



# Gravity

A Smart Campus

Strategic Landscape Masterplan Document

Fast-track to the future, naturally

[thisisgravity.co.uk](http://thisisgravity.co.uk)

<b>1.0 Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.0 Strategic Landscape Masterplan</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.0 Soft and Hard Landscape</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4.0 Landscape Spaces</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Appendix 1:A1 Strategic Landscape Masterplan</b>	<b>15</b>

Version: A  
Version date: 09/06/2020  
Comment: Final for planning

This document has been prepared and checked  
in accordance with ISO 9001:2015

# 1.0 Introduction

## Planning Context

'Gravity' \* is a 616 acre enterprise zone in Sedgemoor, Somerset - at the heart of the South West, with an extant hybrid consent for a range of high value commercial uses. Gravity has an ambitious approach to sustainability and seeks to create a low carbon environment, aligned to the delivery of the UK Industrial Strategy and the Local Industrial Strategy, specifically in relation to the Grand Challenges of Clean Growth, AI, Data and the Future of Mobility.

The Strategic Landscape Masterplan (SLM) has been developed to be read alongside the Strategic Design Code which reflects the parameters of the hybrid consent, and has integrated the new ambitions and visions for the site to signal our intentions to the market and to create a framework to marshal foreign direct investment and other inward investment opportunities.

## Purpose of the Strategic Landscape Masterplan (SLM)

The SLM establishes the key landscape elements, qualities and characteristics that will support the development of a cohesive and aspirational place whilst retaining flexibility for future development within the parameters of the consent. The layout places the natural environment at the heart of the site's identity, reinforcing the characteristics and rooting the development in its setting. The landscape will work in tandem with development, using circulation, planting and water systems to create a multifunctional and visually attractive green infrastructure.

The strategic guidance contained in this document ensures that quality of place is sustained throughout the lifetime of the development, providing a quality place where employees are proud to work and play and which protects and enhances investment value.

This document is intended to discharge Condition 36 of the hybrid consent that requires the approval of a SLM before approval of the reserved matters for any phase or parcel of development. Thereafter each reserved matters application for any phase or parcel or any full application, shall describe how it responds to the approved SLM.

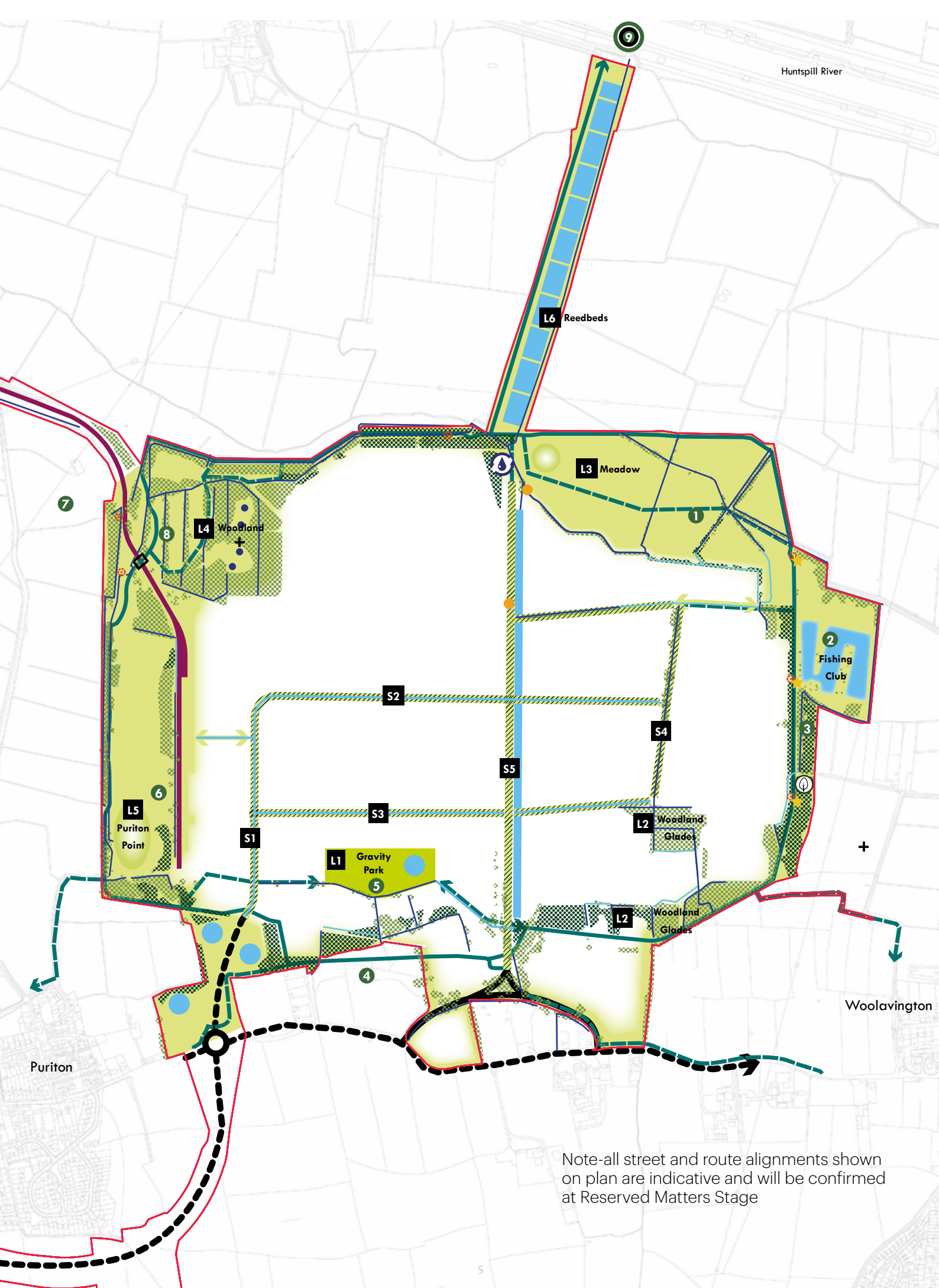
\* previously Huntspill Energy Park

# 2.0 Strategic Landscape Masterplan

The SLM overleaf highlights the key proposed and retained landscape elements within the site. The SLM should be read in conjunction with the Strategic Design Code for completeness.

Legend	
Red line boundary	
Open Space and planting	
Open Space	
Existing tree planting to be retained and managed	
Proposed tree planting	
Key public space	
Landscaped mounds	
Plant nursery	
Drainage	
Existing rhyme network to be retained and managed	
Proposed wildlife ponds	
Proposed principle rhyme network	
Proposed attenuation pond locations	
Proposed attenuation using existing reed-beds	
Potential water treatment plant	
Plots	
Development plots with on-plot landscape (to be considered at Reserved Matters stage)	

Access	
Gravity Orbit-Permissive Bridleway	
Key micromobility links	
Safeguarded railway corridor-subject to necessary consents	
Indicative Street corridors-Tree planting and meadow/ground planting within green verges, pedestrian/cycle routes	
Access over potential railway corridor	
Primary vehicular access	
Vehicular access	
Ecology	
Barn Owl boxes	
Bat Barn features	
Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Newt mitigation and enhancement area	
Heritage	
Retained historic features	
Strategic Design Code References	
Street Codes	
Landscape and Spaces Codes	



Note-all street and route alignments shown on plan are indicative and will be confirmed at Reserved Matters Stage

# 3.0 Soft and Hard Landscape

## Principles of Soft Landscaping

Street Trees, understory and groundcover planting will play a crucial role in meeting the design and ecological objectives for the development.

### Tree planting palette

- A palette of different tree categories are set out for designers and those involved in the delivery of Gravity to select from. The intention is for proposals to respond to the specific conditions of character areas and the landscape spaces proposed.
- Continuity of tree species through street corridors is required.

### Tree specification

- A variety of native and non-native species will be selected on the basis of resilience to urban environments and future climate

change; height and canopy spread at maturity; visual interest and enhancing biodiversity value.

- A mixture of tree species shall be used within the streets to provide variation and diversity.
- It is expected that street trees will be planted in the next appropriate season after an adjacent phase of built development has reached practical completion to avoid unnecessary damage to trees during construction. Should established street trees be damaged by construction related activity, the tree shall be replaced at the original specified size.
- Large specimen avenue street trees will be planted at a minimum of semi-mature with a minimum girth of 20-25cm a minimum

### ST - Street trees

Statement Avenues S1/S4/S5



Formal avenues of trees

Street S3



A focus on Pioneering species such as birch, with informal spacing and multistem

Street S2



Natural character, irregular groups and spacing

### WT - Woodland trees



Native tree mix, with high canopy, multistem and large shrubs

### OT - Orchard trees



Local orchard species, including Pyrus on grid structure

### RT - Rhynes trees



Water loving tree species such as willows, black poplar and alder

### PT - Park trees



Specimens with seasonal interest and structure. Single stem or multistem

### UT - Urban trees



Specimens with seasonal interest and structure suitable for hard spaces

Refer to the Strategic Design Code for individual Street Codes

clear stem height of 2.2m so large enough to be robust. The size at planting shall also be sufficient to avoid the need for added protection, such as the use of tree guards, which add clutter and maintenance.

- Individual street trees shall be planted at a girth of no less than 18-20cm.
- Advanced Nursery Stock trees will be required at prominent locations, vistas, corners, etc. to provide a sense of maturity and substance.

### Soft planting palette

- A palette of different soft planting categories are set out for designers and those involved in the delivery of Gravity to select from. The intention is for proposals to respond to the specific conditions of

character areas and the landscape spaces proposed.

### Soft planting specification

- All species will be carefully selected to ensure they do not compromise the ecological value of retained and newly created features such as rhynes, attenuation features, woodland and grassland. Invasive species will be avoided.

### Plot Landscape Design

- All plot planting should consider the tree planting and soft planting palette and specifications principles.
- Proposals to respond to the specific conditions of character areas, building proposals and edge conditions.

## SP - Street planting

Statement Avenues S1/S4/S5



Bold, simple planting and grasses

Street S3



Meadow interwoven with bulbs, grasses, herbaceous shrubs

Street S2



Grasses, shrubs woodland understory

## L - Lawns



Amenity grass

## M - Meadow



Species rich meadow grassland

## WP - Woodland planting



Ground cover, shrubs, herbaceous and seasonal bulbs

## HS - Herbaceous/Shrub



Seasonal interest

## SuP - SuDS planting



Marginal planting, grasses, herbaceous

## HP - Hedge planting



Formal single species and mixed native

---

## Principles of Hard Landscaping

---

### Carriageway principles

- Carriageway materials to be robust and simple.
- A family of high quality kerbs to be selected at Reserved Matters Stage to ensure consistency.

### Footways and cycleways principles

- Key public spaces to have the highest specification of materials to express their importance.
- Products using recycled materials and local and/ or UK provenance to be preferred.
- Tactile surfaces shall be designed and coordinated using materials and finishes that match adjacent paved surfaces.
- Permeable paving to be used wherever possible.

### Lighting principles

- Accent/feature lighting to be used in key public and parkland spaces.
- To be fully coordinated with tree planting, visibility splays and common services trench.
- Lighting to balance security and ecological considerations, with low level, directional lighting implemented along ecological corridors to reduce light pollution.

### Furniture principles

- One column to be chosen at Reserved Matters stage and applied to all Primary streets to ensure consistency.
- An elegant and simple suite of furniture to be developed at Reserved Matters Stage that is sympathetic to the development character.
- Bold feature seating/lighting located in key public spaces.
- Litter bins should be grouped or aligned with other external furniture to ensure that clutter is minimised.
- Bins should be located near to communal areas such as mobility stops and seating areas.
- Sheltered cycle parking to be distributed within the site and well overlooked.
- Way-marking should be clear, logical and user friendly.



High specification paving with feature seating in key areas, with Loose bound/hoggin surfaces for less trafficked routes.



Example suite of furniture that can help to reinforce branding.



# 4.0 Landscape Spaces

---

## L1: Gravity Park

---

### Purpose and function

- An active urban park with a community focal point, a lake/ water feature and retained Cowslip Field Local Wildlife Site.

### Characteristics

- Urban Park.
- Green / Blue Character.

### Activities

- Waterside seating.
- Walking and cycling paths.
- Recreational lawn areas.
- Fitness and activity areas.
- Meeting place.
- Seating & Lounging.
- Outdoor meeting spaces (wifi/connectivity).
- Lunchtime.
- Pop up small events.

### Ecological considerations

- Puriton Cowslip Field LWS is an ecologically important asset to be retained as a meadow within the park. The park should be carefully designed and managed to protect and enhance the calcareous grassland meadow.
- Access through the meadow with mown paths only. Recreational lawn areas should be provided outside of the LWS to prevent overuse of the meadows area.
- Retained Rhyne and existing trees.

### Elements

- Water Body / Lake feature with decked area.
- Active Edges and spill out spaces facing the sun.
- Pockets of high-quality hard landscape.
- Street furniture – seating, cycle parking, bins, low level lighting.
- Boardwalks and bridges.
- Amenity Lawn.
- Meadow.
- Pockets of ornamental trees.
- Seasonal and specimen trees.
- Herbaceous, Grass and Shrub Planting.
- Marginal planting to water's edge.
- Connections to Gravity Orbit (permissive bridleway).



---

## L2: Woodland Glades

---

### Purpose and function

- A series of tranquil spaces defined by trees and a framework of hedgerows where workers can take a break and local residents can use as a local park.

### Characteristics

- Existing young woodland with a mix of native species together with hybrid Poplar and Sycamore.

### Activities

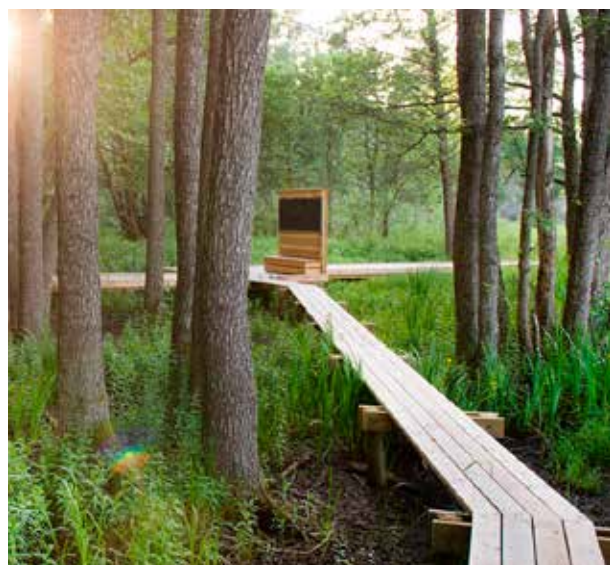
- Pedestrian and cycle routes linking north south.
- Gravity Orbit - Bridleway /Outer loop
- Tranquil areas defined by trees linked by pathways.
- Room like spaces creating social pockets and contemplative spaces with picnic tables, play elements, art, quiet reading spots.
- Dog walking loops.

### Ecological considerations

- Access through the woodland provided by paths to safeguard ground flora.
- Maximising sheltered woodland edge habitat for wildlife, particularly bats.
- Increase natural light penetration to benefit the shrub layer and increase ground flora diversity.
- Provision of sheltered, dark foraging areas for bats.
- Retaining deadwood to increase opportunities for Invertebrates.

### Elements

- Creation of glades and pockets of grassland.
- Existing Mature Trees and hedgerows retained and managed with retention of deadwood.
- Proposed tree planting including Black Poplar.
- Sustainable urban drainage.
- Existing rhynes.
- Retained historic pill box/bat barn features.
- Interpretation and signage.



---

## L3: Meadow

---

### Purpose and function

- An open landscape of existing meadow grassland with recreational paths.
- Close coordination between built form and landscape planting to ensure that key building elements are emphasised while secondary frontages are carefully screened.

### Characteristics

- Natural Levels character.
- Open landscape.
- Summer pastures criss-crossed with a geometric pattern of rhynes.
- Long straight access droves and distinctive pollarded willows and black poplars.
- Native hedgerows of local provenance.
- Managed/farmed landscape.

### Activities

- Interpretation and education.
- Gravity Orbit - Bridleway /Outer loop.
- Walking and cycling routes.
- Seating and picnic lawns.
- The existing lakes and Fishing Club retained.

### Ecological considerations

- Enhancements to Puriton Rhynes & Ponds LWS habitats.
- Existing water, rhynes and open meadow.
- Conservation and enhancement of existing rhynes.
- Borrow Pit LWS.

### Elements

- Mounded landscape features.
- Proposed tree planting.
- Meadow.
- Retained historic pill box/bat barn features.
- Reintroduction of Black Poplar.



---

## L4: Woodlands

---

### Purpose and function

- Established woodland, ponds and ecological park with recreational paths.

### Characteristics

- Existing established deciduous woodland with mature Hybrid Poplar woodland stand and woodland glade area with ponds.

### Activities

- Pockets of social spaces and interpretation.
- Gravity Orbit with bridge connection over rail line.
- Walking and cycling trails.
- Creation of an ecological park with a recreational destination with sensitively located and designed communal 'building' for meeting spaces for business', a location for workshops (e.g. willow weaving) education (e.g. learning about land management for biodiversity gain)
- Service area for mobility vehicles on remnant hard standing, existing track utilised for access.

### Ecological considerations

- Puriton Meadows & Rail Spur LWS managed and enhanced.
- Hybrid poplars reaching maturity, managed clearance and replanting in conjunction with ecological management works.
- Newt mitigation and enhancement area
- Recently introduced ponds managed to encourage proportion of open water.

### Elements

- Existing woodland retained, managed and enhanced with naturalistic woodland planting to increase diversity.
- Areas of linear pasture.
- Structural planting based on the character of the historic grain creating a series of rooms.
- Understorey planting enhancing biodiversity and visual interest.
- Woodland walks with interpretation and points of interest e.g Retained historic feature.



---

## L5: Puriton Point

---

### Purpose and function

- An undulating bund and retained Puriton Ash Ground LWS.

### Characteristics

- Brown field site with poor substrates - Brick and dust, sensitive to nutrient enrichment from an ecological perspective.
- LWS Lichen growing on ash substrate.
- Meadow and windbreak planting on bund.

### Activities

- Pedestrian and cycle paths.
- Viewing area.
- Pocket park.

### Ecological considerations

- Puriton Ash Ground LWS designated due to its historic use as an ash tip that has developed a species rich flora and invertebrate complement including lichen. Area to retain and protect the LWS east of the proposed bund as per the OPA. The area requires management of scrub that has grown in size towards the south of the site.
- Retention of Existing Trees.

### Elements

- Undulating Mounds with view point.
- Meadow Lawn and naturalistic planting.
- Proposed tree planting.
- Gravity Orbit and connection to Puriton.
- Use of plants to clean ditches / bioremediation.
- Some areas of open ground will be retained.
- Retained historic pill box feature.
- A statement Pyrus tree to be located in a prominent position to celebrate the historic function of Puriton as pear orchard.



---

## L6: Reedbeds

---

### Purpose and function

- A series of existing reedbeds with pedestrian connection to the Huntspill River.
- Water Management.

### Characteristics

- Reedbeds created and managed as a filtration system to treat water from the site before it reaches the river.
- Linear north-south orientation.

### Activities

- Pedestrian path connecting to Huntspill River.
- Potential to create destination at the river and a future connection to a destination at the Pumping Station along the river.
- An interpretation point could provide information on the nature conservation and the history of the artificial river that was dug in 1940 to provide water for the site.

### Ecological considerations

- The reedbeds are within the Puriton Rhynes and Ponds LWS which is designated for its rhine network, ponds and reedbeds and connection to the Huntspill River designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR).
- The reedbeds will form part of the site wide ecology and water management strategy. Enhancements will be carefully designed and managed to ensure an ecologically important habitat is delivered.

### Elements

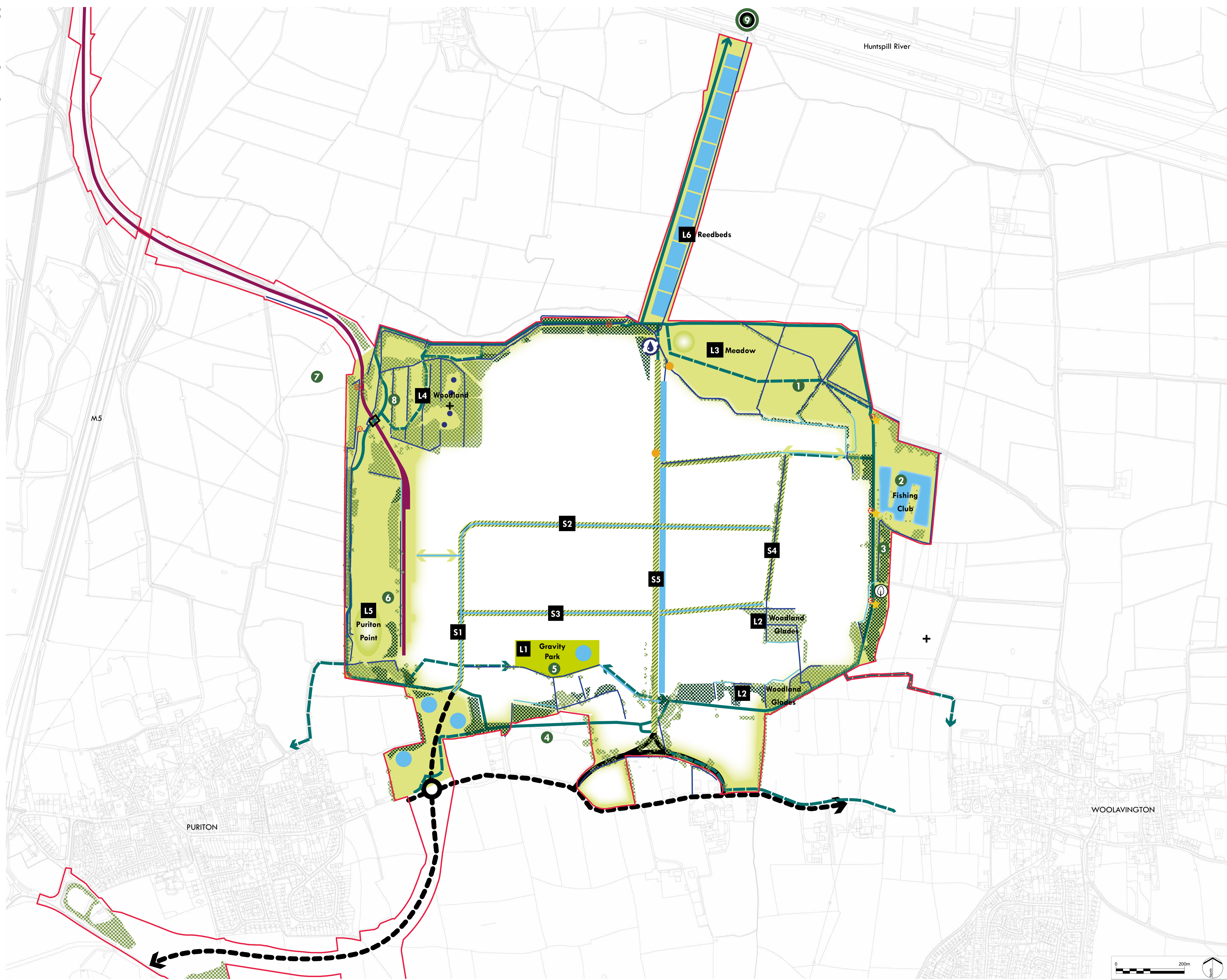
- Attenuation - The reedbeds have capacity available for attenuation, which may be required as part of a site-wide rainwater harvesting system and treatment of grey water. The reedbeds will need to be cleared/dredged to hold more attenuation water.
- An existing track on the western boundary of the reed beds offers an opportunity to create a pedestrian route to a destination at the rivers edge such as a viewing platform, seating area or bird hide.
- Appropriate safety measures/edge restraints/footpath setbacks to be developed to prevent likelihood of falls and trips into water.



# **Appendix 1:**

**A1 Strategic Landscape Masterplan**

X:\J085\0000\_Xxxxxxxx\7\_CAD\DRAWINGS\0000\_01\_A



**LEGEND**

- Site boundary
- Open Space and planting
  - Open space
  - Existing tree planting to be retained and managed
  - Proposed tree planting (Condition 5)
  - Key public space
  - Landscaped mound
  - Plant nursery
- Drainage
  - Existing rhyme network to be retained and managed
  - Proposed wildlife ponds
  - Proposed principle rhyme network
  - Proposed attenuation pond locations
  - Proposed attenuation using existing reedbeds
  - Potential water treatment plant
- Access
  - Gravity Orbit-Permissive Bridleway
  - Key micromobility links
  - Safeguarded railway corridor-subject to necessary consents
  - Indicative Street corridors-Tree planting and meadow/graze planting within green verges, pedestrian/cycle routes
  - Access over potential railway corridor
  - Primary vehicular access
  - Vehicular access
- Ecology
  - Barn Owl boxes
  - Bat Barn features
  - Newt mitigation and enhancement area
- Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)
  - 1 Puriton Rhynes & Ponds
  - 2 Borrow Pit, Puriton
  - 3 Stonning Pound Field South & Stonning Road Rhyne
  - 4 Woolavington Road & Fields North
  - 5 Puriton Cowslip Field
  - 6 Puriton Ash Ground
  - 7 North Mead Drove Fields
  - 8 Puriton Meadows & Rail Spur
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)
  - 9 Huntspill River NNR
- Heritage
  - Retained historic features (tbc)
- Strategic Design Code References
  - SX Street Codes
  - LX Landscape and Spaces Codes
- Plots
  - Development plots with on-plot landscape (To be considered at Reserved Matters stage)

REV.	DESCRIPTION	APP.	DATE
A	FOR PLANNING	OK	10/06/20

**LDĀ DESIGN**

PROJECT TITLE  
GRAVITY MASTERPLAN

DRAWING TITLE  
Strategic Landscape Masterplan

ISSUED BY Exeter T: 01392 260430  
DATE June 2020 DRAWN JH  
SCALE@A1 1:5000 CHECKED OK  
STATUS For Planning APPROVED FO

**DWG. NO. 6599\_P\_100\_A**

No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing. All dimensions are to be checked on site. Area measurements for indicative purposes only.  
© LDA Design Consulting Ltd. Quality Assured to BS EN ISO 9001 : 2008  
Sources: Ordnance Survey...

v2016.0





[thisisgravity.co.uk](http://thisisgravity.co.uk)