



- 6.1 This section provides case studies to help demonstrate how the council expects applicants to consider green infrastructure within the design process. The case studies show how different types and scale of development can improve and create good quality green infrastructure. All of the case studies have been identified as potential allocations for residential development in work undertaken to inform the preparation of the Local Plan:
- **Summerbridge:** large greenfield site for housing within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - **Boroughbridge:** large brownfield site for housing
 - **Melmerby:** greenfield employment site
 - **Staveley:** small greenfield site for 100% affordable housing
 - **Bishop Thornton:** small scale greenfield site for 100% affordable housing
- 6.2 For each of the case studies a green infrastructure opportunities map is provided along with contextual information. The opportunities map is accompanied by text to explain how green infrastructure can be incorporated into the design of the development in order to contribute to the benefits of green infrastructure set out in section 3.
- 6.3 Proposals for development of these sites will be expected to assist with the delivery of the opportunities identified within this guide subject to viability and deliverability.

Case Study

Large greenfield site for housing in the Nidderdale AONB, Summerbridge

Site:

Land south of
Whinbush Lane,
Summerbridge

Site size:

2.68 ha

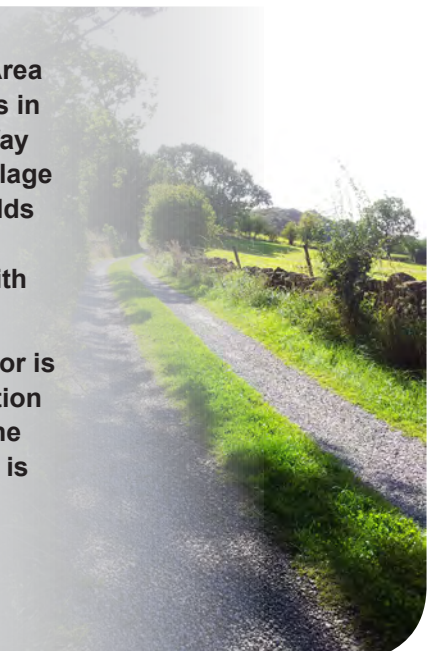
Proposed use:

The site is considered suitable for a mix of market and affordable housing with a yield of approximately 49 dwellings.

Site Characteristics:

Summerbridge is a small village situated approximately 2.5 miles to the southeast of Pateley Bridge. The area is highly valued and lies within the designated Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Summerbridge is one of the main settlements in the area and there is a strong network of public footpaths including the Nidderdale Way in the surrounding area. The site comprises a medium sized grassland field at the village edge that is currently used for grazing and its northern boundary adjoins the Whinfields residential development, which is separated from the site by Whinbush Lane. There are dry stone walls enclosing the western and eastern boundaries and a hedgerow with mature trees borders the southern boundary.

The wider landscape comprises the broad valley of the river Nidd where the valley floor is well-wooded and the sides rise gently away to where the site lies at a prominent location on the approach to the settlement. The site topography slopes to the west towards the B6165 meaning the site is higher than the main road and the Whinfields housing area is viewed across the site from the B6165. Whilst the edge of the housing estate is fairly exposed, there are some mature trees along the southern edge which provide some screening and trees along the top of the field, outside the site boundary, which also provide a soft backdrop.



Connecting green spaces and routes:

There is potential to provide better connections across the site to link with the existing public rights of way network and to enhance links between Brimham Rocks and the River Nidd corridor. There is already good existing footpath provision to serve this site but scope exists for new pedestrian linkages

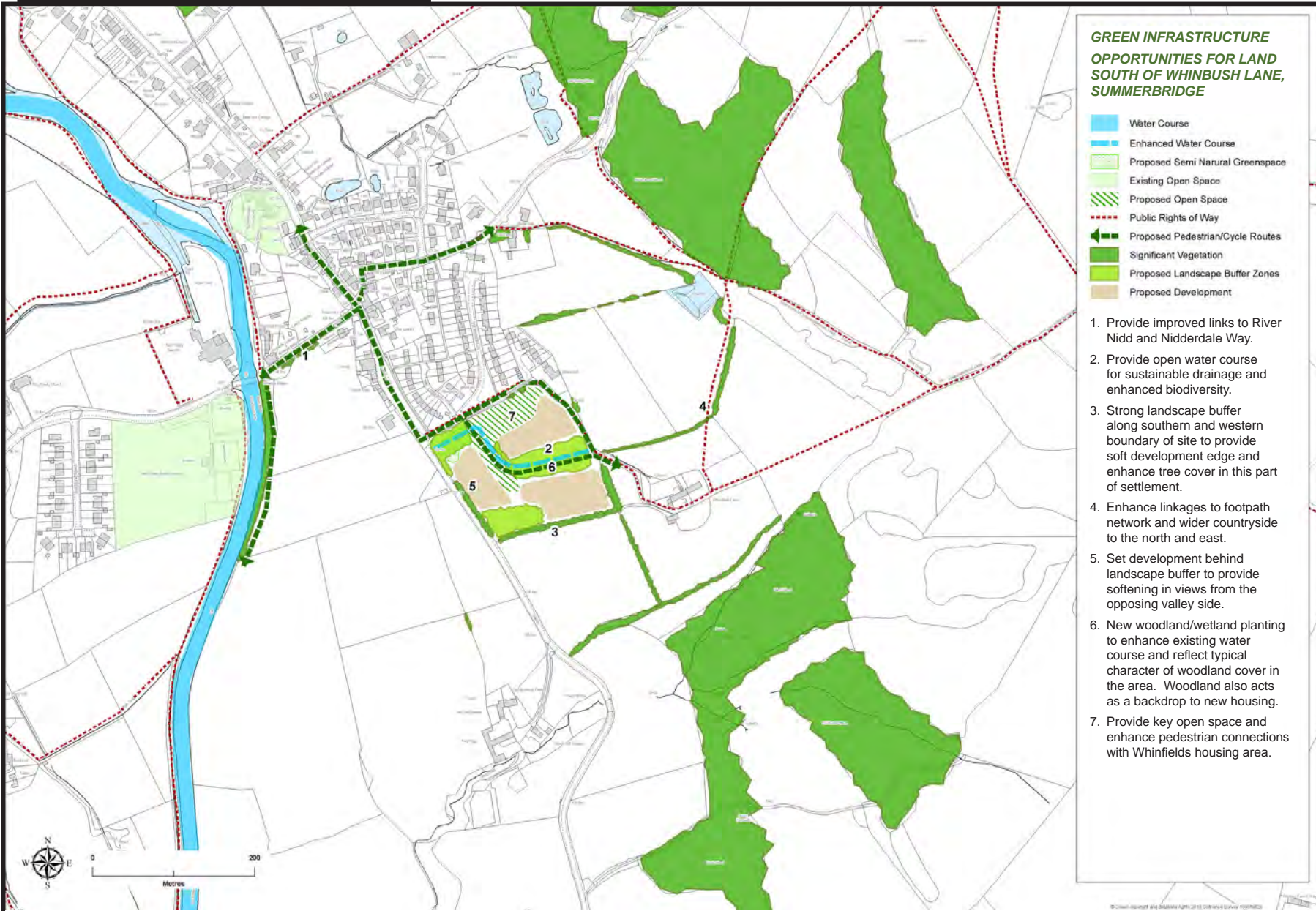
incorporating cycle routes and circular footpaths, including historic trail opportunities. The routes could follow the high concentration of existing footpaths that lie to the east and northeast of the site ultimately to link with Brimham Rocks. These routes could build upon the variety of landscape characteristics including woodlands, old quarry sites, ancient semi-natural woodland, rock outcrops, hedgerows and water bodies in this area.



Improving the setting and quality of place:

This site has the potential to build upon the existing environmental character of the area and restore elements of this character by following the guidelines of the Harrogate District Landscape Character Assessment (2004). The Nidderdale AONB has also published a Management Plan

Opportunities plan



2014-2019, which sets out a vision for the AONB and includes a set of measurable actions as a framework for everyone with an interest in protecting the natural beauty of the AONB. The plan identifies forces for change and the special qualities of the AONB and any opportunities for this site could build on the aims and objectives of this management plan.

If well designed, development of this site has the potential to improve the current views towards the edge of the settlement. Stone walls and hedgerow boundaries exist and the road verge alongside Whinfields has medium sized trees. Although not typical of the village character, these trees soften the view of the existing housing estate; however, the new scheme has the potential to provide generous areas of structure planting. The creation of an area of native woodland as mitigation to the B6165 south western boundary of the site could also help to create an appropriate edge to the settlement.



Summerbridge, Nidderdale

With the benefit of the new woodland planting, the wooded setting of the settlement could also be enhanced in views from the opposite valley side.



Encouraging activity and enjoyment:

The site size offers potential to provide a safe, attractive and high quality environment for local people with better access to the countryside and open space. The site has a public right of way along the northwest and northeastern boundaries and there is scope for better linkages into the public right of way network and to enhance cycle routes across the area. Improved access along the main street could also be explored with opportunities to improve the streetscape, since there are limited areas of open space within the village. The highway street frontage is therefore a valuable part of the village public open space network for Summerbridge.

The site offers the opportunity to provide enhanced linkages from the village to the site and into the surrounding countryside and there may be scope to divert the existing public right of way through the site to avoid the unwelcoming environment of Whinfields Lane.



Adapting to changes in climate, floodrisk and growing food locally:

Green infrastructure has the potential to help with the management of surface water on this site. There may be the opportunity for a small sustainable urban drainage scheme (SUDs), wetland or wet woodland to be located along the northwestern

boundary of the site, perhaps in association with the marked spring. There is a spring near the northwest corner of the site and another one northeast of the site and a further spring runs through the central part of the site. There is scope for a series of open ditches and off line balancing ponds that could follow the natural alignment of the springs on site and new public open space and planting could also be provided in these areas. Planting could be focussed on the higher parts of the site to provide a soft back drop and prevent run off and erosion from the higher areas of land outside the site.

There may also be opportunities to create a new flood outfall from the site on land outside the area to the west to provide improved drainage. There may be potential to work with the Dales River Trust (DRT), an organisation developed from a need for local involvement in river management and restoration. The DRT helps in engaging local communities, farmers and landowners in conservation and restoration and identifies that the River Nidd has problems left by the industrial past and that bank erosion is serious in places and that much of the upstream riverbank is dominated by Alder. There may be scope for better management of the river corridor through measures off site relating to this development, building on the ideas of the DRT. The constraint of limited access to the eastern side of the river corridor from the settlement could also be addressed through measures on this site.



Protecting nature and heritage:

There are no heritage assets within or near to the site however, good quality green infrastructure in this location has the potential to retain and improve linkages for wildlife and ecology and wider linkages to the Nidd corridor and Brimham Rocks.

Summerbridge generally benefits from a generous woodland cover at its northern end but the southern part is sparser. The new development could help to redress this balance and build upon the existing woodland cover that lies to the northeast of the site including the ancient semi-natural woodlands of Birch, Braisty and West Woods. These are currently connected by field boundaries which still retain many trees, although the 1st Epoch OS map shows that woodland cover was previously more extensive in this part of the village and that field boundaries were more heavily treed in the past.



Summerbridge, Nidderdale

Case Study

Large brownfield site for housing, Boroughbridge

Site:

Riverside Sawmills

Site size:

3.96 ha

Proposed use:

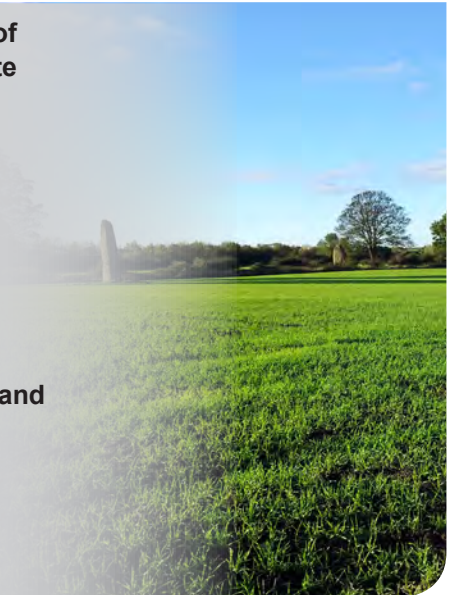
The site is considered suitable for a mix of market and affordable housing with a yield of approximately 83 dwellings.

Site Characteristics:

Boroughbridge is a small town located approximately nine miles to the northeast of Harrogate within the River Ure corridor. The Riverside Sawmills is a brownfield site located towards the northwestern edge of the settlement off Valuation Lane and comprises a range of commercial buildings associated with the Sawmills. The southern boundary is formed by a wire mesh fence with perimeter planting and residential development beyond.

Detached residential properties are also located to the east and to the north is the River Ure with a small marina and to the other side of the river is The Maltings development, a listed Grade II building now converted to residential use from the former Anchor Brewery. The wider landscape to the west comprises the linear floodplain of the River Ure as it flows in an easterly direction between Newby Hall and Boroughbridge, eventually flowing into the Humber before entering the North Sea. To the north the outlying landscape comprises the large-scale arable farmland of Dishforth and the A1(M) is a dominant feature to the east where it crosses the River Ure, effectively cutting off the countryside to the west from the town.

Devil's Arrows, Boroughbridge



Connecting green spaces and routes:

The site is within an important sub-regional green corridor in the Leeds City Region Strategic Green Infrastructure Strategy 2010, known as the River Ure corridor. The City Region project aims to direct green infrastructure to capture the significance of the valley landscapes as well as the rural hinterland. Particular emphasis is given to historic sites within and fringing the main settlements (including

Boroughbridge) where an enhanced landscape setting could help to attract people and business to the area.

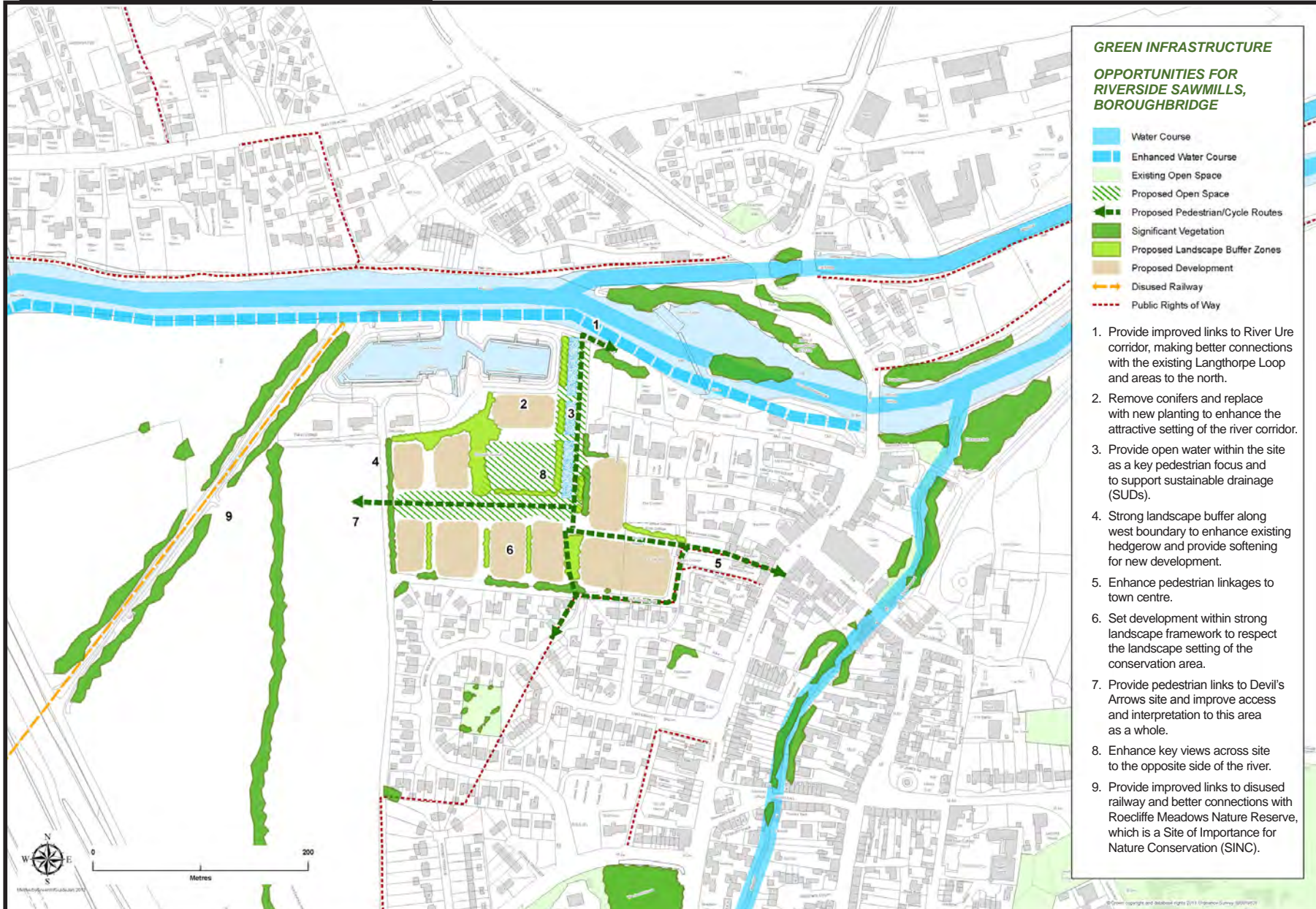
The green infrastructure assets at Riverside Sawmills include opportunities to enhance the riverside setting, to open up views of the marina, improve waterside leisure provision and improve access to the towpath. Development could also make use of what is a largely under-utilised part of the town and improve connections between the town centre and existing facilities along the river corridor.



Improving the setting and quality of place:

To fulfil the site's function as a green infrastructure corridor the site layout and design could take advantage of the close proximity of the site to the town centre and draw more people towards the riverside. Site boundaries could be designed so as not to inhibit views across the area and to encourage people to pass through the site and access the riverside. Enhancements to the site

Opportunities plan



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boundary could significantly improve the setting of the conservation area and the boundaries of the site could be interspersed with outward looking buildings and structure planting, which could help connect the site with surrounding areas. Removal of the conifer belt to the site's north boundary would also assist with integration.

The Devil's Arrows Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) is a line of three 'menhirs', or standing stones, believed to have been erected in the Bronze Age and located in close proximity to the site off Bar Lane. The new proposals could enhance potential linkages and there may be opportunities to improve the setting of the Devil's Arrows and also provide better signage and interpretation. The Arrows currently occupy two sites where the third stone stands on a site amongst trees on the west side of Roecliffe Lane. It is almost certain there were once four stones, or possibly more, standing in a line and what can be seen today is possibly only a fraction of what used to exist.



Encouraging activity and enjoyment:

Improving access across the river could be a long term strategic opportunity in particular to build upon cycling and walking routes in the area and to make better connections to the north with Littlethorpe, Langthorpe and Milby. There is scope to provide an improved circuitous footpath via Kirby Hill and Langthorpe. Close to Boroughbridge is the village of Aldborough, once the site of a Roman settlement known as Isurium Brigantum and links could also be improved to connect this Roman settlement more directly with the river corridor and make better connections with the town centre.

Links along the river corridor to the southwest also exist to provide an opportunity to make better connections with the site at Roecliffe Meadows, which was a former clay pit and is now designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). The site at Brickyard Farm Fields also lies along this corridor and provides an important connection between the Sawmills site and Roecliffe Meadows. Potential for a circuitous route around Low Fields and Lowfield Lane could be explored in this area and the disused railway is an important asset which provides more direct links between Roecliffe Meadows and the wider countryside to the southwest.

The local lanes are used for dog walking especially Valuation Lane and this is a relatively quiet part of the town allowing direct access to open countryside and the Devil's Arrows sites. Maintaining the attractive rural setting of the river corridor for recreation purposes and links to the Langthorpe Loop circular walk could be a key priority.



Adapting to changes in climate, floodrisk and growing food locally:

A small part of the site is within the floodplain of the River Ure and although already developed for commercial use, site redevelopment would have to take this into consideration. Green infrastructure is a good approach for managing flood risk and the northern part of the site extends down to the edge of the river. There is an opportunity to retain this part of the site as a key open green space to minimise the risk of flooding and possibly introduce water features/attenuation to provide a link with the waterfront.



Boroughbridge sawmills

Development of natural floodplain habitats on land upstream to the east of the site could be a key opportunity to offset any flooding impact on Boroughbridge with potential for sustainable urban drainage (SUDs) enhancements. This could be done as part of a scheme to enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity in this area as well as improving the setting of the Devil's Arrows as a green infrastructure priority.



Protecting nature and heritage:

The north part of the site is within the Boroughbridge Conservation Area and development of this site has the potential to enhance this part of the town. The Conservation Area Appraisal will be a useful tool in the design process for this site.

The River Ure at Boroughbridge has particularly high biodiversity significance, with water vole, otter





Boroughbridge marina

and depressed river mussel. A number of other Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority fish species are likely to be associated with the River Ure and the river is an important spawning ground. The area of river immediately below the weir forms an important spawning area for sea lamprey.

A number of mature sycamore and lime trees divide the open areas of the site to the east from the warehouse type buildings. Retention of these sycamores that run along the centre of the site could be a priority (providing the trees are deemed healthy and suitable for retention). Enhancement of the hedgerow along the western boundary, which is covered by a Tree Preservation Order, could also be a key objective of any development as the hedgerow could be valuable for wildlife, especially since it is composed mainly of native species. There are likely to be nesting birds associated with all the trees, hedgerows and possibly the buildings on site and just off-site a number of protected species are likely to be associated with the River Ure including kingfisher.

Boroughbridge has a limited amount of accessible open space and footpaths and connections to the open countryside are restricted in some areas in the

urban hinterland. The main asset at Boroughbridge is its river corridor and this is a key opportunity to re-engage with the river, increase access and improve landscape and ecology through the development of the site as a key riverside space.



River Ure, Boroughbridge



Case Study

Greenfield employment allocation to the south of Melmerby

Site:

Land at Melmerby
Business Park

Site size:

4.09 ha

Proposed use:

This site is considered
suitable for employment.

Site Characteristics:

Melmerby is a small village located approximately 3.5 miles northeast of Ripon and altogether this is a pleasant area with interesting villages in an attractive rural setting. The site consists of agricultural land and adjoins the existing Melmerby business park forming a small neat triangular parcel of land.

To the east of the site is Melmerby Green Lane, elsewhere the site is bounded by agricultural land divided by hedgerows, woodland areas and straight access tracks. Some of these tracks are public rights of way and many are located to the north of the area and link the business park with the village.

The wider landscape is large scale and open and development is scattered and diverse. Tree cover and hedgerows are intermittent affording long distant views extending to the Kilburn White Horse on the edge of the North York Moors National Park in the east and to the Nidderdale Moors in the distance to the west.

Melmerby Business Park



Connecting green spaces and routes:

There is potential to provide better connections across the site to link with the existing public rights of way network and to the woodlands both to the north and the south of the area. The existing woodland areas to the north are an important landscape feature and could be enhanced to improve the landscape character of the area and aid the transition from settlement edge to open countryside. Retention and enhancement of these woodlands could also help to improve visual and

physical connections between the business park and the village edge.

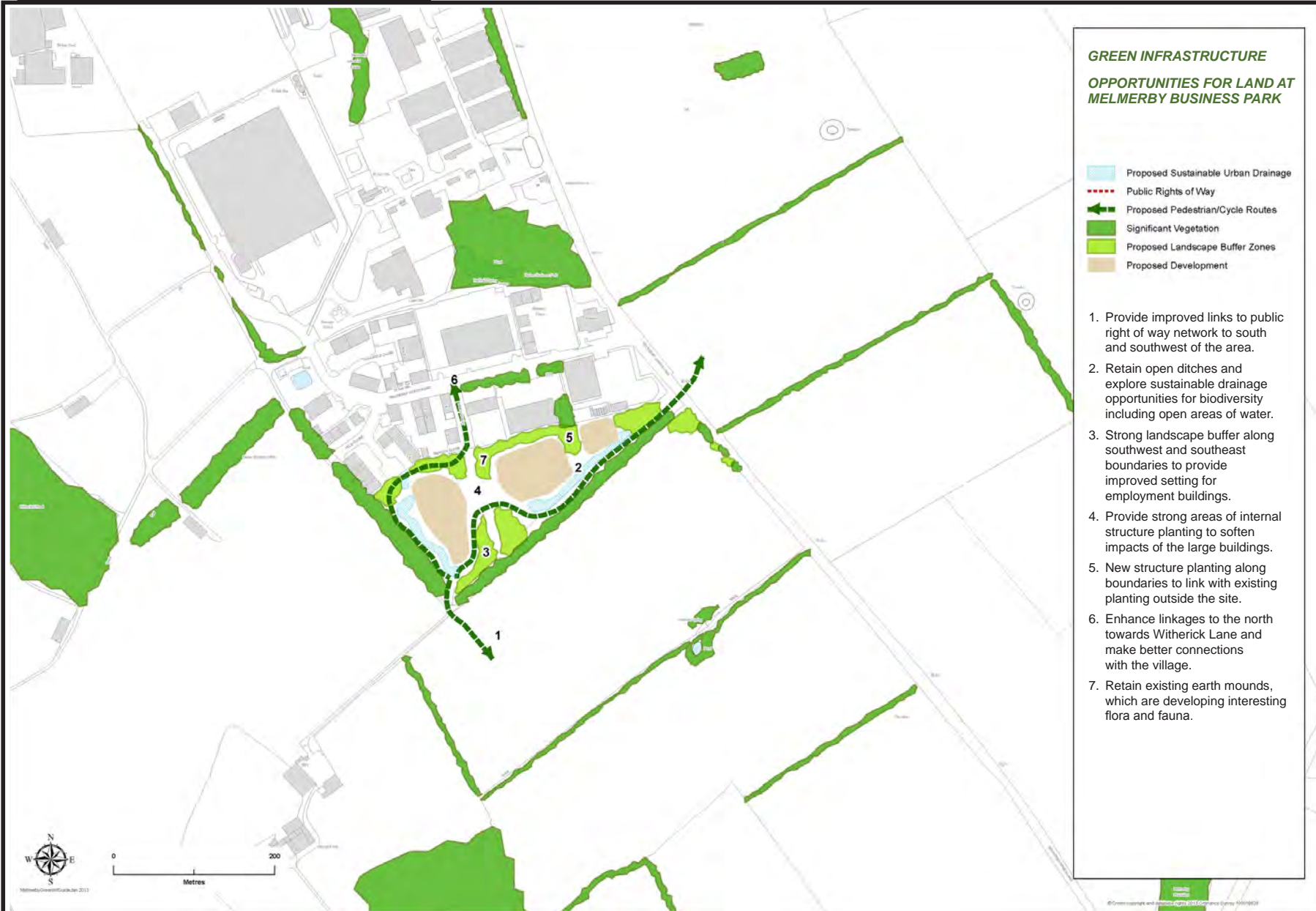


Melmerby wider landscape

There are existing woodlands and plantations to the south of the site and although public access may be limited to these areas, there could be opportunities to develop biodiversity interests by encouraging more green connections between these woodlands. The existing woodlands and tree cover make a valuable contribution to the rural setting of the villages in this area.

Towards the east the existing A1(M) severs the potential of any connections through the landscape and public access to the countryside is limited. Opportunities to link with the River Swale at

Opportunities plan



Baldersby St James however could be explored. This river landscape is recreationally important in this area and the River Ure is identified as a regionally important corridor in the Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy 2010.

The outlying landscape has a limited number of public rights of way and there could be more linkages in particular to promote links to the west to make better connections with Norton Conyers, Nunwick and beyond to Ripon and Hutton Moor.



Melmerby business park



Improving the setting and quality of place:

The site occupies an open countryside location but the existing woodland to the north provides an effective backdrop and helps with integration of the business park into the wider landscape. Existing structure/screen planting around the site boundaries also currently soften views from the south and the west.

The settings of the villages in this area are important to the diversity of the landscape and they are sensitive to change resulting from development.

There is an opportunity to promote the maintenance and management of hedgerows and new planting close to the existing village boundary could be very beneficial in providing a softer edge to the settlement.

Careful layout, massing, scale and design of the employment buildings could also provide an opportunity to help to merge the development into the wider countryside and help with visual integration near the southern boundary. Colour of buildings is critical to their successful integration.



Encouraging activity and enjoyment:

An opportunity exists to improve the setting of the current business park and these improvements could contribute to encouraging more activity and enjoyment of the wider area as well as making the area more attractive for business investment.

The surrounding landscape is open and sensitive with little woodland cover. There are long distant views from the site towards higher ground to the south and the existing screen planting provides softening, but there is an opportunity to provide more tree planting to ensure that the extensive rooflines remain camouflaged.

The site also offers the potential to provide wider linkages to the dismantled railway line formerly linking to Ripon. Until the late 1950s the village was the site of a major railway junction situated on the main Harrogate to Northallerton railway line via Ripon. A branch line ran westwards from Melmerby towards the small market town of Masham, famous for brewing. Improved footpath links to the former railway corridor could be explored to provide a

circuitous route around the village connecting with the other areas of open space and public rights of way as well as linking through the planted wooded area to the north of the site. Cycle and pedestrian access could also be enhanced and maintained along the dismantled railway.



Countryside around Melmerby

There is the potential to enhance the green space linkages between the site and the River Ure corridor to the west and the villages of Nunwick and Hutton Conyers to the southwest and links to the former WWII air base to the south could also be enhanced.



Adapting to changes in climate, floodrisk and growing food locally:

Sustainable urban drainage (SUDs) could be proposed in the form of blocking ditches on the edges of the site. The ditches could link to the open storage ponds and proposed woodland could enhance areas of retained planting with areas of wetland habitat. There is scope to explore improvements to drainage off site and provide management plans for existing ponds and drainage ditches to help with wider flood attenuation.

In particular the site at Salmist Beck Carr is a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) and includes existing wetland habitats within the service yard of the adjacent business facility and the aim could be to protect and enhance the nature conservation value of the SINC. Opportunities could also include gapping up of existing hedgerows, new native hedgerow and tree planting, grassland management to increase biodiversity and habitat management for amphibians in this area.



Protecting nature and heritage:

The site comprises an open arable field with existing screen planting to the south and the western boundaries. There are earth mounds to the southwestern part of the site supporting a diverse range of wildflowers, which may hold some ecological value and these assets could be enhanced and retained.

There are no heritage assets within immediate range of the site however there may be an opportunity to improve potential linkages to the henges site at Hutton Moor. The Thornborough Henges are an ancient monument complex that includes three aligned henges and are thought to have been part of a Neolithic and Bronze Age 'ritual landscape'



Melmerby business park

between 3500 and 2500 BC and have been called 'The Stonehenge of the North'. The henges could benefit from improved signage and interpretation and this could be explored through improvements around Melmerby business park. There are also less recognised structures around Melmerby and Hutton Moor that could benefit from enhancement within the green infrastructure framework for this area.

The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Living Landscapes project offers significant opportunity as a forum for improvements in this area. This project is aimed at restoring, recreating and reconnecting wildlife-rich species in rural and urban areas by working in partnership with local communities, landowners, schools and businesses.



Case Study

Small scale greenfield site for affordable housing, Staveley

Site:

Land between Minskip Road and Lowfield Lane.

Site size:

0.44 ha

Proposed use:

This site is considered suitable for affordable housing with a yield of approximately nine dwellings.

Site Characteristics:

Staveley is a small village situated approximately four miles north of Knaresborough and near the A1(M) motorway. The village has a pond known as Martin's Pond at the end of Lowfield Lane, a disused railway line and a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) nature reserve that stretches beyond the edge of the village.

The site consists of agricultural land and is located directly adjacent to Minskip Road. The west of the site is bordered by an existing inter-war housing estate comprising Spellow Grove and Spellow Crescent and to the south and east the site is bounded by agricultural land including Martin's Pond and Lowfield Lane, which is a public right of way. The wider landscape comprises moderate to large-scale arable fields where hedgerows are managed to various heights and bushiness and they have considerable impact, compensating for lack of tree cover. Tree cover is moderate and patchy, partially enclosing the landscape in places and framing extensive views elsewhere.

Staveley site looking north



Connecting green spaces and routes:

There is potential to provide better connections via the site to link with the existing public rights of way network, in particular the disused railway line formerly linking Knaresborough and Boroughbridge, which has been unused for many years. There could be better linkages to Martin's Pond to the south and although public access could be constrained in the interests of maintaining biodiversity, other improvements to the local footpath network could also be considered

with wider linkages promoted to the north to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust managed Staveley Nature Reserve.

Links between Martin's Pond and the nature reserve could help enhance the wider north-south linkages across the area by creating an almost joined up 'greenway' around the eastern fringes of the village. Improved cycle and pedestrian access along Minskip Road could also be encouraged to link to the nature reserve car park.



Improving the setting and quality of place:

The setting of the villages in this area is important to the diversity of the landscape and would be sensitive to change from development. The proposals could explore the possibility of promoting the maintenance and management of hedgerows and the planting of hedgerow trees, particularly close to the existing village boundary.

Opportunities plan





Staveley site RL1113(1)

The site is visually contained by the tall hedgerow along Minskip Road to the northwest and the housing to the southwest also provides some visual containment. The existing hedgerows may, however, conflict with the site requirements for highway visibility splays. The site will form a new developed edge to the village and give an opportunity for new structure planting to help integrate the development into the settlement edge.

There is an opportunity to protect and retain a large ash tree that is located in the southwest corner of the site. Any development should respect the rural approach to the village and the wooded character of Minskip Lane and scope exists for further structure planting to be provided in the open field to the east with isolated groups of field trees. The area between the site and Martin's Pond to the south could also be promoted as an area of new woodland and open space to provide green connections between the site and the pond environs.



Encouraging activity and enjoyment:

There is potential to provide improved recreational opportunities and to enhance the green space linkages between the River Tutt corridor to the north and the villages of Staveley and Ferrensby to the south as this site could provide linkages to the dismantled railway line.

There are a limited number of public footpaths in the area and this is a key opportunity to explore the option of closing the links to provide a circuitous route around the village connecting its three green infrastructure assets - Martin's Pond, the nature reserve and the railway line.



Adapting to changes in climate, floodrisk and growing food locally:

Sustainable urban drainage (SUDs) could be an option for this site and blocking ditches on the lower southern and eastern boundary and linking

to Martin's Pond and the nature reserve wetlands could be beneficial. There may be an opportunity to provide SUDs in association with Martin's Pond to enhance the overall biodiversity and nature conservation value of this asset.



Protecting nature and heritage:

There are no heritage assets within or near to the site. However, good quality green infrastructure in this location has the potential to retain and improve linkages for wildlife and ecology and close the linkages between the three key green infrastructure assets within the village.

The site makes a valuable contribution to the rural setting of the village and there is an opportunity to provide additional planting to enhance the landscape character of the area and aid the transition from the housing edge to open countryside.



Case Study

Small scale greenfield site for affordable housing, Bishop Thornton

Site:

Land south of West Grove,
Bishop Thornton

Site size:

0.49 ha

Proposed use:

This site is considered suitable for affordable housing comprising approximately eight dwellings.

Site Characteristics:

Bishop Thornton is a small village that is located approximately seven miles north of Harrogate. The village has two churches and two schools and a cricket pitch. The outlying countryside is criss-crossed by several public rights of way, lanes and tracks with a few scattered farmsteads.

The site consists of agricultural land, which is situated directly off a small cul-de-sac (West Grove). Cut Throat Lane defines the east boundary and to the north lies a small housing estate comprising a neat and organised arrangement of interwar housing. To the east on the far side of Cut Throat Lane is Thornton Grove Farm and Thornton Grove House.

The wider landscape is moderate scale, undulating but becoming almost flat around Bishop Thornton. Land use is a mixture of muted grassland and arable fields intensively managed for grazing livestock and cereal crop production. Hedges and ditches enclose the fields and they are often fragmented with post and wire fencing.

Bishop Thornton site



Connecting green spaces and routes:



A green lane, Bishop Thornton

The site lies adjacent to the Development Limit and there is potential to enhance the linkages between the edge of the village and the outlying countryside. There are public rights of way at the edge of the village including a footpath just outside the west boundary to which linkages could be promoted including strategic linkages with the Nidderdale Way.



Improving the setting and quality of place:

The open agricultural fields provide a unifying characteristic and attractive setting to the village and there are also distinctive farm buildings on land

immediately east of the site comprising Thornton Grove Farm and Thornton Grove House. It is therefore important to retain this attractive landscape setting and distinctive approach to the village.

There is scope to ensure the design of the scheme is sensitive in terms of scale with appropriate landscape mitigation where possible to help provide an attractive setting to the settlement. This site has scope to provide generous structure planting with ultimately large trees, which could improve current views towards the village. The development could allow for gaps between the dwellings to enable

Opportunities plan



'in curtilage' parking to be set back and screened from the street frontage. Careful design of the houses could also help merge the development into the streetscene and the existing hedgerow on the north boundary could be retained to help integrate any development.

There is also an opportunity to include tree planting in the form of groups adjacent to the southeast and southwest corners of the site, whilst individual trees could also be planted at intervals along the line of the public right of way that runs to the west.



Encouraging activity and enjoyment:

The site has the potential to enhance the green space linkages within the village as well as the connections to the open countryside. Better connections to Cut Throat Lane will offer more scope for a circuitous route heading north to St. John's Church and then cutting back across open fields in a southwest direction towards St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School. The possibility of a circuitous walk between Bishop Thornton and the adjacent village of Shaw Mills could also be explored. Shaw Mills is a pleasant village with a small attractive bridge leading over Thornton Beck and links to Thornton Beck and the disused Mill Race and Mill Dam could also be a possibility.



Adapting to changes in climate, floodrisk and growing food locally:

Sustainable urban drainage (SUDs) offers scope for managing ditches on the southern boundary to



Bishop Thornton Church

retain a wetland area and there may also be scope for wetland development using SUDs either to the east or west of the new dwellings.



Protecting nature and heritage:

The southern boundary fronts onto the open agricultural fields and could be planted with a mixed species native shelterbelt to provide a soft edge to the open countryside in keeping with village character. Retention of the existing hedgerow and hedgerow trees along the north boundary will also assist with integration of development at the street frontage. Two small woodland blocks could also be provided to the southwest and southeast corners of the site as mitigation.

There are a number of mature trees including sycamore and ash and also an established hawthorn hedge along the site frontage that could be retained;

and there is potential for gapping up of other hedgerows especially the boundary hedge to the east along the main highway to assist with visual integration from the south.

This is a distinctive landscape characterised by agricultural land use and consideration could be given to optimising structure planting and by providing sustainable urban drainage (SUDs), which could provide more opportunity for wildlife and nature conservation. The important hedgerows (especially roadside) mostly hawthorn, including the roadside ash trees towards the east could also be retained. Other scattered field boundary trees (including ash) could also be incorporated into the new scheme.



Landscape around Bishop Thornton