

NATURE

Landscape character + landholdings

South West Rugby is within a number of landholdings, as outlined on page 11. Landscape character zones span across these parcels with landscape features, such as woodland blocks and streams, covering and travelling through numerous ownership parcels.

A holistic landscape that connects people, place and nature must be created.

The a landscape strategy for individual applications must consider the context of the proposed development and its potential as whole acknowledging the impacts on visual and landscape receptors outside of the individual ownership boundary.

In this section boundaries are outlined to promote consideration of South West Rugby as a sum of its parts with the health and wellbeing of people and nature at the forefront for design.

This is considered through the landscape character, existing landscape features, buffers and boundaries and the overall connectivity.

These overarching considerations are then concentrated into design principles of hard and soft landscape materials and treatments of public open spaces.

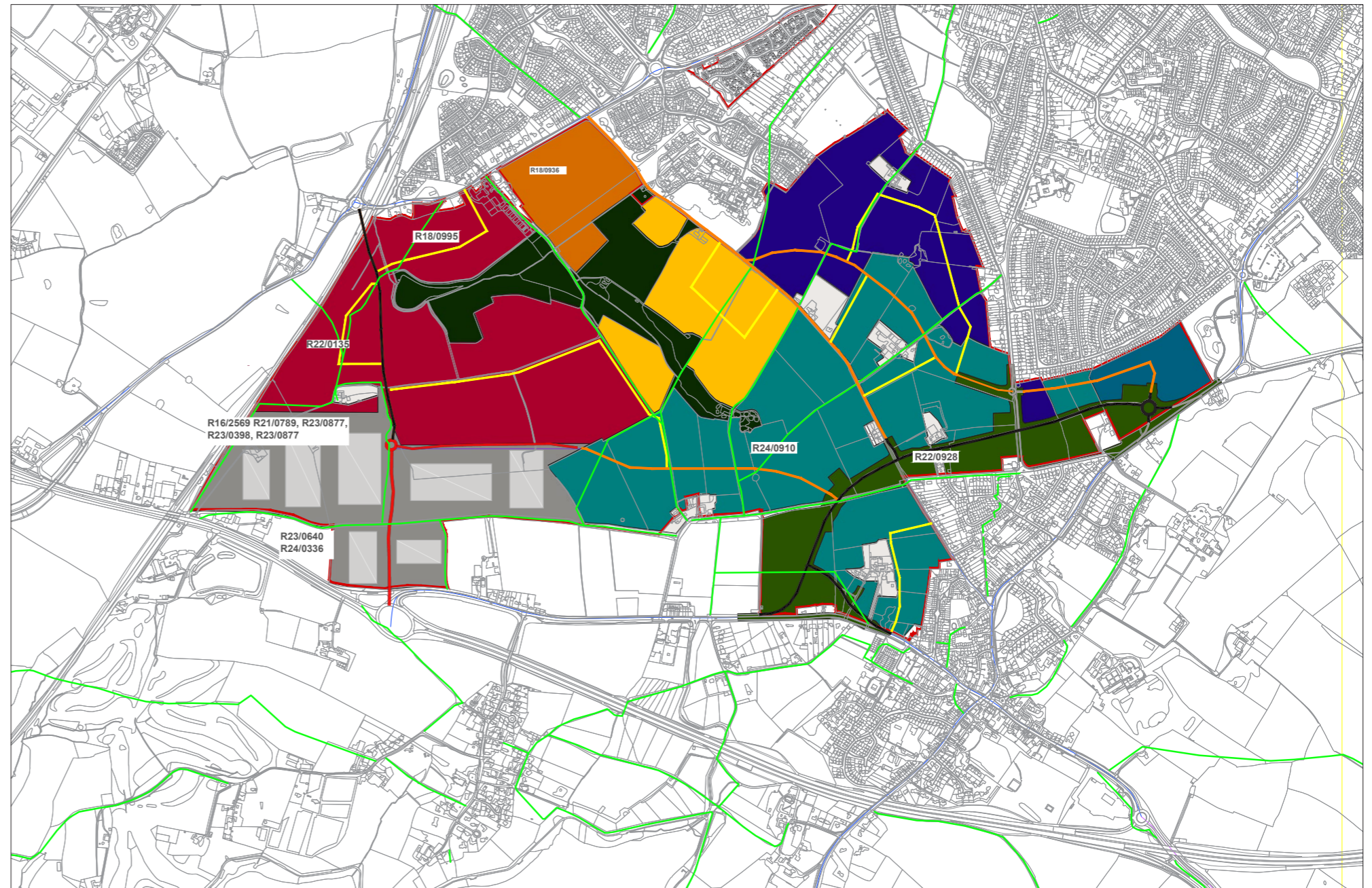
On all figures the proposed movement corridors from the Masterplan are represented to indicate the connectivity across South West Rugby and the potential interplay with the existing landscape.

The preservation and application of landscape treatments to routes, streets and spaces should be in accordance with the landscape character, further information is included in the Public Spaces section.

Also refer to:

- Movement
- Public spaces
- Built form
- Identity

RBC local plan policy: DS8, DS9, HS1, NE1, NE2, NE3 SDC1, SCD2 + South West Rugby Masterplan SPD (2021, updated 2024)



Key

- Proposed Main Routes
- Proposed Sustrans Route
- Proposed Secondary Routes
- Proposed Tertiary Routes
- Existing Public Rights of Way

Current Planning Applications: January 2025

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>R18/0936 210 dwellings + primary school - Outline approved Dec 2022 Reserved matters currently invalid</p> <p>R18/0995 275 dwellings - No resolution, consultation period ends Feb 2025</p> <p>R24/0910 1600 dwellings + associated mixed use development Under consideration</p> | <p>R22/0135 350 dwellings - No resolution (dependent on R18/0995)</p> <p>R16/2569 Employment development + associated infrastructure - Outline approval;</p> <p>R21/0789, R23/0877, R23/0398, R23/0877 - Reserved matters for employment buildings</p> | <p>R23/0640 Variation of conditions (highways);</p> <p>R21/0829 Provision of energy centre - Approved;</p> <p>R24/0336 Multi-use games area - Approved</p> <p>R22/0928 Spine Road - Resolution to grant</p> |
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Landscape character

The landscape character of the urban extension must be represented within landscaping schemes.

The site is within the Dunsmore and Feldon (96) National Character Area and sits within the Dunsmore regional character, outlined in the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines (1993). This is further broken down into the Plateau Fringe and Plateau Farmlands landscape types.

To illustrate importance of holistic management the site is divided down into character zones, the commonalities versus shifts in character both between and within ownership parcels can be observed.

NA.01 Key features of the landscape character which **must** be maintained include:

- Tree avenues in the wider urban landscape are a feature on the skyline. Creating character for the urban fringe.
- Mature trees within hedgerows must be preserved, maintained and promoted using new planting where trees are not prevalent
- Woodland blocks that frame the landscape and break the plateau
- Hedgerows as boundary treatments throughout.
- The landscape within the eastern zones is typically framed by hedgerows and woodland blocks
- PRoWs link landscapes and create access to landscape features, they must be retained or realigned and enhanced with additional landscape features to provide better connectivity within communities and support recreational use.
- Maintain views to landscape and features, in particular Cawston Spinney.
- The west of the site has an open landscape character surrounded by strong landscape framework of the Cawston Greenway, Cawston Spinney and mature trees which must be protected and enhanced.

Overarching management recommendations:

NA.02 All landscape features **must** be retained and connectivity between them enhanced.

NA.03 All ancient woodland sites **must** be conserved and restocked with locally occurring native species.

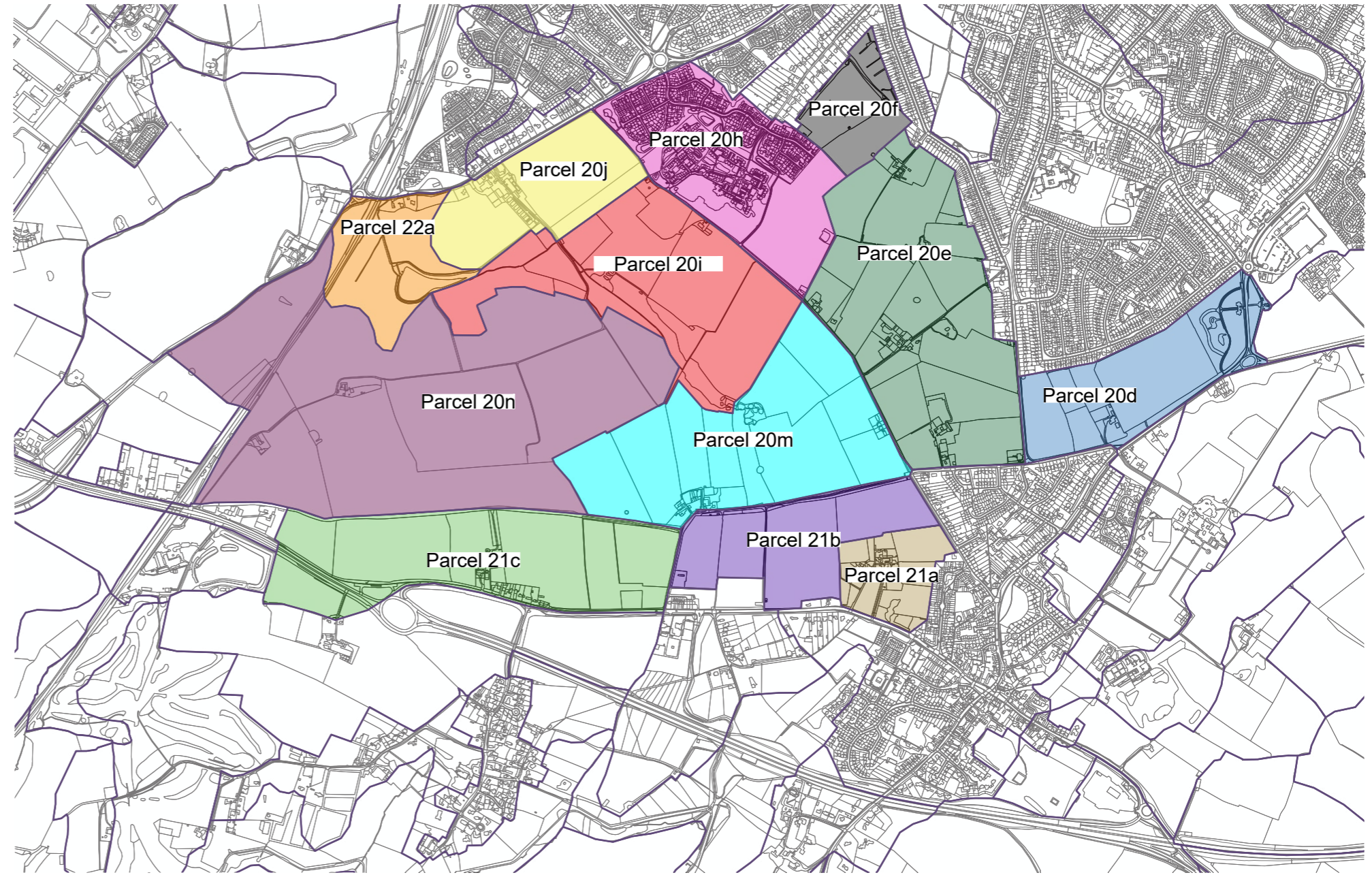
NA.04 The wooded character of mature hedgerow and roadside oaks must be conserved.

NA.05 Woodland **should** be small blocks in keeping with character.

NA.06 New woodland planting **should** favour oak as major tree alongside pine and birch.

NA.07 Local native flora **must** be integral to landscape schemes.

Principles for the preservation and application within these character zones can be found in the Public Spaces section.



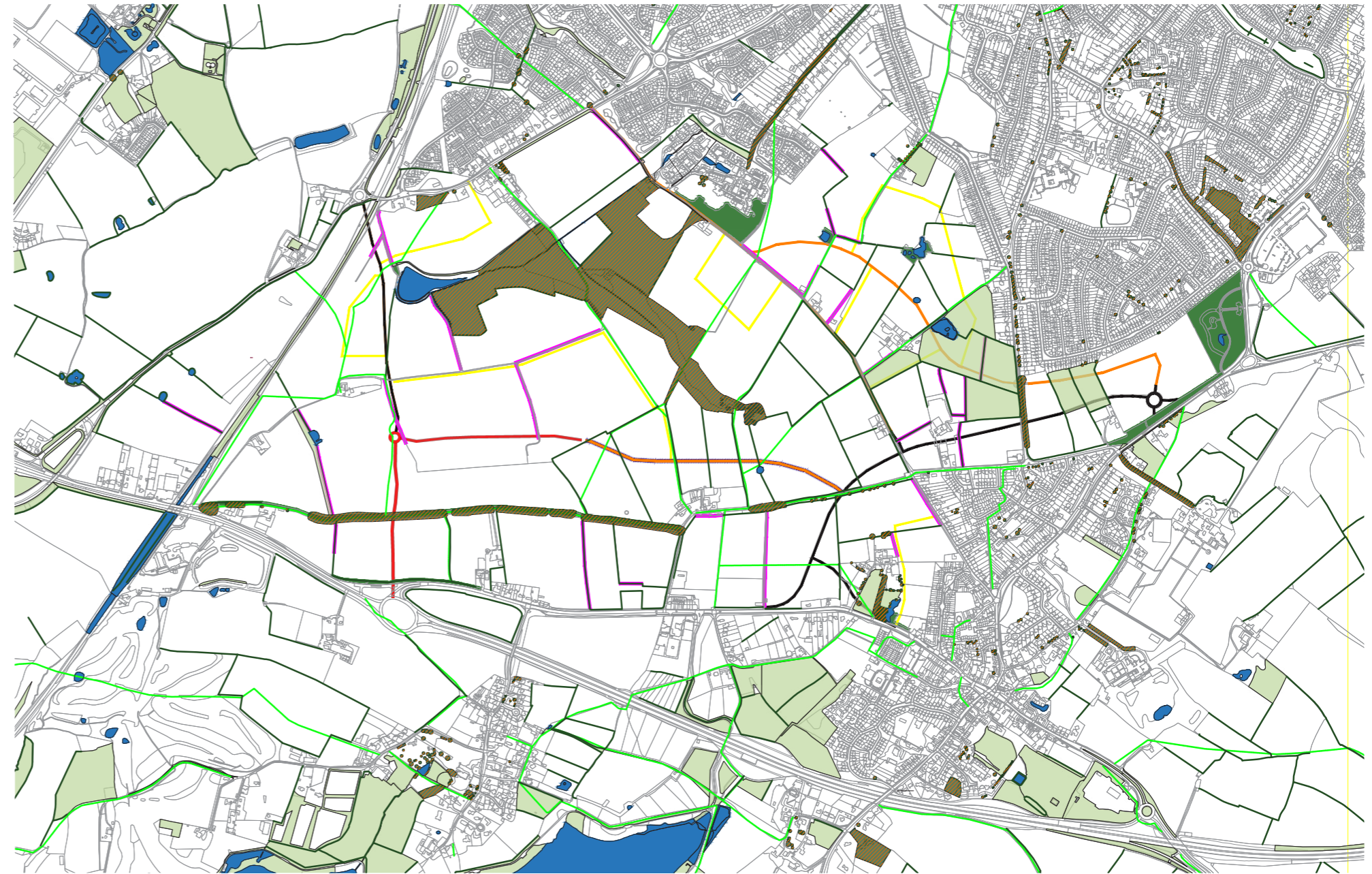
Key

<p>Parcel 20d Regular small-medium scale field pattern, dense to scattered mature roadside and hedge trees, abrupt settlement edge to east.</p> <p>Parcel 20e Flat, framed landscape, strong tree cover.</p> <p>Parcel 20f Sports club grounds and amenity land on settlement edge with a small field of pasture to the south</p>	<p>Parcel 20h Very gently undulating, fairly open framed landscape, tree cover limited to lime avenue and clusters.</p> <p>Parcel 20i Gently undulating, large woodland block.</p> <p>Parcel 20j Gently sloping, geometric medium to large scale field pattern, rises to west.</p>	<p>Parcel 22a Undulating, medium to large field pattern, open views from north, tree cover encloses and frames landscape to south.</p> <p>Parcel 20n Undulating, open medium-large scale field pattern, very prominent skylines, strong landscape framework.</p> <p>Parcel 21c Flat, medium to large scale geometric field pattern, tree cover at zone boundaries.</p>	<p>Parcel 20m Open and flat, small-medium field pattern, prominent skyline</p> <p>Parcel 21b Flat, medium to large scale geometric field pattern, enclosed and softened by vegetation.</p> <p>Parcel 21a Geometric small to medium scale field pattern, scattered mature trees, good tree cover.</p>
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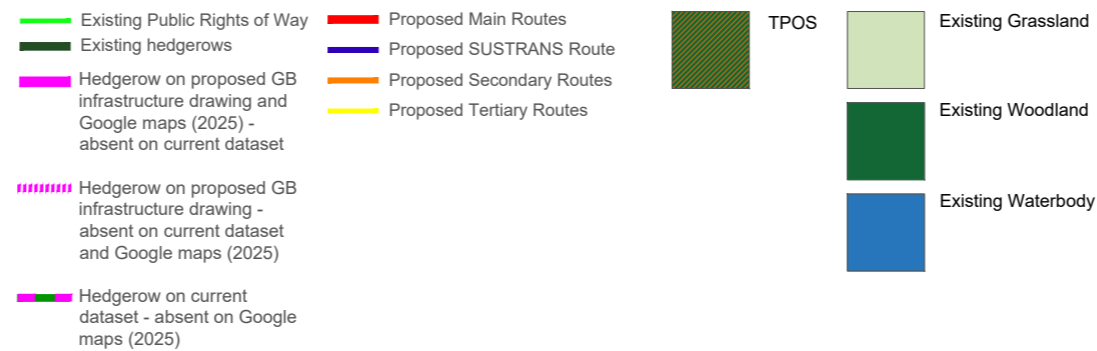
NATURE

Existing landscape features

- NA.08** The protection, retention and enhancement of landscape features **must** be a priority within applications.
- NA.09** This **must** be detailed within management plans covering the initial establishment and 30 year maintenance requirements for a healthy, functioning landscape
- NA.10** Management plans **must** detail monitoring and review processes and the parties responsible for the undertaking of management and funds.
- NA.11** Applications **must** supply arboricultural impact and method statements alongside a tree protection plan and Preliminary Ecological Assessment Reports (PEAR) and Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline Report followed by a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report.
- NA.12** Buffers **must** be implemented to landscape features; see Buffers and Boundaries section. Buffer standards cited within this designcode represent minimum requirements. Buffer widths may need to increase in size subject to the landscape, arboricultural and ecological reports submitted in support of applications.
- NA.13** Cawston Spinney Management Plan **must** be adhered to by all stakeholders.
- NA.14** Preservation of TPO trees and feature trees category A or B to BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' **must** be followed.
- NA.15** Where intersection of development and existing trees cannot be avoided landscape techniques such as root cell systems **must** be utilised.
- NA.16** Buffer strip must be maintained alongside existing hedgerows where highways authority adoption allows.
- NA.17** Hedges **must** be enhanced with diverse species mix and hedgerow trees appropriate to the local character.
- NA.18** Development of wide landscape margins along streamlines, ditches and woodland edges **should** be encouraged.
- NA.19** SUDS **must** be implemented to make space for water dispersal evenly through the landscape by using 'micro-SUDS', permeable tree pits and paving.
- NA.20** Landscape schemes **must** be diverse, from species to structure, to ensure a healthy, biodiverse landscape.



Key



Also refer to:

Movement
Public spaces

RBC local plan policy: NE1, NE2, NE3, SDC6 + South West Rugby Masterplan SPD (2021, updated 2024)

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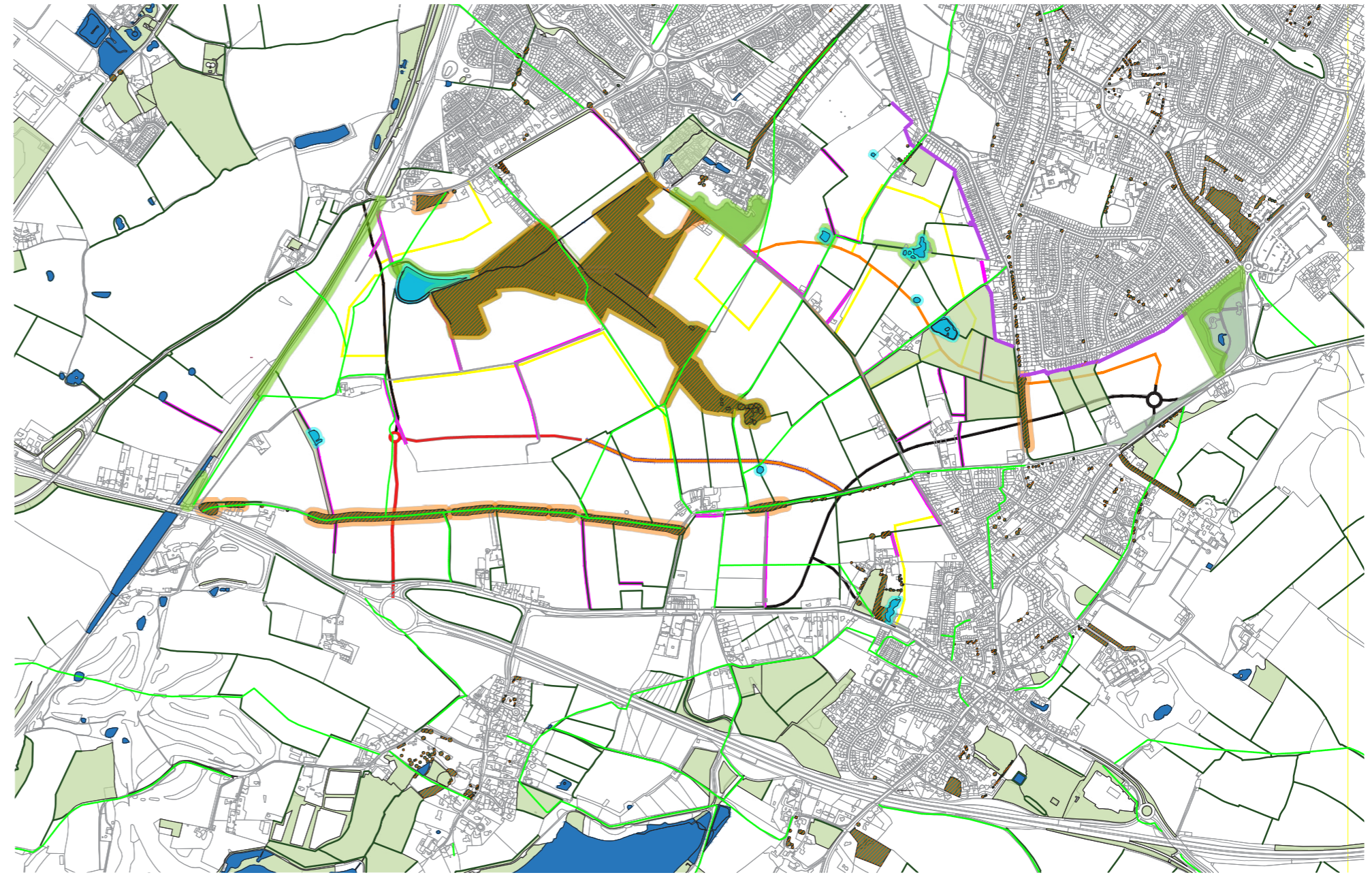
Buffers + boundaries

Buffers

- NA.21** Woodland and riparian buffers **must** be landscaped to enhance the buffer's performance and protect wildlife through the creation of habitats and corridors.
- NA.22** The Cawston Greenway **must** be buffered to protect the green belt to the west.
- NA.23** Woodlands **must** be buffered by 15m, the ancient woodland buffer **must** be increased to 20m and utilised to reduced the impact of increased use to the core woodland which will be managed with 'no go' areas according to its management plan.
- NA.24** Buffer widths must comply with the following minimum requirements:
 - Waterbodies including ponds, streams and ditches: 10m buffer
 - Woodland 15m buffer
 - Ancient woodland 20m buffer
 - Cawston Greenway: 15m buffer
 - Hedgerows: 2m buffer strip from centre of hedge.
- NA.25** Buffers that provide screening **must** be adequate in height and width to satisfy a Landscape Visual Assesemnt following the methodology set out in the most recent edition of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA).
- NA.26** Dense woodland matrix planting with ecotones of scrub, grassland and wildflowers representative of the local character **should** be specified.
- NA.27** They **must** also take account of protected species in their alignment and incorporation.

Boundaries

- NA.28** Permeable soft landscape boundaries **must** be prioritised in applications.
- NA.29** Opportunity for diversity of landscape typologies to be implemented at the eastern boundary to the edge of the settlement **should** be explored.
- NA.30** Connections along boundaries to create active travel routes and link parcels **should** be maximised.



Key

Existing Public Rights of Way	Proposed Main Routes	TPOS	Existing Grassland	Ancient Woodland Buffer 20m minimum
Existing hedgerows-Require 2m buffer from centre	Proposed Sustrans Route		Existing Woodland	Woodland / Cawston Greenway Buffers 15m minimum
Hedgerow on proposed GB infrastructure drawing and Google maps (2025) - absent on current dataset	Proposed Secondary Routes		Existing Waterbody	Waterbody Buffers 10m minimum
Hedgerow on proposed GB infrastructure drawing - absent on current dataset and Google maps (2025)	Proposed Tertiary Routes			
Hedgerow on current dataset - absent on Google maps (2025)	Opportunity for soft landscaped permeable boundary treatments			

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Landscape connectivity + strategy

The overarching aim of the landscape strategy is to connect people, place and nature. Integration of connectivity from routes and streets to green corridors works towards building a healthy community of people and nature. Green infrastructure should be viewed as social as well as ecological infrastructure and the principles set out by Natural England must be considered for all landscaping schemes:

- Multifunctional
- Varied
- Connected
- Accessible
- Character

NA.31 Green infrastructure must be considered holistically across the whole of South West Rugby.

NA.32 Connected landscapes, habitats and movement corridors must be demonstrated in landscape schemes.

NA.33 Consideration of both key and potential GI nodes must be demonstrated in applications.

Landscapes need to be bigger, better and joined and this must be at the foundation of landscaping within applications.

NA.34 Public open spaces **must** be designed to help towards a healthy community, creating opportunities for incidental access to nature as well as social prescribing.

NA.35 The design of POS **must** create opportunities for people to foster a sense of connection to the environment, enjoy physical activity, reduce social isolation, and provide a platform for community engagement.

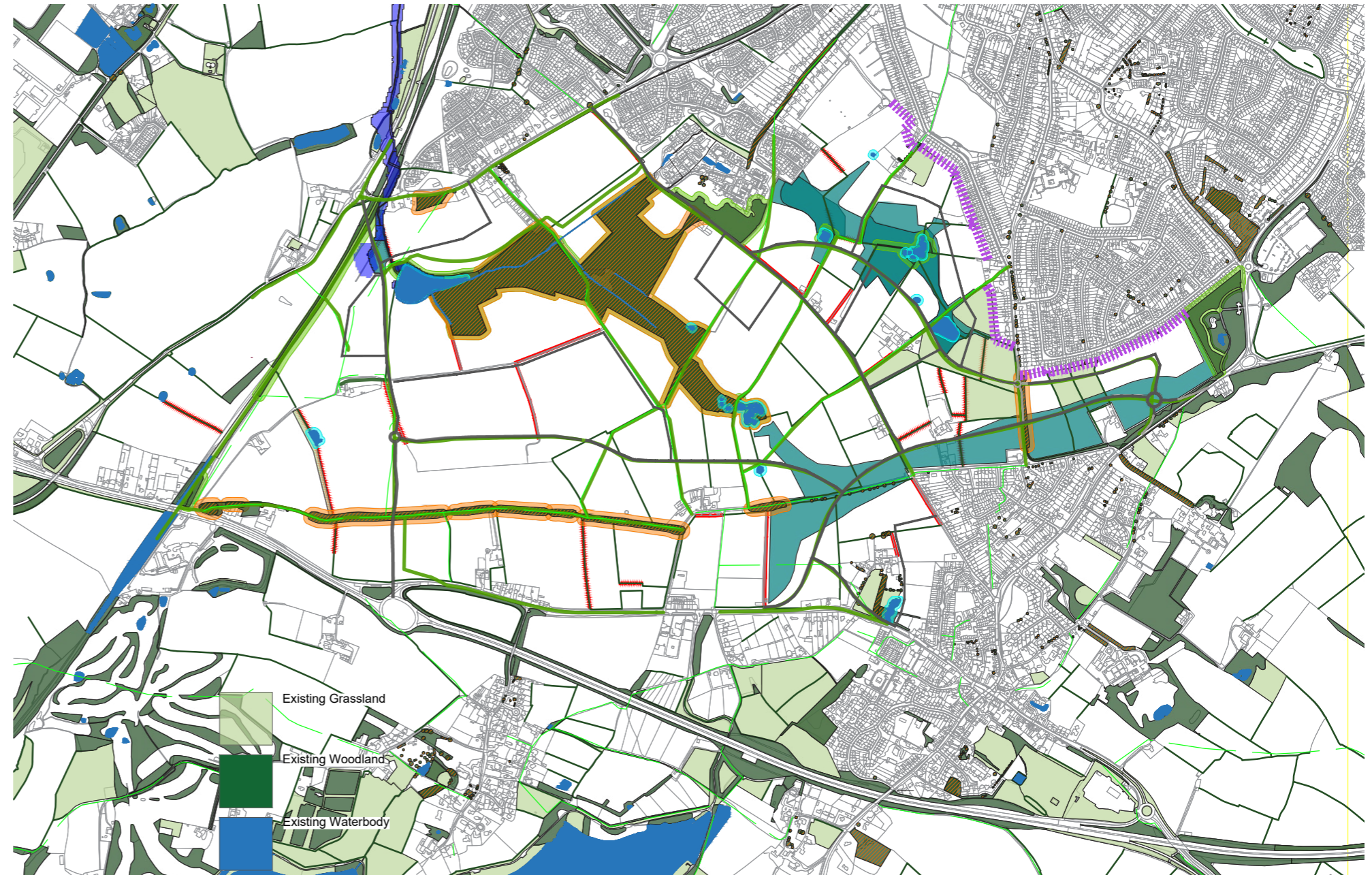
NA.36 Permeable, soft landscape boundary treatments **should** be prioritised to strengthen natural connectivity.

NA.37 Hard boundary treatments **must** be made permeable for wildlife movement by using techniques such as hedgehog holes within barriers.

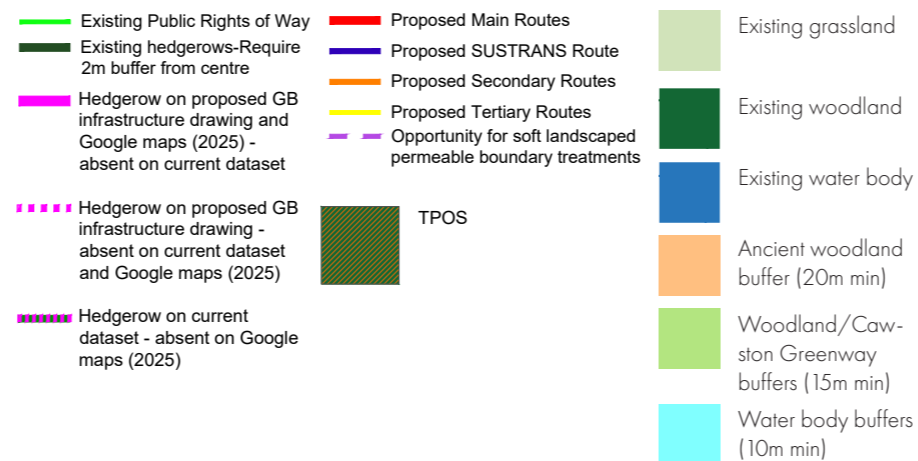
NA.38 Verges alongside routes and planting alongside PRowWs **must** be landscaped to create safe spaces for users with good visibility and enhanced wildlife connectivity.

NA.39 SUDs **must** be utilised across applications and landscaped appropriately to create connectivity for nature.

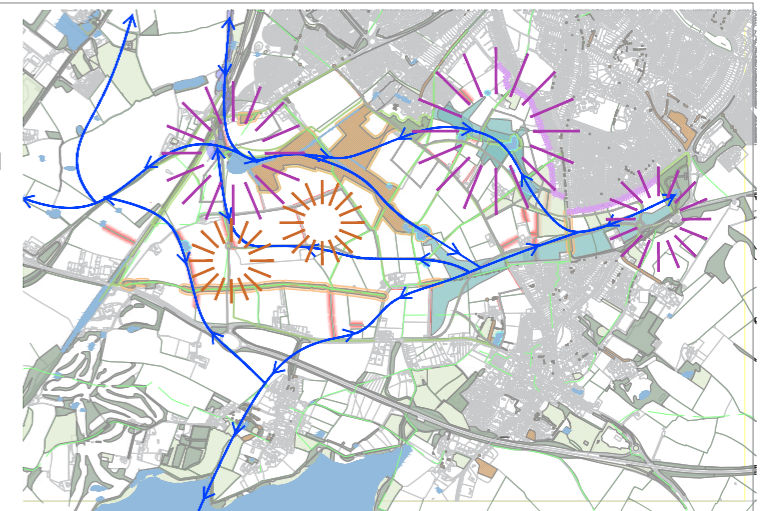
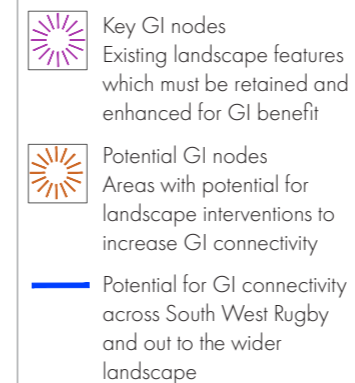
NA.40 The management and maintenance of landscapes **must** be detailed and secured for 30 years to ensure a successfully established, healthy plant community will thrive and mature into a connected landscape for future generations to enjoy.



Key



Illustrative GI movement + nodes

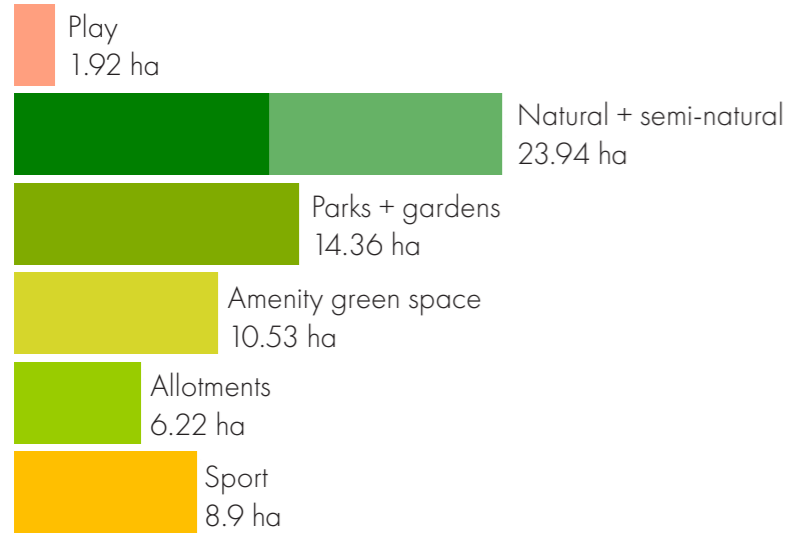


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Public open space

Open space provision

The South West Rugby Masterplan SPD identifies the amounts of different types of open space required across the allocation. These are represented below.



Natural and semi natural green spaces

Natural and semi natural open spaces include woodland, scrub, grassland, wetlands, and open or running water.

The adopted South West Rugby Masterplan SPD identifies that the apportionment of open space between typologies is likely to favour natural and semi-natural typologies, rather than formal spaces in order to maximise green infrastructure between Cock Robin Wood and Cawston Spinney, and beyond (see green infrastructure).

Whilst public access is anticipated in these areas, design and management arrangements must take account of potential conflicts between public access and nature functions.

Parks and gardens

Parks and gardens include urban parks, squares, country parks and formal gardens.

Amenity green space

Amenity green spaces can include informal recreation spaces in and around housing, communal greenspaces, and community growing spaces (allotments are defined separately). These spaces may include elements of hard space, as well as soft space.

Allotments

Area of land for rent for growing plants and vegetables.

Also refer to:

RBC local plan policy: HS4, SDC6 + South West Rugby Masterplan SPD (2021, updated 2024)



Amenity space at Monksmoor, Daventry



Amenity space at Houlton, Rugby



Amenity space at Derwenthorpe, York



Caldecott Park, Rugby



Allotments



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Access to open space

Accessibility standards are set out below. These seek to ensure that all homes have access to open space within a 200-300m walking distance, and access to a full range of open space types with 1000m as recommended by the Fields in Trust. Flexibility may be applied with regards the space typology for the purpose of accessibility standards where properties are within a 5-minute walking distance of an open space (other than amenity space).

The accessibility standards have been stated below as maximum walking distances, as this is generally easier to understand.

NA.41 Walking times **must** involve consideration the route options to the relevant space (and not the distance 'as the crow flies') and should also consider different walking speeds.

Open space typology	Accessibility standard (maximum walking time)
Amenity space	5 minutes
Park and garden	15 minutes
Natural/semi natural	15 minutes
Allotments	15 minutes

NA.42 All homes **must** have access to some open space within a maximum 5-minute walk

NA.43 Development proposals **must** demonstrate that accessibility standards are met within any detailed layouts submitted.

Play

Appendix F of the South West Rugby Masterplan SPD sets out the criteria for the provision of Locally Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPS) and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPS) across the allocation. This includes criteria for:

- Accessibility
- Minimum areas
- Specification

NA.44 Play areas **should** seek to incorporate natural play equipment and features.

Informal play

NA.45 The use of playful features along active travel routes **could** be included and is encouraged. including in playable streets, and adjacent open spaces.



Natural play features along a pedestrian route in Houlton.



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Open space design principles

Small public open spaces create nodes within green infrastructure benefitting community health and wellbeing of communities and biodiversity.

NA.46 Design of recreational facilities **must** reflect the character of the existing landscape.

NA.47 At all scales these spaces **must** be equitably accessible. Their design, maintenance and use **must** promote equality and inclusion.

NA.48 Routes **must** be accessible, well maintained with clear way marking.

NA.49 Design **must** prioritise opportunities for people to interact and notice nature through the development of habitats in public open spaces.

NA.50 Variety in spaces, habitats, experiences **must** be created to encourage a wide range of users and activities. e.g. SUDs, ponds, orchards and play parks.

NA.51 Wildlife friendly habitats within new parks and open spaces **must** cover at least 30% of the area.

NA.52 Provisions for protecting habitats by limiting public access **must** be established within the design process. e.g. landscape buffers, designated footpaths, boundary treatments such as knee rails or fences.

NA.53 Signage and interpretation **should** be utilised to promote support with users for habitat protection and building community involvement in local open spaces.

NA.54 Applications **must** detail the minimum standard of regular, sustained maintenance for landscapes within the site.

NA.55 Evidence of the funding and management responsibilities **must** be outlined and agreed.

NA.56 Regular audits of green spaces and reviews of management and maintenance strategies **must** be outlined.

NA.57 Incidental landscape interventions such as green roofs and walls can act as stepping stones across the urban environment **should** be considered in the design of the public realm.

NA.58 Plant selections **must** enhance open spaces with varied seasonal interest and should consider non-native planting to reflect climate resilience and maintenance needs whilst providing beautiful, engaging displays.



Greenways utilising existing landscape features to create active travel routes.



Local community groups can get involved in creating landscapes.



Retention of mature trees create a sense of place and character.



Natural play encourages connection to landscape.



Green roofs can provide stepping stones of green infrastructure.



A diversity of spaces create opportunity for social prescribing.

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Soft landscape materials palette - trees

Woodland blocks are a characteristic of the plateau landscape and create nodes within wildlife corridors.

NA.59 New woodland planting must favour oak as the major tree with pine and silver birch on sandy soils.

NA.60 Existing and new areas of woodland **must** consist of a diverse stand structure.

NA.61 As a guidance woodland mixes **should** contain no more than:

- 10% of the tree stock in the area being of one species
- 20% of the tree stock in the area being of one genus
- 30% of the tree stock in the area being of one family.

NA.62 A diversity of tree species **must** be selected for the POS across sites.

NA.63 Species' ultimate size **must** be considered to ensure plant selections are appropriate for the scale of the POS.

NA.64 Native species selections **should** be favoured but it is recognised that non-native species may be more appropriate within the public realm and where space is restricted and aid species diversity.

NA.65 Existing conditions and future climate resilience **must** be considered in plant selection.

NA.66 Species diversity **must** be maintained throughout POS selections.

Street trees

NA.67 Street tree species must be selected that are tolerant of urban conditions aligning with the landscape character of the site.

NA.68 Biodiversity and climate resilience **must** be demonstrated through plant selections.

NA.69 While priority should be given to native and near-native species, non-native species and cultivars can be more appropriate, within the public realm or where space is restricted.

NA.70 Tree avenues should be introduced where appropriate in keeping with character.

NA.71 Verges **must** be adequate width to accommodate tree size at maturity and provide enough space and uncompacted soil for the tree's root area.

NA.72 Canopy clearances **must** be:

- Footpath/Footway: 2.4m
- Cycleway: 3.5m
- Carriageway: 5.2m

POS trees



Quercus robur



Quercus petraea



Ilex aquifolium



Pinus sylvestris



Salix fragilis

Street trees



Carpinus betulus 'Frans Fontane'



Tilia cordata 'Streetwise'



Amelanchier arboria 'Robin Hill'



Betula pendula 'Obelisk'



Acer campestre 'Elsrijk'



Sorbus aucuparia 'cardinal royal'



Sorbus x arnoldiana 'Schouten'



Prunus pandora



Prunus x hillieri 'spire'



Crataegus monogyna 'stricta'

NATURE

Soft landscape materials palette

Boundaries and Edges

NA.73 Hedgerows act as dark corridors for wildlife and where appropriate, **must** be prioritised over single species hedges in landscaping schemes.

NA.74 Ornamental single species hedges **should** be prioritised as boundary treatments where hedgerows are inappropriate over impermeable treatments such as fencing.

NA.75 Hedgerows **must** consist of 7 or more species, providing suitable food sources for local wildlife and good blossoming sequence.

NA.76 Hedgerow "standard" trees **must** be included such as oak, small-leaved lime and disease-resistant elm to enhance age structure and strengthen landscape character.

NA.77 Hedges and hedgerow **must** suit the available space and available maintenance regime.

NA.78 Footways **must** remain clear and where visibility is required ultimate hedge heights **must** be outlined in management plans.

Scrub

NA.79 Scrub **should** be specified to improve species diversity in particular at the edges of POS and developments for screening and buffer zones.

NA.80 Where scrub is utilised it **must** be located carefully to ensure safety and visibility.

NA.81 Maintenance **must** be outlined for the long-term management of the scrub areas; such as rotational coppicing carried out to pockets to open-up areas to allow light in encouraging regeneration.

Hedgerows



Prunus spinosa



Corylus avellana



Crataegus laevigata



Cornus sanguinea



Ligustrum vulgare



Acer campestre



Crataegus monogyna

Ornamental hedges



Carpinus betulus



Fagus sylvatica 'Atropurpurea'



Fagus sylvatica

Scrub



Crataegus monogyna



Cornus sanguinea



Prunus spinosa



Viburnum opulus



Salix caprea

NATURE

Soft landscape materials palette

Grassland and wildflowers

NA.82 To strengthen the sense of landscape cohesion and connectivity opportunities **should** be identified for wide woodland and scrub margins of 4-6m with potential for wildflowers and grasslands.

NA.83 Areas of grassland and wildflowers **must** be used to create ecotones to offer diversity and enhance GI.

NA.84 Wide margins **must** be designed and managed to put more heterogeneity into the landscape whilst providing attractive, lower maintenance plant displays.

NA.85 Wildflower and grassland species mixes **must** be led by the distinctiveness of the local flora and the site conditions.

NA.86 Seed supplies **should** be of local provenance, the coronation meadows of Draycote and Dunchurch could be used as donor sites.

NA.87 If generic, non-local seed mixes are to be used they **must** be supplied from a reputable specialist supplier of UK native wildflower seed.

NA.88 Amenity grass and floral rich species mixes which can be maintained with flowering to 600mm **must** be selected for verges along movement corridors where taller vegetation is unsuitable.

Ornamentals

NA.89 Annual meadows, consisting of non-native ornamentals, **could** be specified to provide 'quick wins' in areas that are slow to mature.

NA.90 While native plants are integral to biodiversity, carefully selected non-native ornamentals **could** be used to create beautiful long-flowering displays that enrich and withstand urban conditions where natives are inappropriate.

NA.91 Ornamental selections **must** be pollinator friendly and reflect climate resilience.

NA.92 Future maintenance **must** be a consideration in landscape specifications.

NA.93 Lower maintenance ornamental perennial species **must** be prioritised with planting densities reflecting the available future management of the scheme.

Wildflowers

Woodland



Hyacinthoides non-scripta



Anemone nemerosa



Primula vulgaris



Silene dioica



Ranunculus ficaria

Wetter valleys



Juncus inflexus



Carex pendula



Chrysosplenium oppositifolium

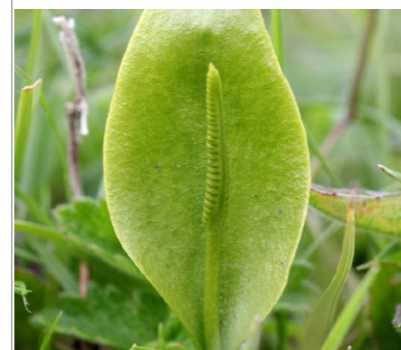


Lotus pedunculatus



Caltha palustris

Coronation meadows



Adders Tinbuge Fern



Cowslip



Green Winged Orchid



Meadow Vetch



Pepper Saxifrage

Ornamentals



Achillea 'Terracotta'



Astrantia major



Phlomis russeliana



Symphyotrichum 'Little Carlow'



Ajuga reptans