

design philosophy

landscape infrastructure

The proposed development at St Nicholas retains the existing field patterns, gapping up existing hedges where necessary and planting a new hedge along the fenced boundary behind Plots 48-53. The boundary hedgerows and trees provide landscape infrastructure to the site, providing screening, promoting biodiversity and linking the surrounding countryside with new back gardens.

Hedges, stone walls and a combination of the two are used to enclose large front gardens to give a traditional character in keeping with St Nicholas. Garden hedges also provide wildlife corridors within the site, forming links with Public Open Spaces and groups of trees.

Narrow, more contemporary garden frontages are planted with ornamental shrubs and perennials. Closeboard fencing has been omitted or reduced in the most visible areas, in particular adjacent to the Conservation Area, hedges planted in preference to fencing.

The site layout allows pedestrian permeability, and good links to the local Public Rights of Way.

planting species

Native species will be used for boundary trees and hedgerows, and will be locally sourced to maintain local provenance.

A selection of evergreen trees typical of the area, such as cedar, will be specified in public open spaces, to reinforce the character of St Nicholas.

The ornamental landscape proposals will provide a mix of evergreen and deciduous shrub species for winter interest and summer colour. Longer front gardens are bounded with traditional hedges to provide enclosure and privacy, and act as wildlife corridors. Planting enhances narrow frontages and highlights key locations such as focal points and corners.

Street trees such as fastigate forms of *Carpinus* and *Sorbus*, will provide a vertical element to balance the height of the houses and soften the built form. Smaller ornamental trees are planted in smaller gardens, including orchard trees in back gardens. *Picea* and *Slipa* provide accent planting in areas too close to buildings for trees.

The opportunity of a sunny aspect will be used for planting sun-loving species such as *Cistus* and *Rosmarinus*. Where beds face north, these are to be planted with shade tolerant species such as *Heuchera*, *Euonymus* and *Mahonia*.

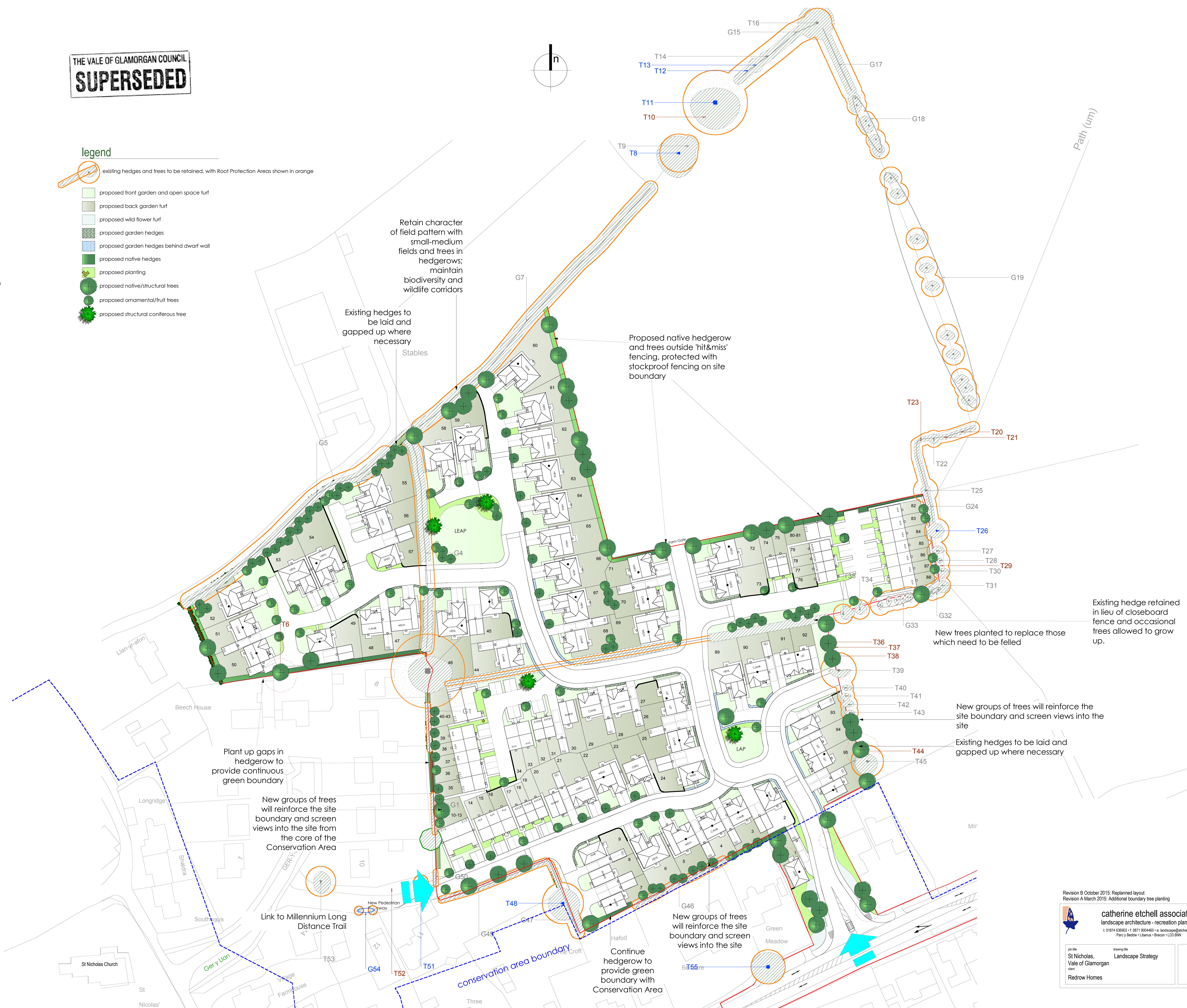
A proportion of evergreen plants will provide winter presence; species will include contemporary plants which provide summer flowers also e.g. *Hebe*, *Lilippe*. Scented and aromatic species such as lavender and *Skimmia* will be used adjacent to front doors. Climbers such as *Wisteria* and *Ceanothus* will be used against walls. Accent planting is to be provided by the vertical elements of grasses and phormiums or by contrasting colours, such as the yellow *Escallonia* 'Gold Brian'. Plant combinations will provide colour and textural contrast, such as *Profnia* with *Ceanothus*. A majority of species provide biodiversity interest, as well as scent and colour for people.

Species are tough ornamentals and are selected for their suitability in a lowland climate. All species are relatively low maintenance. All plants however will require adequate irrigation until establishment.

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legend

- existing hedges and trees to be retained, with Root Protection Areas shown in orange
- proposed front garden and open space turf
- proposed back garden turf
- proposed wild flower turf
- proposed garden hedges
- proposed garden hedges behind dwarf wall
- proposed native hedges
- proposed planting
- proposed native/structural trees
- proposed ornamental/fruit trees
- proposed structural coniferous tree



880.St Nicholas Landscape Strategy

Revision B October 2015: Replanned layout
Revision A March 2015: Additional boundary tree planting

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