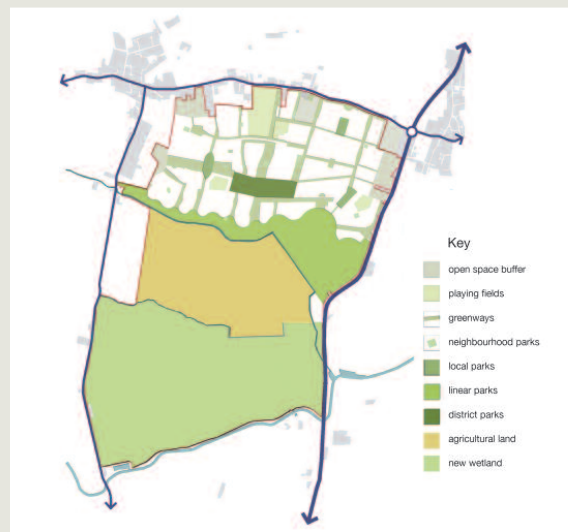


Open space & wetlands

In masterplanning Mereham New Community, particular attention has been given to the conservation, management and enhancement of the existing landscape.



Landscape strategy

The objectives are to place Mereham within an attractive setting, support biodiversity and encourage participation in outdoor pursuits, sporting activities and appreciation of nature.

All in all, there will be some 68 hectares (167 acres) of formal open space to include parks, sports pitches and allotments as well as some 198 hectares (500 acres) of greenways, open space buffers and retained agricultural land.

Special consideration of opportunities to encourage increased diversity of wildlife has led to the idea of the creation of a new wetland habitat adjacent to the River Great Ouse to the south of Mereham.

The proposed wetland area, covering some 246 hectares (609 acres) has the potential to provide an exceptional recreational facility that can be enjoyed by local residents and visitors from further afield.

The intention is to provide open water, pools, reed beds, wet grassland, mudbanks and meadows which will be particularly attractive to gulls, waders, waterfowl and other bird species.

To ensure that visitors can fully experience the wetland – without disturbing rare species which are expected to be attracted to it - hides, walkways, board-walks, information boards and seating will be incorporated into the design.