



Compacted gravel track



Cattle grids



Rusted metal details for planters and water features



Locally relevant clay brick for terraces and pathways



Locally sourced gravel for entrance



UK sourced natural limestone paving for main terraces

The concept with the hard landscaping materials is focused on a naturalistic approach, enabling the hard surfaces to blend into the wider surroundings and tie into the theme of the site being used for cattle grazing and its historical connections to the same purpose.

The entrance track is to reflect the character of original farm access paths, using a compacted gravel track through the meadow.

Cattle grids will be installed at access points in order to help manage the cattle on site, as well as visually tying into the heritage of the area, with the presence of cattle grids on driveways currently along Sutton Lane

The arrival space will be a locally sourced gravel surface, creating a low maintenance surface with a naturalistic appearance relevant to the local context. The proposed buff colouring will keep a neutral palette that allows the surrounding soft landscaping to have a higher visual impact in its contrasting tones.

Clay pavers are a permeable, low maintenance surface which reflect details of the architecture and tie in with the local vernacular.

UK sourced natural limestone paving will provide a clean surface that contrasts nicely with the textures of gravel and clay paving, and so giving a dynamic range to the hard surface palette.

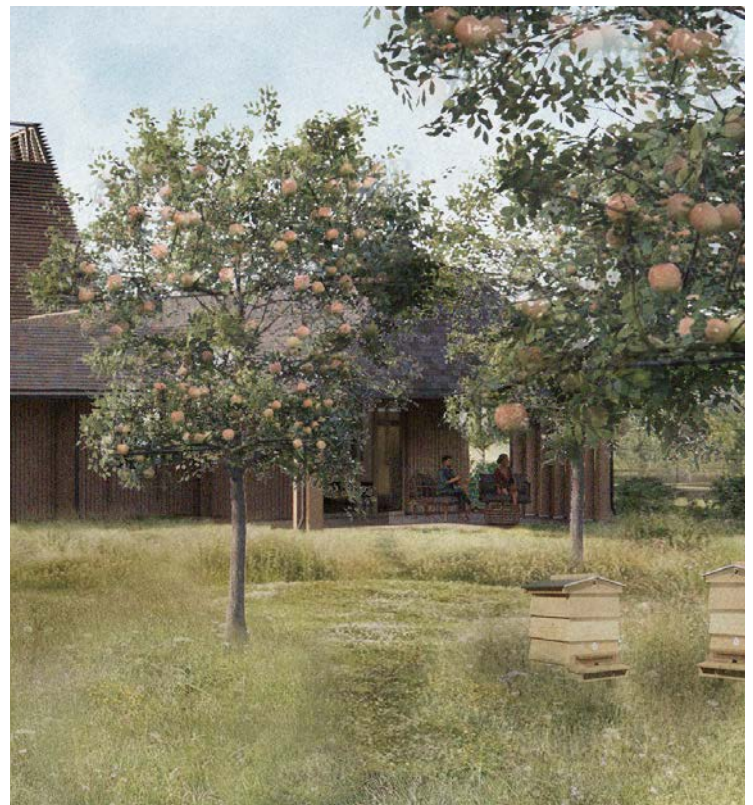
Landscape details such as raised beds and water features will be constructed from a rusted metal to reflect the rural agricultural context in which the garden sits.



View from the driveway entrance looking south towards the proposed dwelling



Central water feature/cattle drinking trough



Orchard view looking west



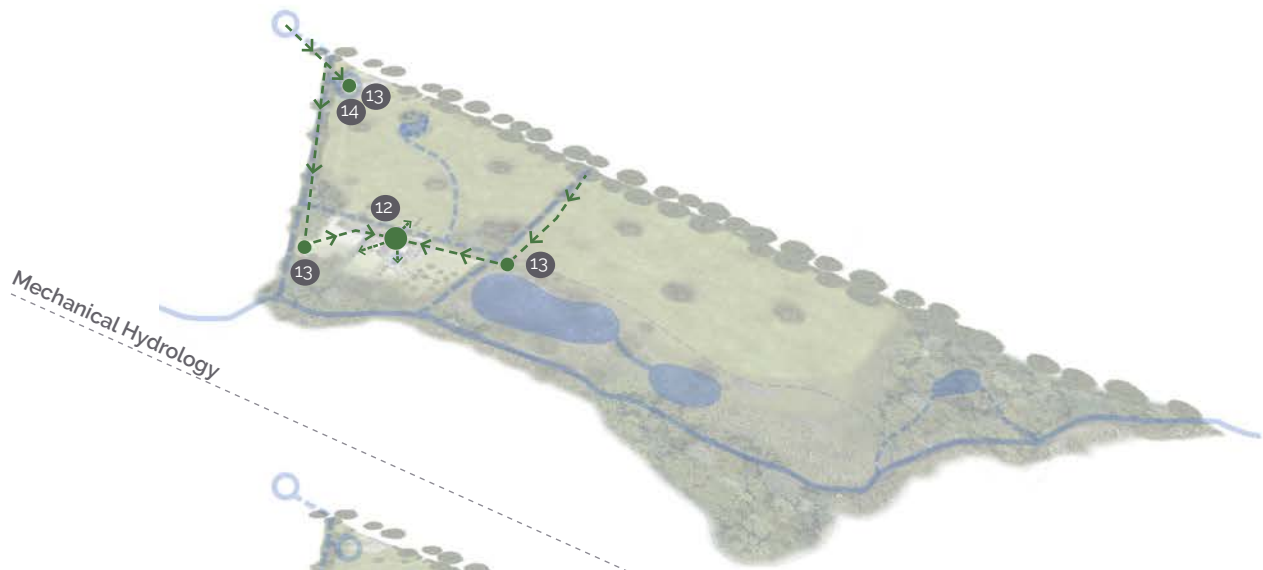
Courtyard terrace with natural swimming pond



View looking north west towards tower from back garden



Arrival space looking east



Water has been an important element in the concept development of both the proposed architecture and the developing landscape strategy.

The focus on the hydrology is drawn from the inherent features, cultural heritage and the landscape character itself. The many local running ditches, brooks, ponds, canals and lakes create a waterway network which forms a key part of the local character.

The landscape strategy seeks to embrace this and use the site's hydrology to significantly improve biodiversity, help clean the water entering the wider waterways and manage both surface water drainage and building services within the same strategy.

On-site surface water will drain directly into the large pond via the wetland meadow in the lower areas. The water tower will clean on-site water and distribute it to the water rills within the garden setting, the drinking water for cattle and the upper pond, as well as providing the house with a potable water supply. The overflow from these will all feed back into the larger retention pond in a circular process.

Any overflow from the pond in high rainfall events will flow into the natural watercourse of the adjacent ditches. This will help to improve local water quality, due to the above mentioned process, which is of particular significance given it is in a nitrate vulnerable area.

1. Sutton Brook
2. Existing running ditches
3. Evidence of former pond
4. Existing sluice
5. Existing culvert
6. Proposed series of attenuation ponds
7. Proposed wetland meadow
8. Water feature and natural swimming pond fed via the water tower
9. Cattle drinking trough fed from the water tower
10. Reinstated former pond
11. Series of swales to direct surface water/overflow to attenuation ponds and wider existing waterways
12. The tower will take water from a series of hydraulic rams (refer architects information) and filter it to improve its quality, this will then feed into the house services, water rills within the garden setting and the cattle drinking rill
13. Ram pump chambers
14. Micro-hydro plant within existing sluice will provide power to the proposed dwelling



○ Locations of spoil creation

■ Opportunity to raise levels outside of root protection areas

The spoil strategy is an important factor in enhancing the sustainability of the design, using appropriate spoil, that is a bi-product of the construction, to enhance the site rather than remove it completely.

Spoil will be formed predominantly from the excavation of the new ponds, although these are proposed to be minimised by working with the sites existing topography and pond grading.

All spoil will be used on site, spread predominantly within the curtilage of the proposed dwelling which is set 600mm higher than the existing ground level. External levels within the immediate vicinity are proposed to be raised to accommodate this.

Any surplus, which should be minimal, will be spread evenly across the middle and southern areas of the site, ensuring no level change within 10m of the brook.

General levels site wide are intended to remain as existing.



Wider managed verges to become wildflower areas



Character oak trees which will be interplanted with the next generation of successional oaks



Return to historical configuration of Sutton Lane on the right in the image

Landscape Strategy

Sutton Lane

Sutton Lane is an important part of the local community but historically was a drovers route, and then in more recent history it was used for livestock grazing. Today it offers rural amenity along what is a very quiet lane with the unique character of the oak avenues and wide verges.

It is frequently used by members of the public and the wider verge and mature oaks at the very north of the lane, nearest Market Bosworth, is designated as a local green space.

The clients ambition is to manage the lane in a much more natural way to its current mown and cropped form. This is with a view of increasing the local biodiversity and adding community benefit as a result. They also seek to provide a viewing point to the listed Hercules Monument as there is currently no access to it and poor visibility locally. This could include the option of a seating area also. Additionally, the clients are hoping to reintroduce cattle onto the lane, which was previously commonplace, and so directly linking to the heritage of the lane, as well as forming a connection between the lane and the proposed future use of the farm.

The successional planting of oak trees along the lane is vitally important following arboricultural opinion that there is sign of oak decline in the current veteran trees. The clients are very keen to future-proof the character of the lane, maintain its quiet rural nature and improve its benefits to the local community.

The clients are also keen to work with the local parish to have the lane designated as a 'quiet lane' which will reduce the current national speed limit that currently applies to the lane. This would greatly improve the user experience of the lane and again future-proof its unique character.

Hedgerows will also be maintained using more traditional methods with any gaps being filled with a local native mix. There is opportunity for local working groups to become involved in this management to again engage the community with the lane and its heritage.



Clients recent work with local residents to lay the existing hedgerow and plant new trees along the lane



Quercus robur



Corylus avellana



Crataegus monogyna



Prunus spinosa



Acer pseudoplatanus



Populus tremula

The strategy for trees on site is to tie into the current landscape character, using predominantly local native species. However 20% of species selected will be non-native, in line with the Forestry Commissions strategy for designing in climate resilience. The focus of these species will be drought tolerance, whilst still reflecting the character of the trees selected, with species such as Italian Alder, Scarlet Oak and Broad leaf Cockspur Hawthorn.

The prominent species locally are oak trees, with a defining feature being the oak avenue formed down Sutton Lane. The majority of these feature trees are over mature so the interplanting of oak trees with the aim for them to grow as replacements, will cement the character of Sutton Lane for the long-term.

On site, the proposal is to extend the copse out towards the proposed building, as well as create a woodland on the south-east end of the site that connects the second copse on-site and the adjacent woodland. Along with this will be sporadic spinneys and feature trees around the site, which will aid in screening the proposed building as well as providing shaded spots for the grazing cattle intended for the site.

These trees will all be UK native, using the local character as influence, which includes species such as English oak (*Quercus robur*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and blackthorn (*prunus spinosa*). Elm is another species that is prominent in the area, however due to the disease problems inhibiting the planting of elm trees, alternatives such as sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and aspen (*Populus tremula*) are suggested in order to give a similar character to the site. This mix will help give varying vertical structure to the area with a good mix of canopy and understorey. This is especially important in the extension of the copse, where it is characterised by the variable vertical structure and spaces in the canopy where groundcover planting can develop.

The pre-existing hedge line is to be re-established on the western meadow, using species found in the hedgerows throughout the wider landscape, which includes hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), plum (*Prunus domestica* subsp. *domestica*), crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), and elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

Refer tree plans for detailed proposal (S31 22199 D06)



Salix caprea



Alnus glutinosa



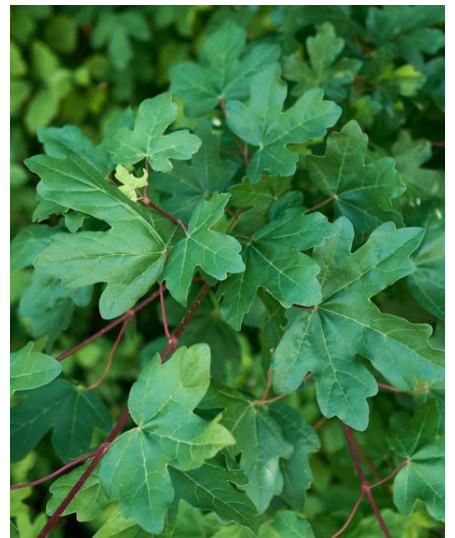
Salix babylonica



Quercus ilex



Betula pendula



Acer campestre

The proposed attenuation basin on the eastern meadow will act as a natural drainage area, as well as creating a wetland area during certain spells of the year, and so will require trees that can cope in both dry conditions as well as wet.

Species that are found in the wider landscape which are ideal for these conditions include goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). Other species proposed that characterise wetland areas are weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*), which will help this area of the site have its own identity. Holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*) are also suggested in giving size of canopy to this area as well as tying in with the dominance of oak tree characteristics in the local area, which these two species reflect.

Refer tree plans for detailed proposal (S31 22199 D06)



Echinacea pallida



Nepeta x faassenii



Sanguisorba tanna



Geranium 'Album'



Stipa tenuissima



Phlomis tuberosa 'Amazone'

The planting scheme in the formal areas of the site will be focused on following the theme of the wildflower areas that will help characterise the site, whilst having a formality that helps to identify the area as formal garden space. The species selected will be chosen for their pollinating qualities as well as their sensory attributes so as to enhance the engagement with nature in the social areas of the site.

Species such as Nepeta and Phlomis are great pollinators, and so encourage insect activity, aiding the improvement of biodiversity in the area. The inclusion of grass species such as stipa help reflect the wildflower meadows in the naturalistic areas of the site, as well as enhancing sensory engagement through its unique movement and the resulting sounds that it can bring to an area.

The palette of planting is to be neutral, with a soft combination of whites, purples and greens that aid in creating a calming environment which helps to soften the transition between the hard landscaping and the wider soft landscaping surroundings.



Iris pseudacorus



Eriophorum angustifolium



Cyperus eragrostis



Juncus ensifolius



Primula florindae



Veronica beccabunga

The wetland planting for the attenuation basin will help enhance the character of the wetland area, as well as framing the basin itself. The species selected will be based on their ability to thrive in wet conditions as well as dry. With the basin being designed to act as a drainage area for the site, there will be sporadic dry and wet periods throughout the year, and so the plants selected will be required to be able to adapt to both.

Aquatic plants such as *Iris pseudacorus* can grow in varying water depths, making them ideal for the design of the site, whilst also giving depth to the planting with the ability to plant deeper within the basin. Other species such as *Eriophorum angustifolium* and *Veronica beccabunga* are fringe plants that can grow in a few centimetres of water through to just being in moist soil conditions.

The majority of the aquatic plants will be selected on the basis of being UK native species.

