning Obligations – Draft Heads of Terms
- Drainage Strategy

4 Development Constraints and Opportunities

There are a number of constraints on site which present a varying challenge to development. The existing A rated trees and footpath along the eastern boundary will need to be retained. This can be turned into a more positive feature within a new housing layout with overlooking and easing of some of the more overgrown, lower quality areas of scrub. The large groups of trees within the site could potentially restrict the amount of development possible on the site, however some groups could be retained to form part of the open space.

The site is sloped and as such careful consideration to both the vehicular access and the internal road layout needs to be taken into account. The majority of the site has a slope of 1:10 or greater, this flattens out towards the eastern boundary where the footpath is located.

The site has been checked for utilities easements, there are no high, intermediate or medium pressure gas pipes that run through or close to the site. There are a number of low pressure gas pipes that serve the surrounding area but none that run across the site and as such are unlikely to present a constraint. Likewise there are wastewater sewers that run adjacent to the site but not through it. No overhead cables run over the site. A title plan has been obtained for the site which does not specify any easements for access to water or drainage infrastructure.

The site boundary abuts the Old Town Conservation Area boundary at a small section of the lower south western edge. It is therefore important that new development is of a high quality that complements and enhances the positive characteristics of the Conservation Area.

The site is also adjacent to the area identified as the 'High Gade Valley' landscape character area in the Dacorum Landscape Character Assessment. The assessment notes the important characteristic steep slopes to the valley with long views along the valley.

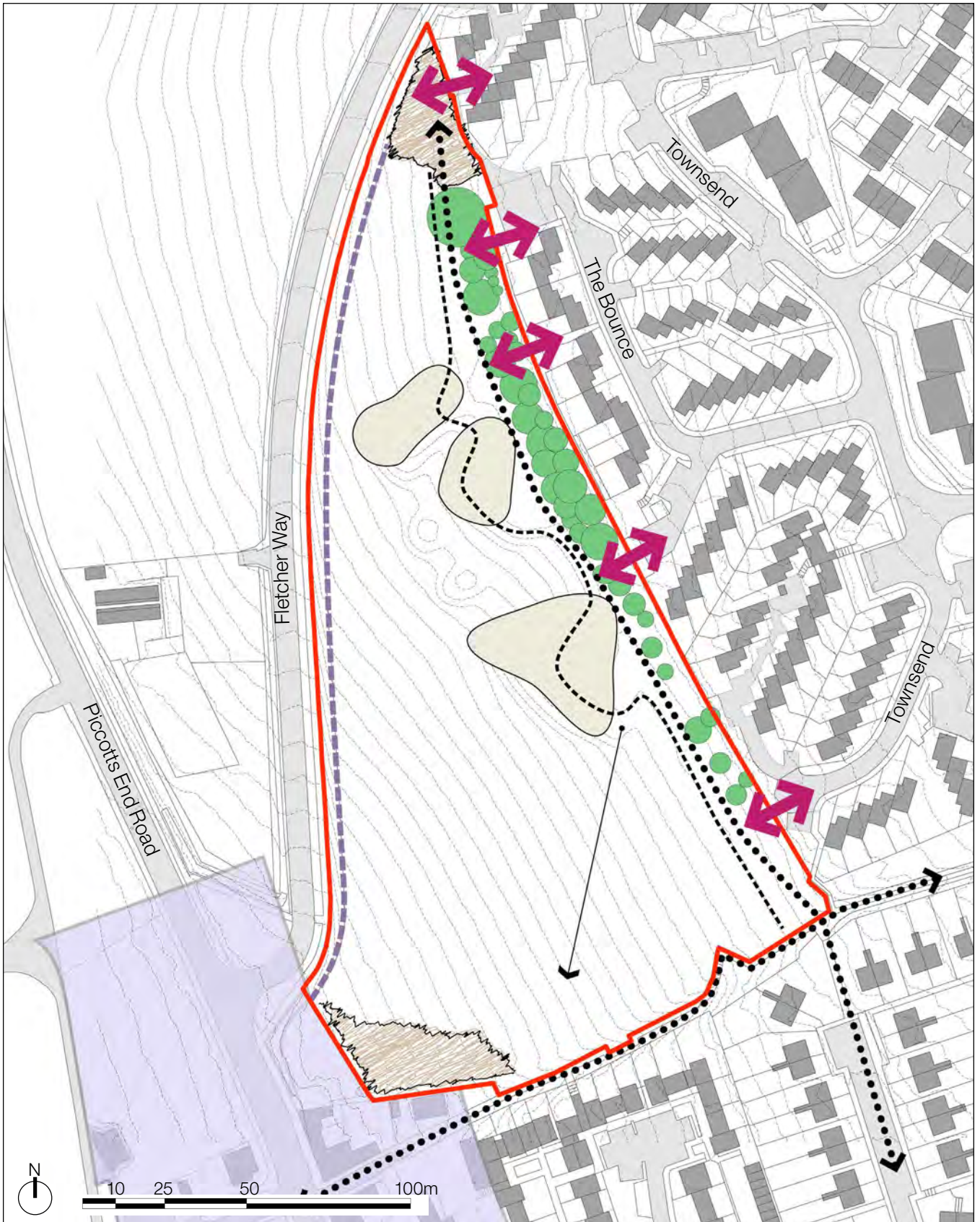


Fig 4.1 Constraints and opportunities

5 Masterplan Requirements

This masterplan document aims to set out a framework in which new high quality development can be achieved that meets the aspirations of the Council and also ensures that the opinions and concerns of existing local residents have been addressed. The main mechanism for achieving this within this document is to set out a vision describing what new development might be like. The vision statement is then further expanded upon through a set of development principles. The development principles are designed to fix certain key things but to retain enough flexibility for things to change in the future.

The following vision statement aims to set the tone for what new development could potentially be like on site.

Vision statement

The LA2 site will form a new, attractive part of the Old Town area of Hemel Hempstead. Development will be integrated with the existing residential areas to the east and south through maintaining and improving existing pedestrian links to the site and incorporating routes through the new development. New open spaces will be incorporated on site for use by existing and new residents.

Design of new buildings will positively contribute towards the character of the Old Town conservation area. There will be a mixture of family and smaller homes. The new area will be designed to be safe and secure and an inclusive community.

Development Principles

The following development principles are set out within the masterplan framework drawing and consist of the following points:

Homes

- Around 80 new homes should be provided on site.
- Provide a mix of house types, with some flats and houses, including 40% affordable homes.

Design (design principles for the site are further expanded in the following section)

- Secure a high quality layout and design that respects the character of the Old Town Conservation Area and the setting of its listed buildings, and takes account of the steeply sloping nature of the site.
- Limit housing to two storeys, except where a higher element would create interest and focal points in the street scene.
- Arrange new housing to achieve natural surveillance and provide active and attractive frontages to the main area of open space and Fletcher Way.
- The built form should act as a transition between the Old town and New Town.
- Provide adequate provision for refuse bins and bicycles within residential properties.

Streets and spaces

- Ensure that streets and spaces are designed to add positively to the character of the existing area.
- Avoid over-domination of parked vehicles in the street scene.

Access

- Take the primary road access (and the secondary access if provided) from Fletcher Way.
- Improve the east-west and north-south public footpaths.
- Ensure that pedestrian access to the existing residential areas is maintained and enhanced to encourage the use of existing transport facilities.

Utilities and infrastructure

- The site should link into existing utilities networks.
- Establish the capacity of the existing network and provide extra capacity where needed to serve the development.
- Co-ordinate the design of land drainage with the design for streets and open spaces.

Landscape and open space

- Respect the landscape setting and character of the site.
- Provide around 1 hectare of open space, located mainly on the higher ground adjacent to The Bounce and Townsend.
- Retain the existing important trees at the top of the hill adjacent to The Bounce and Townsend and as many other trees as possible.

Views and surrounding countryside

- Soften views of the development from across the valley and open countryside by the use of carefully designed planting.
- Views of the site from the surrounding areas and open countryside must be taken into consideration.



Fig 5.1 Illustrative layout showing one way in which the masterplan could be delivered.



Fig 5.2 3d view of key spaces



Fig 5.3 The Prince's Natural House at the BRE campus is a good example of the massing and proportions that would be appropriate for the Old Town site.

5.1 Design principles and guidance

The site presents an opportunity to provide a new gateway to the Old Town and the historic High Street reflecting key elements of its character without unnecessary pastiche.

Key characteristics of the Old Town Conservation Area are (adapted from the Old Town Character Appraisal and Management Proposals (January 2014):

- the compact nature and fine grain of the High Street;
- regular, long and narrow plots;
- the openness of the Gadebridge Park setting to the west;
- the majority of buildings being consistently of two and half to three storeys; buildings tend to be of a grander scale moving towards St Mary's Church and fall away towards the north;
- a variation in the facades of buildings due to remodelling and rebuilding over time. The layering of these changes provides some of the most interesting and diverse architectural features seen in the Conservation Area; and
- a change in the nature of the townscape moving north along the High Street where the carriageway widens and development to the west side of the street drops below street level.

The following design principles should form the starting point in developing a detailed proposal for the site that creates an appropriate transition into and from the Old Town. In addition to these principals the design and layout of the new development would be expected to meet latest best practice guidance.

The development should take account of 'Building Futures' (<http://www.hertslink.org/buildingfutures/>). Building Futures is a Hertfordshire based guide, which focuses on making development in Hertfordshire more sustainable and of a higher quality in design terms. It is an evolving web-based guide designed to provide practical, user-friendly and up-to-date guidance.

Residential character across the site

The Old Town site acts as a gateway to the Old Town Conservation Area and High Street but also provides an opportunity to address the existing New Town residential areas. As such there is potential for the site to deliver a variety of residential characters to reflect the site's transitional nature. These should be carefully considered and the design of all buildings should also compliment each other and work together across the site.

The approach to the Old Town is a key location where the massing and proportionality of the buildings will be important. In this location new buildings must complement the form, massing and proportionality of the traditional

buildings of the Old Town. The precedent of the The Prince's Natural House which is showcased at the Building Research Establishment's campus in Watford is felt to demonstrate well the type of qualities the Council would expect of new homes in this location.

As you move through the site towards the existing New Town the character of the new homes can change to reflect the more modern style of the houses in the existing area. These homes should also be designed to be of a high quality design and materiality. The transition between the different character areas within the site should be considered carefully and all of the architectural styles on the site should complement one another.

There are some parts of the site where it is felt that taller built elements of upto three storeys would be appropriate and add positively to the street scene and character of the site. Generally these locations are at key junctions within the site and at gateway spaces such as the main access point.



Fig 5.5 Approach to character and taller built elements

- Traditional character
- Transitional area between traditional and modern character
- Modern character
- Suitable location for a taller built element

Key spaces in the masterplan

Within the masterplan there are a number of spaces that have an important role in creating a positive townscape and character. Principally these are:

- The treatment to Fletcher Way - principal frontage;
- The streets within the site:
 - Secondary frontage streets
 - Mews streets
- The new open spaces that will be created as part of the development.

In addition there are a number of elements to the housing layout that will be common to all parts of the site and their sensitive and good quality design will be key to making the Old Town site a successful place. These are:

- Sensitively incorporating parking;
- Working with the topography of the site;
- Designing flattened development; and
- Servicing and refuse.

Treatment of Fletcher Way - principal frontage

The approach to development adjacent to Fletcher Way is a key element of the design of the site. It also plays a key role in the approach into Hemel Hempstead and the Old Town that gives the potential to provide a gateway space into the existing built up area. Development in this location should be tight to the boundary with Fletcher Way.

Streets

Within the site there is the opportunity to create character through different treatments of streets and open spaces. Other than the principal frontage onto Fletcher Way there are two potential types of street:

Secondary frontages: These are areas where development overlooks incidental open spaces, they play an important role in the character of these spaces. These streets could have a reasonably formal appearance with defined pavements and carefully planned or grouped buildings e.g. villas, semi-detached dwellings or short terraces. Dwellings should have green front garden spaces to allow for areas of planting and to 'green' the streets. Where the road is adjacent to an open space some on street parking would be appropriate where it is designed in and with sufficient landscaping to mitigate its impact.



Fig 5.4 Positioning new homes so that they overlook open spaces and key pedestrian routes helps to make them feel more safe and secure.



Fig 5.5 Incorporating existing planting and mature trees into new spaces helps them to feel more established.



Fig 5.6 Carefully position routes through open spaces so that they follow logical desire lines and are overlooked by development.

Mews Streets: To reflect the compact and fine grain nature of the conservation area a mews street typology is appropriate for this location. Mews streets have a more informal feel often with a different road treatment such as block paving. Dwellings on these streets should be in short terraces that are of a consistent width and height and tight in nature to give the street a compact definition. Mews streets can be narrower than the main street and front boundary treatments should be shorter (less than 1m) or to the back of footway and paved or with planters.

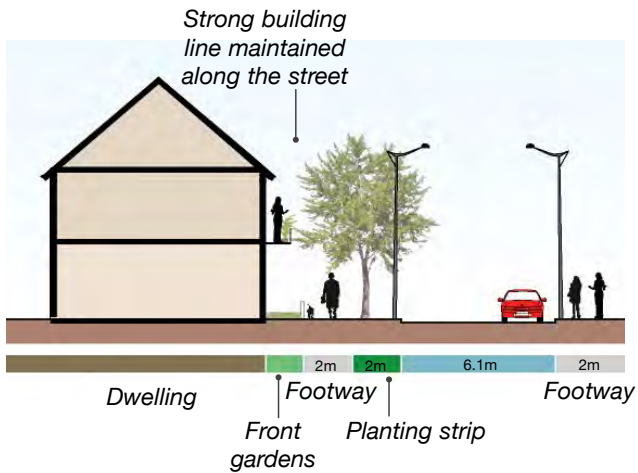


Fig 5.7 Indicative section of a principal frontage

Key features of Principal Streets:

- Buildings have a more formal appearance;
- Boundary treatments to houses are more formal in nature;
- Some on-street parking provided;
- Existing trees and any new tree planting reduce impact of parking;

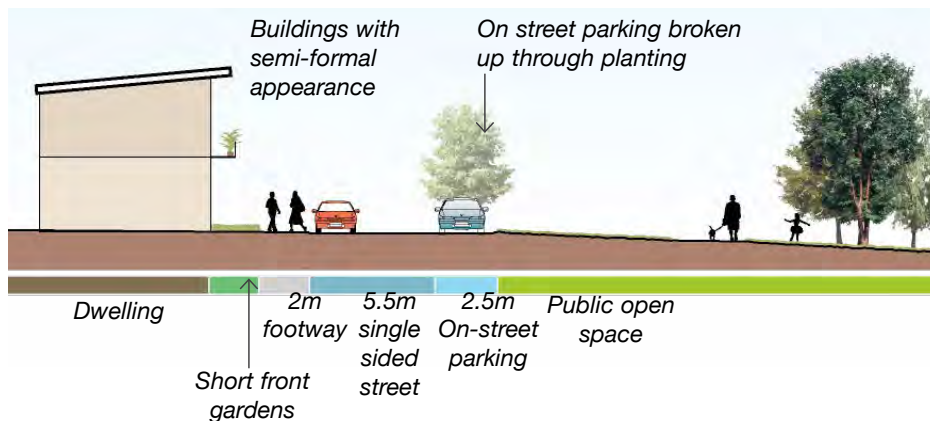


Fig 5.8 Indicative section of a street next to open space

Key features of Secondary Streets overlooking open spaces:

- Target maximum speed 10mph;
- Buildings with semi-formal appearance overlooking adjacent open space;
- Some on-street parking provided;
- Street trees and planting reduce impact of parking and bring housing together with well framed views; and
- Street provides direct vehicular and pedestrian frontage to properties.

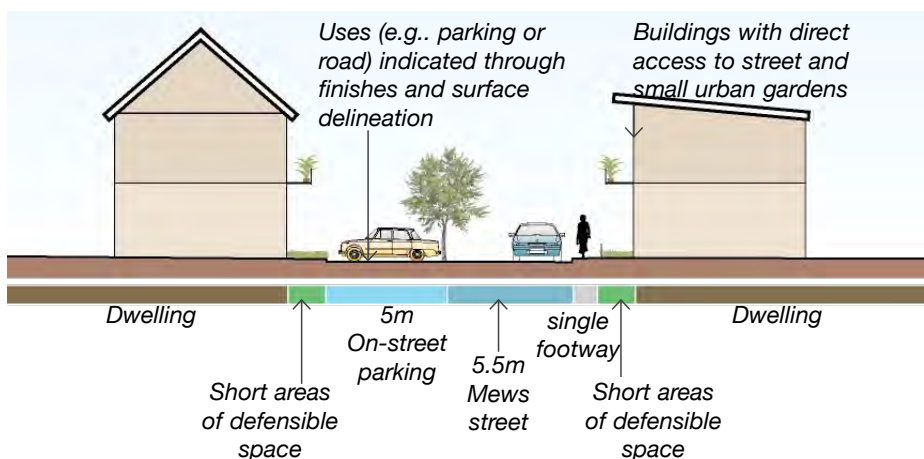


Fig 5.9 Indicative section of mews street

Key features of Mews streets:

- Target maximum speed 10mph;
- Pedestrian priority;
- Single continuous surface, with delineations for footway and parking indicated through finishes;
- Parking provided within the street, and broken up through the use of street planting; and
- Street provides direct vehicular and pedestrian frontage to properties.

Open spaces

Where there are smaller, incidental open spaces within the site these should be overlooked by development on at least one side. Where appropriate pedestrian routes should be incorporated into the landscape scheme and follow logical desire lines. Where possible existing high quality landscape features, such as the more mature trees on site should be retained as part of any landscape scheme. Trees can be used to create distinctiveness within an area and where possible, appropriate additional planting should be incorporated in a planned way that supports the design intent of the proposal.

If planting is proposed to break up parking areas in areas to be offered for adoption by the highway authority, it should follow the guidance given in 'Roads in Hertfordshire' (see section 3.5 above) and the County Council's 'Highway Tree Strategy and Guidance Document' (<http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/t/treestrat>).

Working with the topography

The Old Town site sits across a consistently sloping site and is clearly visible from existing neighbourhoods across the Gade Valley. To address this, detailed designs will:

- Relate scale and massing of built form to the contours, surrounding developments and open spaces (e.g. through consistent stepping within grouped elevations) to achieve an attractive roofscape;
- Provide roads in accordance with Hertfordshire County Highways guidance;
- Provide pedestrian and cycle routes to meet the gradient requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) wherever possible;

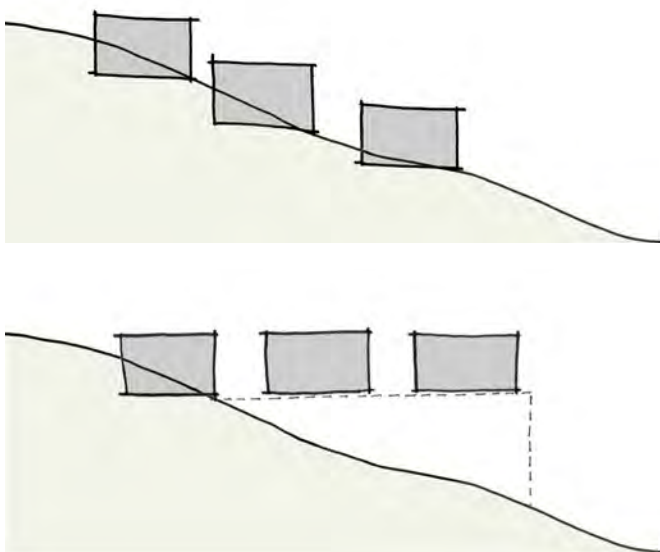


Fig 5.10 Buildings should step down with the topography to avoid unnecessary retaining wall and awkward access arrangements.

- Relate internal floor levels of homes to the external ground level; and
- Deal carefully with changes in level in the public realm, including the banking at the edges of the site and the space in between.



Fig 5.11 The buildings in this example step down with the topography of the site and the open space has been designed to incorporate existing levels and features.



Fig 5.12 The existing homes on the nearby Chapel Street step down the steep hill and provide level access for each dwelling. Front gardens are terraced with the levels of the road.



Fig 5.13 The buildings at Greenhithe step down a steep slope creating an interesting pattern of roofs, whilst also allowing level access to new homes.

Level changes in the public realm

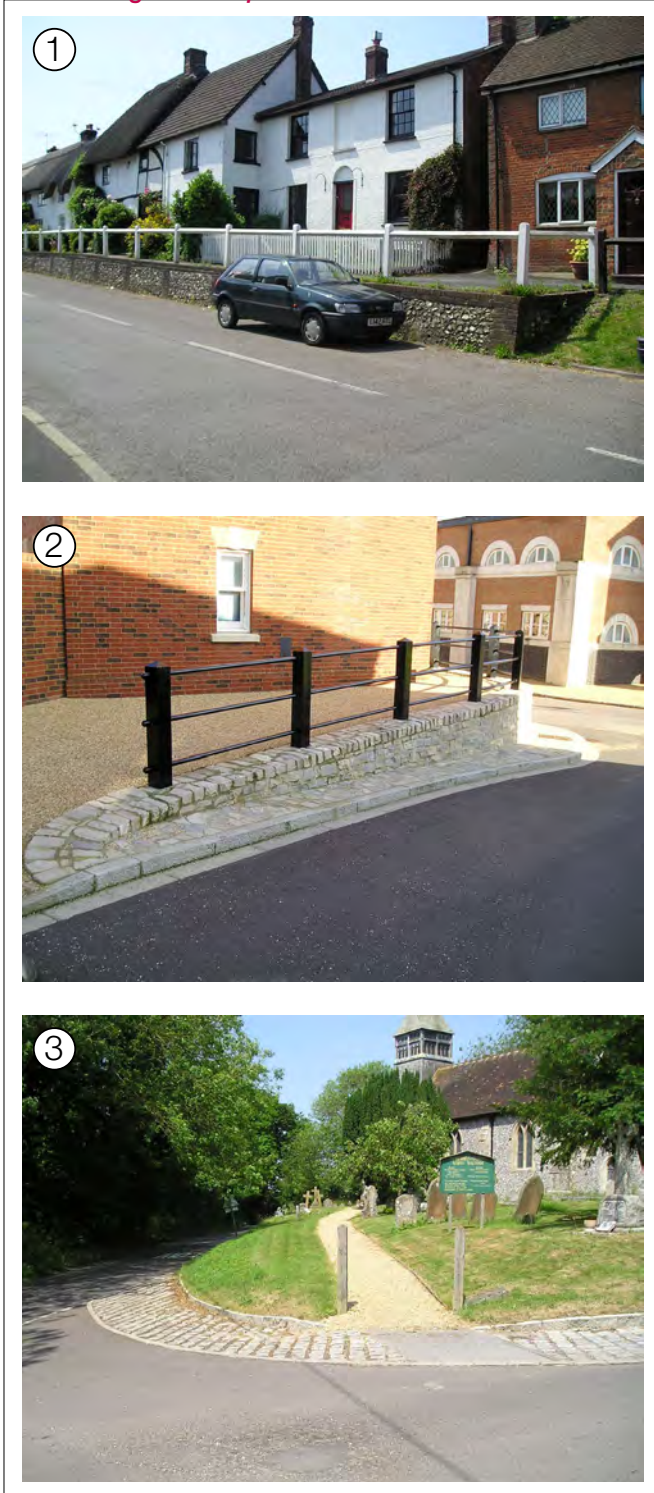


Fig 5.14 In the public realm changes in level can be dealt with sensitively in a number of ways. In example 1 the change in level presents an opportunity to provide a pedestrian route that is separated from vehicular routes. Example 2 shows one way in which the public realm can help to turn a corner and provide interest in the street scene. In example 3 a change in materials can help to delineate the public realm and green verges soften the steepness of the site.

Designing flatted development

Some flatted development is appropriate for the Old Town site however it needs to be designed sensitively and to ensure that it is in keeping with the character of the surrounding area and in particular the Old Town Conservation Area.

The mass and form of the building should be carefully considered to reduce the bulk and impact of the building. Considered articulation of the facade can help to break down the bulk of the building. Blocks of flats should be designed so as to be in keeping with the houses that surround them.

The space around flats should be carefully considered and some external space for residents should be provided.



Fig 5.15 The articulation of the elevation of these flats help to break down its overall massing and is also in keeping with the surrounding housing development.



Fig 5.15 Although more modern in style than other examples the articulation of this facade provides opportunities for balconies with privacy from overlooking.

Designing in bins and servicing at an early stage

Thinking carefully about the design of refuse storage and areas for metering equipment and other 'forgotten' elements such as satellite dishes from the early stages of the detailed design process can make a large impact on the final look and feel of a place.

Bin stores and recycling facilities should be designed to screen bins from public view, whilst being easily accessible for residents. The materials used for walls and fences should relate to the materials used for the remainder of the building. Boundaries to public areas, such as streets, should be robust, for instance brick walls or railings, or other appropriate boundary treatments, while avoiding the use of less robust solutions such as close boarded timber.

Carefully position flues and ventilation ducts, ensuring they are as unobtrusive as possible. Use good quality grilles that fit in with the approach to materials for the building as a whole.

Ensure that gutters and pipes fit into the overall design approach to the building and aim to minimise their visual impact.

Incorporating space for bicycle storage

In order to encourage more residents to cycle as an alternative and more sustainable form of transport, it is important that adequate cycle storage is provided.

Cycle storage should be provided in a location that allows easy and direct access to a public highway. Cycle parking can either be provided within a dwelling or in a communal area for flatted buildings.

It is generally considered that in order to be able to access bicycles independently the following minimum space is required:

- 1 cycle: 2 m long × 0.75 m wide
- 2 cycles: 2 m long × 1.5 m wide
- 4 cycles: 2 m long × 2.5 m wide

If cycle parking is provided within a dwelling (for example in a hallway) that space must be wide enough to accommodate both the cycle parking and still function as the space is intended. If cycle parking is provided within a domestic garage adequate space must be provided to park a car and also store bicycles.

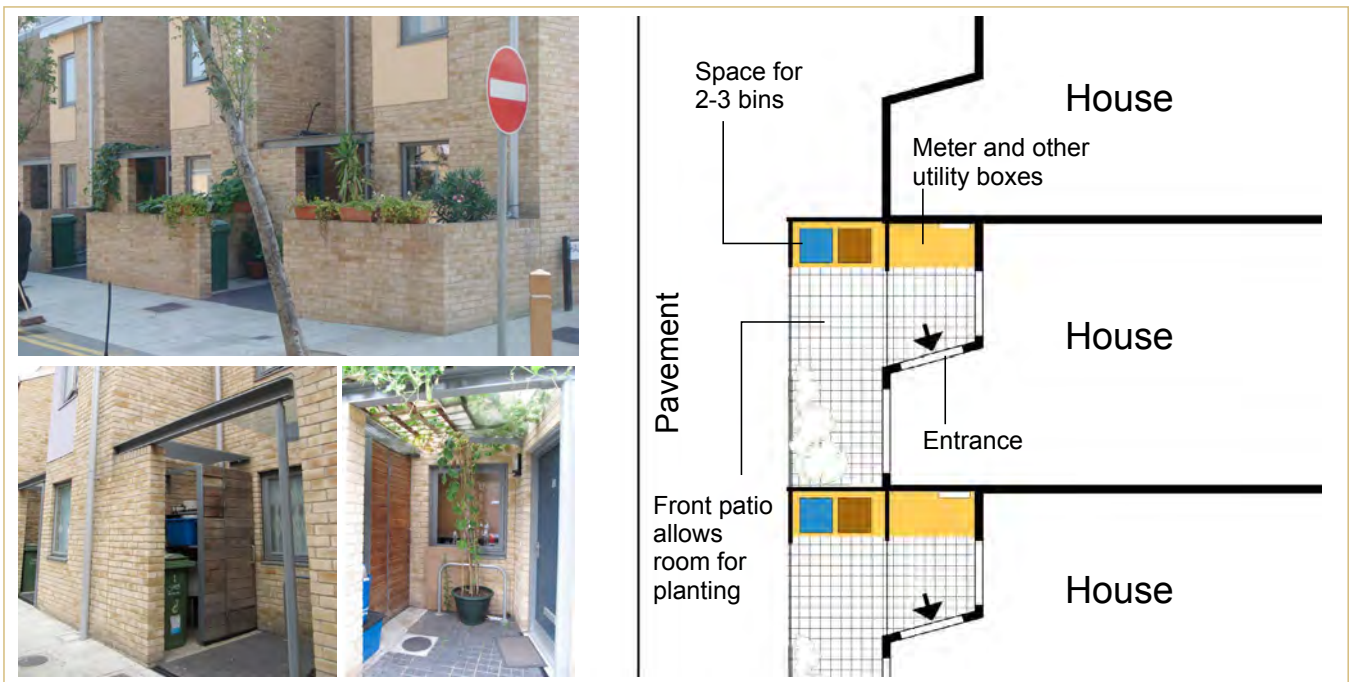


Fig 5.16 Early consideration of detailed elements such as bin stores and meter boxes influences the quality of the development. Example of well integrated bin store and storage space in an urban development where it relates well to the character of the local area

Sensitively incorporating parking

The design approach for car parking should be to avoid a single parking solution and to vary the ways that parking is provided and related to dwellings. Acceptable forms of car parking include:

- On street parallel parking adjacent to the carriageway, particularly for visitors. Ideally this should be created by a simple widening of the road rather than as formal marked bays.
- Garage parking, ideally with an additional space in front, between dwellings. Garage parking should be designed to ensure that it does not obstruct the footway;
- In-curtilage parking accessed from the front of the property. This form of parking should be behind the building line in most instances to minimise the visual impact of parking in the street scene. Tandem parking is preferred to side by side as it minimises the visual impact on the street;
- Covered spaces beneath a flat over a garage with its own ground level front door ideally located within public courtyards and quieter streets.



Fig 5.18 An example of well designed parking court.



Fig 5.19 Well-designed on street parking can make a positive contribution to the street scene.

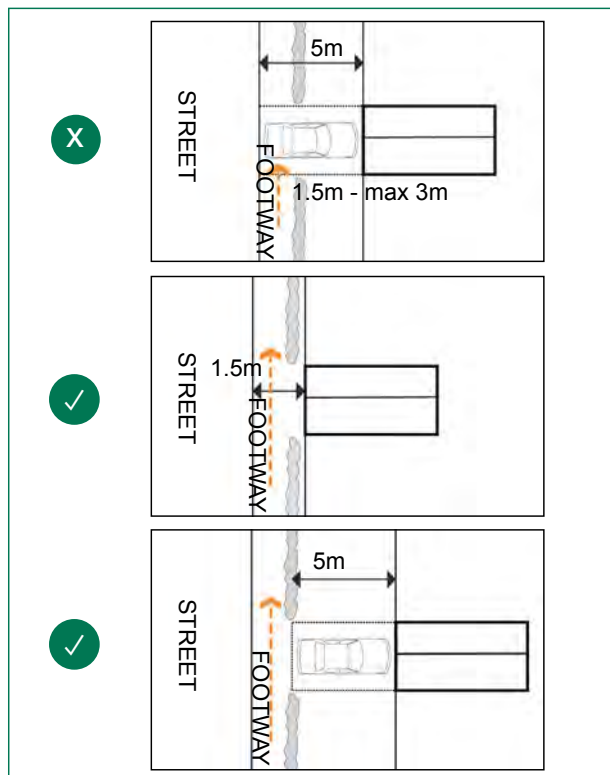


Fig 5.17 It is important to position garages so that cars do not park across the footway

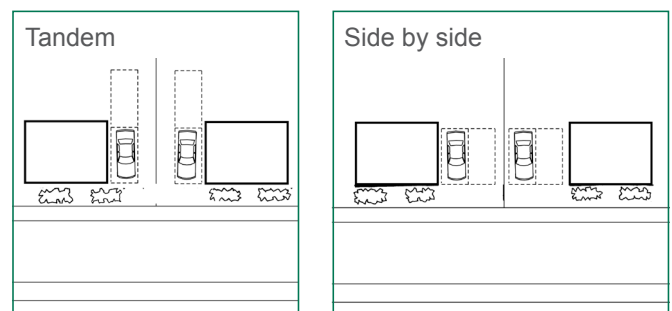


Fig 5.20 Parking should be set behind the building line where possible so that it doesn't dominate the street scene

6 Masterplan

6.1 Preferred Approach

The approach to development in this masterplan document focusses around maintaining the large groups of existing trees and incorporating them into an open space. This would help to provide a buffer between the new development and existing built up area and also enables a large area of open space to be retained to compensate for new development.

In this approach the primary frontages are turned to face onto the open space with the primary road also running alongside.

This framework plan delivers the following approximate areas:

Site area (red line)	2.8ha
Open space	1.1ha
Developed area (houses, gardens, roads and parking)	1.7ha












The layout is capable of achieving around 80 units depending on the mix of flats to houses. A notional mix for capacity purposes is outlined in the table below:

	Smaller units (1 / 2 beds)	Larger units (3 / 4 beds)	Total
Flats	50	/	50
Houses	13	17	30
Total	63	17	80

If a higher proportion of larger units is required this would reduce the capacity of the site. The capacity could be maintained if housing were to be built on some of the proposed open space area.

Parking needs to be sensitively incorporated into the layout for the site and must be provided to meet the current parking standards. The parking standards for different size dwellings are as follows:

Dwelling size	Car parking standard
1 bedroom dwelling	1.25 spaces
2 bedroom dwelling	1.5 spaces
3 bedroom dwelling	2.25 spaces
4 bedroom dwelling	3 spaces

-  Site boundary
-  Areas of grass / planting / open space
-  Development blocks
-  Primary road and access
-  Secondary road
-  Secondary / emergency vehicular access
-  Pedestrian routes
-  Principal frontage
-  Secondary frontage
-  Existing trees retained as part of layout
-  Proposed tree planting

Framework diagram



Fig 6.1 Masterplan framework

7 Delivery

This masterplan will be used as a framework to help guide future development on the site. It elaborates on the requirements set out in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD), which in turn forms part of the new Local Plan for Dacorum.

The site has been subject to an initial viability assessment which indicates that the proposals are deliverable and viable for the quantum of development the site will be allocated for, including the necessary affordable housing provision and likely section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions.

The whole site is owned by Dacorum Borough Council.

Phasing

In accordance with Core Strategy Policy CS3: Managing Selected Development Sites and Site Allocations Policy LA2: Old Town, the site is scheduled to come forward for development in the second half of the Core Strategy period i.e. after 2021. The site is relatively small in comparison to other local allocations and as such will most likely be developed in one phase.

Planning Obligations

There are no known or identified abnormal development costs which would undermine the ability of this site to pay appropriate contributions towards infrastructure either through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Section 106¹, in accordance with Core Strategy Policy CS35: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions. The cost of providing a new road junction on Fletcher Way has been included in the viability assessment of the site carried out to inform the development of CIL.

The main items identified to be funded as a result of the impact of the proposed development from either a Section 106 agreement or CIL include:

- Affordable housing - provision will be in accordance with section 3.7 above and the Council's Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document. The individual

¹ It is anticipated that CIL will be in place at the time the application is submitted, however in the event of any changes to legislation Section 106 agreements will be used to secure funding for infrastructure requirements.

composition of the tenure will be determined at the time of the application.

- Junction arrangements from the site onto Fletcher Way – this is expected to be in the form of a priority junction. Precise configuration to be determined following advice from the Highway Authority at the planning application stage.
- Other local junction improvements – as advised by the Highway Authority.
- Contributions towards sustainable transport – as advised by the Passenger Transport unit at the County Council;
- Education contributions - for local primary school provision and other educational needs; and
- Healthcare contributions – for local services as advised by NHS Hertfordshire.

The County Council's requirements will be derived in accordance with the document 'Planning Obligations Guidance - Toolkit for Hertfordshire (Hertfordshire County Council's requirements)' at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/yourcouncil/hcc/resandperf/hertsprop/planningobs/> or any replacement document.

It should also be noted that early liaison is required with:

- Thames Water, to ensure sufficient sewerage and sewage treatment capacity is available to support delivery of the site; and
- the SUDS Approval Body (SAB) to ensure appropriate sustainable drainage is planned for at the early design stage (see section 3.4).

8 Supporting Documents

The following background documents have helped with the preparation of the masterplan:

- Dacorum CIL Viability Study, DBC (July 2013)
- Desk Based Archaeological Assessment for LA2, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd (ASC) (July 2013)
- Trial Trench Report for LA2 (ASC) (December 2013)
- Geophysical Survey Report for Dacorum Area, Stratascan (June 2013)
- Hemel Hempstead Old Town Conservation Appraisal & Management Proposals, DBC (January 2014)

The archaeological reports can be viewed on the LA2 section of the Council's website:

<http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/planning-development/planning-strategic-planning/local-planning-framework/site-allocations/localallocations/la2-old-town-hemel-hempstead>

The links to the other documents are given below:

[http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/planning-development/planning-strategic-planning/community-infrastructure-levy-\(cil\)/setting-the-cil-charge](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/planning-development/planning-strategic-planning/community-infrastructure-levy-(cil)/setting-the-cil-charge)

<http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/docs/default-source/strategic-planning/hemel-hempstead-conservation-area-report.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

Appendix 1: Glossary

Acronym	Subject	Explanation
	Affordable Housing	<p>Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.</p> <p>Affordable housing does not include low cost market housing.</p>
	Affordable rented housing	Affordable rented housing is let by local authorities or private registered providers of social housing to households who are eligible for social rented housing. Affordable Rent is subject to rent controls that require a rent of no more than 80% of the local market rent (including service charges, where applicable).
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a precious landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them, created by the legislation of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. The Chilterns AONB is one of 38 AONBs in England and Wales.
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy	A new charge which local authorities in England and Wales will be empowered, but not required, to charge on most types of new development in their area. CIL charges will be based on simple formulae which relate the size of the charge to the size and character of the development paying it.
CSH	Code for Sustainable Homes	The Code for Sustainable Homes is the national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. It is an environmental assessment method for rating and certifying the performance of new homes, and it is possible to secure a CSH rating of between zero and six, with six being the most sustainable.
	Conservation Area	An area designated by the Borough Council under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as an area of special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. There are additional controls over demolition, minor developments and the felling of trees.
CS	Core Strategy	<p>A Development Plan Document setting out long-term spatial vision and objectives, and containing both strategic policies and generic policies which will apply to all development proposals in the local authority area as a whole.</p> <p>The Core Strategy for Dacorum was formally adopted by the Council in September 2013.</p>
	Curtilage	The area of land, usually enclosed, immediately surrounding a home.
DAS	Design and Access Statement	<p>A report accompanying and supporting a planning application. Required for many types of planning application – both full and outline – but there are some exemptions. They are not required for householder applications.</p> <p>Design and access statements are documents that explain the design thinking behind a planning application.</p>
DBC	Dacorum Borough Council	The Local Authority for the Old Town site.

DPD	Development Plan Document	A type of Local Development Document, which carries significant weight in the development control process. Development Plan Documents are spatial planning documents which are subject to independent examination.
	Development Plan	A plan comprising the Development Plan Documents contained within the Local Development Framework. This includes adopted Local Plans and neighbourhood plans, and is defined in section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
	Dwelling mix	The mix of different types of homes provided on a site. May typically include a range of types from, say, 2 bedroom houses up to larger 4 and 5 bedroom houses.
	Examination	An review of planning policy documents carried out in public by an Independent Examiner.
	Flood plain / Flood risk zone	Areas identified by the Environment Agency, marking areas as high (zone 3), low to medium (zone 2), or little or no risk (zone 1).
	Green Infrastructure	The network of accessible, multi-functional green and open spaces.
	Gross density	The number of dwellings per hectare when the calculation of the site area includes the entire site area.
HCC	Hertfordshire County Council	
	Infrastructure	All the ancillary works and services which are necessary to support human activities, including roads, sewers, schools, hospitals and so on.
	Listed buildings	Buildings and structures which are listed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as being of special architectural and historic interest and whose protection and maintenance are the subject of special legislation. Listed building consent is required before any works are carried out on a listed building.
LDD	Local Development Document	An individual component or document of the Local Development Framework.
LDF	Local Development Framework	The portfolio of Local Development Documents
	Market housing	Housing for sale or for rent where prices are set in the open market.
	Mixed-use	Developments where more than one use is constructed. Uses may be mixed within the same building (e.g. offices above shops) or may be mixed across the site (e.g. houses next to shops and community facilities)
	Masterplan	The masterplan document sets more detailed principals for the character and layout of the Old Town site. It is intended to shape and guide future planning applications on the site.
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework	The National Planning Policy Framework was published by the government in March 2012. It sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.
	Net density	The number of dwellings per hectare when the calculation of the site area excludes features such as open spaces for the benefit of the wider community, significant landscape buffers and major access roads.
	Public Open Space	Open space that is open to the public and is normally owned and managed by a public organisation.

RSL	Registered Social Landlord	Independent housing organisations registered with the Tennant Services Authority under the Housing Act 1996.
	Saved policy	Dacroum Borough Council's Core Strategy has replaced many of the policies in the previous Local Plan. However, some of the more detailed policies in the old Local Plan are not incorporated within the Core Strategy. In common with other local planning authorities DBC has 'saved' these policies so that they continue to apply until they are replaced by newer, more up to date policies.
	Social Rented Housing	Social rented housing is owned by local authorities and private registered providers (as defined in section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008), guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime. It may also be owned by other persons and provided under equivalent rental arrangements to the above, as agreed with the local authority or with the Homes and Communities Agency.
	Use Classes	The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) puts uses of land and buildings into various categories known as 'Use Classes'. For example, A1 is shops and B2 is general industrial.

