November 2018 Uniclass L534:L217

- Regeneration of the 1960s Mardyke Estate
- Phased development with overarching master-plan
- A restrained palette of precast concrete hard landscape products including permeable paving
- Project re-visits over 6 years

# ORCHARD VILLAGE LONDON EDITION 2







# Introduction

This case study is part of a series exploring the application of current approaches to master-planning, urban design and 'place shaping' – focusing on external surfaces, including concrete block permeable paving. It explores the phased, £80 million regeneration of Orchard Village (previously known as the Mardyke Estate) in east London, master-planned and designed by PRP and working in partnership with Old Ford, part of Circle Housing Group. PRP is one of the world's largest multidisciplinary practices specialising in sustainable residential and mixed-use design. The practice has a specialist Landscape division, involved from the start in master-planning projects alongside its other designers and consultants. Interpave has previously published another case study looking more generally at PRP's approach, available via www.paving.org.uk

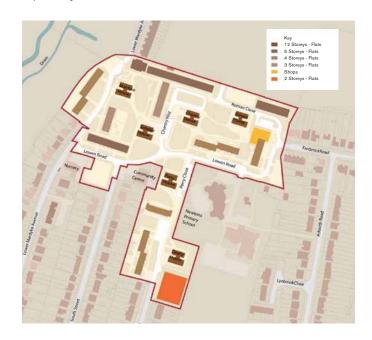
This case study provides snapshots of the project over time: initially in 2012; then 2013, 2015 and 2018. Photos of completed Phases sit alongside PRP's design drawings, demonstrating how the master-plan was realised. Drawings and other information are taken from PRP's Design and Access Statement.



Typical existing tower block before demolition.

### Context

Orchard Village is located in the south-west corner of the London Borough of Havering within South Hornchurch. It was a typical 1960s social housing estate which has experienced major deprivation. Nearly 1000 people lived in 509 dwellings, generally in 12-storey tower blocks or 3 to 5-storey smaller blocks, at a density of nearly 103 dwellings per hectare. In addition there are local facilities including shops and a neighbourhood office, and abutting the site is a community centre, nursery and a primary school.



The estate had a poor reputation within Havering resulting from crime and anti-social behaviour, leading to it being ranked within the 20 most deprived wards in England. The housing stock is poor and it was regarded as impractical to upgrade to meet the Decent Homes standard. As a result, residents voted for the transfer of the estate from the London Borough of Havering to Old Ford Housing Association, enabling a major regeneration programme to be carried out.



### Location

Orchard Village is somewhat isolated just to the north of New Road – a dual carriageway which runs parallel with the A13 between central London and the M25. The original estate was based on a cul-de-sac layout with large parking courts – generally unused by residents – and other 'dead' areas not overlooked by dwellings. The isolation from the surrounding area is exacerbated by poor public transport links.

### **Sensitive Situation**

The Beam River runs along the western boundary of the site, bounding a multi-award-winning wetland park, Beam Parklands (shown below) – home to a variety of wildlife including Great Crested Newts.



# The Master-plan

The brief for the scheme was developed in conjunction with the residents, the borough and Old Ford Housing Association to create a sustainable community. Comprehensive and effective consultation proved critical in the process of exploring options and developing a masterplan for the area with the residents having a key role in the regeneration process. The master-plan and later designs are clearly influenced by current guidance such as the *Urban Design Compendium* and the *Manual for Streets*.

The master-plan consisted of:

- Demolition of the original Mardyke Estate buildings
- Provision of up to 555 new dwellings
- Open space improvements
- A new Local Square with new local shopping facilities and office accommodation.



# **Developing the Design**

Four key elements of the development concept sought to address the issues identified and achieve the masterplan's aims:

- The Mixed-Use Street establishes key connections between the development and the surrounding neighbourhoods, and enables a choice of transport modes. It overcomes existing constraints on bus operations, ensures ease of access and use for pedestrians and cyclists, and allows other traffic to pass through the area safely.
- A new Local Square anchors community services, public transport and open space. It creates a vibrant, mixed-use zone that acts as a focus within the neighbourhood.
- Distinctive Neighbourhoods, defined by higher density development around the Local Square and in the north of the site, decreasing towards the south along the links to New Road.



The Local Square.

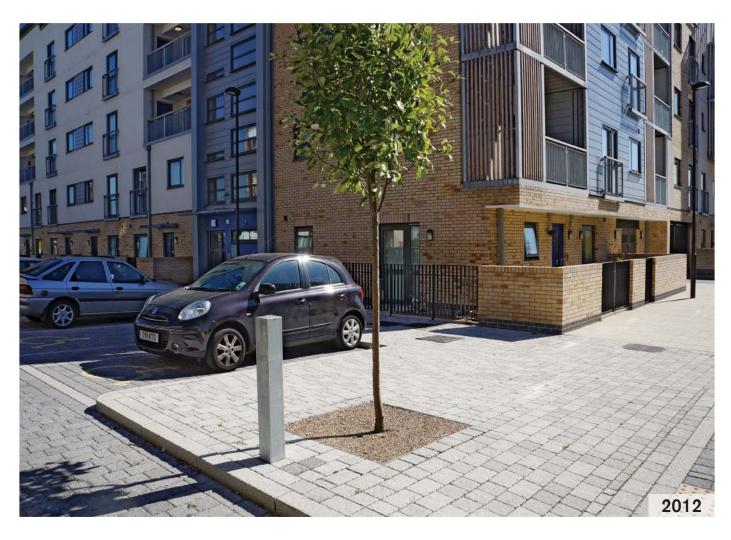
 A Green Network of streets and spaces throughout the new development provides visual focus and amenity between the existing parks and open spaces within the surrounding area.



### The External Environment

An important element of the overall design is the creation of a clear and legible hierarchy of roads, streets, paths and cycle-ways permeating throughout the site. This includes a main vehicular and bus route through the site, secondary roads and shared surfaces.

Hard paving materials, street furniture and planting vary with each different road type, ranging from formal and structured along the main route, to informal materials and planting along the shared surfaces. The provision of tactile surfacing, dropped kerbs and smooth, even paving throughout the estate – to encourage inclusivity for all and ease of movement by disabled people and pushchair users – was particularly important.



# **Hard Landscape Materials**

A simple palette of hard landscape materials defines the road hierarchy and creates a language that unifies the whole site. Simple and 'clean' materials predominate, so that an open feel to the site is maintained. The precast concrete block paving was carefully selected to complement the buildings, with a silver grey granite finish. Concrete kerb units are also used extensively – both raised and flush with the paving – as well as concrete flag paving, granite setts and buff bound gravel.

# **Concrete Block Permeable Paving**

As part of a general approach towards improving ecology and biodiversity on the site – bearing in mind its proximity to the Beam River and wetland park – water management using SuDS techniques was considered important. Extensive areas of concrete block permeable paving are used throughout.

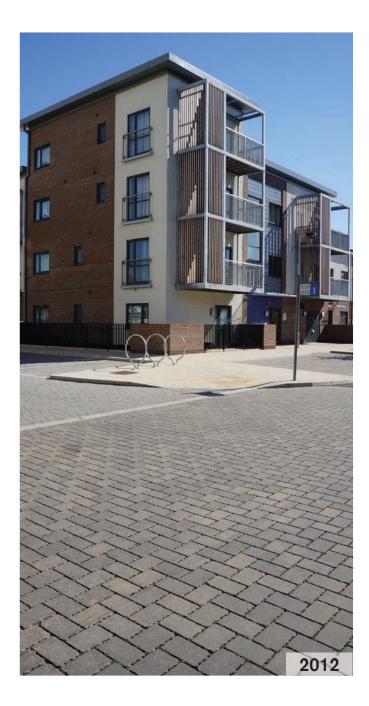


# A Phased Approach

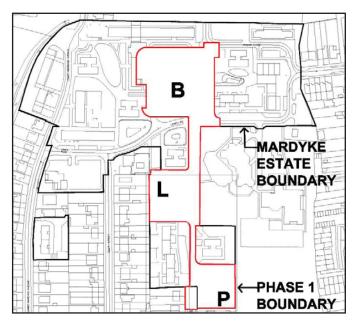
The phasing framework for Orchard Village links together demolition and new build proposals in a step-by-step approach, ensuring that traditional streets remain connected and that properties are secure, with minimum disruption to existing residents throughout the regeneration process.

### Phase 1

The following pages show hard landscape design drawings for the now-completed Phase 1: firstly the southern half leading in along Walden Avenue from New Road (photos on this page), then moving north to the first of the higher density urban courtyard buildings, Block B. The drawing Key and descriptions of hard landscape and other surfaces for Phase 1 can be found on page 8.





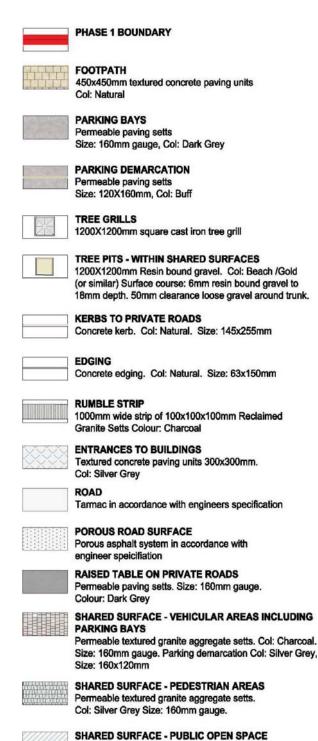


Phase 1 - Southern Half



## Phase 1 - Key

Identification and descriptions of hard landscape and other surfaces for Phase 1, shown in drawings on pages 7 and 9.



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#### **BOLLARDS**

Square profile hardwood timber bollards Height: 1000mm above ground level. Plan size: 200x200mm With stainless steel sockets for removable bollards



### SHRUB PLANTING

Refer to Planting Plan for specification for more information



### TREE PLANTING

Refer to Planting Plan for specification for more information



#### CYCLE PARKING

Stainless steel cycle stands



#### KERBS TO ADOPTED ROADS

Standard concrete kerb Size: 125x255mm



### REFUSE / RECYCLING

Bin storage area to fit 2no. 240 litre wheelie bins



### **RAISED TABLE - ADOPTED ROADS**

100x200mm concrete block paving. Col: Mid grey



#### KERBS

25mm high upstand kerb



### VEHICULAR AREAS INCLUDING PARKING BAYS

Permeable textured granite aggregate setts. Col: Charcoal. Size: 160mm gauge. Parking demarcation Col: Silver Grey,

Size: 160x120mm

# Communal Areas (within Blocks)



### **PAVING - PRIVATE PATIOS**

Textured concrete paving units. Size: 450x450x50mm. Col: Natural



### **PAVING - MAINTENANCE PATH**

Standard concrete paving units. Size: 450x450x50mm. Col: Natural



### DAVING

Textured concrete block paving units. Size: 100x200x80mm, 200x200x80mm, 300x200x80mm. Colour: Light Granite. Stretcher bond.



# PAVING

Textured concrete block paving units. Size: 300x200x80mm Colour: Dark Granite. Stretcher bond.



### PAVING - STEPS

Textured concrete block paving units. Colour: Light Granite Size: 300x200x80mm, 200x100x80mm. Bond pattern: radial pattern

Conservation Kerbs to be used as risers.

Size: 145x255mm, 450mm length straights, chamfered around curve.



### RAISED PLANTERS

Planter walls to be 500mm high concrete upstand with 200mm thick RC Type 1 Class B fair face concrete wall.



### **EDGING**

Edging to turf and resin bound gravel paths: Concrete Edging 63x150mm



LAWN

Size: 100x100mm Col: Charcoal

Textured concrete block paving Size: 600x300mm.

Herringbone pattern if required in areas of vehicular access

FEATURE PAVING STRIPS - PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

2 rows of textured concrete block paving units.

Colour: Light Grey. Bond Pattern: Stretcher bond

Phase 1 - Northern Half



# **Phase 1 - Distinctive Neighbourhoods**

The northern half of Phase 1 (see plan on the previous page) is characterised by a higher density urban courtyard building, Block B, surrounded by hard landscaped areas (shown in the photos on this page) and incorporating a landscaped courtyard utilising precast concrete paving. The southern façade of the block faces onto the Mixed-Use Street, with its more formal concrete flag footway and kerbs, and conventional block paving signalling the bus route (middle photos). This side of the block also overlooks the Local Square. The other three sides are less formal and include extensive concrete block permeable paving (top and bottom photos).

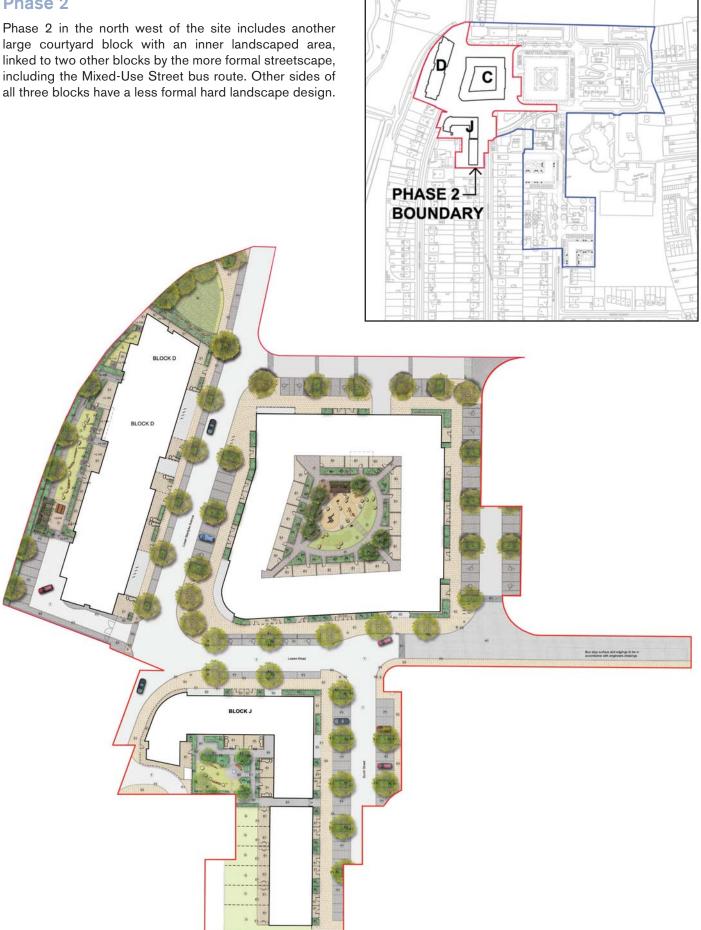








# Phase 2



Phase 2

# Phase 2

Various forms of precast concrete paving and kerbs – including extensive concrete block permeable paving roads – are used throughout. To the north, a green landscaped transitional entrance and buffer zone abut the Beam River corridor and wetland park.



Phase 2 Block D overlooks the Beam River, with its new pedestrian bridge, and wetland park.



The Phase 2 Courtyard Block with concrete block permeable paving to the north.



The Phase 2 Courtyard Block fronting the black, conventional concrete block paved Mixed Use Street and bus route.



Concrete block permeable paving serving Phase 2 Block J.

# Phases 3 and 4

The now-completed Phase 3 comprises three distinct, separated areas running north-south. Therefore, much of the precast concrete paving serving Phase 3 was already in-place, having been installed with earlier phases of the development. Phase 4 remains under construction during 2018.



Phase 3 additions along the northern boundary, beyond Phases 1 and 2 concrete block permeable paving.







# **Long-term Precast Paving**

A substantial amount of the precast concrete paving was installed with the first phases of the project, although also serving more recent phases, and has now been in use for over 6 years. Interpave has regularly visited and photographed the project (most recently in June 2018) and observed the longer-term robust performance of the paving.

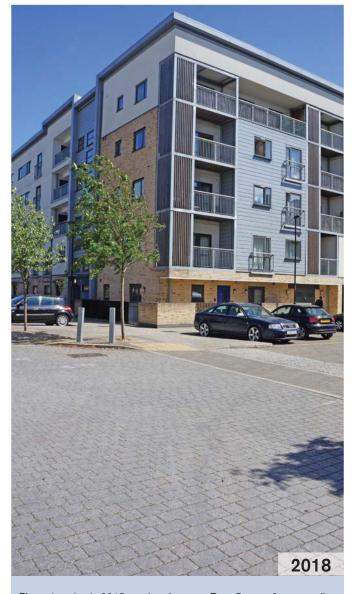
Phased projects such as Orchard Village present particular challenges for hard landscape design, particularly with paving serving various phases. Here, master-planning needs to consider traffic usage during the construction phases, not just after final completion. For example, structural design of the paving may need to cater for construction vehicles or temporarily high volumes of diverted traffic. Similarly, concrete block permeable paving must be protected against silt run-off from construction works and vehicles. Interpave provides guidance on these issues, available at **www.paving.org.uk** 



Grey concrete flags, combined with buff tactile paving to indicate crossing points, characterise footways.



Concrete block permeable paving originally serving Phases 1 and 2, then Phase 3, with Phase 4 under construction beyond.



Phase 1 paving in 2018, as also shown on Page 5 some 6-years earlier.

# **Precast Paving and Interpave**

Interpave is the Precast Concrete Paving and Kerb Association, promoting and developing concrete products – ranging from domestic uses to the most taxing heavy industrial applications. The Interpave website www.paving.org.uk provides the definitive source of background and technical information with project case studies celebrating the transformative power of inspired hard landscape in our cities.

# **Precast Concrete Paving**

- Visually attractive and able to deliver distinctive local character
- Helping to deliver 'Manual for Streets' and other guidance
- · Capability for clear differentiation between distinct areas
- · Accessible to all with consistent slip and skid resistance
- Durable and maintainable with reliable product supply
- Sustainable in every sense.

# a diversity of shapes, styles, finishes and colours for contemporary design

# **Concrete Block Permeable Paving**

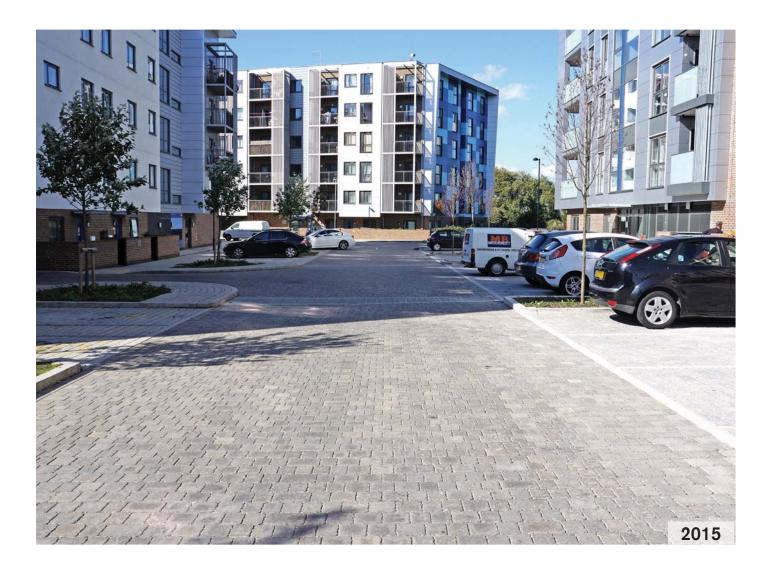
- Reducing, attenuating and treating rainwater near the surface
- Direct infiltration to the ground or conveyance to SuDS or sewers
- Multi-functional SuDS meeting current requirements
- Low cost storage using flow controls without additional land-take
- Established technology with decades of proven performance
- · Safe, level, puddle-free, shared surfaces for all.

# A gradual supply of clean water for landscape, biodiversity and harvesting

# **Acknowledgements**

Interpave acknowledges with thanks the contributions from PRP Landscape, including project drawings and illustrations. www.prparchitects.co.uk

Photos and case study by Hodsons. www.hodsons.com





www.paving.org.uk

The Old Rectory, Main Street, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8DG United Kingdom e: info@paving.org.uk t: 0116 232 5170

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t: 0116 232 5170 f: 0116 232 5197 e: info@britishprecast.org www.britishprecast.org



t: 0116 232 5191 f: 0116 232 5197 e: info@interlay.org.uk www.interlay.org.uk









