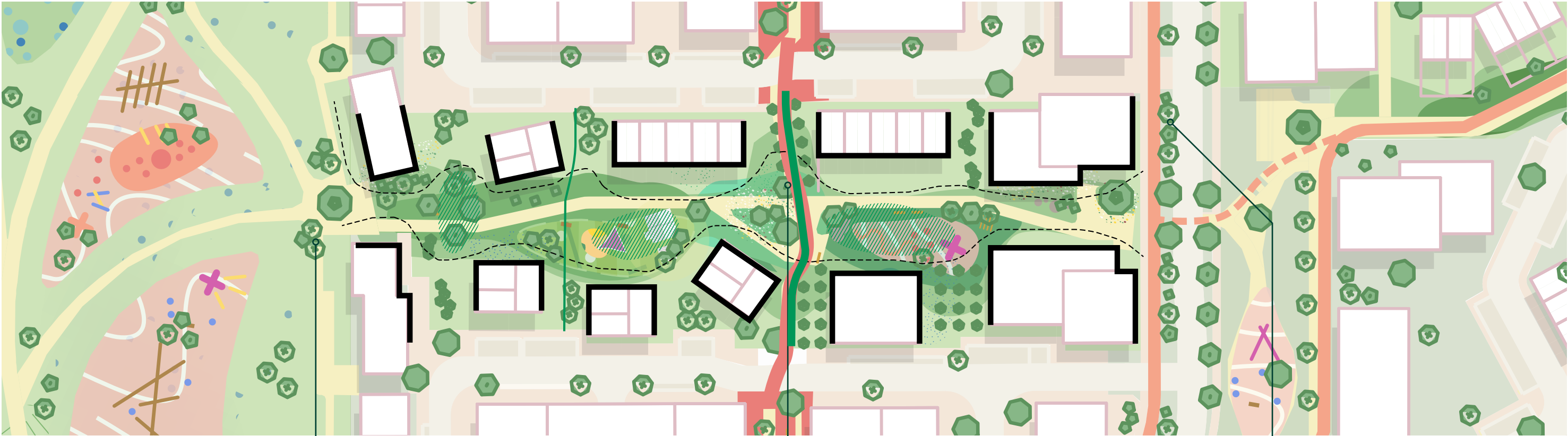
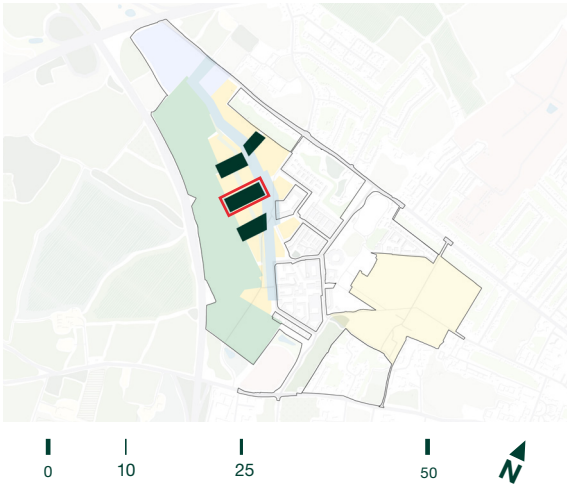


Design rationale

Shared Gardens

Key

- Building frontages
- Building line
- Green route connection
- Gathering spaces



Green and blue infrastructure

The Shared Gardens offer a post-Covid reflection on the value of common outdoor space within North West Cambridge for neighbours to gather and interact, build relationships and connect to the natural world.

They include a variety of communal uses (play, growing, gathering). Yet their informality also offers space for the unknown, inviting people to use them at their own will.

Like their ancestors the Green Fingers, Shared Garden also provide opportunity for SuDS and biodiversity.



Movement

Sweeping routes along Shared gardens provide access for pedestrians and cyclists whereas cars have no place within these community-focused landscapes. Routes lean towards one side to allow more usable communal space.

Transversal routes run across Shared Gardens threading into neighbourhoods.

Non-linear paths help to navigate level changes, ensuring accessible gradients and spaces to dwell.



Built form

Buildings define sequence of spaces shaped to create continuous networks that, crucially, don't feel like corridors. Instead, they propose a sense of discovery and a variety of rich and complex spaces with multiple conditions to choose from.

The compression of the edges acts as an acoustic buffer, from the M11 and Cartwright Avenue. The compression at the centre, distinguishes the two larger spaces.

A variety of building types contribute to the spatial richness. A combination of staggered floorplates and building rotation facilitate dual aspect homes.

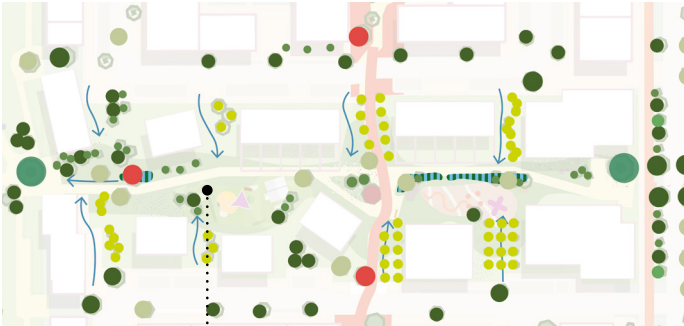
Strategies

Shared Gardens

Green and Blue Infrastructure

Planting and drainage

- Street tree
- Forest-scale tree
- Multi-stem tree
- Landmark tree
- Fruit tree
- Rain garden bed
- Specimen tree
- Junction tree
- Linear rain garden



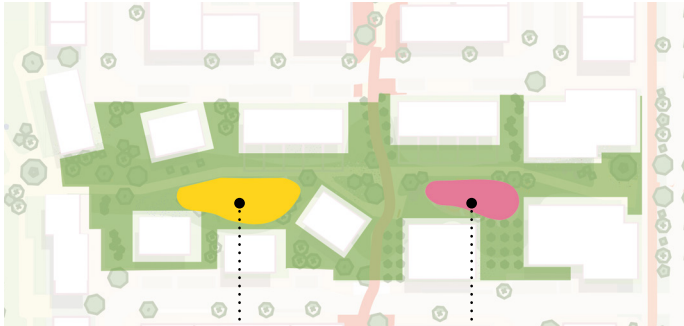
Planting character transitions from urban to rural along the length of the gardens, from Cartwright Avenue to Brook Leys. Tree species assist with wayfinding connecting different spaces across the site. For example, The Common and Brook Leys transition into the Shared Gardens with a landmark tree or grove.

The Shared Gardens also underpin the site surface water drainage strategy, slowing the flow and absorption of rainwater through SuDS such as linear rain gardens and larger rain garden beds. These features also support other uses, such as playing in surface water during rainstorms.

Green and Blue Infrastructure

Community and amenity

- Informal open spaces
- Community growing spaces
- Playable spaces



The Shared Gardens are nature-based informal open spaces. They also include space for community growing providing opportunities to foster social cohesion, and promote healthy living. Space for growing and edible planting encourage involvement at an individual or collective level.

The Shared Gardens also provide spaces to play on the way that are nature-based. Promote access to nature and act as a gateway between urban and rural spaces.

Movement

- Primary pedestrian/cycle route
- Community Lane
- Green informal pathways
- Secondary routes
- Roads



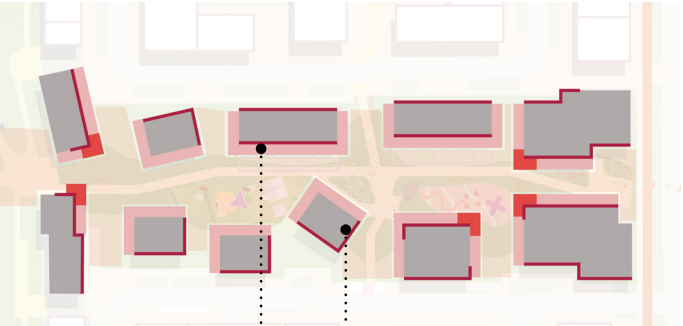
The Shared Gardens are car free, public spaces. They include a Shared User Path running along it, communicating Cartwright Avenue and Brook Leys.

The connection point between Community Lane and the Shared Gardens is expressed; a moment to pause, within the walking and cycling movement network.

The Community Lane and other dissecting routes link into the wider cycle and pedestrian travel networks within North West Cambridge and connect to wider Cambridge.

Built Form

- Building
- Active frontages and entrances
- Private external amenity
- Indicative shared private amenity
- Public realm

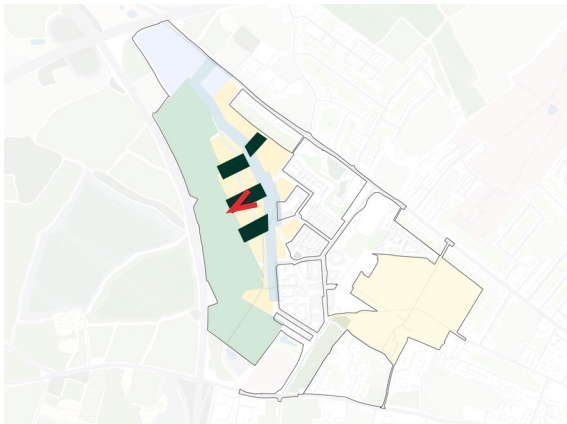


Shared Gardens include space for communal and private amenity on the edges of buildings, with low boundary treatment encouraging social interaction.

Entrances, windows and terraces face multiple directions activating the public realm. For example, clustered semi-detached houses, provide entrances to both street and Shared Gardens, whilst the rotation of some of these contribute to a sense of enclosure.

Massing and character

Shared Gardens



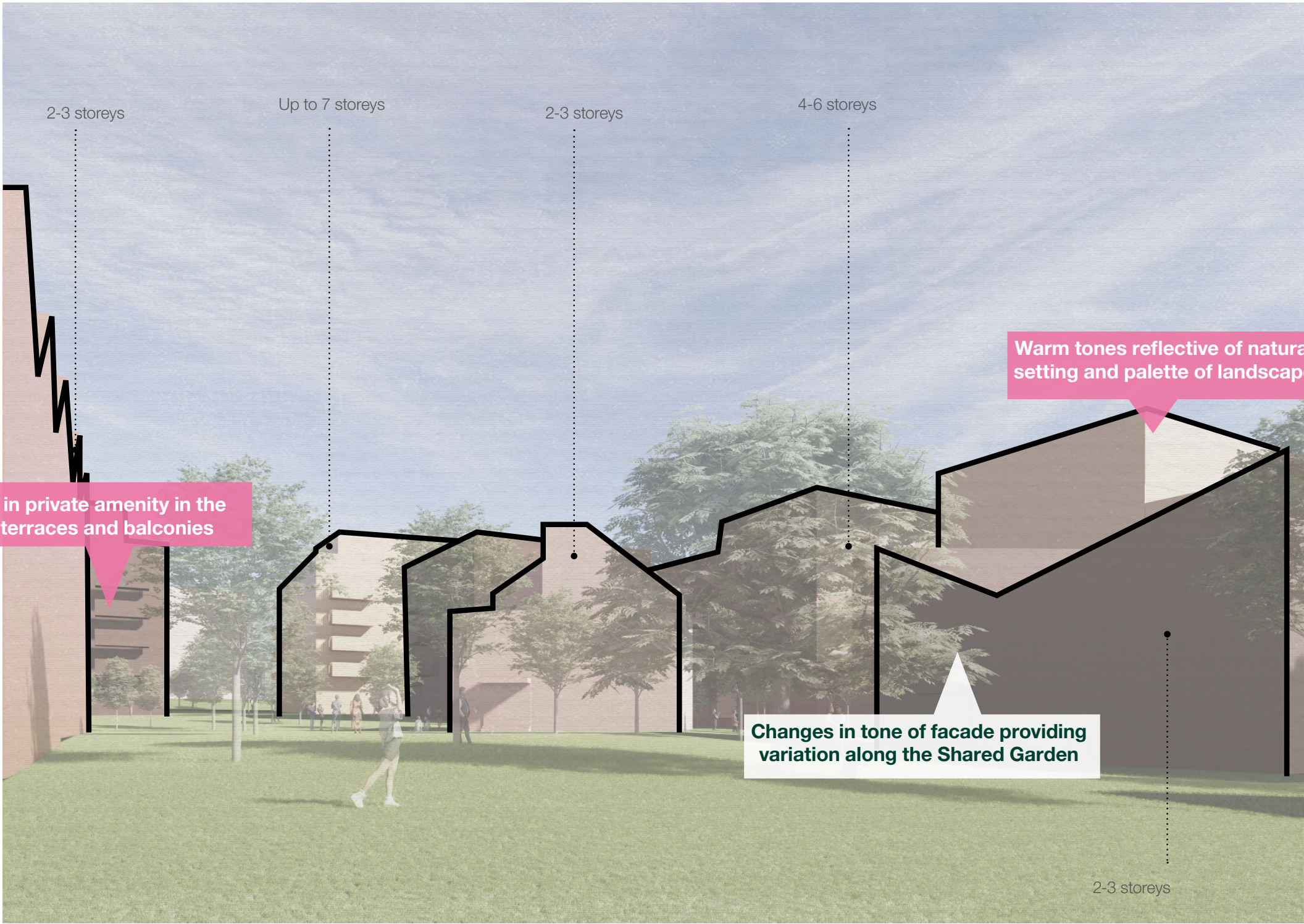
Stepped massing and forms create visual interest along long views to Brook Leys. Massing breaks to provide visual permeability between Shared Gardens and adjacent streets, with landscape providing visual interest and focusing views.



Drawing on the principles of Phase 1 massing steps up towards Cartwright Avenue, providing clear wayfinding and legibility.



Transition between houses and flats bring depth to long views. Lower rise scale within the central zone of the Shared Garden avoids overshadowing of green space.



Health and wellbeing

Shared Gardens



Spatial complexity

Fine-grain geometries and multiple building types define a rich and varied landscape with conditions and characteristics to choose from and a sense of discovery.



Meeting places

Playable space, community growing, seating, landmark trees and / or public art inviting people to congregate.



Spaces to dwell

Linear-shaped spaces invite people to move through, whereas central spaces invite people to dwell within. But green corridors are critical for nature as they create the interconnected networks biodiversity needs to thrive. The Shared Gardens combine the linear continuity of their ancestors, the Green Fingers, but re-shape them to create a sense of enclosure and introduce focal points.



Engaging thresholds

Visually permeable edges between private and communal amenity, activate the public realm, contribute to making them safe spaces and foster social interaction.



Active and playful

Nature provides opportunity for active urbanism and play on the way fostering physical strength and community contact.



Nature on your doorstep

The Shared Gardens bring nature less than a 2 minute walk from their doors reducing mental stress and fatigue.



Neighbourhoods

The neighbourhoods east and west of Cartwright Avenue will have a distinct character defined by the streetscape and public realm, the landscape design and architecture. Streets will be multi-purpose spaces allowing for vehicle access but pedestrians and cyclists will have priority, and the streets will integrate play and planting.

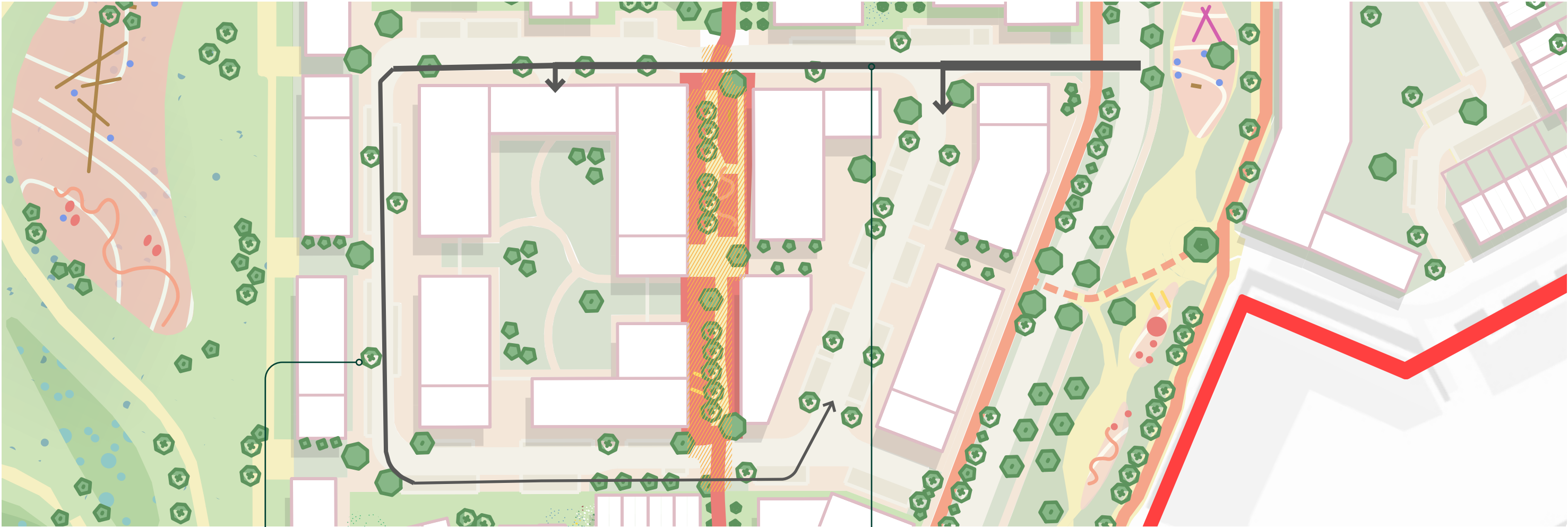
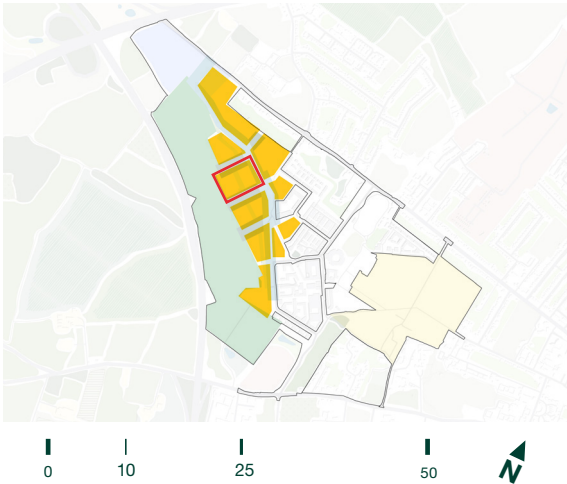
Design rationale

Neighbourhoods

Key

Community lane

Parking interception



Green and blue infrastructure

Trees are arranged following linear streets and paths. Larger specimen or informal clustered groups are located where massing allows gaps. This accentuates permeable areas connecting between neighbourhoods and their surrounding places like, Cartwright Avenue, Shared Gardens and Brook Leys. Planting including rain gardens provide spatial definition and a naturalistic character.



Movement

A ‘P’-shaped loop road layout provides vehicular access to every door whilst still giving priority to pedestrians and cyclists. These loops also make moving between neighbourhoods more direct and support more accessible active travel. Parking is distributed in areas closer to the junction with Cartwright Avenue to intercept vehicles as early as possible and reduce traffic moving into the neighbourhood.



Built form

Buildings are aligned to define streets, leaving gaps between massing to create visual permeability. Front doors are typically located on the eastern façades to accommodate level changes. North-south dual aspect units avoid north facing apartments. Dual aspect buildings facing Brook Leys allow opening windows protected from the noise of the M11.

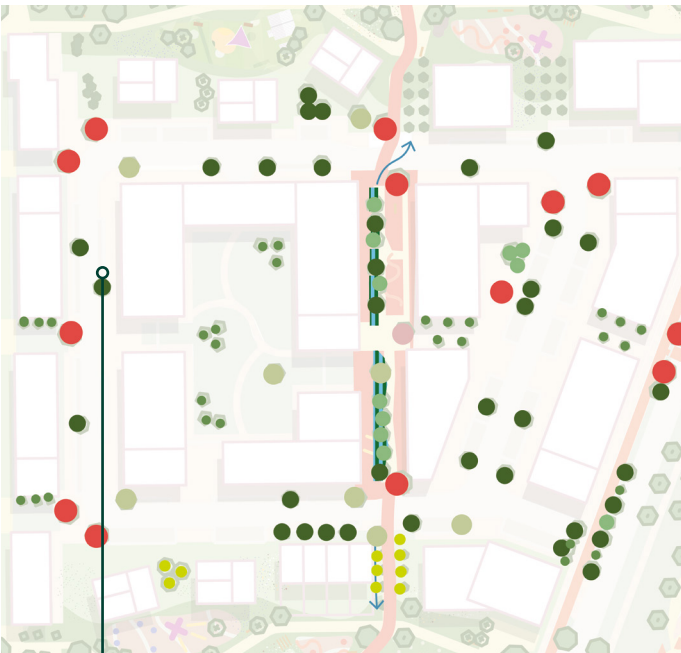
Strategies

Neighbourhoods

Green and Blue Infrastructure

Planting

- Street tree
- Wayfinding/ landmark tree
- Specimen tree
- Forest-scale tree
- Fruit tree
- Junction tree
- Multi-stem tree
- Rain garden bed
- Linear rain garden



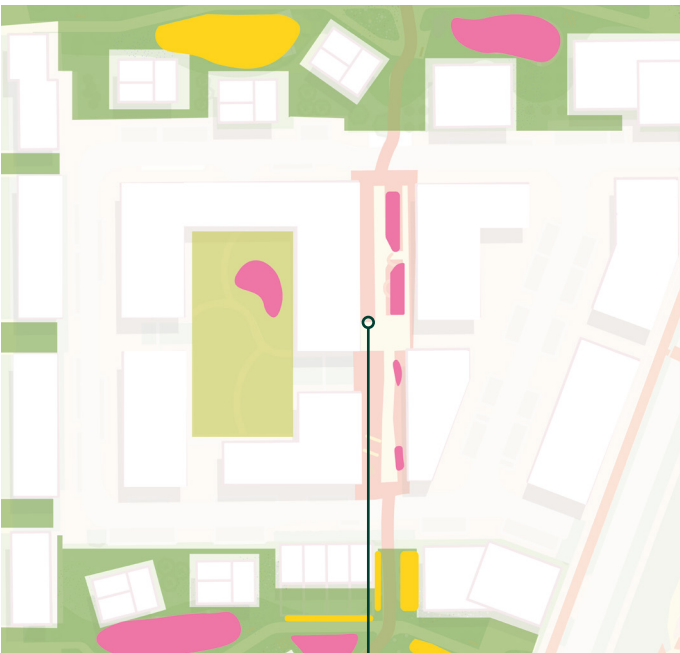
The planting strategy brings seasonal character to the neighbourhoods, maximising habitat creation through varied and diverse green spaces. Trees and shrub planting line streets,

mark crossing points and reinforce breaks in massing at eye level for orientation and legibility. Defensible space to ground floor flats, providing neighbourhood greening.

Green and Blue Infrastructure

Community and amenity

- Informal open space
- Growing/ productive area
- Playable space



Nodes of activity such as groupings of cycle parking, seating and communal entrances to promote incidental social interactions and dwell time. Doorstep seating providing places to dwell and fostering social cohesion.



Play-on-the-way opportunities sit within the streetscape, offering doorstep proximities, mixed types of spaces to encourage movement and interaction.

SuDS

- Surface SuDS e.g. rain gardens
- Below ground connection
- Permeable hardscape



Permeable paving links with below ground attenuation, alongside SuDS such as rain beds, working together to carefully manage the capture, absorption and onwards flow of water.

Hard and soft

- Community amenity
- Private amenity
- Communal amenity
- Boundary treatment / perimeter planting
- Public realm and streetscape
- Neighbourhood paths



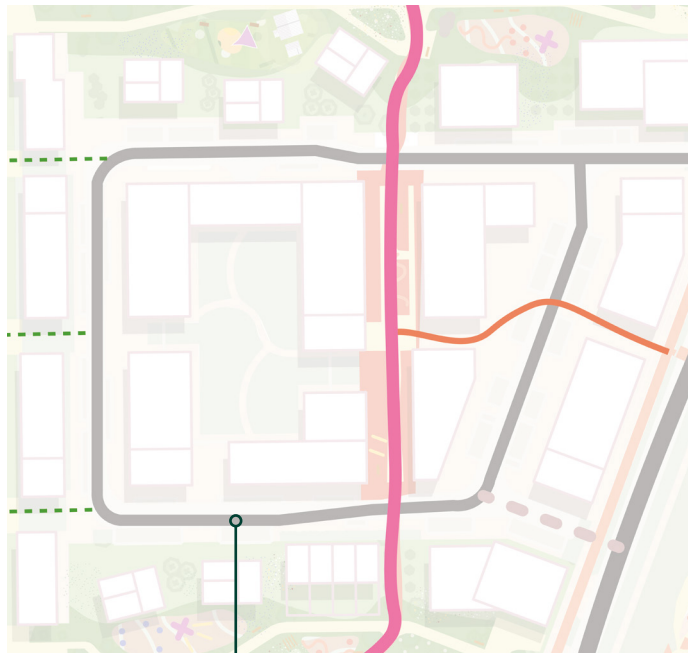
Tree lined streets and planting to bring a 'soft edge' enhance the neighbourhood connection to nature, alongside wider planting schemes which include edible landscapes and foraging spaces.

Strategies

Neighbourhoods

Movement

- Community Lane
- Green informal pathways
- Secondary routes
- Roads

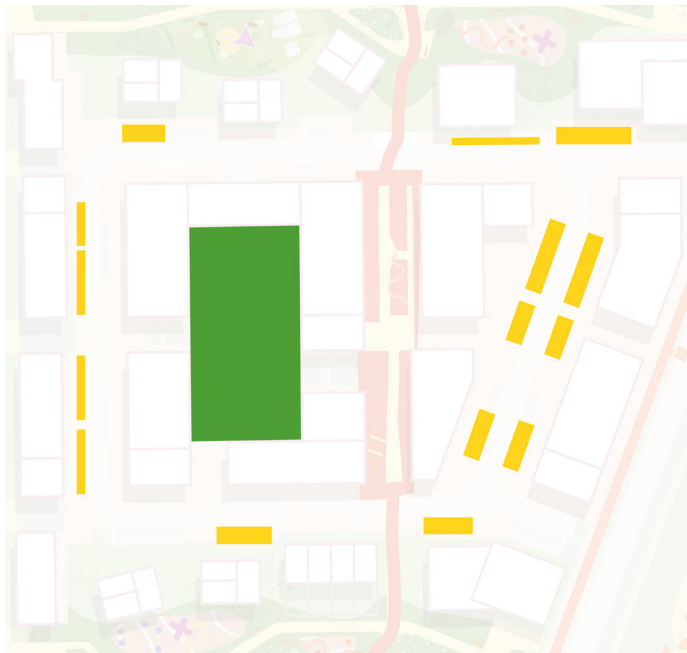


The neighbourhoods are networks of living streets, where cars are intercepted through flexible parking solutions to allow for pedestrian prioritisation. Car-free

spaces are carved out within the Community Lane, and intimate streetscapes enhance social cohesion.

Parking

- Podium Parking
- Surface Parking

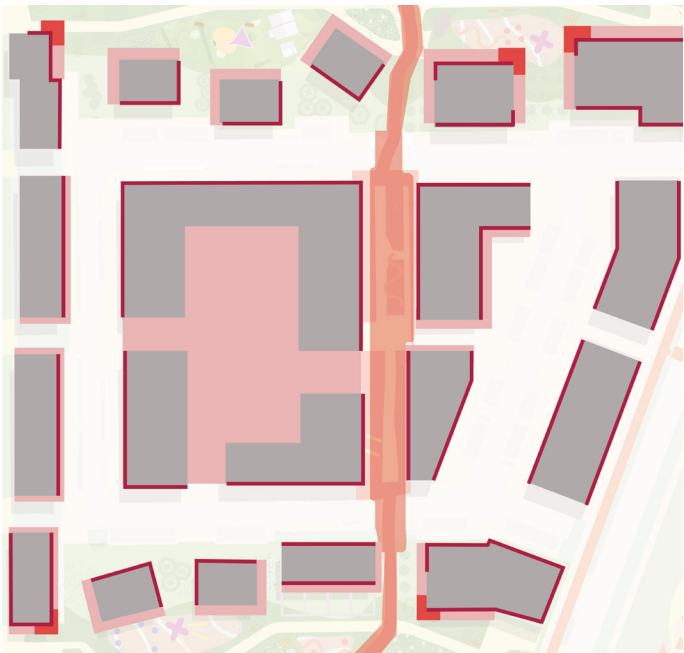


Parking combines different solutions including on-podium and on-street solutions. Parking spaces are clustered in groups of 5 or 6 to mitigate their visual impact on the streetscapes.

Space for storing cycles within the curtilage of properties and encouraging active travel.

Built Form

- Building
- Active frontages and entrances
- Private external amenity
- Indicative shared private amenity
- Community lane



Varied roofscapes and material choices give each neighbourhood it's own distinctive character within the whole of North West Cambridge.

Building entrances located in close proximity provide opportunities to meet with neighbourhoods, whilst front gardens, windows and balconies provide passive surveillance.

Levels and landform

- Natural slopes (max 1:3 gradient)
- Flexible zone for access to homes
- Multi-functional boundary condition



Multi-functional boundaries to private amenity combine spatial definition, stepped or graded access to homes with doorstep social space inviting neighbourly interactions.

Where level changes exist, steps and ramps are integrated within the public realm to enable level access to entrances and stores.

Massing and character

Neighbourhoods



A mixture of projecting and recessed balconies animate the streetscape.



Stepped forms create variation in the skyline.



Stepped massing is used to manage transition in building height.



Massing between 4 and 6 storeys presents optimal solution for carbon efficient residential buildings.

