Pre-planning dialogue with Aerodrome Safeguarding and a bird strike risk management plan may be needed.

Layout principles

Layouts should be multi-layered, offering year-round interest for people and a range of habitats linked to the wider nature network, including:

- Larger stature trees or blocks of woodland should be used to structure the site and define open spaces, streets, and multi-user paths *see "1.4.2 Trees & Woodland" on page 34*.
- Shrubs, hedges and herbaceous plants should be used to define spaces, provide shelter, privacy, and amenity, as well as cover and food for nature.
- New hedges should generally be mixed native species for their biodiversity value, shaped to an urban or rural form as required.
- Open grass for recreation should include bulbs and native wildflowers for seasonal interest and habitat value.
- Incorporate space for informal play that is suitable for all age groups, with accessible paths, inclusive seating and plant beds.
- Consider use of flowering or fruiting trees or orchards to add seasonal interest through blossom, apples, or conkers.

Planting

To ensure new planting will thrive and provide initial visual impact:

- Minimum standards for new planting will apply (refer to Technical Guidance).
- The specified planting should be suited to the site's soils, micro-climate and resilient to the effects of climate change, including hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters.
- Avoid plants that could be toxic or allergenic in settings such as housing, schools and nurseries.

To strengthen biodiversity and to prevent the escape of cultivated plants into the wild, use only native species in rural settings or adjacent to natural features, watercourses or protected sites.

Multi-layered planting, Holyrood - *The landscape of this student housing development includes a varied assortment of planting*

Soils

Early consideration of existing soil and habitat resources can minimise the disturbance and damage to soils from development, reduce waste and limit the need to import new material for site restoration. Consideration should be given to soil functions, water permeability and soil biodiversity.

Proposals must demonstrate that soil health will be protected through correct handling and storage that complies with the British Standard for topsoil and subsoil. Wherever possible, undisturbed ground should be safeguarded for planting.

More *detailed site-specific information* will be required where peatland or carbon-rich soils may be impacted by development, including appropriate surveys and assessment that inform design and layout to ensure compliance with the mitigation hierarchy. Where impacts cannot be avoided, a method statement for soil, Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) or Habitat Management Plan (HMP) may be required to protect soil from compaction and erosion.

Effective maintenance and management

Good management and maintenance are essential for landscapes and their biodiversity to thrive and evolve in the long-term.

Proposals must be adequately resourced to achieve their potential and future maintenance costs should be considered as part of the design process.

A Landscape and Habitat Management Plan (LHMP) is required to explain how a development will manage the landscape and ecology of a site, clarifying:

- funding arrangements and parties responsible, in writing accompanied by an annotated plan showing e.g. areas to be privately maintained, land to be adopted by the Council subject to a relevant commuted sum, and those areas adopted and maintained by Scottish Water or other third parties.