

Landscape Architecture

Capability Statement
2024

tor
&CO

torandeo.com



A people practice

tor&co is a planning, design, and environmental consultancy with a human focus.

People are at the core of every tor&co project. We believe that when we consider what they need, how they think, feel, and behave, we uncover the potential to not just meet, but to exceed expectations. We pride ourselves on building long-term relationships, so that together with clients, communities, and partners, we realise our mission to build a lasting legacy.

Philosophy

For us, collaboration breeds creativity.

We believe that collaboration breeds creativity and that thinking creatively will always result in better solutions. By working alongside our clients and partners, calling on the expertise of our colleagues, and consulting the communities for which we create, we arrive at better outcomes for people, the planet, and all its ecosystems.

Our Clients

Fostering relationships for the long-term.

We are proud to partner with a broad range of clients on commercial and socially significant projects of every scale. Both in the public and private sector, our aim is to forge long-term relationships so that every challenge and complexity is tackled with insight and foresight.

Approach

Putting people and legacy at the core.

Our approach is always to start with people and continue to put them at the centre of every project. By giving every consideration to their physical, emotional, environmental and commercial needs, we exceed expectations and leave a sustainable and lasting legacy.

Culture

An interdisciplinary ecosystem.

We are a small but perfectly formed team with an open, inclusive and supportive culture. There are no siloes or egos, just a group of highly skilled individuals who interconnect in pursuit of better outcomes for people and planet



An integrated team

Diverse specialisms with an interdisciplinary approach.

Our breadth of projects demands a diverse set of specialisms and individual skills, but our seamlessly integrated culture and interdisciplinary approach means we listen, learn, and refine as one. Together we unravel the complex, clear a path with singular focus, and apply life-enhancing creativity.

Planning

For us, planning goes beyond just process and the purely technical. Our planning team has an enviable success rate, working to promote positive land use, devising ingenious strategies and advancing projects that make a positive contribution. We embrace challenges from the large, complex and demanding, to the small, and soon to be, perfectly formed, with equal enthusiasm, commitment and creativity.

Landscape Architecture

While we understand the value of the aesthetic, our landscape team know that how a space makes people feel, emotionally and physically, is the key to unlocking the full potential of a site. This focus ensures that our proposals are creative and sympathetic, so that we promote positive co-existence between people, place and planet.

Environmental Planning

Now more than ever, how we care for the environments in which we live, work, learn, and play, is high on everyone's agenda. Our environmental specialists analyse, advise and coordinate with respect to environmental and sustainability issues and environmental impact assessment so that our solutions are robust, meaningful, mutually beneficial, and future focused.

Strategic Communications

By providing strategic advice to our clients from the outset we can shape, design and deliver targeted communications and engagement strategies to help navigate complex circumstances. Developing opportunities for meaningful dialogue with local communities and building trust with decision makers across national and local government is critical in mitigating risk and maximising opportunities.

Architecture

Taking a holistic approach, working in synergy with clients and the wider tor&co team, we believe, results in buildings and spaces that are not only deliverable but exceed expectations. We create exceptional environments where people, business and communities can thrive.

Urban Design

We have a passion to create sustainable places where strong community bonds can be forged. Our belief that truly successful places, ones that intuitively respond to human needs, have exceptional guiding principles. So our approach to masterplanning is designed to add lasting value for developers, partners, and the communities they serve.

Heritage

Early consultation with local authorities and interest groups ensures our heritage experts bring their considerable experience to bear. We work with the wider team to uncover and resolve potential heritage risk, navigating planning pitfalls to ensure that heritage issues are comprehensively addressed. Our work safeguards historical integrity for generations to come.

Viability

We aim to help design and plan developments that are deliverable throughout dynamic market conditions. We help our clients balance commercial and policy requirements, promoting positive outcomes by demonstrating how development proposals are able to contribute towards planning gain.

Expertise

tor&co is at the forefront of landscape design and at the cutting edge of commercial thinking. For us to maintain this position, we as designers respond quickly to changing lifestyles and shifting environmental and economic trends.

Our landscape designs are always people-centric. While we understand the value of the aesthetic, there is so much more to the success of a space; the way it feels, how it supports healthy lifestyles, responds to changing demands and most importantly, enriches lives and adds value for our clients.

We work hard early in the design process to engage with local communities, to understand the target demographic and provide spaces and facilities that promote health and well-being.



Our guiding principles

Our Landscape Architecture team provides inspired and imaginative planning and design solutions, unlocking opportunities at the forefront of best practice and at the cutting edge of commercial thinking.

As a team, we are guided by a simple shared vision; to create better connected, healthier and happier places. Our results are multi-functional, highly efficient, beautiful spaces which benefit the natural environment and deliver significant added value to our clients.

Natural capital

The government's 25 Year Environment Plan states that they intend to embed 'net environmental gain' principles into all development in order to deliver measurable environmental improvement locally as well as nationally.

We are seeing a shift towards a more holistic approach to environmental planning, taking a measurable 'stock' based approach to promote the longevity and welfare of the natural world and the communities that inhabit it. We are increasingly working alongside ecologists to maximise net biodiversity gain and investment in landscape infrastructure by de-intensifying management practices while adding development value.

Net and low carbon

Our approach to quality and sustainability centres on a holistic project view; from how the project connects to its wider context to detailed design and delivery.

We are involved in many projects from inception through to completion on site. This enables us to work with clients at the early stages of a project to establish sustainability targets. These principles then permeate through all aspects of our planning and design services; through promoting low carbon living, integrating passive design measures, maximising the embedded carbon associated with our landscape designs and reducing operational carbon by detensifying long term maintenance.

Bio-security

Bio-security is a major emerging issue for landscape consultants. Plant health and bio-security issues present a major threat to ecosystem resilience. With the uncertainty in the UK's trading future with the EU, it is crucial that we implement bio-security principles at every stage of our work, through species selection, specification, procurement protocols and management.

Collaborative working

Each client and each project is unique and requires an individual bespoke project approach. Through sympathetic consultation and ongoing evaluation and feedback, we can present a range of innovative, well designed and cost-effective solutions that exceed expectations. Our approach to client relationship management is client-centred, flexible, and bespoke to best suit the client and their preferred working methods.

Adding value

Despite being driven to deliver highly ambitious schemes, we understand the importance of development value and consider it a principal consideration when developing the landscape designs. Landscape performance and efficiency will be key. That means through our design and specification, we maximise multi-layered landscape function; utilising the drainage, earthworks, planting, space and arrangement to deliver layers of added natural capital and amenity value. This approach is proven to increase house values and helps address other important community and social issues of the day, such as health and well-being and the creation of strong new communities.



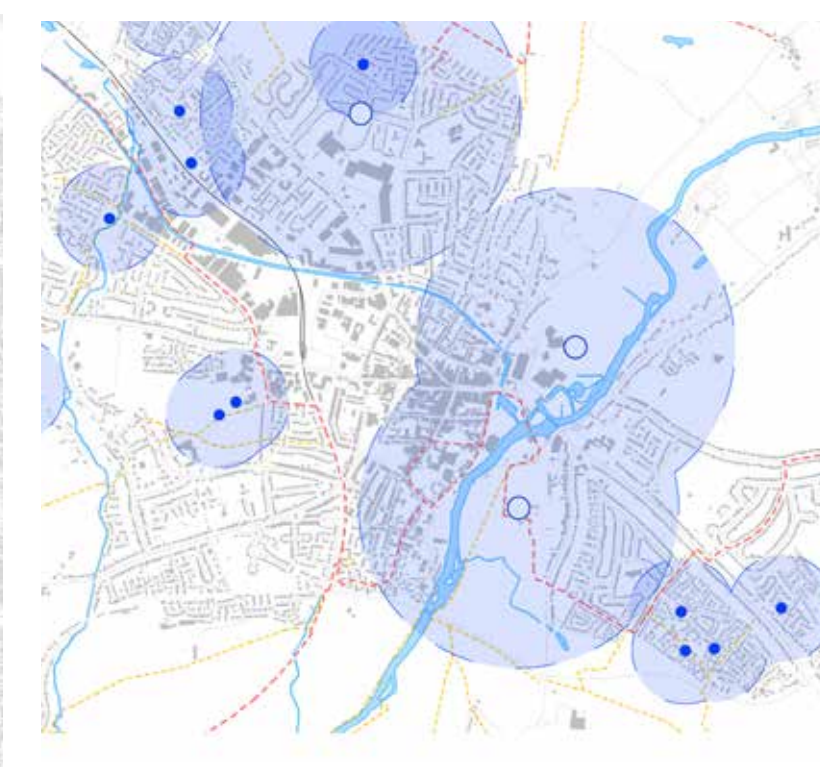
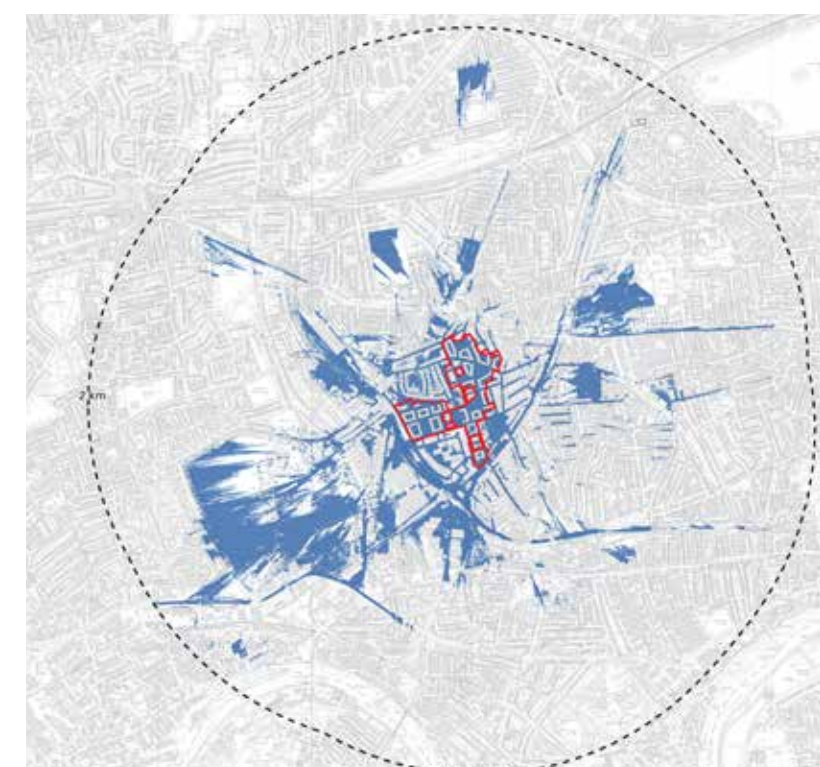
Landscape planning

Our team is interdisciplinary; our landscape architects and masterplanners work closely with our planners, architects and environmental specialists which means our designers develop a sophisticated, holistic approach to strategic planning.

Core to our success is the positive approach we take in engaging with local stakeholders and communities, translating our clients' requirements and rigorously resolving complex social and environmental issues to deliver highly successful schemes. Our planning success is excellent, achieving a 97% approval rate.

Our Landscape team's cross discipline experience of strategic planning, environmental impact assessment and detailed landscape design ensures that whatever the brief or technical site constraints, we are able to develop schemes that balance the aspirational and commercial, are deliverable, highly efficient and maximise development capacity and natural capital gains.

- Capacity studies
- Green Infrastructure Strategies
- Site promotion
- POS analysis
- Green Belt Appraisals
- Expert witness at Local Plan EIP and Public Inquiries the creation of strong new communities.



EIA and Townscape

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

tor&co is committed to 'excellence' in all EIA activities and is a member of the EIA Quality Mark Scheme (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment).

tor&co has been a member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's EIA Quality Mark Scheme since its introduction in 2011. Membership of the scheme represents a commitment to excellence in all aspects of EIA, giving confidence to our clients and local authorities that our work is legally robust and of the highest standard.

Townscape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments at tor&co are governed by the same strict methodologies.

Our assessments have supported some of the largest projects in the country including mixed use and residential development, on shore and off shore windfarms, energy from waste and solar.

- Townscape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Character assessment
- ZTV and GIS mapping
- Photographic surveys
- Verified visualisations
- Mitigation strategies



Landscape design

We have been involved in some truly unique schemes. Some of our most successful projects began as conventional briefs which, through rigorous testing and an in depth understanding of the client's needs, we have been able to challenge convention and deliver some exceptional and bespoke developments.

Our design solutions utilise cost appropriate materials and combine them with striking, ecologically beneficial planting in imaginative arrangements. Whether a private home or an expansive urban regeneration scheme, we consider the spatial dynamics of a site right down to the quality and function of human scale spaces.

For our clients, the results of our approach have been tangible and highly positive. For us, it has meant that our clients have unwavering faith in our design ability and continue to work with us for many years after our first commission.

The quality of our architectural and landscape designs have helped clients achieve elevated property values, occupancy rates and commercial exposure across the residential, hospitality and employment sectors.

- BIM level 2 compliant
- Visualisation and 3D modelling
- Detailed landscape design
- NBS specification
- CDM Risk assessment and management
- Construction contract administration



Case Studies

The following pages demonstrate the breadth of services we offer, our project experience and specialisms across all development sectors. This sample is by no means exhaustive and if you would like to know more about a particular sector then please do get in touch with one of our team.

New communities

Grand Union

This exemplary mixed use development will deliver up to 2,900 new homes along with flexible commercial retail, industrial, cultural and leisure uses and will generate in the region of 650 new jobs.

tor&co was selected by the Berkeley Group to provide an interdisciplinary planning and design team to ensure that the proposals were exciting, challenging, technically excellent and viable in order to bring this long derelict and formerly closed off industrial site back to life.



The site is one of the few places where the Grand Union Canal and River Brent intersect, giving it a waterfront along two sides and one of the key aims of the master plan was to reconnect the community to the under-utilised waterways. Analysis of the existing movement patterns of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles was carried out to determine key existing nodes, desire lines and obstructions to movement that should be overcome.

An open space strategy was developed with the local community action groups to ensure that the needs of a highly multi-cultural and demographically polar community could be met. Our approach to public engagement was praised by the Greater London Council and Brent Borough Council after we were able to conceive an open space strategy, within a particularly dense urban development, that made provision for all sectors of the community.

As a result, four and a half hectares of high quality public realm, half the area of the site, will be delivered in the early phases of the masterplan which will provide meeting spaces along the previously inaccessible Grand Union Canal and River Brent.

A new community centre will help the wider neighbourhood reconnect with traditional local celebrations such as the Alperton Summer Festival which will be held in the new Central Gardens. It is intended to be a place where work and living environments meet.

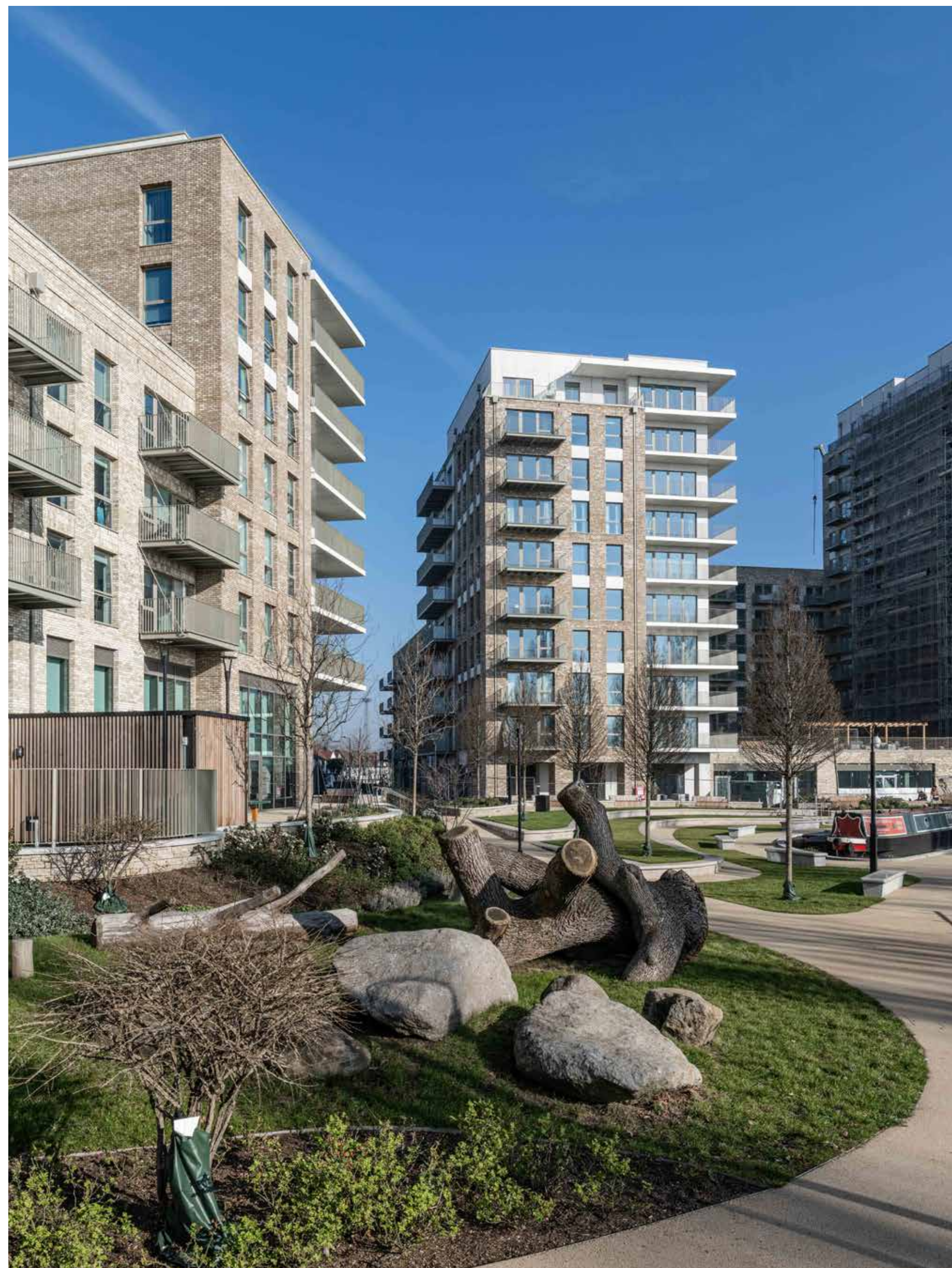
Grand Union will target at least a 35% reduction in regulated CO2 emissions through a combination of advanced fabric energy efficiency measures. A minimum of BREEAM Very Good will be targeted for all non-residential uses around the site.

Within the public realm and private amenity spaces, approximately half of the site area was designed to be multi-functional and layered in their potential environmental and social benefits. Specifically, we avoided considering just the aesthetic but also how a space functions in the hydrological cycle, enhances habitat complexity and biodiversity, sequesters and reduces the carbon footprint, reduces maintenance burdens and fundamentally, can adapt to future shifts in lifestyle and transport patterns.

Client
St George Developments Ltd

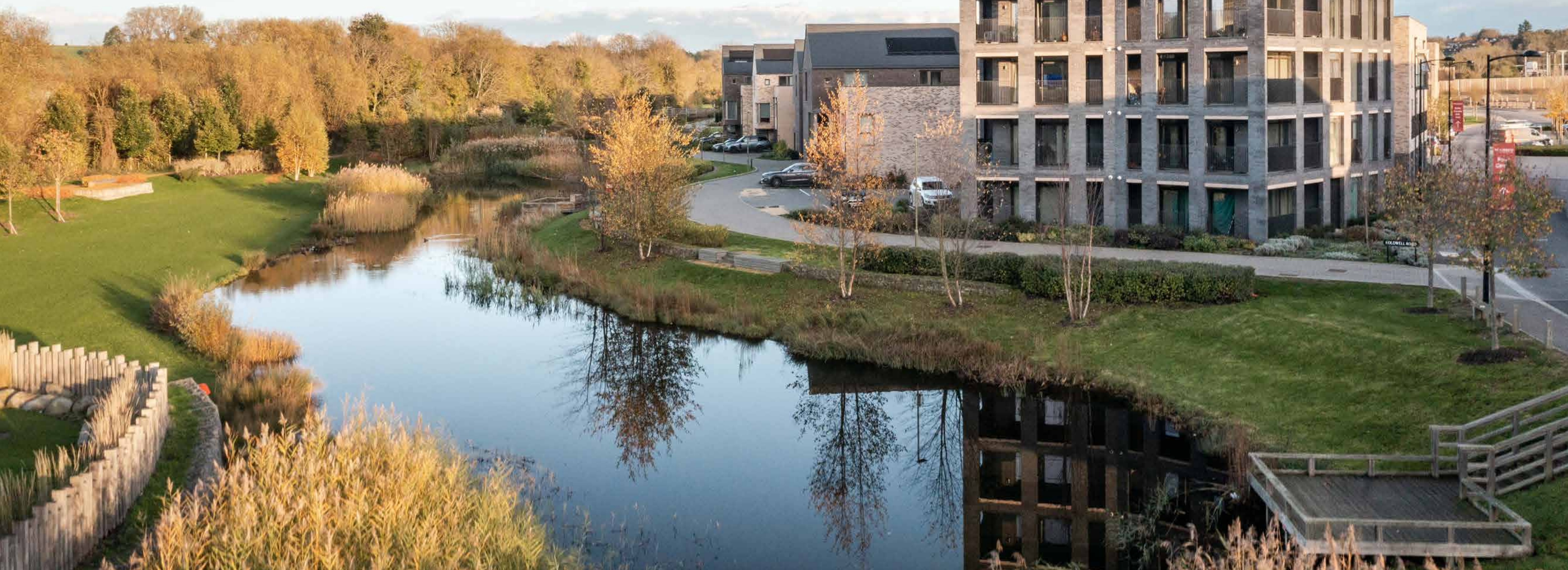
Location
London Borough of Brent

Expertise
Architecture
Planning
Landscape architecture
Graphic design



Barton Park

Having helped Grosvenor to become Oxford City Council's joint venture partner, we then prepared a bid for a landscape-led master plan for a sustainable urban extension of up to 1,000 dwellings.



Grosvenor won the bid and we were appointed jointly by Oxford City Council and Grosvenor to provide masterplanning and landscape architectural services.

The masterplan was borne out of a collaborative interdisciplinary approach with our urban designers and landscape architects conceiving a masterplan vision which sought to replicate Oxford's reputation for a perfect blend of high quality urban living that would be in harmony with its natural surroundings.

The vision was to deliver a cohesive, integrated and vibrant new community that would help bring about regeneration in the adjoining neighbourhoods of Barton and Northway.

Underpinning the masterplan is an extensive green infrastructure network comprising a series of green fingers which intersect the site and connect the community to a linear country park and surrounding countryside.

Our landscape architects have remained involved in the implementation of the landscape infrastructure, delivering the vision which we established with the LLP over 10 years ago. The success of the landscape was grounded in the robust and thoughtful approach to the outline masterplan meaning that the strategy that was laid down was deliverable and required very limited amendment.

This meant that our design team could focus on achieving the highest quality detailing without compromising on the scheme's aspirations. An Integral part of the design is the drainage network which serves to provide sufficient floodwater attenuation volumes within a particularly constrained space. Our role as landscape architects has seen this basic function developed to ensure that the site's hydrology plays a role in enhancing local biodiversity potential whilst creating a beautiful place to live.

Achieving this was by no means a simple task and required a thoroughly coordinated design approach between engineers and ecologists led by our Landscape team. Considering the relatively young age of the landscape, the results are striking.

Client
Barton Oxford LLP

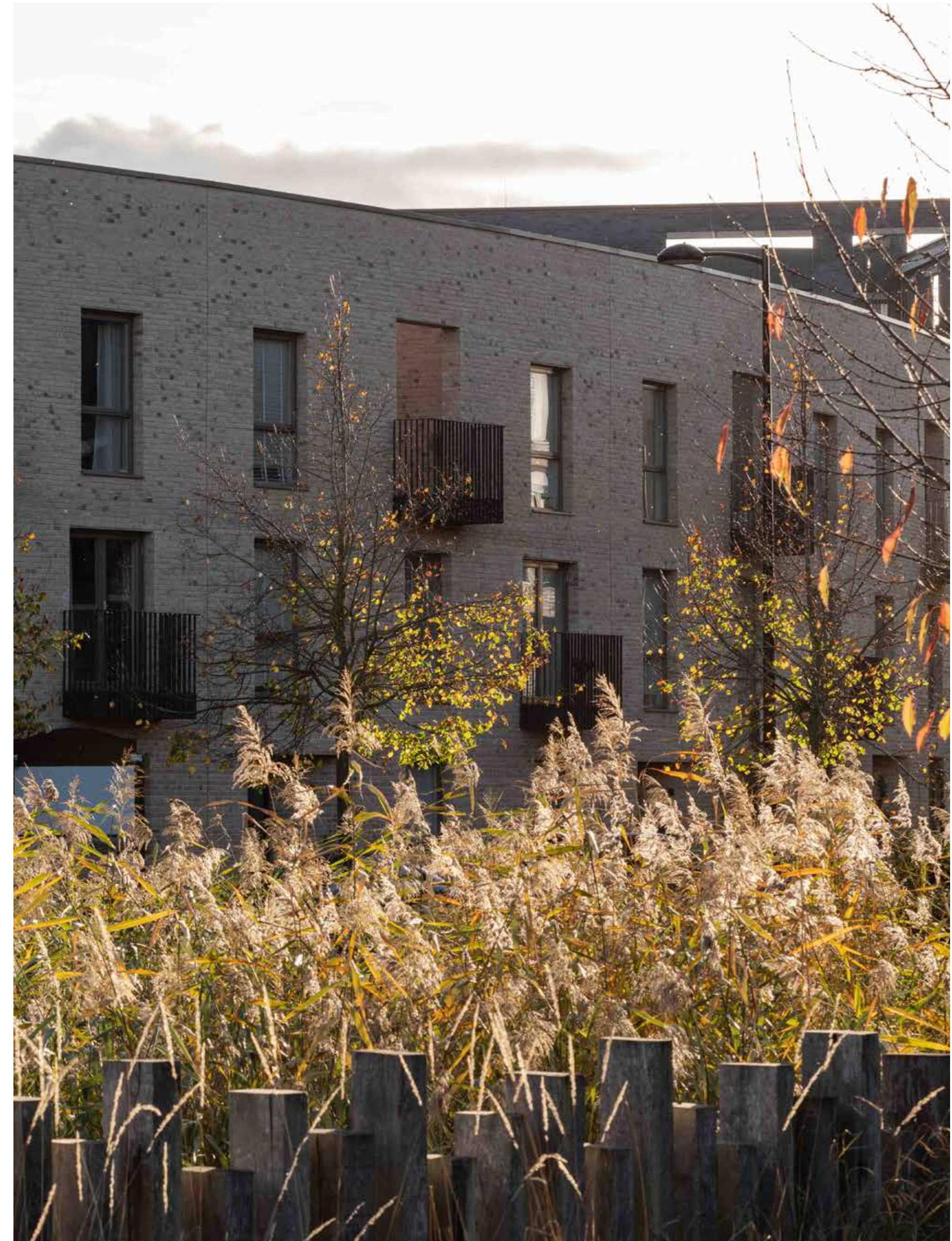
Location
Oxford

Expertise
Masterplanning
Landscape architecture

Awards
2017: Housing Design Awards
Shortlisted

2016: The Landscape Institute Awards
Highly Commended - Best Urban Design/ Master Planning Category

2014: Planning Awards
Planning for Housing Growth Winner



Trumpington Meadows



We advised Grosvenor and USS Ltd in respect to the planning, design and landscaping of a new community at the former Monsanto site at Trumpington, Cambridge.

Having successfully removed the site from the green belt and secured allocations through adjoining authorities' development plans, outline planning consent was obtained in 2009 for 1,200 homes with a local centre, a new primary school, a 60ha country park to be managed by the local Wildlife Trust and an extensive network of footways and cycleways.

Initially, we were appointed to provide a highly sensitive masterplan, establishing clear justification for the site's removal from the Green Belt and supported by a robust EIA process. Our landscape commission continued with the design and delivery of the primary infrastructure including the 60 ha country park. TOR remain actively involved with the project. We provided detailed tender information and oversaw delivery and maintenance, working in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust to ensure that the highly ambitious biodiversity gain targets were realised and the benefits are felt across the community.

More than half the scheme has now been built and is occupied and a successful new community at Trumpington has been established with an active residents' association that take great pride in the new neighbourhood.



Client

USS Ltd and Grosvenor

Location

Cambridge

Expertise

Landscape design
Landscape planning
Landscape assessment
Planning
Masterplanning
Environmental planning
Heritage
Ecology





“Terence O’Rourke Ltd brought a strong, design led master plan forwards, which has been fundamental in securing the agreement of the local authorities involved. This has been coupled with a very positive consultation and engagement process that has been led by O’Rourke’s, resulting in an excellent response from local residents and interest groups. The team has been fully committed and underpins its proposals with a clear strategy and in depth understanding of key planning policy and local interest issues.”

ANDREW BROOKS
Senior Development Manager, Grosvenor

Oxfordshire Garden Village

Eynsham village was one of the 14 proposed new government supported Garden Villages that were named in 2017.

Our urban designers and landscape architects, led on the design and preparation of a masterplan with green infrastructure at its core. An outline application was submitted in 2020. The landscape-led masterplan was developed to create a harmonious and innovative new settlement to bring a healthy, smart, local, natural and lifelong development to the future and existing communities.

The landscape scope included establishing fundamental landscape principles to best protect the landscape resources of the site and its landscape setting. The design approach to the masterplan was underpinned by a set of clear, strong and integrated landscape principles; to enhance the natural environment, reflect on the local rural context of West Oxfordshire and the put green infrastructure at the heart of the masterplan.

The overriding concept for the garden village is based on two interwoven themes of a mosaic rich biodiversity and a social, active, sustainable and productive landscape.

The landscape strategy developed a scheme which exceeded the open space provision required of the Garden Village status; creating a series of multifunctional, interconnected landscapes which permeate through the new settlement and out to the wider surroundings.

Client

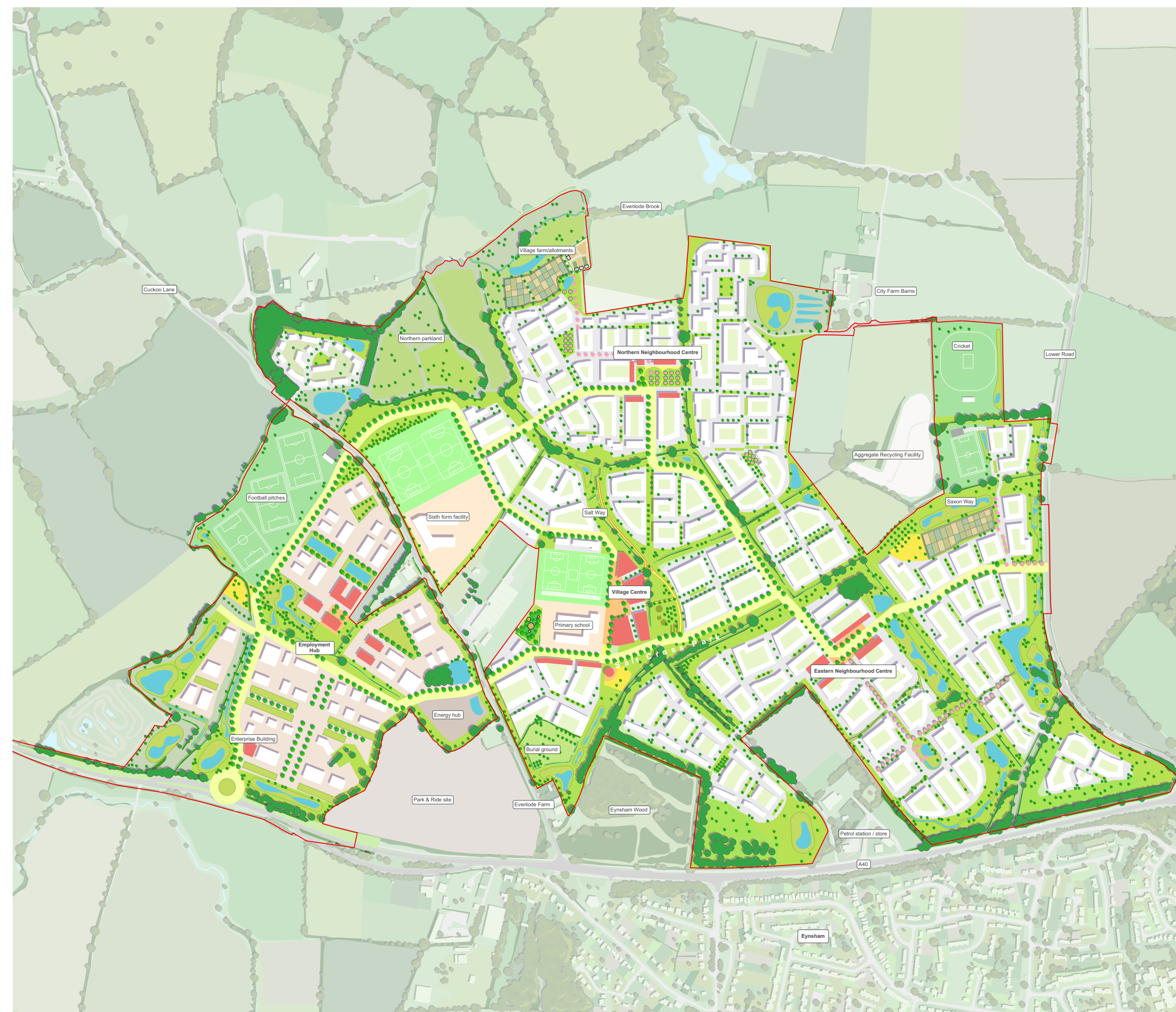
Grosvenor Development Ltd (GDL)

Location

Eynsham

Expertise

Lead-designer and masterplanning
Landscape architecture
Heritage
Ecology
Graphic design



Northstowe New Town

Northstowe is a new town development in Cambridgeshire accommodating up to 10,000 homes.

tor&co had a wide ranging role in its formation as masterplanners, town planners, landscape architects, ecologists and cultural heritage consultants. We also co-ordinated the environmental statement, which accompanied the planning application for Phase 1 (1,500 homes) and in our role as landscape architects, developed the landscape strategy, creating areas that are multifunctional, enhance biodiversity, provide space for sport and informal recreation and provide an attractive landscape that complements the distinctive landscape of the area and gives a strong sense of place to the new town.

The outline application was approved in 2012 and we continue to be appointed through implementation stages and we were asked to prepare architectural and landscape design for residential phases 2017.

This includes a parcel of 150 homes adjacent to one of the network of greenways and open spaces that are the backbone of Northstowe's green infrastructure.

Client

Gallagher Estates

Location

Cambridgeshire

Expertise

Landscape design
Landscape planning
Landscape assessment
Masterplanning
Architecture
Planning
Graphic design
Environmental planning



Commercial development

Warner Bros.

Studios, Leavesden



We have supported Warner Bros. for over a decade by providing planning, environmental planning and landscape architecture services at Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden which has grown to become one of the most successful 'state-of-the-art' film-production facilities in the world.

In 2010, we delivered planning consent for the conversion and extension of the former Rolls-Royce manufacturing facility to the first dedicated Hollywood film production studio outside the United States. Alongside the Studio, consent was also granted for the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter™. The Tour opened in 2012 and celebrates the artistry and cinematic excellence of the highly skilled production team, which brought to life the most successful film franchise in history. Since opening, the Tour has won numerous awards and has been reported by TripAdvisor as the highest-rated attraction in the world every year since.

Both projects required the implementation of a detailed planning, environmental and political strategy supported by a landscape framework that enhanced the site while also allowing it to accommodate over 8 thousand daily visitors and a rigorous filming schedule. Consent was gained without the need for Environmental Impact Assessment and without the application being called in by the Secretary of State.

The practice has supported Warner Bros. in each step of its expansion and has worked to gain over 50 planning approvals for new sound stages, offices, workshops and production support facilities together with a number of extensions to the Studio Tour and its infrastructure.

In 2023, permission was granted to double the size of the Studio complex – making it the second largest in the World. The integration of multi-storey car parks and large sound stages into the local area, required a sensitive yet robust approach to landscape. Combined with a client aspiration of increasing bio-diversity net gain across the 250-acre site, the final design incorporated enhanced habitat areas, extensive hedge planting and semi-mature trees to replace historic field boundaries and to create visual screening to sensitive areas.

Client

Warner Bros.

Location

Hertfordshire

Expertise

Landscape planning
Landscape design
Planning
Environmental planning
Heritage



Supporting Warner Bros.' continued investment and development of its Studio, the landscape team has worked throughout on detailed landscape design as well as landscape and visual appraisals. In 2020 we designed an extensively landscaped plaza area adjacent to the new Studio café to create a focal point and welcoming 'break out' space for visiting production crews.

Through our involvement in the detailed design and implementation of such areas, Warner Bros.' exacting requirements on site could be carefully managed. In particular, the plaza project presented complex technical challenges; not only being a space that had to continue functioning as a busy thoroughfare but also providing a quiet sanctuary to escape the bustle of the working day. The site has kept its 13 mature lime trees, all covered by Tree Protection Orders, which now offer shade and enclosure within a series of intimate outdoor seating areas with a separate corridor for pedestrian movement.

Our design response was ambitious. Typically, a tree's root protection area precludes most forms of built development, but we were keen to explore new construction techniques with the team's arboriculturist and push the boundaries of what is feasible while preserving the health and vitality of the trees.

The café seating area is enclosed by a series of raised planters which incorporate the existing lime trees. The planters effectively float on a series of mini piles and steel framework, minimising dig within the root zone. A lightweight soil backfill was separated from each tree's rooting zone by a cellular matrix, backfilled with granular material to minimise compaction and maximise oxygenation of the soil below, effectively isolating the new planting bed. This innovative approach allowed us to conceive a vibrant and interesting planting scheme not otherwise possible below the canopies of such substantial trees.

The raised planters integrate seamless seating which wraps around the curved walls. A high quality planting scheme with natural stone is used throughout and is accented by an inventive lighting scheme that ensures interest throughout the day, drama at night and at all times of the year regardless of weather. The space is engaging and tactile.

McLaren Campus

We have advised McLaren since 1990, helping to implement a development strategy which has facilitated the company's growth from 250 to 4,000 employees, through the development of the McLaren Campus which covers 60 hectares in the Green Belt north of Woking, Surrey.

Client

McLaren Services Ltd and
McLaren Automotive Ltd

Location

Woking

Expertise

Landscape design
Landscape planning
Landscape assessment
Planning
Environmental planning
Heritage



tor&co has advised McLaren since 1990 and has helped implement a property strategy which has seen the Group grow from 250 to just over 2,000 employees. Initially in 1996 we secured planning consent for the Group's headquarters in the green belt to the north of Woking (the McLaren Technology Centre), enabling the Group to remain in the district. Following this, we secured planning consent for the McLaren Production Centre in 2009, making possible the production of the new MP4-12C super car at the headquarters site. tor&co has continued its long-term relationship with the McLaren Group, by securing outline planning consent in 2016 for the McLaren Applied Technology Centre, another major proposal in the green belt.

For each application we had to successfully demonstrate the presence of Very Special Circumstances to outweigh Green Belt harm. This included detailed landscape assessment and the progression of a landscape-led master plan which minimised development footprint and height, as well as setting the development within a high-quality parkland. The proposals had to respect a range of environmental constraints, including contaminated land, flood plain, and adjacent SSSI and SPA.

The development of the campus has allowed McLaren to remain in Woking and grow into a world-class engineering and automotive company, making a significant contribution to the local, regional and national economy.



Milton Park

Local Development Order (LDO)

Introducing an LDO at Milton Park was a ground-breaking initiative in line with the government's growth agenda.

It removed the need for planning applications where development is within the defined parameters, allowing greater responsiveness to market demand but retaining appropriate control for local authorities.

After identifying the significant benefits and opportunities that an LDO could offer MEPC, its tenants and future investors, we worked closely with the local authorities and other stakeholders, to provide site specific development parameters, founded on local landscape analysis and site capacity testing, and design guidance for future development.

We coordinated the supporting technical information and provided a landscape appraisal, heritage assessment (in respect to a Scheduled Monument), design guidance, and assisted with EIA screening and public consultation.

The LDO was adopted and came into force in 2013. It removes the need for planning permission through establishing a series of defined parameters (principally overall occupied footprint, development heights and use classes). Development proposals that accord

with these parameters are subject to a pre-development notification process, whereby the LPA is required to confirm 'approval' within 10 working days. The process allows for significantly greater responsiveness to market demands whilst retaining appropriate control for the LPA.

The LDO's success is clearly evident in the level of new development permitted through it, and the rate at which development has been delivered on site since its adoption.

Client
MEPC Ltd

Location
Oxfordshire

Expertise
Landscape design
Landscape planning
Landscape assessment
Planning
Environmental planning
Heritage



Leisure

Chewton Glen

Treehouses, Walled Garden
and The Kitchen

We have a long-standing relationship working with Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa, a prestigious 5-star hotel in the New Forest. Utilising our planning, architectural and landscape architecture services we have worked with the hotel to deliver a number of development projects across an estate-wide masterplan.

Client

Chewton Glen Hotel and Spa

Location

Hampshire and Dorset

Expertise

Planning
Architecture
Landscape design
Landscape planning
Landscape assessment
Graphic design

Walled Garden



“The practice’s experience of large and high-profile national projects, coupled with the team’s local knowledge, added a huge amount of value to this project which, since its completion in 2012 has brought the hotel unprecedented international PR exposure and improved the dynamics of the business.”

Andrew Stembridge
Managing Director, Chewton Glen Hotel

The Kitchen

The Kitchen is a purpose-built space for enjoying and learning about food and cooking. Endorsed by celebrity chef James Martin, it provides a 12-place cookery school where budding chefs can take part in a range of day courses and an informal open-plan dining space that allows diners to watch chefs at work in both the professional kitchen and cookery school.



Alongside the demonstration kitchens is a new informal, open plan restaurant space that allows diners to watch chefs at work in the professional kitchen and enjoy the rural setting.

We worked with Chewton Glen over several years to make the cookery school a reality. From initial feasibility assessments in 2013, the entire process through to completion took more than four years.

As the hotel sits within a green belt area, our landscape architects, architects and planning team had to work hard to establish special circumstances.

Our brief was to create a garden that was not just aesthetically beautiful but also a fully-functioning productive garden and an uplifting and inspiring setting for alfresco dining. To achieve this, the team worked closely with the estate, developing ideas to help showcase local suppliers and nurture home-grown produce.

The connection between the school, restaurant and the landscape is not just notional. Wherever possible, both restaurant and cookery school use produce grown on site and foraged from the estate, utilising the gardens for practical demonstrations. Visual ties between the internal and external spaces help emphasise the importance of understanding food origin.



Marwell Zoo

Wild Explorers and Tropical House



We were commissioned to prepare a masterplan for Marwell Zoo. This provided a framework for the development of the wildlife park which would seek ultimately to increase visitor numbers at the zoo. A series of keynote projects have followed for tor&co, including the dramatic state-of-the-art Tropical House and Energy Centre and the immersive Wild Explorers exhibit.

Client
Marwell Zoo

Location
Hampshire

Expertise
Architecture
Landscape architecture
Masterplanning
Planning
Environmental planning

Wild Explorers



‘tor&co worked with us to understand the complex relationships and requirements of the ‘Wild Explorers’ species and assisted in producing a truly world class exhibit, respectful of our ethos.’

Wild Explorers houses white rhinoceros, scimitar-horned oryx and Grevy's zebra. It looks beyond architecture to the creation of a landscaped theatrical experience that immerses the visitor into a different world, providing heightened viewing and an awareness of these precious endangered species.

From the early concept stages of this project, the design of both the buildings and the landscape has been viewed holistically with the primary objective being that the new ungulate exhibit should be experienced as a 'journey'.

Consequently It was designed with as many viewing angles of the animals as possible whilst providing education on both the animal exhibits and Marwell Wildlife conservation projects.

Whilst predominantly native plant species were used throughout the scheme, species were chosen that gave the appearance and habit of those found in the African savannah. For example ornamental grasses are used in swathes to mimic the African landscape and provide movement and texture.

A 1:20 gradient boardwalk with two covered lookout points provide panoramic views over the park and animal enclosures. Due to the nervous nature of oryx, consideration was given to the design of an internal balustrade/ screen to the boardwalk that allows visitors to view the animals while screening them from the oryx.

A series of watering holes and wallows is provided which both entice the animals to the viewing lookouts whilst preventing them from entering a larger water body that features a waterfall, jeep and planted islands.

New tree and shrub planting is protected from grazing animals by carefully designed natural appearing barriers.

The exhibit has been a great success for Marwell which has seen increased visitor numbers since its opening. As well as being an exciting new experience it is also a well designed home for the animals that meets the latest international animal welfare standards.



Tropical House



After the success of **Wild Explorers** our attention turned to the **Tropical House**; a fresh, state of the art exhibit that uses changes of level and an immersive landscape to create a home for an abundance of tropical birds, reptiles, primates and fish.

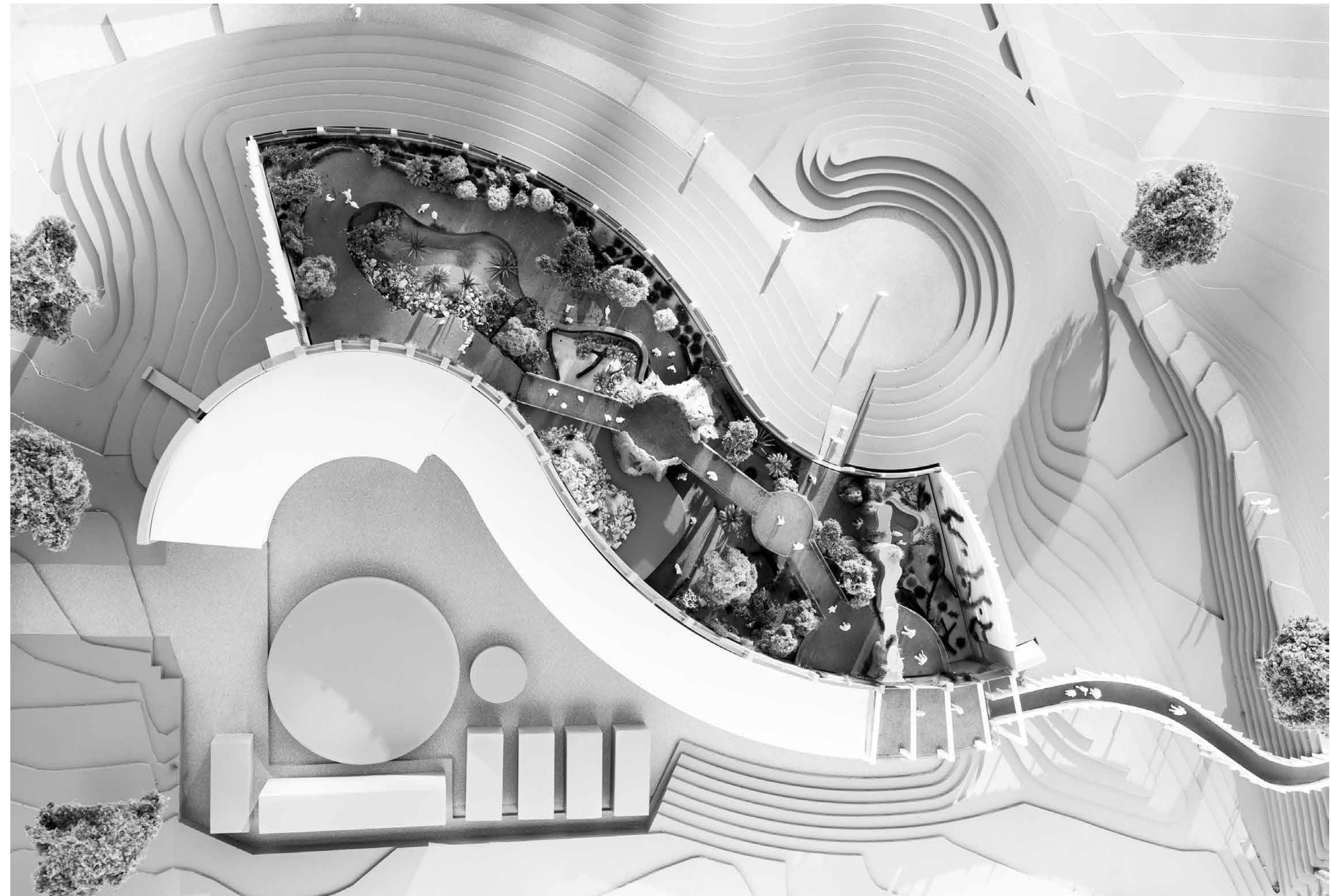
The building features an elongated S-shaped plan which takes full advantage of the site's sloping contours.

Visitors enter the space at an elevated position and meander their way through vegetation, waterfalls, rock faces and aquariums populated by animal species such as sloths, monkeys and lizards.

A route runs through the exhibit that gradually ramps down and around the interior, occasionally running back and underneath higher parts and eventually exiting at ground floor level.

The building was carefully sited so that it slices into the existing slope thereby balancing the amount of cut and fill. The area around the building and rear energy centre was completely remodeled to mirror the 'S' shaped building with serpentine embankments and smooth flowing contours.

Low retaining walls along the edge of the exterior footpath provide seating while controlling level change to provide a smooth 1:20 gradient path to exit from the exhibit.



Renewable energy

A'Chruach Wind Farm

We project managed the planning application and environmental statement for this 20-turbine scheme which was granted in 2008.

We coordinated an in-house team of planners, EIA specialists, GIS and graphic designers, and were responsible for project managing a team of specialist sub-consultants. The practice also managed two public exhibitions and produced community newsletters.

We prepared an updated application for the wind farm site on behalf of Infinis in December 2011, and secured planning permission for this amended scheme in 2012. This application was on the same site as the consented scheme but includes 21 taller turbines with an installed capacity of 48.3MW.

Client

Novera Energy plc/Infinis

Location

Argyll and Bute

Expertise

Landscape assessment

Environmental planning

GIS

Graphic design



Solar farms

Following the introduction of the government's feed-in tariffs for photovoltaic energy generation, we have been approached by a number of clients to lead on the preparation of planning applications and to carry out environmental studies to help secure planning consent for various schemes across England at a range of scales.

These projects are complex and often controversial, requiring a sensitive approach, robust planning strategy and a programme of public consultation to engage with communities, key stakeholders and local authorities to achieve successful outcomes.

Our interdisciplinary approach, using our planning, design, landscape, ecological, strategic communications and heritage services is ideally suited to address the key considerations associated with these projects. We prepare robust planning applications within demanding time frames and succeed in demonstrating the limited impacts of the solar farms on the local landscape.

As well as providing planning and environmental services we coordinate input from specialists such as engineering consultants and grid connection specialists.

Client

Solstice Renewables Ltd,
Alectron Investments Ltd,
Eden Renewables and
Carlton Power

Location

Various

Expertise

Landscape design
Landscape planning
Landscape assessment
Planning
Environmental planning
Strategic communications
Heritage
Graphic design



Image courtesy Eden Renewables

London
Bournemouth
Birmingham
Bristol

020 3664 6755
enquiries@torandco.com
torandco.com

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