

Ashby Road, Markfield: National Forest Planting v1

In communication to the Council from Eilish Gardner, Green Infrastructure & Planning Officer (dated 11th February 2026), there was a request to demonstrate 0.73ha of National Forest planting to be accommodated on site.

Given the constraints on site, we have not been able to propose woodland planting on site but we have balanced this with a more connected bolstered green infrastructure strategy. The open space within the design is not suitable to support woodland creation which would require suitable depth and space to form a graduated soft transition between dense woodland and lower density, understorey scrub edge in this residential setting.

The revised design does however address the increased retention and enhancement of existing trees, scrub understorey, hedgerow and high value grassland on site. The landscape strategy retains the existing green corridor centrally within the site which maintains the connectivity of existing tree groups. To compliment this, individual native tree planting has been maximised within the red line within the streetscape and in the areas of public open space.

The revised landscape design supports the incorporation of landscaped footpaths, street trees, ecologically designed SuDs, grassland retention and parkland style landscapes. The combination of these green infrastructure assets reflects the National Forest Planting requirements and are appropriate for their immediate setting in a residential surrounding.

In summary, the revised landscape strategy provides in excess of 1.2ha of public open green space well in excess of the 0.73ha. The revised design supports increased habitat connectivity which presents a connected block of green infrastructure which supports the recommendations by National Forest.

In terms of the long-term condition of the network of green infrastructure, this would be managed and enhanced with the retention of existing woodland, hedgerows and grassland translocation alongside the success of the new habitats.

Notwithstanding this, there are precedent residential schemes similar in character to Ashby Road, Markfield which have been considered acceptable by the National Forest. These include approved sites at Stanton (Main Street, Stanton under Bardon, approved March 2025) and Shepshed (Land East of Iveshead Road, approved July 2025).

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