

3/ The Design Guide:

v) Landscaping and roof-scape

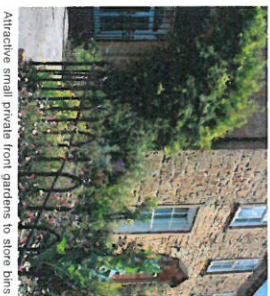
Ilminster has a substantial natural offering of landscaping surrounding the town. However, within the town centre there is little landscaping in the public realm. Residents place importance on being able to access the open countryside easily and large developments on the edge of town could erode connections 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, butlerly 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 stone 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

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



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



Small defensible front gardens for privacy and storage



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