

The regeneration of the former HMS Ganges site will provide a pleasant environment with a large amount of public open space to enhance the overall development. As part of the revised proposals, careful consideration has gone into retaining a large number of existing trees, including many trees covered by the two Tree Preservation Orders on the site. There will also be a significant amount of additional landscaping to enhance the setting of the site.

We recognise that the previous scheme was criticised for limited evidence on ecological issues, particularly the impacts of the proposal scheme on bat and reptile populations. Haylink's ecology consultants are undertaking an assessment of all ecological issues on the site, which includes a full assessment on bat and reptile populations. This will form one of the chapters of the Environmental Statement that will be submitted with the new Master Plan.

We have used a number of guiding principles in the new Master Plan to address ecological matters. These include:

- Protecting the existing wildlife on the site
- Creating semi-natural habitats capable of supporting existing species on the site.
- Retaining and introducing a large number of trees. (and buildings) to protect certain species, including bat roosts and providing additional bat roosting opportunities
- Maintaining, enhancing and managing important ecological features, such as specified grasslands, shrubs and trees.
- Controlled access paths across the site to reduce disturbance to important semi-natural habitats and wildlife.

A full management plan will also be submitted with the new Master Plan.



Image of Street Trees



Image of Linear Park



Image of Cricket Green



Image of Meadow

Q: Haylink has given careful consideration to the landscaping and ecology? Do you agree with these proposals or have any alternative suggestions?

New Master Plan: Sustainability

The Master Plan with a range of uses aims to integrate with the existing settlement to create a sustainable village location with a range of local services and employment opportunities.

The retail/ commercial centre will sit at the heart of Shotley and provide conveniently placed facilities for the whole community. Its location has been carefully considered so as to promote accessibility to it by walking/ cycling and local bus service. At the same time this centre shall provide an important community amenity and meeting place.

Four existing key buildings are proposed to be retained for retail/ commercial and leisure uses.

The new housing will seek to achieve a Level 3 rating in the new Code for Sustainable Homes. In order to achieve this the proposals will need to achieve good levels of performance across 6 key issues:

- Energy efficiency /CO2
- Water efficiency
- Surface water management
- Site Waste Management
- Household Waste Management
- Use of Materials

Q: Haylink has proposed to retain a substantial number of existing buildings on site. Do you have any alternative views about these proposals?

Key individual sustainability strategies being proposed are;

- Timber framed construction which has a lower embodied energy than traditional construction and facilitates excellent draught proofing and thermal insulation standards.
- Preparation and implementation of a travel plan.
- Provision of adequate space for the storage of recyclable waste.
- Provision of rainwater collection facilities across the development in order to reduce mains water consumption.
- Minimising of impermeable hard landscaping materials and the integration of SUD's sustainable drainage features.
- Planting of trees, copses and other landscape features to encourage wildlife.