

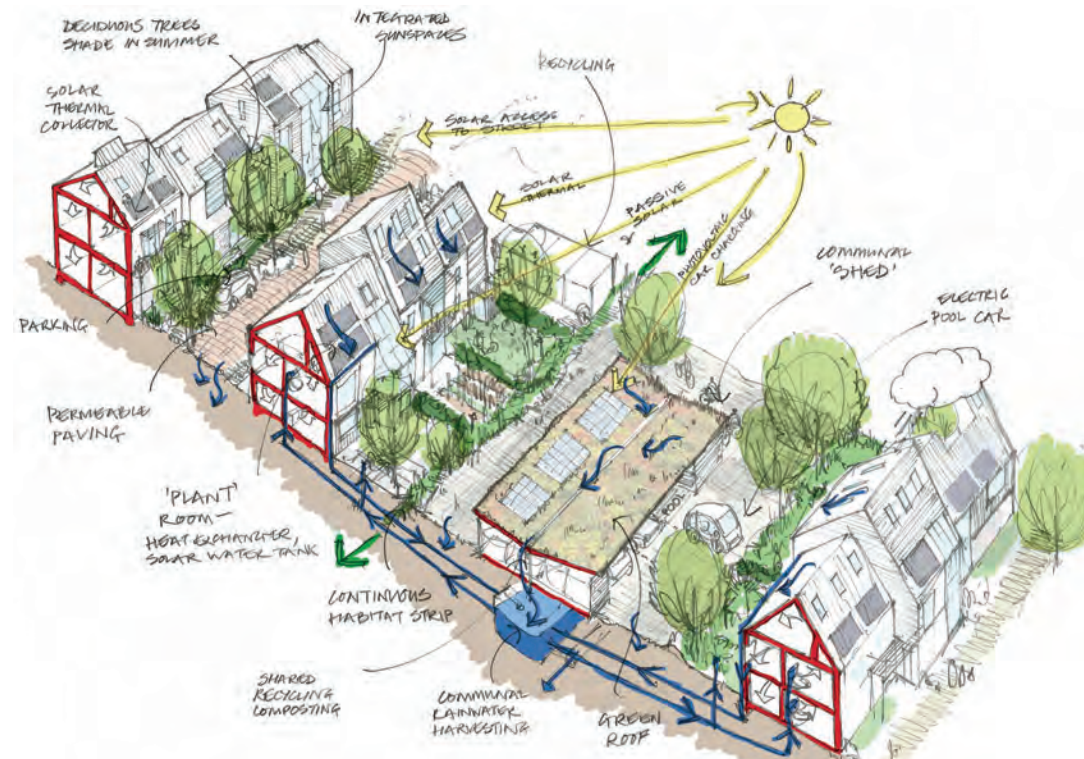
Oxley Park, Milton Keynes

English Partnerships commissioned three design teams to test the principles for a low carbon-emission neighbourhood at Oxley Park, Milton Keynes and produce a draft masterplan and development brief.

The proposed development was a pilot project aimed at testing the viability of developing a sustainable suburban development model, which if successful, will be rolled out across a number of other English Partnership sites.

The Development Brief outlined the objectives for creating a sustainable community that provides an ecological balance of built form and the environment. The brief also set out the requirements that English Partnerships would like the developer to meet in order to achieve these objectives. The sustainability requirements included were all rigorously assessed and costed to ensure that they could be achieved.

One of the key challenges was to preserve the 'good points' of suburbia. An underlying aim of the design solution, therefore, was to re-establish the leafiness of the suburban neighbourhood. The design seeks to restore a relationship between the built form and the landscape, with the character of the street and neighbourhood being determined by its response to orientation, landform and ecology.



Passivhaus standard used - Ecohomes excellent, 20% on-site renewables



Parking - Year 1



Trees replace parking spaces - Year 25

Project:
Development Brief for Sustainable Suburb

Jam:
Sustainability + Planning Advice

Client:
English Partnerships

Consultants:
Richards Partington Architects
Luszczak Associates
PHA Consult
Davis Langdon

Oxley Park, Milton Keynes

The scheme was built around the idea of a perimeter block structure but in a form that is modified by environmental and social considerations. The block interior is used as more than a parking court with the clustering of services, infrastructure and useable space around groups of houses.

A landscaped swale defines the main circulation spine as a way of relating the building to the landscape but also to provide a natural process for water collection and attenuation.

The blocks are designed with generous roofs to collect rainwater, provide shading to parked cars and house shared equipment. The roofs also accommodate photovoltaic and solar thermal panels.

Each cluster of houses is designed for a shared vehicle or 'car club'. Provision is made for electric vehicles with charging points fed by photovoltaic panels on the roof. A community management structure is also proposed to maintain the landscape and communal courtyards.



water network



hedgerows



swales + SUDS



woodland + trees

