

The

Ilminster

Neighbourhood

Plan

2020  
2036

Appendix C  
The Design Guide



Pre-Submission, Regulation 15  
Consultation Version  
Appendix C The Design Guide  
v02 FIN DRAFT 211208



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## Introduction

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**1.9** The National Design Guide (2019) defines the difference between a design guide and a design code as follows:

*‘A design guide: A document providing guidance on how development can be carried out in accordance with good design practice, often produced by a local authority.’*

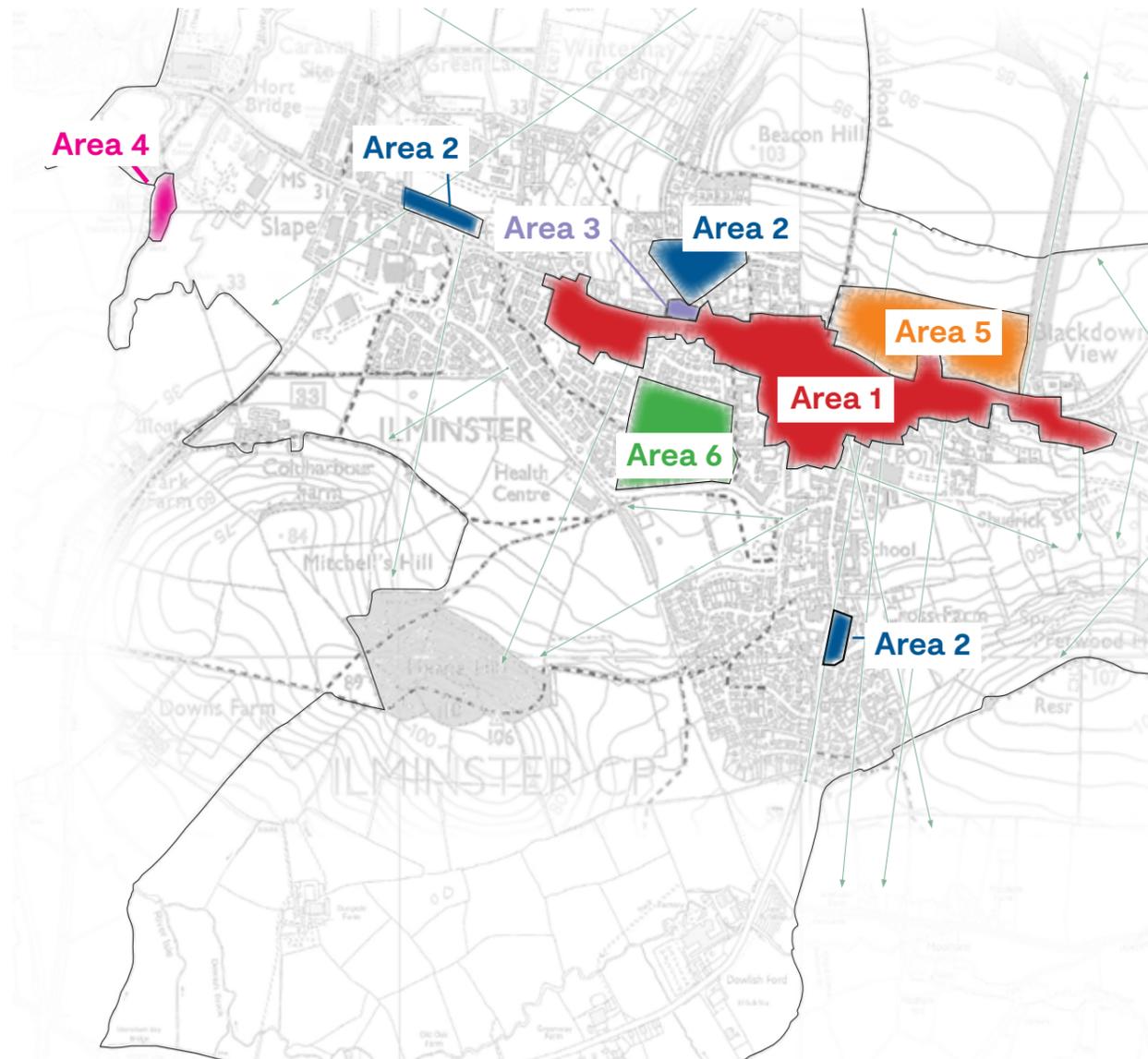
*‘A design code: A set of illustrated design requirements that provide specific, detailed parameters for the physical development of a site or area. The graphic and written components of the code should build upon a design vision, such as a masterplan or other design and development framework for a site or area.’*

**1.10** Based on these definitions Ilminster is providing a design guide.

**1.11** The evidence base for this design guide comprises the following documents:

- The Character of Ilminster INP Appendix A
- Consultation Statement INP Appendix D comprising:
  - 1** The Character of Ilminster – A public walkabout and workshop (16.3.2019)
  - 2** Workshops with Schools (June 2019)
  - 3** Online survey (September 2019)
  - 4** Site selection workshop (26.9.19)
  - 5** Design Workshop 1 (17.10.19)
  - 6** Design Workshop 2 (21.11.19)
- 5** Design Workshop 1
- 6** Design Workshop 2





## The character of Ilminster

3 In the design guide workshops in October and November, 6 different types of built form character areas were identified as good examples which should be referenced in development proposals in Ilminster.

5 **Late twentieth Century - Blackdown:**  
A complete housing estate with generous plots to the north.

6 **Late twentieth century - Summerlands:**  
To the west of the town centre has small good family housing.

2.4 These character areas are as follows:

- 1 **Historic pre-19th Century centre:**  
Dating from the 15th Century with mixed use buildings, including the Minster and Market House, laid out on a north-south, east-west axis with medieval street patterns.
- 2 **Terraces:** Victorian and Edwardian residential terraces are inter-dispersed across the town outside the historic core (located to the north, south and west).
- 3 **Villas:** Of varying ages, mainly in the northern part of the town, set within spacious plots with a larger scale.
- 4 **19th Century Industrial:** In the western side of Ilminster, including historic former train station and mills.

More analysis of the character of Ilminster has been carried out and is included in the appendices

## The Design Guide

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### 3.1 Layout and density

The layout of streets and buildings varies enormously across Ilminster.

Most streets are curved, sometimes follow contours enabling views and vistas. New developments should avoid formal street grid patterns.

Site coverage is an important factor, described here as a percentage of the amount of building covering a plot. Plot coverage should be around 30% and not exceed 60%.

The depth of front gardens has a significant affect on how well an area functions. Whilst central Ilminster functions well without front gardens, front gardens of at least 3 metres is recommended.

Densities can be a useful way of determining the impact of development on the immediate area, however they are a fairly crude method and only one factor when considering layout. All the character areas have a fairly low density, even the Historic pre 19th Century Centre. Low densities are appropriate for most of Ilminster given various constraints and should generally not exceed 36 Dwellings Per Hectare (DPH).

#### Ilminster Design Principle 1

Development should reflect the predominant building line, plot layout and rhythm of development in the vicinity of the site, whilst maximising passive solar gain. The fronts of buildings must relate to the adjacent public realm. Backs of dwellings should relate to other backs, to create private amenity spaces. Forms of development must respect their location, the size of the site and the character of the area.

The layout and density of new large greenfield developments should be varied and reflect the layout and density of one of more identified character areas in Ilminster.

\* This is an estimate based on total residential occupation of the upstairs units in this area. We calculate densities by measuring the number of units/dwellings on a site and dividing it by the site area.

**Historic Pre 19th Century Centre**

Density: 36 DPH\*  
 Footprint to plot ratio: 18% - 85%  
 Typical depth front garden: 0m,  
 Typical depth rear garden: 13-85 metres



The historic centre of Ilminster, is clearly defined by prominent mixed use buildings of various scales with organic layouts. Plot coverage varies but generally these properties abut the street to the front. There are some deep and narrow medieval plot widths and narrow footways. Formal public and private open spaces are defined by the tight urban grain. The densities are relatively high which provides for a high level of social interaction. The streets and plots are not designed for cars or parking.

**Terraces**

Density: 21 DPH  
 Footprint to plot ratio: 31%  
 Typical depth front garden: 3 metres  
 Typical depth rear garden: 20 metres



Edwardian and Victorian terraces are found in clusters in the North and South of Ilminster. Shorter terraces dating from the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century can be found nearer the centre. Some comprise extensive linear groups of built form, containing up to 20 dwellings. Some are generous homes with L shaped plan form. Most have small front gardens providing defensible space and room for bin and bike storage. There are long narrow gardens providing valuable amenity space. Parking is mainly on-street at the front however some have rear service roads with more contemporary garages and vehicular access at the rear. Approximately 33% of the plots are built on.

**Villas**

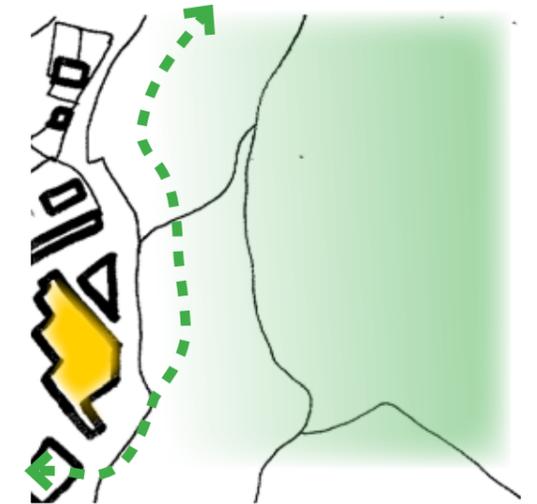
Density: 23 DPH  
 Footprint to plot ratio: 21%  
 Typical depth, front garden: 6 metres  
 Typical depth, rear garden: 16 metres



Villas are located predominantly to the North of the town centre and some have undergone considerable change into flats or B&Bs, probably all having originally been built as single dwellings. They are set within spacious grounds with front and back gardens, Detached and Semi-detached, generally in small groups under 10 dwellings, set on hill-sided and prominent positions. Front and rear gardens are slightly larger than terraces providing space for bin and bike storage and generous gardens. Parking is mainly on-street.

**19th Century Industrial**

Density: N/A DPH  
 Footprint to plot ratio: 62%  
 Typical depth, front garden: 14 metres  
 Typical depth, rear garden: 24 metres



The western employment area contains Rose Mills and the former station, both good examples of 19th Century industrial layouts. The layouts are informal/ organic, set around large courtyards similar to farm and rural buildings.

Today there is a clear divide between the built environment and green rural landscapes. Some high densities can be achieved on layouts such as these as they lend themselves to larger buildings set within larger areas of public realm/open space, which can be used for parking and gardens.

**Late Twentieth Century - Blackdown**

Density: 21.2 DPH  
 Footprint to plot ratio: 18%- 31%  
 Typical depth, front garden: 9 metres  
 Typical depth, rear garden: 17 metres



Blackdown view has large plots in relation to building footprint and is very land hungry but appropriate to this area which has a steep topography. Dwellings are modest in size and set in groups of 2 to 5 homes. A fairly consistent open street frontage with generous front gardens, providing for bin and bike storage. There is a mixture of on and off street parking and garages, with wide roads and landscaped verges. Large back gardens and frequent side gardens, create a desirable layout and density appropriate to smaller sites on the edge of the built up area visible from wider views. No communal open space.

**Late Twentieth Century - Summerlands**

Density: 27.2 DPH  
 Footprint to plot ratio: 23%-27%  
 Typical depth, front garden: 4-7 metres  
 Typical depth, rear garden: 8 metres

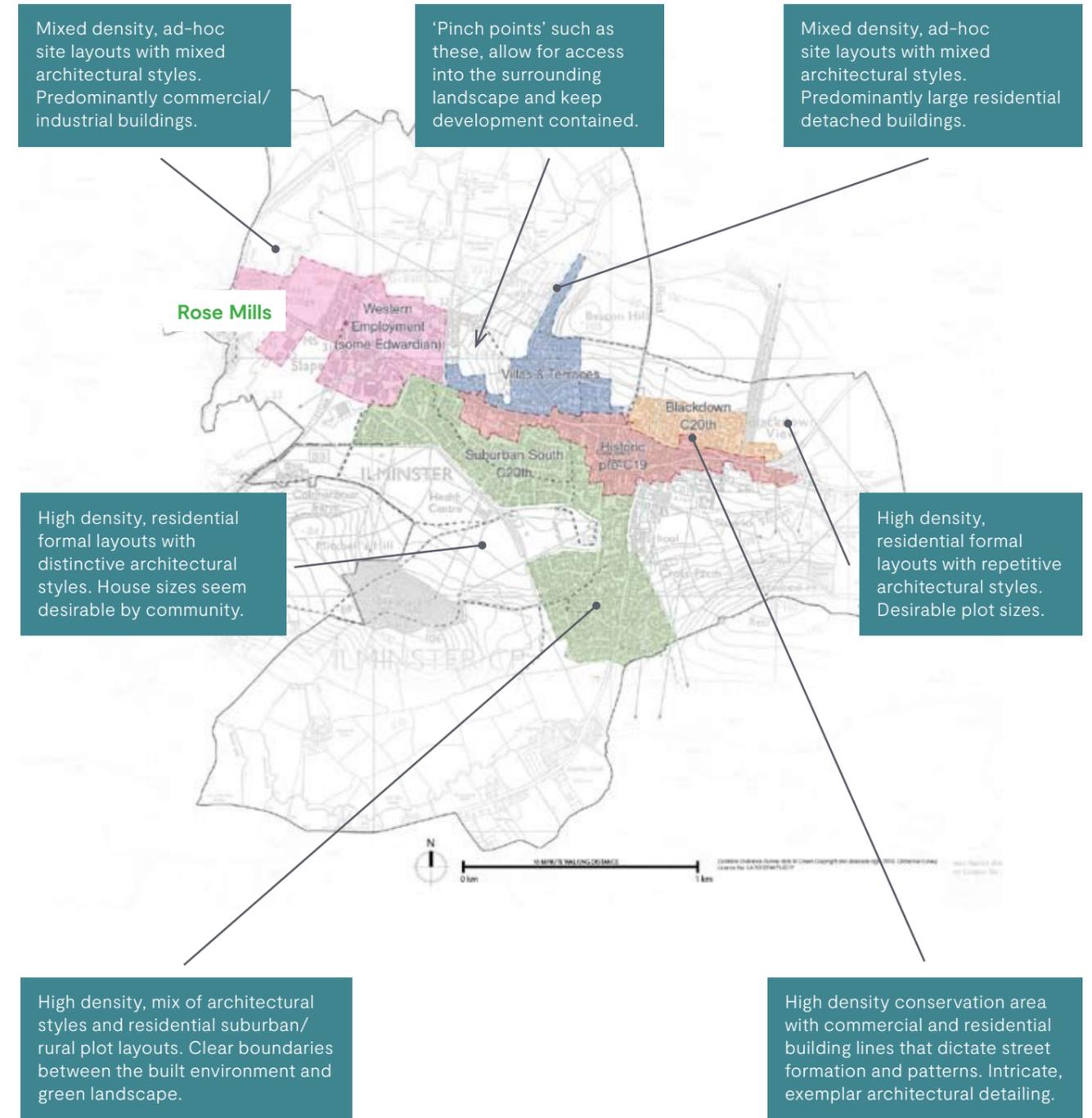


The Summerlands Park residential area which lies just west of the centre, is considered by the community as a good example of suitable family home sizes and layouts. This has a suburban character with open front gardens, with a low density perhaps more appropriate to sites on the edge of the town.

Whilst the street scape is bland in places, this has a reasonably tight urban grain but the layout creates a good sense of community and 'ticks all the boxes' in terms of parking and garden space, whilst providing for views out of Ilminster.

**Density and layout in Ilminster**

The character of Ilminster  
 Architectural Characteristics



### 3.2 Street scene

The street scene can be described as the general character of a street when viewed from the public realm, made up of all the features that won't move. This includes boundary treatments, pavements and roads with buildings and landscaping providing the backdrop. In Ilminster, gardens and boundary treatments generally form the street lines, leading to open public green space and/or the rural landscape.

Development should maintain this hierarchy with more formal denser built form in or nearer the centre and more organic landscape led street scenes on the edge of the settlement, which relate to the rural setting. Development in the western part of town could relate to Ilminster's industrial heritage.

It is important for existing heritage features, trees, hedgerows and water features to be maintained as these assist with way finding and maintain the verdant setting. Hard landscaping must be minimised on the edge of the settlement and be offset by tree and shrub planting and Sustainable Urban Drainage solutions.

#### Ilminster Design Principle 2

Fronts of development, should be bound by railings, low walls or hedges and buildings should be set back behind planted front gardens. Existing trees, hedgerows and shrubs should be retained along road edges where possible and new trees included which are well spaced and of an appropriate species.

Parking should be designed to integrate into the development and be visually unimposing. Development proposals should consider the character of the road they are fronting and relate to it in terms of boundary treatment, proposed highway works and nature of pedestrian and vehicular access.

#### Historic Pre 19th Century Centre

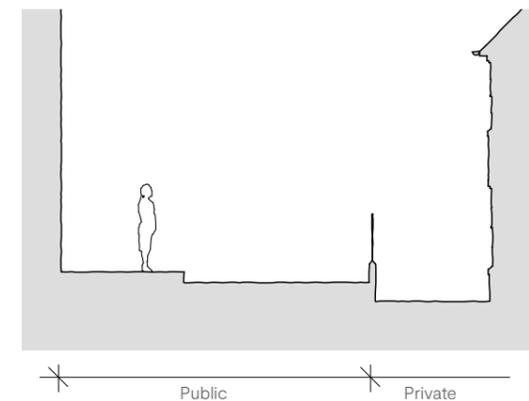
Predominant boundary treatments: buildings, or low railings

Typical road width: 5.5 metres

Typical pavement width: 1.7 metres

Typical property set back: 0 metres

Level of hard landscaping: high



The street scene is hugely varied, but roads and pavements are generally narrow, not designed for the car. Some parking exists but it is pepper potted or hidden from public view. There is lots of hard surfacing, with trees and landscaping generally confined to private front gardens. Street lines are formed by either heritage buildings with no front gardens or low sets of painted railings, stone walls and/or hedgerows.

There is range of street furniture, from heritage features to poorly placed benches. The organically laid out public realm includes alleyways, steps and The Market House creating exciting short and long views of heritage buildings and open countryside. The backdrop of namely heritage buildings have variety and rich character creating a strong sense of place. The densities and heights create a well overlooked public realm.

#### Terraces

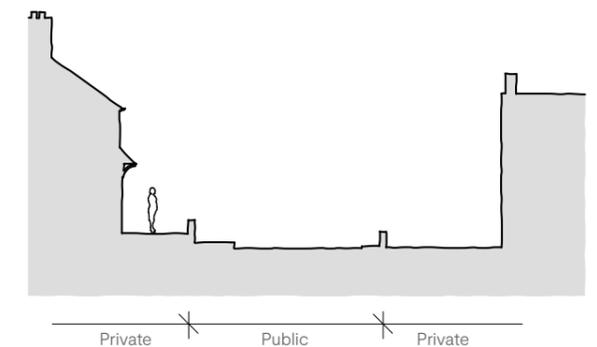
Predominant boundary treatments: low brick walls and gates

Typical road width: 4.9 metres

Typical pavement width: 2.12 metres

Typical property set back: 3.1 metres

Level of hard landscaping: high

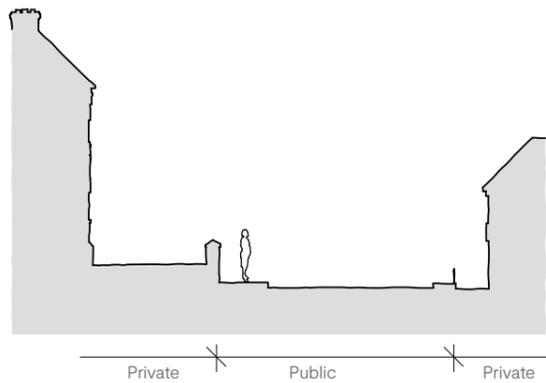


The terraces have pavements and carriageways which are fairly uniform and devoid of features such as furniture, although road signs provide unnecessary clutter. Steps and walkways are used on the public realm adjacent to some terraces. The public realm has wider pavements and roads allowing sufficient space is provided for on-street parking and 2 cars to pass in most places.

The public realm is generally devoid of trees, or street furniture. Regular low front boundary walls provide strong formal boundary treatments and front gardens are good defensible space. As a result of these features, the character of the street scene is largely of the buildings which comprise a strong urban backdrop. The varied topography allows for a variety of building heights.

**Villas**

Predominant boundary treatments: low brick walls and gates  
 Typical road width: 5.75 metres  
 Typical pavement width: 2.66 metres  
 Typical property set back: 5.85 metres  
 Level of hard landscaping: medium

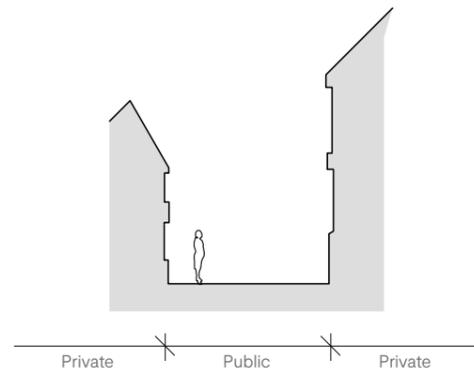


Villas in Ilminster are located predominantly on wider main roads where the pavements are narrower and the road widths are largely designed to accommodate moderately fast cars (30 mph). These roads would have been the main thoroughfare for carriages when they were built.

The public realm is bounded by low walls usually topped with railings and landscaping which makes a significant contribution to the pleasant and green aesthetics of the street scene. Gaps between these larger scale buildings are important features and allow for off road parking and trees to be accommodated. This means that the buildings have retained their front gardens as they are not required for parking.

**19th Century Industrial**

Predominant boundary treatments: buildings  
 Typical road width: 7.13 metres  
 Typical pavement width: 0 metres  
 Typical property set back: 0 metres  
 Level of hardstanding: high

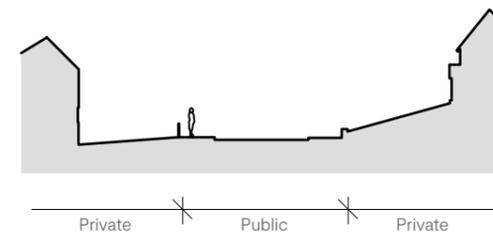


The 19th Century industrial buildings are set within semi-private courtyards of an organic shape. No formal pavements or carriageways exist as these were not designed for the car. With the exception of the old station, these areas were designed for workers and may have originally had large gates away from the building groups. No boundary treatments are found here, instead buildings are set directly against the courtyard. Street furniture has evolved and includes bins and merchandise spilling out.

There is generally no soft landscaping although views of the open countryside create a strong sense of place and context for these heritage buildings with connections to agriculture, the river, former railway and Ilminster's industrial past.

**Late Twentieth Century - Blackdown**

Predominant boundary treatments: none or fences  
 Typical road width: 5.4 metres  
 Typical pavement width: 1.6 metres  
 Typical property set back: 5.24 metres  
 Level of hard landscaping: low

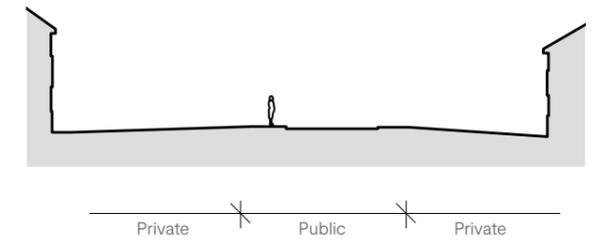


Blackdown has wide carriageways providing on-street parking on both sides as well as pavements and front gardens. Boundary treatment is defined by gardens and there are few front boundary walls or high fences, which provides for an open 'garden-city' character, a high level of interaction and well overlooked street. Trees are planted in the public realm. The steep topographical nature is a strong feature in the street scene creating views along roads and between buildings.

The street-scene is dominated by large areas of tarmac and parked cars and groups of dwellings are obviously an important feature but not overly dominant.

**Late Twentieth Century - Summerlands**

Predominant boundary treatments: none or hedges  
 Typical road width: 5.8 metres  
 Typical pavement width: 1.74 metres  
 Typical property set back: 5.53 metres  
 Level of hard landscaping: low



The Street scene in and around Summerlands Park Close is suburban and does not relate to the architectural heritage of central Ilminster.

However it provides a street scene dominated by soft landscaping and views of the open countryside beyond. Pavements are narrower and roads are considered wide in relation to the volume of cars that utilise them. Generally they are large front boundary treatments, formed by lawns and shrubs and some tree belts with no or low walls. Most houses have driveways which creates a level of clutter in front of houses but also opens up the carriageway allowing for expansive views and less clutter. The backdrop here is provided by low density two storey semi-detached and detached dwellings and soft landscaping affording longer views which are often green and pleasant.

## Street scene features in Iminster



Boundary wall is low to offer views out to the rolling hills and natural environment.



A mix of boundary wall and materiality of the buildings promote an appearance that is unique to every house.



Pathways lined with trees provide separate spaces, refuge and shade for birds and residents.



Decorative railings offer a distinct separation between private and public space on narrow pathways.



Low walls to a corner building encompass the junction and overlooking windows enhance visual appeal.



There could be softer landscaping at junctions such as this, to encourage walking/cycling.



The low wall defines a clear boundary whilst offering views to the Minster and green space behind.



Pathways to both side of the road are not provided again reflecting the towns rural heritage. Soft verges are valued.



Shops over-spill onto the pathways, creating a more interactive route, promoting goods for shop keepers.

## Building form

'Building Form' is the general scale, height, mass and bulk of a building. In Iminster, there is a variety of building forms which include long terraces, groups of detached and semi-detached buildings and individual unique buildings such as The Minster and Market House.

In the conservation area different building forms exist side by side, providing an interesting and eclectic mix and a unique character, but in the newer areas more homogenised building forms are more common and fail to provide such a strong sense of place. All new developments should provide a mix of building forms in terms of plot widths and building forms. For example, long terraces should be inter-dispersed with detached buildings.

Most buildings are two storey and contain pitched roofs. Footprint is often broken up with irregular extensions, forms, outbuildings and garages. This form should be replicated in new developments.

New development in Iminster must relate to the scale of adjacent buildings or the predominant form in the area. On larger development sites, building form should be organic.

### Iminster Design Principle 3

Building form should be appropriate and take inspiration from the existing surrounding development character. Given the heritage and rural location of many parts of Iminster, building form should generally be organic with varied roofs, building depths and widths.

**Historic Pre 19th Century Centre**

Predominant building types: ground floor shops with residential or office above  
 Typical building height: 2.5 storeys  
 Typical building width: 8.1  
 Typical building depth: 14.8



Typical historic centre building

Street scene is hugely varied forming an eclectic and mixed character. Street lines are formed by either heritage building with no front gardens or low sets of painted railings, stone walls and/or hedgerow. The area consists namely of heritage buildings of 2 or 3 storeys which have rich and imposing characters. The variety creates a strong sense of place and well overlooked public realm. It is a very active area of the town due to the commercial nature of the ground floors.

**Terraces**

Predominant building types: residential terraces  
 Typical building height: 2 storeys  
 Typical building width: 5.8  
 Typical building depth: 15.2



Typical terraced houses

Terraces are characterised by their continuous form parallel to the street. Nearly all are two storey, some with third floor elements on the ends of rows or within roofs. They all have pitched roofs, mostly with gable ends. The depth varies depending on the age of buildings, the Edwardian Terraces project to the rear whilst the earlier 17th/18th Century terraces have flat frontages. The terraces are of a human scale, common to workers cottages. The width of terrace homes vary but generally allow for one main room on the front of each floor and a hall/stairwell.

**Villas**

Predominant building types: detached or semi-detached residential  
 Typical building height: 2.5 storeys  
 Typical building width: 8.26  
 Typical building depth: 12



Typical Villa

The Villas are fairly large in scale, predominantly three storeys, with a mixture of pitched and gable ended roofs and varied vertical planes/ set backs. This has a rather imposing effect on the street scape. There are of course exceptions. Single villas can be found set back from the street within larger gardens. More contemporary villas can be found in the north of Ilminster on hill sides with very generous front gardens.

These are large detached and semi-detached properties and many have been successfully sub-divided into commercial properties/ flats and B&Bs.

**19th Century Industrial**

Predominant building types: commercial units  
 Typical building height: single to 3 storey  
 Typical building width: 15.5  
 Typical building depth: 8.9



Typical industrial building

The 19th and 20th Century industrial buildings, including the station, have a larger scale than most domestic buildings in Ilminster. These are individually designed buildings and do not form part of a symmetrical group, but they are commonly in clusters of similar scaled buildings set within more spacious grounds.

These are 1-3 storeys, with relatively high internal floor-ceiling heights. These are built as individual blocks, mainly with flat elevation planes

**Late Twentieth Century - Blackdown**

Predominant building types: terraced or semi-detached dwellings  
 Typical building height: 2 storeys  
 Typical building width: 8.16  
 Typical building depth: 11.32

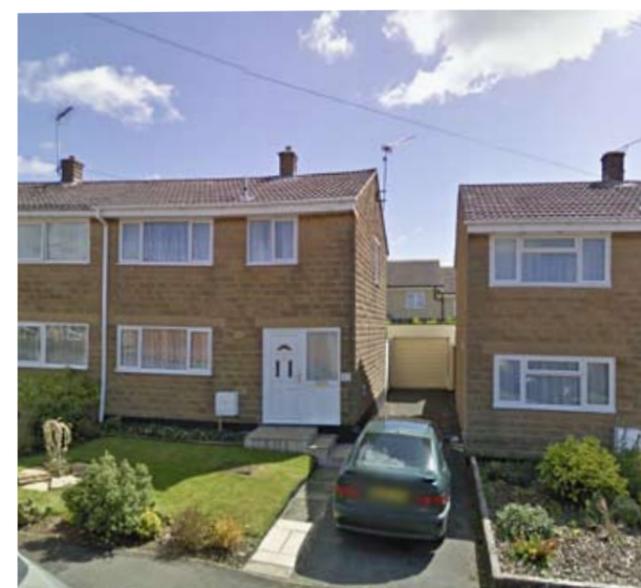


Typical Blackdown property

The terraces and semi-detached homes in Blackdown are larger in scale than terraces in and near the centre of town, with pitched roofs with gables commonly used at the ends of larger terraces. The roofs are a particularly dominant feature. There are few details or differential planes to break up the relative bulk of these buildings. With generous front gardens and medium scale roads these larger scale buildings do sit comfortably in the street scape.

**Late Twentieth Century - Summerlands**

Predominant building types: bungalows, detached or semi-detached dwellings  
 Typical building height: 1 or 2 storeys  
 Typical building width: 7.1 metres  
 Typical building depth: 10.3 metres



Typical Summerlands property

Detached and semi-detached homes in The Summerlands park residential area are modest when compared with the generous front and rear gardens and road widths, which makes them appear smaller in scale. These have simple pitch roofs, flat elevation plains to the front side and some of the rears, with few features to break up the bulk, which is acceptable at this scale. They are generally about 8- 12 metres wide with one room on the front ground floor and 1-2 rooms deep, therefore fairly shallow.

**Building form in Ilminster**



Large imposing Georgian villa with a marginal set back. Respectful relationship with topography.



Large detached Victorian Villa with potential to be converted into multiple units but appear as a single unit.



Attractive historic cottage style terrace with interesting roof lines and varying widths.



Traditional 2 storey cottages with gable ends and attractive relationships with the street. Roof changes to remove bulk of semi-detached with the rise in the road.



Attractive 3 storey terraces nestled up to the pavement although maintaining a defensible space.



Mixed property types, up to 3 storeys in height with varying widths and shapes that create interest.

### 3.4 Views and topography

Ilminster is set within a valley with steep sides which form a key part of the town's unique character. Ilminster is surrounded by three hills: Beacon Hill to the North, and Herne Hill to the South West and Pretwood Hill South East. All rise to a little over 100 metres and broadly contain the spread of the town and its immediate rural edge. To the west, the setting is less defined, with the town extending toward the open land of the River Isle valley, and an edge that is reinforced by the A303 road corridor.

Views of the landscape and the steep sided topography create a strong sense of place and is important for the community of Ilminster. Each of the character areas has distinctive views, shown on page 21 and 22. In addition to this the Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan identifies 20 views to be protected, also copied here.

The steep sided valley topography restricts long distance views however it does mean that there are extensive views seen of countryside set above and between roof tops due to the taller hillside topography within the valley and from the town. The topography also influences the relationship between buildings, and the relationship of buildings to road.

#### Ilminster Design Principle 4

Given the topographical nature of Ilminster, views should be well considered in all development proposals, even if they are not included as one of the identified protected views of Ilminster. Development should be well composed around public view points, to particularly maintain existing views of open countryside and historic buildings. Views should be framed by new development where relevant. Development should maintain views from the public roads to the countryside, especially wide and extensive views. Development proposals must be integrated into the existing topography and take advantage of the sites unique characteristics, for example steep sites should contain stepped building forms. Extensive ground excavations should be avoided.

#### Historic Pre 19th Century Centre



Way-finding view and development guiding visitor north towards historic estate and grounds.



Views to Pretwood Hill from Ditton Street over Shudrick Lane.



View from High Street looking down towards town centre and ridge line beyond. Terrace follows topography and frames the view.



View of the town and Pretwood beyond, terraces framing the view and following the topography.

#### Terraces



Terraces following the topography and framing the view of Herne Hill beyond.



View from Beacon graveyard looking south-west over the west of Ilminster.



Long views from Beacon footpaths looking north-west to the River Isle. Dwelling has limited relationship with the street scene.

Villas



5. Open view from Villas towards Summerland and Herne Hill beyond.



View from apex of Station Road looking over the valley to the southern ridge line from the terraces.



Villa set above the street with a positive relationship of surveying the street but maintaining privacy.

19th Century Industrial



View from one of the core spinal routes in Ilminster to the south and Herne Hill.



Far-reaching views beyond Rose Hill industrial estate.



View of Herne Hill beyond industrial estate.

Late Twentieth Century - Blackdown (Northern views)



View looking over town centre to the southern landscaped ridge beyond.



Development framing views over rolling patchwork landscape to south.



Topography falling at Blackdown retaining a positive relationship with the street and privacy without boundary treatment needed.



Topography rising at Blackdown with landscaping retaining a positive relationship with the street.

Late Twentieth Century - Blackdown (Southern views)



Topography of Summerlands steep and has far reaching views beyond and above the buildings.



Prominent views along Canal Way dominate, looking towards Herne Hill.



Far-reaching open views of recreation land and Herne Hill beyond.

**Views in and around Ilminster: Protected views of Ilminster**



**Beacon**  
View over Ilminster Cemetery to the south-west and west of Ilminster.



**Beacon**  
Long views from Beacon footpaths looking west.



**Riec-Sur-Belon Way**  
View from one of the core spinal routes in Ilminster to the south and Herne Hill.



**Butts**  
View looking over town centre to the southern landscaped ridge beyond.



**Bay Hill**  
Development framing views over rolling patchwork landscape to south.



**Bay Hill**  
Way-finding view looking north towards historic estate and grounds.



**Canal Way**  
View from Canal Way cycle junction looking to south-west ridge.



**Station Road**  
View from apex of Station Road looking over the valley to the southern ridge line.



**High Street**  
View from High Street looking down towards town centre and ridge line beyond.



**Townsend**  
View from north-east Townsend Road to Pretwood Hill to the south.



**Townsend**  
Glimpses between existing buildings into the valley and ridges beyond.



**Townsend**  
Long distance view from the east of Ilminster over the valley to Pretwood Hill.

**Views in and around Ilminster: Protected views of Ilminster**



**Townsend**  
View highlighting openness between eastern edge of Ilminster and land beyond.



**Long Orchard Hill**  
View from east looking south back into Ilminster and the visible ridge line.



**Kingstone Hill**  
Long distance view from south entrance into Ilminster to historic park.



**Orchard Vale**  
Prominent views along Canal Way dominate, looking towards Herne Hill.



**Listers Hill**  
View from very southern edge of Ilminster to the very northern ridge line.



**Shrudrick Lane**  
Glimpses to Pretwood Hill from Ditton Street over Shudrick Lane.



**Canal Way**  
Far-reaching open views of recreation land and Herne Hill beyond.



**Beacon Hill Footpath**  
View looking south across the town.

**Legend**

**Neighbourhood Plan Identifications**

- Ilminster NHP Boundary
- Local Green Space
- SSDC Areas of High Recreational Amenity
- SSDC Conservation Area
- SSDC Ilminster Development Area
- SSDC Steep Ground Constraining Development
- SSDC Flood Zone 2
- SSDC Historic Parks and Gardens

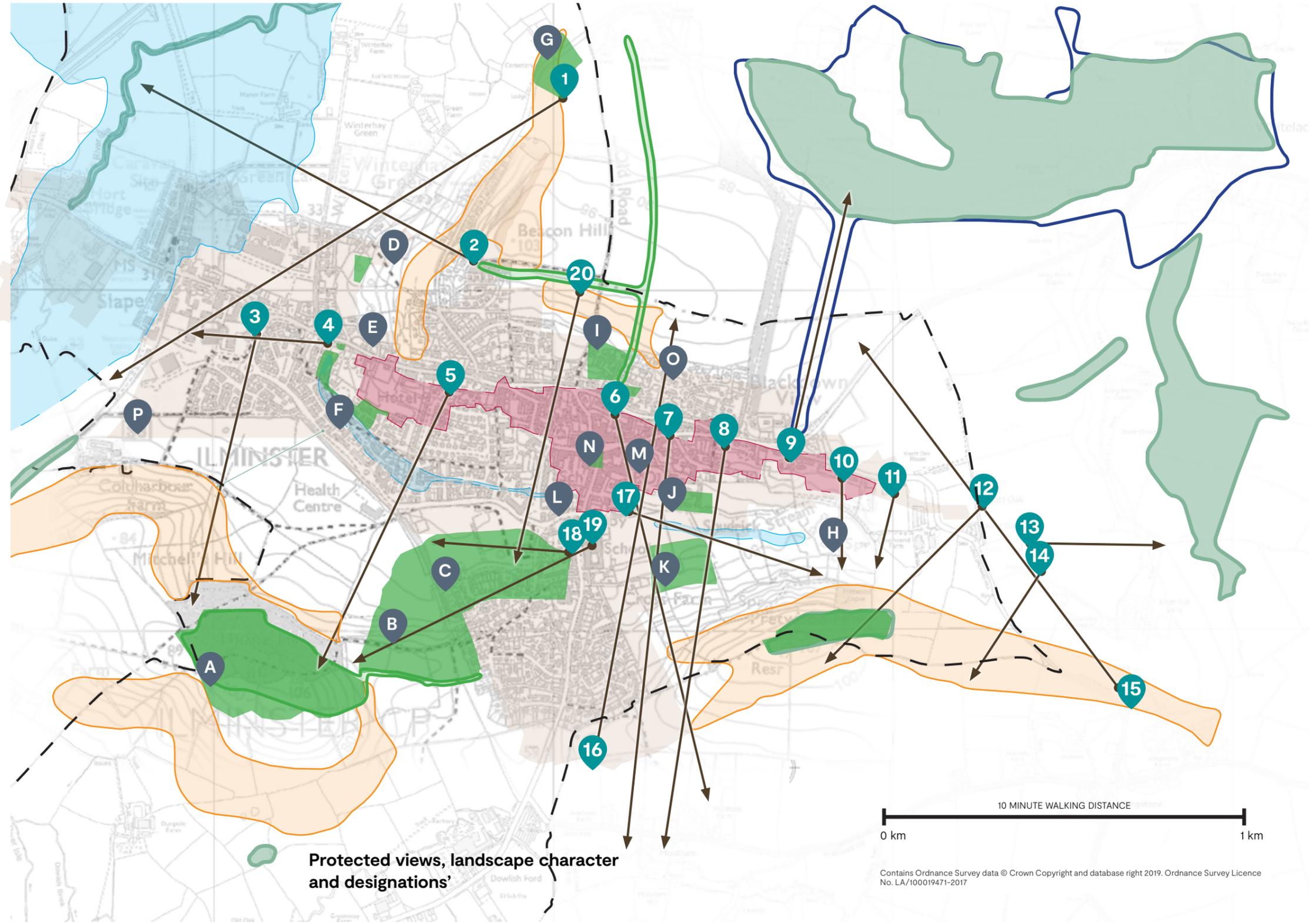
**1 Protected Views of Ilminster**

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Beacon             | 11 Townsend             |
| 2 Beacon             | 12 Townsend             |
| 3 Riec-Sur-Belon Way | 13 Townsend             |
| 4 Canal Way          | 14 Long Orchard Hill    |
| 5 Station Road       | 15 Kingstone Hill       |
| 6 High Street        | 16 Listers Hill         |
| 7 Butts              | 17 Shrudrick Lane       |
| 8 Bay Hill           | 18 Canal Way            |
| 9 Bay Hill           | 19 Orchard Vale         |
| 10 Townsend          | 20 Beacon Hill Footpath |

**A Local Green Space**

\*See SSDC Peripheral Landscape Study Ilminster Amended, Figure 4 - Value and Constraints' Ilminster Map

- A Herne Hill Local Nature Reserve
- B Britten's Field Recreation Ground
- C Wharf Lane Recreation Ground
- D Winterhay Recreation Area
- E Burma Star Garden
- F Shudrick Stream and Environs
- G Ilminster Cemetery
- H Shudrick Valley Nature Trail
- I Allotments off Hillview Terrace
- J Ilminster Bowling and Tennis Club
- K Swanmead Community School Playing Field
- L Greenfylde First School Playground
- M Market House and Surrounds
- N St. Mary's Churchyard
- O Blackdown Hill Play Area
- P River Isle



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### 3.5 Landscaping and roofscape

Ilminster has a substantial natural offering of landscaping surrounding the town. However within the town centre there is little landscaping in the public realm. Residents place importance on being able to access the open countryside easily and large developments on the edge of town could erode connections to the open countryside. Any new footpaths and streets should include verges planted with trees, shrubs and grass, as appropriate, to create a sense of open access to the countryside. This would go some way to ensure that the town remains immediately connected to nature.

The steep sided valley topography allows for extensive views of the countryside set above and between roof tops. This forms the roof-scape of the town which is a scene or view of roofs (comprising features such as chimneys, towers, gables, pitched roof forms, butterfly roofs and dormer windows) especially when considered in terms of its aesthetic appeal. The consideration and the design of roofs and their features is particularly important within Ilminster, due to the prominence and extensive views afforded to the town by the topography.

#### Ilminster Design Principle 5

Development must retain and enhance the existing landscaping of the area and not result in the loss of tree cover. Any proposal should include a planting strategy with the aim to enhance existing vegetation and biodiversity. The proposal should include a variety of landscape features including trees, with a clear plan for both the private and public realms, and a supporting management and maintenance strategy for any larger developments.

Regard must be given to the design of roofs, including design features and their potential positive contribution to the roof-scape.

#### Historic Pre 19th Century Centre

Level of landscaping: low  
 Level of hard standing: high  
 Potential for further landscaping: high as there are a lot of under planted walkways



Attractive small private front gardens to store bins with attractive stone walls and metal railings

#### Terraces

Level of landscaping: low  
 Level of hard standing: high  
 Potential for further landscaping: moderate on paths



Chimneys forming part of the roof-scape and small defensible front gardens for privacy and storage



Attractively landscaped communal space and the Minster in the roof-scape



Small defensible front gardens for privacy and storage

**Villas**

Level of landscaping: moderate  
 Level of hard standing: moderate  
 Potential for further: low due to the need for paths and roads as it is the main thoroughfare through Ilminster



Large defensible front gardens for privacy, parking and storage

**19th Century Industrial**

Level of landscaping: low  
 Level of hard standing: high  
 Potential for further landscaping: moderate due to the requirement for lorries turning and deliveries



Large expanse of tarmac and concrete for parking

**Late Twentieth Century - Blackdown**

Level of landscaping: high  
 Level of hard standing: moderate  
 Potential for further landscaping: high



Accessible communal parking and green space

**Late Twentieth Century - Summerlands**

Level of landscaping: moderate  
 Level of hard standing: moderate  
 Potential for further landscaping: moderate



Large front gardens for privacy, parking and storage and chimneys that add to the roof-scape



Chimneys forming part of the roof-scape and large defensible front gardens



Dilapidated and unkempt frontages



Large front gardens for privacy, parking and storage and chimneys that add to the roof-scape



Large front gardens for privacy, parking and storage and chimneys that add to the roof-scape

## Iminster roof-scape



Interesting roof lines form part of the horizon.



Historic thatch and slate roofs with chimneys fall away with the street topography, making the building form nestle within the undulation.



The minster forms a large part of the roof-scape and the identity of Iminster.



Far reaching roof scape seen from public footpaths add to the character of Iminster.



Attractive pattern of terrace roofs following the topography and chimneys creating interest in form and features.



The topography allows close up and direct views of roof tops, features and chimneys.

## 3.6 Materials and detailing

The materials and detailing of Iminster are generally considered to be traditional and locally sourced. In Iminster, there is a variety of building materials however the majority use natural stone or red brick with slate or tiled roofs. If these materials were to be used in new development's this would give a nod to the location in which Iminster is found and strengthens the identity of the town and it's heritage. Fake stones detract from the aesthetics as opposed to other natural products used.

Detailing and aesthetically pleasing buildings have detailing to the window, reveals, cills, lintels, sides and door surrounds. This is even on plain façades. In some modern areas of development this detailing is lacking and detracts from the aesthetics and richness that can be found in other street scenes. The use of chimneys adds to the richness of the building roof-scapes which are particularly visible due to the topography affording extensive roof top views.

### Iminster Design Principle 6

Building materials must be selected for their appropriateness to local character, performance ability, environmental and aesthetic value.

Consideration should be given to the level of detail and suitable materials for texture and depth.

Buildings must be designed with a coherent design approach that influences the whole building, from its form, to the elevations, materials and including the detailing. Streets can benefit from a consistency of some of these elements to create a strong identity.

The contemporary and more traditional architecture should take inspiration from the existing surrounding development and+ reference local character in some form.

Buildings should be of high quality and individually designed.

Roof design and features should have regard to the contribution that they make to the roof-scape.

**Historic Pre 19th Century Centre**

Typical walls: Ham Hill Stone, Moolham Stone, painted render or warm red brick  
 Typical roof: Slate, thatch or tile with chimneys  
 Typical window style: Georgian Sash  
 Typical detailing: Framed windows and detailing on plain frontages.



Typical dwelling in Historic centre constructed of stone with a slate roof

**19th Century Industrial**

Typical walls: painted or exposed red brick and/or rubble stone  
 Typical roof: Tiles, slate or corrugated iron  
 Typical window style: Georgian or Sash  
 Typical detailing: Contrasting window lintels



Industrial building with contrasting lintels

**Terraces**

Typical roof: clay tiles or slate roof with chimneys  
 Typical window style: Half Georgian Sash or Coupled Sash  
 Typical detailing: ornate painted or stone window and door surrounds.



Typical terrace with ornate window details

**Late Twentieth Century - Blackdown**

Typical walls: red brick  
 Typical roof: Marley tiles  
 Typical window style: white uPVC  
 Typical detailing: gable ends and ground floor bay windows



Typical gable end and red brick with chimneys

**Villas**

Typical walls: painted render and/or brick  
 Typical roof: slate  
 Typical window: style  
 Typical detailing: bay windows and projecting gables above



Typical villa with bays and gables

**Late Twentieth Century - Summerlands**

Typical walls: Faux stone and painted render  
 Typical roof: Marley tile  
 Typical window style: white uPVC  
 Typical detailing: gables and plain lintels



Painted render buildings in a modern design with edging details

### Suitable materials and design features



Wooden door surrounds and traditional stone details and Georgian window divides.



Traditional stone detailing to the garage door.



Bay windows with traditional sash.



Slate roof and gable feature above the windows. Windows have traditional painted detail surrounds.



Stone detailing to the corners and soffit with a brick chimney.



Painted Cobb and thatch roof.



Brick built building with stone detailing to the corners and sash windows.



Traditional natural stone building with brick detailing, stone sill and sash windows.



Painted wooden shop front with painted render to the walls and stone detailing.

### Suitable roof forms and materials



The linear roof is broken up through a mix of gable ends and is stepped due to the topography.



Clay tile roof with brick chimney, hipped away from the street but at varying heights within the terrace.



Thatched roofs with brick chimneys.



Slate roof with brick chimney. Coping stone, stone soffit and fascia features.



Industrial gable ended roof forms creating interest.



Rendered gable ends, coping stones and rendered chimneys.

## Undesirable features



Utilitarian and placeless design with blank façades and no roof detailing. An imposing scale out of keeping with the topography.



Faux stone with no or plain window details that are poor quality, foreign to the area and out of keeping with the local context.

## 3.7 Sustainable features

Well-designed places and buildings should reduce the need for energy, be energy efficient, use fossil fuels efficiently and maximise the potential for low carbon energy supplies. Sustainable development and resource efficiency, waste minimisation and recycling is supported. New development should be carbon neutral in the future. They should conserve natural resources including land, water, energy and materials whilst responding to the impacts of climate change through their design.

A compact and walk-able neighbourhood with a mix of uses and facilities reduces demand for energy and supports health and well-being. It uses land efficiently so helps adaptation by increasing the ability for CO absorption, minimising flood risk and the potential impact of flooding, and reducing overheating and air pollution.

Buildings should be fit for purpose and adaptable over time, reducing the need for redevelopment and unnecessary waste. Materials and technologies used should minimise their environmental impact by reducing running costs and use of fossil fuels. This can be by sourcing locally or by utilising energy efficient products.

### Ilminster Design Principle 7

Buildings and development schemes should be adaptable, built to last and minimise their environmental impact. Throughout both the outline and detailed design stages developments must demonstrate how homes are energy efficient, flood resilient and minimise their use of natural resources through:

- walk-able neighbourhoods and reducing car reliance
- rainwater harvesting and efficient use of water resources
- flood resilience by integrating sustainable drainage systems into the early stages of design to reduce flood risk and improve water quality, biodiversity and amenity.
- passive solar gain
- energy efficient building fabric
- renewable technologies
- reduce waste in building through reuse and recycling

Developments must be able to demonstrate in their design and access statement how a development has been designed to be sustainable under each of the following categories:

**Walk-able neighbourhoods:** In larger housing developments schemes should be permeable to pedestrians and cyclists to minimise the use of the car. The provision for more sustainable forms of transport should be encouraged. Infrastructure for electric cars should be considered for use in the future.



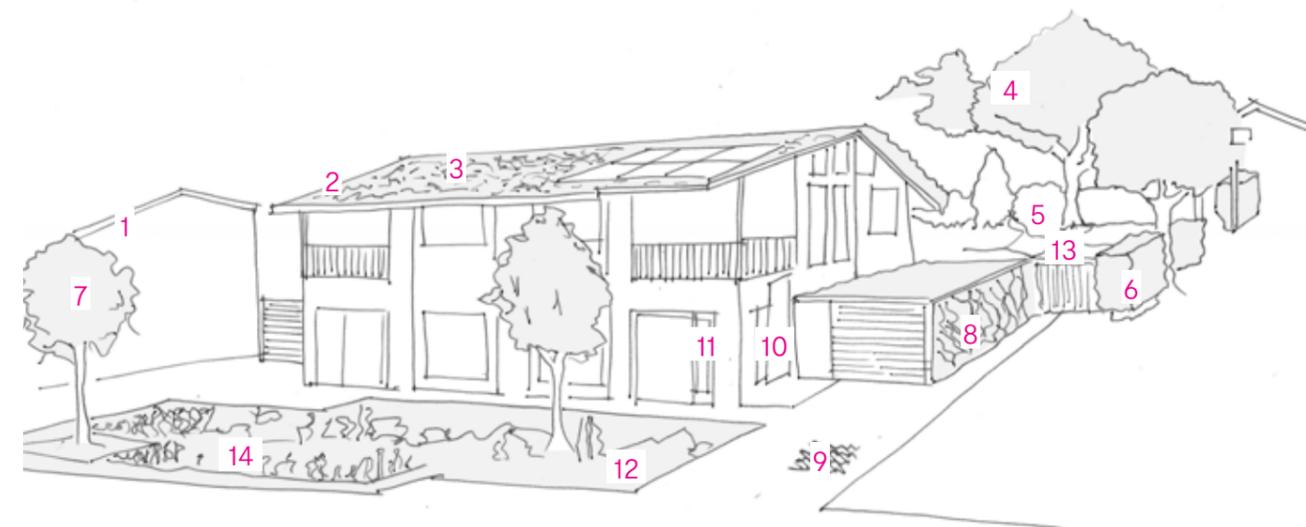
**Poundbury, Dorset**

- Permeable streets designed for pedestrian as well as the car.

**Biodiversity:** Proposals should seek enhancements, retention of existing habitats and the creation of new ones. Boundary treatments and domestic planting should allow movement for wildlife and provide new habitat e.g. through the provision of hedgerows. Varieties and species chosen should be native and/or to provide improvement to wildlife habitats.

**Water efficiency:** Rain water harvesting should be included in development schemes, to take the pressure off existing water supplies. Developers should include technologies that recycle grey water for watering gardens/use in toilets. Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) for surface water should be included wherever possible.

## Water efficiency and biodiversity



- 1 Bird Boxes
- 2 Green Roof
- 3 Integrated Bat box (in Green roof)
- 4 Tree clusters
- 5 Hedgehog Passages
- 6 Hedgerows
- 7 Standard Trees
- 8 Climbing Plants
- 9 Permeable Paving
- 10 Habitat walls
- 11 Planters and Baskets
- 12 Rain Garden
- 13 Wildlife pond
- 14 Unmown edges and verges

Sustainable drainage systems or SuDS mimic natural drainage in delivering effective surface water management, controlling surface water close to where it falls.

SuDS need to be considered early in the design process to ensure ease of access for maintenance and efficient use of land by integrating them with other aspects of design.

Sustainable Drainage Systems such as public open space, biodiversity, provision, and highways.

Multi-functional. SuDS need to be prioritised allowing for attenuation features which can also be used for biodiversity and recreation.

These include Green roofs and walls, Permeable surfacing, swales, rain capture, soakaways and filter drains, retention tanks, street tree planting, rain gardens, basins and ponds, and reedbeds and wetlands.

## Solar gain, renewables, waste and lifetime homes

**Adaptation to climate change:** Designs should avoid excess solar gain in summer through solar shading. Developments should avoid too much hard standing and maximise landscaped areas where possible to increase the cooling effects it has.

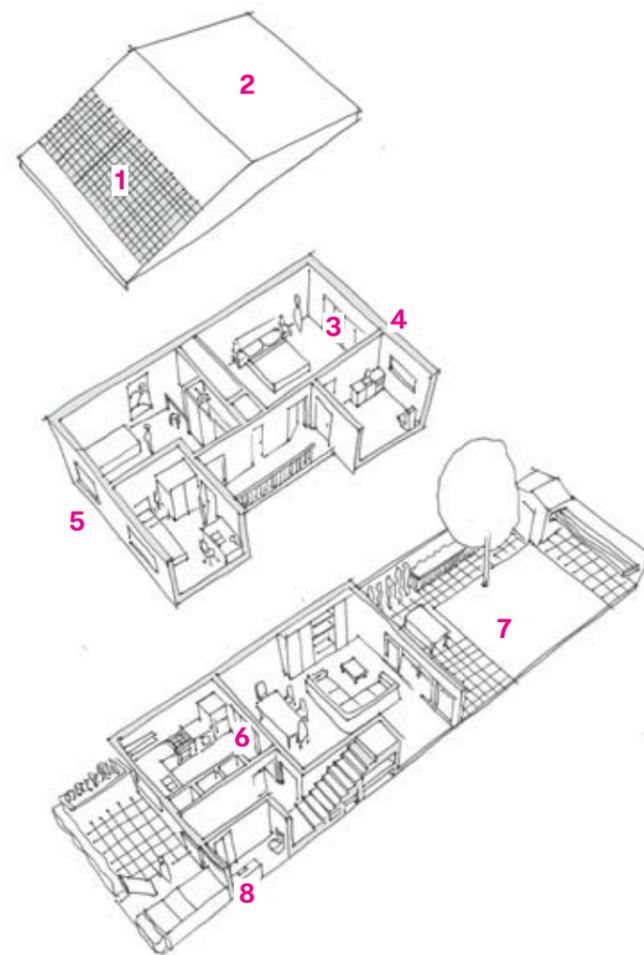
**Passive solar gain** should be maximised through site layout utilize passive solar energy whilst avoiding overheating in summer

**Energy efficiency** of the building fabric should be thought about in the first instance to reduce the energy demanded from new homes.

**Renewable technologies** should be encouraged, especially for new build houses. Technologies should be chosen because they are the most appropriate for the site both in terms of efficiency as well as the aesthetics. Roof forms should be designed to allow for solar photovoltaic, preferably in the form of solar tiles and solar water heating without being too prominent or highly visible in key views. Less visible technologies such as ground source heat pumps should be considered.

**Waste:** Thought should be given to the reuse and recycling of building materials, particularly if demolition is occurring.

**Lifetime Homes:** Housing must meet the needs of the population of Ilminster over time. Housing should have the ability to meet the needs of the population over time and as such people can stay in their homes longer without the need to new build residential development for specific users.



- 1 Photovoltaic Panels
- 2 Simple built form (minimise heat loss)
- 3 Large windows, North (max. natural light)
- 4 High Levels of Insulation
- 5 South Windows – avoid too much solar gain
- 6 Cavity doors- flexible heating of spaces
- 7 Rain water storage built into designs
- 8 Water efficient features (dual flush, spray taps)
- 9 Appliances – high efficiency ratings.



**Goldsmith Street, Norwich**

A social housing development that sits well in the local urban context and meets high environmental standards. To be certified Passivhaus, the windows had to be smaller than the proportion in a Georgian or Victorian terrace, a set-back panel around the windows to give an enlarged feel were used, and panels of textured brick have been introduced into the main elevations. Parking has been pushed to the perimeter, so the streets feel safe and ‘owned’ by pedestrians rather than cars. Bin stores have been placed in the front gardens to create buffer zones between the public footpath and the front doors, giving a private space.

**New Ground Co-housing, Barnet, London**

A co-housing scheme for older women, built around a large communal courtyard. It provides an alternative, community-focused housing option, where residents were involved in the design process throughout. There are 25 flats at New Ground, eight socially rented and managed by Housing for Women, and 17 owner occupied, with a few shared facilities and a very large shared garden. The buildings form and materiality blend into the terraced street.



**Brambleside, St Teath**

Brambleside was completed in December 2010. The properties feature ground source heat pumps which provide heating and hot water. All the properties have private rear gardens and a parking space. The homes were part of a joint development between CRHA and Cornwall CLT providing 6 homes for rent and 10 homes for sale to qualifying local people.

### 3.8 Biodiversity, trees and green infrastructure

Ilminster have a vast and wide support for green credentials. In line with this biodiversity improvements are encouraged in a wide variety of ways. Having set backs in development would create recreation and access for maintenance benefits any lighting should be suitably designed with wildlife in mind. New green / blue infrastructure and maintenance of habitats, through creating wildlife corridors or green space, tree planting etc. and advocating the use of green roofs is encouraged.

Blue/Green Infrastructure has a real opportunity to link with and deliver against Carbon Net Zero targets. The opportunity for carbon sequestration through wetlands, improved floodplain connection, wet woodlands, etc. should be considered within the approach for carbon net zero development.

Large-scale tree planting is vital for carbon capture flood control and for well being of the community and will soften the impact of any developments. It will enhance community spaces and goes hand in hand with the green chain.

Development adjacent to existing water features such as rivers has an important role to play in enhancing the value of blue infrastructure as public realm, habitat, ecological corridor and natural capital asset and should be encouraged. Buildings may face the water and leave a sufficient buffer zone to allow for watercourses and banks to be maintained and for current and potential future flood defences. Opportunities to create walking and cycling routes along watercourses where appropriate are to be encouraged.

#### Ilminster Design Principle 8

**Biodiversity:** Development should be designed with wildlife in mind seeking to conserve and enhance biodiversity and identify and incorporate opportunities for net gains in biodiversity. Particularly on sites adjacent to existing wildlife or enhance the green corridors. The baseline biodiversity of an area should be assessed and proposals should seek to retain, protect and enhance features of biodiversity, including supporting habitat, commuting routes, linkages and any use by migratory species, and ensure appropriate and long-term management of those features (eg through green roofs and tree planting).

Developments should incorporate features for native wildlife species (eg.. dormice and hedgehogs) to connect through wildlife corridors and provide sheltering, habitats, such as native hedgerows, grassy margins, hedgehog highways to roads, paths and gaps in walls and fencing. Development should seek to remove any invasive non-native species and ensure potentially harmful features such as lighting are designed with wildlife in mind.

**Trees:** Development should conserve and enhance trees, hedgerows and woodlands. The removal of protected trees should be avoided and any trees that are damaged or removed must be replaced with an appropriate number, species and size in an appropriate location. Opportunities should be identified and incorporated for planting of new trees, woodlands and hedgerows.

All new streets should include street trees to improve streets' popularity and walk-ability, reduce air pollution and mitigate noise. New planting should be suitable for the site conditions, use native species and be informed by and contribute to local character, and enhance or create new habitat linkages.

**Green infrastructure:** New development should contribute towards the creation of a network of green spaces and facilitate access to natural green space where possible. Sites should make the most of their waterside location, facing onto the water and retaining public access to the water's edge.



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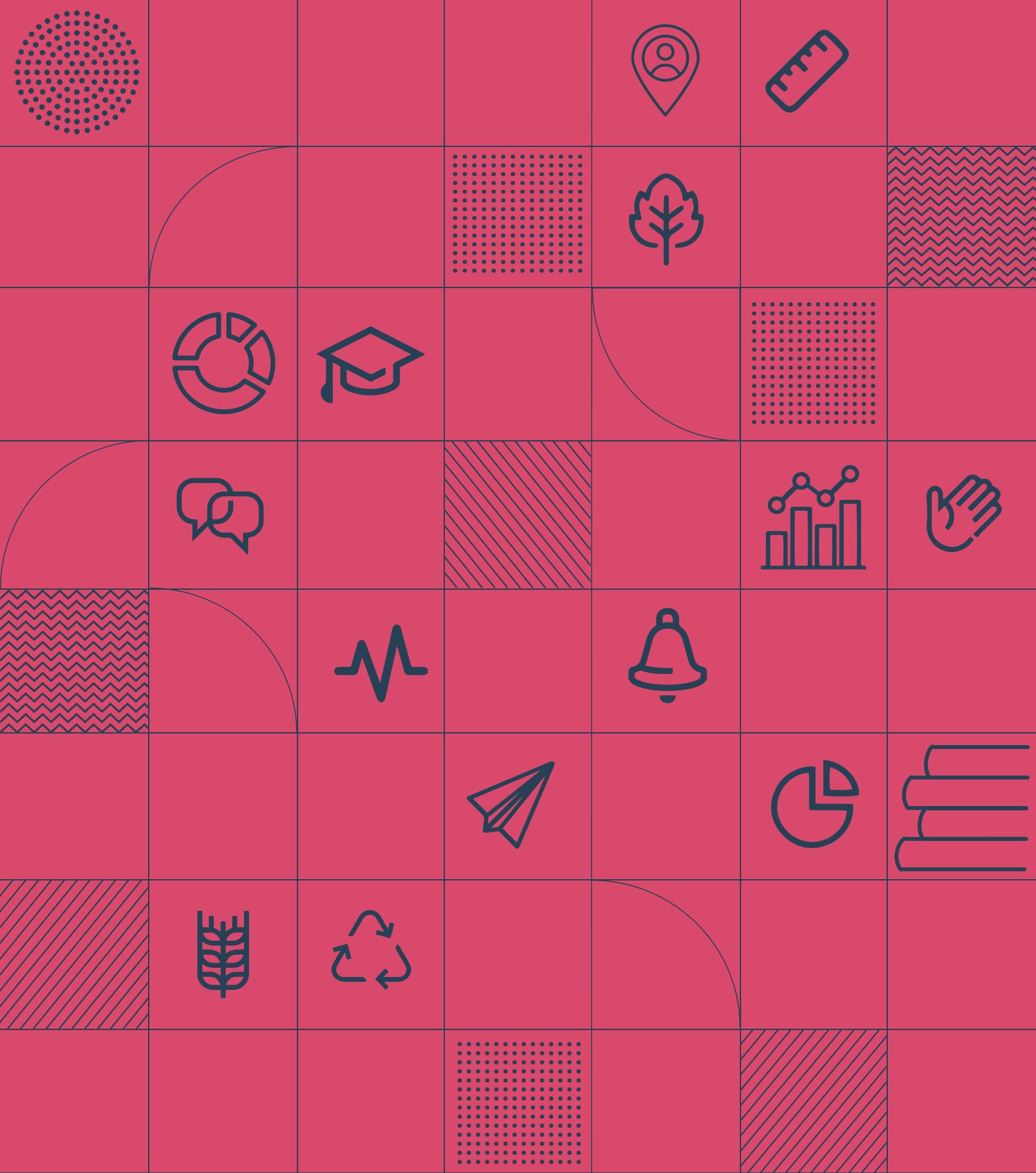
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