

Public Art Project

Langton Park, Wroughton, Swindon

Artist(s) Brief



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Client and Team

This brief outlines details of the Langton Park Public Art Project as part of the new high quality housing development in Wroughton, Swindon. The organisation 'a space' arts has been appointed as the public art consultants to deliver this project on behalf of Stonewater Ltd. We are now looking to appoint an artist(s) (or artist(s)s) to the team to design and create the final piece of artwork for the site

The Commission

This new development offers an exciting opportunity for artistic intervention and the chance to create and install a permanent work of art in Wroughton, Swindon. This brief outlines a number of themes relating too the site as starting points for inspiration, however the project is open to interpretation and further research by the artist(s) is encouraged.

The commissioner would particularly favour a work that is new, site specific, environmentally sustainable (in terms of materials or theme) and enables the residents to better understand and connect to their location in an interesting, thought provoking and engaging way. The artwork should aim to be ambitious and create a contemporary landmark whilst being achievable within the time frame and budget.

The artwork will be sited in a green, landscaped and open space at the centre of the site and therefore being highly visible upon entering the site as well as from all houses on the development. This gives an opportunity to consider how the artwork looks a 360 degree perspective.

The artwork should complement the unique architectural design of the new buildings (see appendices) and Stonewater's experimental approach to building materials and architecture. It is preferable that the artist(s) consider using materials that complement and endorse the schemes overall architectural design and environmental credentials.

The appointed artist(s) must be available to commit to the complete process and engage with the project team from design concept to on site installation.

The work must be installed on site by January 2023.

Reference and Inspiration

The following themes are offered as starting points for inspiration and reference only, with further research presented in Appendix 1. However the project is open to interpretation and further research by the artist(s) is encouraged.

The client would preference an artwork that either reflects the site's history or communicates and endorses the development environmental credentials. Ideally the final artwork will enhance the residents sense of place and increase the level of pride they feel for the place they live.

- Environmental - as one of the UK's leading social housing providers Stonewater have an environmental vision: *'For everyone to have the opportunity to have a place that they can call home' runs in parallel to our commitment to do the right thing for our customers and the environment. We believe our customers' homes should be warm, comfortable and affordable to run.*
- RAF - during WWII the Wroughton airfield played a vital role in supplying over 7,000 aircraft for the Royal Air Force and played a key part in the nations war effort. The airfield continued as important RAF location until 1972 when the Royal Navy took over the base and used Wroughton airfield to repair military helicopters. Later in 1992 the site closed and was passed to the Natural Science museum.
- Royal Princess Alexandra Hospital - the RAF General Hospital was built alongside the Wroughton airfield and by 1941 had a capacity of 1,000 patients. Wroughton continued working as a General Hospital treating military patients until 1958 when it also began to work with NHS patients. Following Princess Alexandra's visit in 1967 the hospital was renamed the Royal Princess Alexandra Hospital and continued to treat soldiers injured in the Falkland's conflict into the 1990's; the building was demolished in 2004.
- A hero - William Gosling (VC) a local man from Wroughton fought in the First and Second World Wars, a remarkable effort. In April 1917 a bomb landed 10 yards from Gosling and due to a faulty cartridge didn't detonate on landing but remained explosive. Realising the situation Gosling jumped out of the trench, lifted the bomb, unscrewed the fuse and threw it clear of danger where it exploded saving the lives of the entire detachment. He was presented with the Victoria Cross by King George V outside Buckingham Palace in July 1917.
- Wroughton's poet - Fiona Benson is a recognised and published poet who was born in Wroughton in 1978. Benson is best known for her award winning collections *Vertigo*, and *Ghost*, which won the for best collection and best single poem in 2018 and 2019; Benson was also shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize in 2015 . Her work has been described as 'showing us the real world' and 'immediately memorable'.

Please see Appendix 1 for further historical information based on initial research and Appendix 2 for a copy of the Stonewater Environmental Strategy 2019-2022.

Timeline

The following timeline is given as a guide to the project:

Stage 1 - Expressions of Interest

- Week starting 7th March 2022 > Open Call launched for Expressions of Interest
- 31st March 2022 (5pm) > Deadline for Expressions of Interest

Stage 2 - Proposals

- Week starting 11th April 2022 > 4 artists will be invited to develop Proposals (see below)
- 13th May 2022 > Deadline for initial proposals
- Week starting 23rd May 2022 > Final artist(s) proposal selected and artist(s) agreement issued (N.B. artist(s) interviews may be requested during this period)

Stage 3 - Proposal Development

- 30th May to Friday 30th June 2022
- Selected proposal undergoes development in consultation with the client team to achieve an agreed final design, timeline and costs.

Stage 4 - Artist(s)ic Production

- 1st July 2022 to 31st December 2022
- Artistic production period to include agreed milestones and studio visits.

Stage 5 - Installation

- January 2023 - dates to be agreed in liaison with the site manager and client team

Stage 6 - Sign Off

- January 2023
- Maintenance and handover pack produced by artist(s) ready for sign-off.
- Installed final artwork signed-off by client.

Budget

- Following Expressions of Interest any artist(s) invited to submit a Proposal at Stage 2 will receive a £500 proposal development fee
- To deliver the project a budget of £23,500 is available, this must include all Artist(s) fees, production costs, third party fabricators, installation, all expenses and VAT.

Expressions of Interest and Proposal Process

Stage 1 Expressions of Interest - please email dan@spacearts.org.uk with the following information:

- 500 words (max) explaining how you would approach the project and the theme(s) you are addressing in the work.
- A link to your website or online images of previous work.

- An up to date artist(s) CV (if not available on your website)

Stage 2 Proposals - further information will be issued to you outlining the proposal requirements if selected following the Expression of interest stage. It is likely this will include as a minimum:

- 1000 words outlining how you are responding to the brief and an outline your artistic idea
- Images, drawings, or artist(s) impressions of the proposed artwork
- A draft budget including quotes from any third party fabricators
- An outline timeline including all stages of fabrication and installation
- An initial proposal on how the work will be installed and maintained

Selection Criteria

Stage 1 Expressions of Interest - an assessment will be made on the following criteria:

- Past experience and relevant projects.
- Assessment on project meeting theme(s).
- Assessment on ambition, approach and achievability.

Stage 2 Proposals - an assessment will be made on the following criteria:

- Artistic response to meeting and conveying the project theme(s).
- Is the budget comprehensive and well-priced, does it include a fair day rate for the artist(s).
- Has environmental impact been considered through the use of materials and/or project theme.
- Is the ambition of the work achievable and deliverable within the project timescale.
- Experience of artist(s) in delivering similar scale projects, or have they demonstrated an understanding of the challenges and offered ways of managing these.
- Does the project offer the new community a unique and inspiring work of art.
- Has the artist(s) consider all associated risks and offered mitigation against them.

All decisions will be made by members of Stonewater Housing and all decisions are final.

Contact

For further information or to discuss any element of this brief please contact dan@aspacearts.org.uk

Appendix 1 - Historical context

Wroughton

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wroughton>

Wroughton is a large village and civil parish in northeast Wiltshire, England. It is part of the Borough of Swindon and lies along the A4361 road between Swindon and Avebury; the road into Swindon crosses the M4 motorway between junctions 15 and 16. The village is about 2.2 miles (3.5 km) south of Swindon town centre on the edge of the Marlborough Downs, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The town of Marlborough is about 11 miles (18 km) to the south via the B4005 at Chiseldon and the A346 road. The World Heritage Site at Avebury is about 7 miles (11.3 km) to the south. The parish includes North Wroughton, formerly a small settlement on the road towards Swindon but now part of the built-up area; and the hamlets of Elcombe and Overtown.

RAF Wroughton

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF_Wroughton

<https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>

RAF Wroughton, just south of the village, closed in the 1990s. The site is now the Science Museum at Wroughton, a part of the Science Museum Group and used as a storage site occasionally open to the public. Since 2016, television series *The Grand Tour* has used part of the northern perimeter road as a car test track.

Wroughton Hospital 1941

In 1992 the airfield was closed as a military establishment and the site was passed on to the Natural Science Museum to be used as a museum and also as a storage facility for many of their larger items which could not be accommodated in London. A museum was set up containing many interesting exhibits including a Comet and a Constellation air liner. The airfield was used for air displays such as the War Birds during the 1980s and 1990s, although now, unfortunately, the museum is only open on special occasions and the runways are rarely used. It is hoped that the new Science Museum storage facility being constructed will be open to the public. A purpose built store has been constructed on the airfield site to hold the Science Museum's amazing collection of old scientific books and documents, all of which can be viewed by the public on application.

The RAF hospital continued in use after the war and when possible took in local National Health Service patients, with whom it was very popular due to its high standards of treatment and nursing. The hospital was renamed the Princess Alexandra hospital in 1967 following a visit by the Princess. It was closed in December 1995 and the site was developed to include a housing estate called Alexandra Park and a hotel and leisure centre. There is now a vast array of solar panels installed on the airfield to provide renewable energy.

Wroughton Airfield

With the threat of war in the 1930s the government set up a programme of airfield building including one on a high plateau to the south of Wroughton occupied then by Rectory Farm. The initial setting out took place in May 1939 by driving a timber fence post in to the ground at each end of the proposed mile long main runway. The airfield was opened less than a year later on April 1st 1940. It was set up as an MU (Maintenance Unit) and during the second world war some 7,000 aircraft were prepared for service at Wroughton.

An RAF hospital was built alongside the airfield and was opened in June 1941. This hospital acted as a clearing station for D day casualties. After the end of the war the airfield and surrounding land was used as a storage area for surplus planes, including many large bombers which were gradually broken up, although one of the Lancaster bombers survived to be restored at Wroughton between 1963 and 1964 and become part of the Battle of Britain flight.



The airfield continued as a RAF MU until 1972 when the Royal Navy took over as by then most of the work was on helicopters for which the RN was responsible.



Aerial view of the airfield in 1941

William Gosling (VC)

Major William Gosling VC (15 August 1892 – 12 February 1945) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces

William Gosling was born in Wanborough, Wiltshire, one of four children to farmer Albert Gosling and his wife Elizabeth. After his education in the village school he worked alongside his father as a wheat farmer. Following his father's death in a farming accident, the family relocated to Wroughton where Elizabeth, assisted by William and his two elder brothers, took up tenancy of Artis Farm.

In 1908, Gosling enlisted with the Territorial Force. At the age of 18 he emigrated to Canada, where he worked on grain silos before becoming a fireman on the Canadian Pacific Railway. Following the outbreak of the First World War, he paid for his passage home and enlisted with the 3rd Wessex Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. He departed for France on 6 May 1915 where his battalion was attached to the 51st Highland Division, stationed near Arras.

During the precursor bombardment to the Battle of Arras, on 5 April 1917 Gosling was a battery sergeant in charge of several heavy trench mortars. A bomb was fired from a Stokes Mortar of Sergeant Gosling's battery. "Owing to a faulty cartridge the bomb, after discharge, fell 10 yards from the mortar. Sergeant Gosling sprang out, lifted the nose of the bomb which had

sunk into the ground, unscrewed the fuse and threw it on the ground, where it immediately exploded. This very gallant and prompt action undoubtedly saved the lives of the whole detachment".[1] For this action he was awarded the Victoria Cross and was presented with the award by King George V outside Buckingham Palace on 21 July 1917.

After the war, Gosling returned to his home village of Wroughton to take up the tenancy of Summerhouse Farm. He was vice-president of the Wroughton branch of the Royal British Legion and served as a Parish Councillor for 14 years between 1922 and 1936. During World War II, the decorated war hero served as a major in the Home Guard.

Gosling managed and worked his dairy farm in Wroughton for the remainder of his life. He died at his home on 12 February 1945, aged 52. He is buried in the churchyard of St John the Baptist & St Helen's parish church.

Born: 15th August 1892, Wanborough Wiltshire

Died: 12th February 1945, Wroughton, Wiltshire

Buried: St John & St Helen's Churchyard Cemetery Extension Wroughton

Allegiance: United Kingdom

Service/Branch: British Army

Rank: Major

Unit: Royal Artillery, Home Guard

Battle/Wars: World War I, World War II

Awards: Victoria Cross



RAF Princess Alexandra Hospital

RAF Hospital Wroughton was part of the station and stood near the eastern boundary of the site, about 1+1/2 miles (2.4 km) west of Chiseldon. The RAF General Hospital (as it was known) opened on 14 June 1941 and by the end of March 1944 its bed capacity was 1,000. Wroughton continued as a General Hospital treating military patients, and from 1958 took NHS cases as well to relieve backlogs in the Swindon area.

Following a visit to the hospital by Princess Alexandra on 4 July 1967, the Queen conferred the prefix "Princess Alexandra's" on the hospital on 4 October 1967. The hospital was the primary destination for returning casualties of the Falklands War in 1982. When the hostages from Beirut were released in August 1991, Wg Cdr Gordon Turnbull, a psychiatrist based at Wroughton, with his team, debriefed John McCarthy, Terry Waite and Jackie Mann and provided the counselling necessary to ease them back into freedom.

The hospital closed on 31 March 1996 as part of the Conservative Government's defence cuts at the end of the cold war. The hospital was demolished in 2004 and the site, called Alexandra Park, used for housing and a conference centre; a memorial commemorates the former hospital.



Fiona Benson

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiona_Benson

Fiona Benson (born 1978 Wroughton) is an English poet. *Vertigo and Ghost* (2019) won Forward Prizes for best collection and best single poem.

Benson was a recipient of an Eric Gregory Award in 2006. The award is given by the Society of Authors to British poets under 30. She was included in *Faber New Poets* (2009) and her debut collection, *Bright Travellers* was published in 2014 by Cape Poetry.

Benson was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize for her poetry collection, *Bright Travellers* (2015) and also for *Vertigo and Ghost* (2019).



POEM OF THE DAY: FIONA BENSON

Posted on February 27 2019

ALMOND BLOSSOM

This morning, love, I'm tired and grave;
I can barely hear the wintered bird's small song
over the hum of the central heating.
We must trust, I suppose, to the song's bare minim:

that spring will be a green havoc
as the trees burst their slums
and the dirt breaks open to admit
crocus-spear and cyclamen;

and though we can't yet feel it
earth's already begun
her slow incline, inch by ruined inch,
easing you back from the brink.

Appendix 2 - Photographs, location and site maps

Wroughton, The Pitches Corner 1910



Wroughton, High Street c.1913



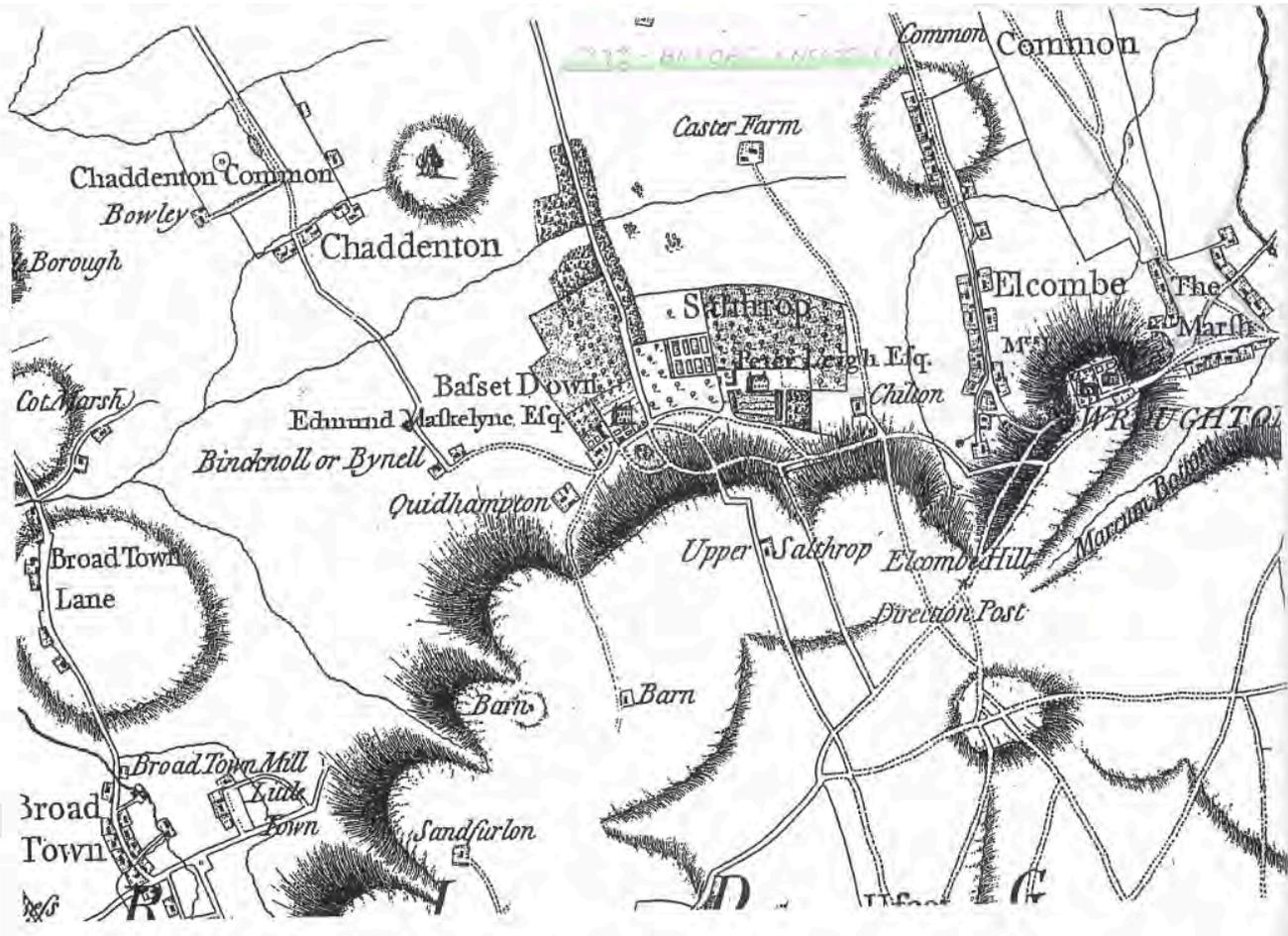
Wroughton, The Ivery 1910



Wroughton, Silver Band 1910



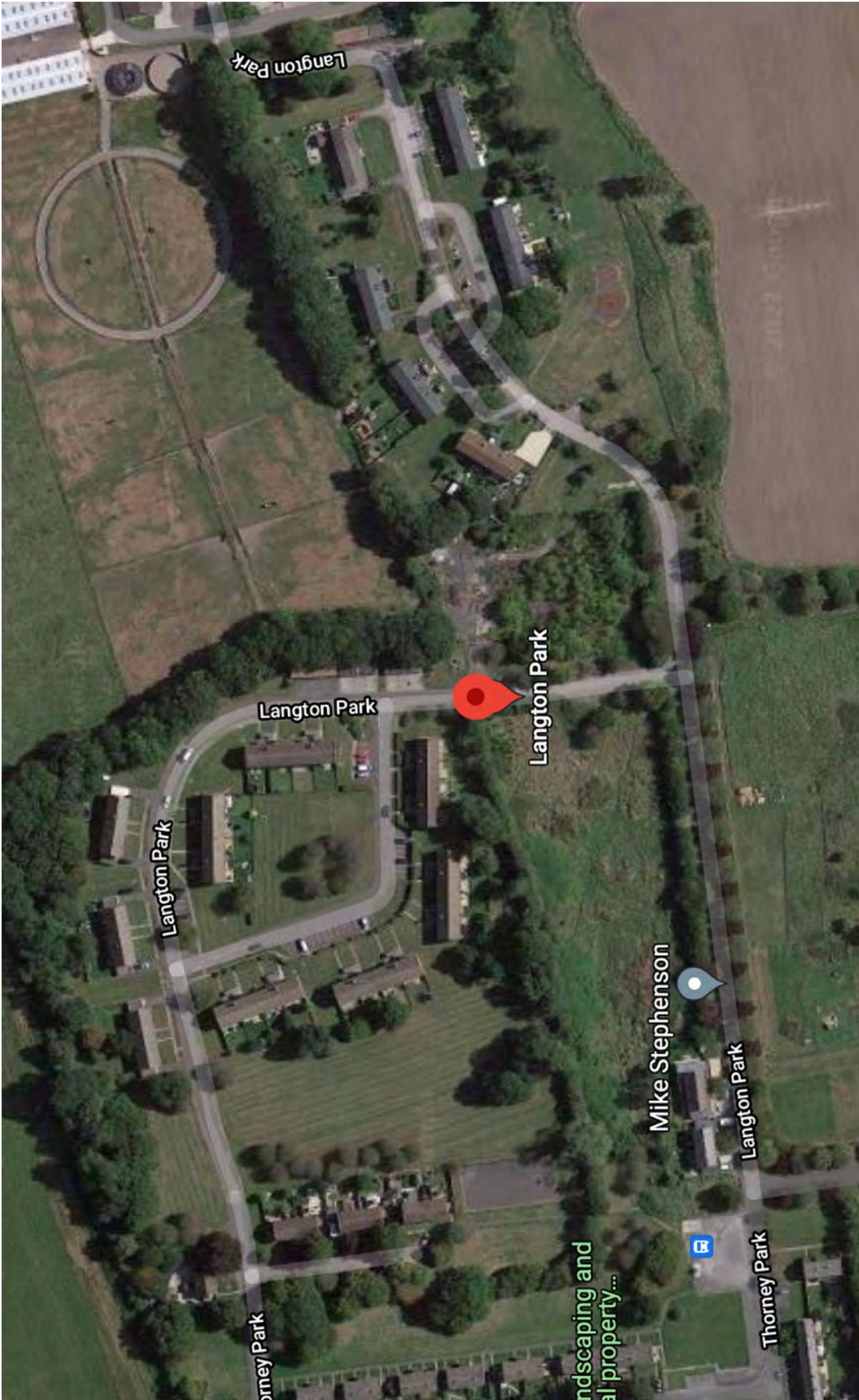
1888-1913



Map of Wroughton, 1899

Historic map of Wroughton, Wiltshire



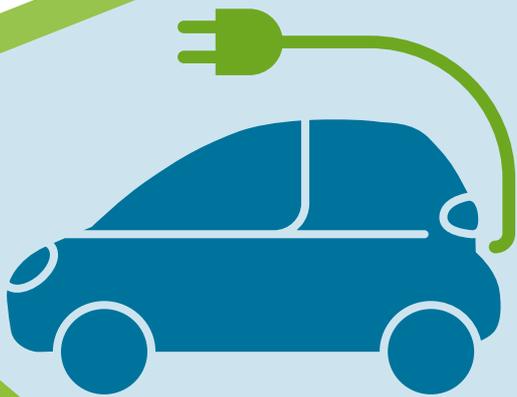


Artist impression of the architectural design



Environmental Strategy

2019-2022



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Foreword

As one of the UK's leading social housing providers, our vision: 'For everyone to have the opportunity to have a place that they can call home' runs in parallel to our commitment to do the right thing for our customers and the environment. We believe our customers' homes should be warm, comfortable and affordable to run.

The government has committed to reducing the UK's carbon emissions by 80% based on a 1990 baseline. In 2015, residential housing stock contributed 13% of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions. As we own and manage over 31,000 homes across England, we have a significant role to play in supporting the nation's drive to reduce these emissions.

This document is our first Environment Strategy, and has been designed to build on the great achievements of our colleagues to date. Since our creation in 2015 (following the merger of Raglan and Jephson housing associations), we have continued to improve the efficiency of our existing homes, including rolling out innovative ground source heating systems for some of our electrically heated properties, planting edible crops on some of our new developments and establishing an employee-led Environmental Performance Group focussed on improving the organisation's internal environmental performance. We have also worked hard to reduce the environmental impact of our offices and IT operations, migrating our IT servers to two brand new data centres, reducing emissions by two-thirds. We have also carried out a project to reduce our total number of offices and ensure those that remain are fit for purpose and use space efficiently.

This strategy sets out our plans to further reduce the running cost of our homes for our customers, allowing them to sustain their tenancies more easily. It also details how we will utilise the significant amount of green space that exists within our schemes, to enhance customers' mental and physical health, provide space for relaxation and exercise, and provide opportunities to create ecosystems and habitats for wildlife. This will benefit the environment, whilst providing educational opportunities for children in the local community.



It is vital that we can demonstrate we are receiving good value for the money that we invest to ensure that we are able to provide as many homes as possible for those in need. This strategy will minimise the resources we use as an organisation and help to ensure value for money. These are exciting times as we look to push the boundaries of our environmental performance and strive to become a thought leader within the sector.

George Blunden
Stonewater Chair



Introduction

This strategy sets out Stonewater's ambitions to improve the energy efficiency of our housing stock, reduce fuel costs for our customers and minimise our overall impact on the environment. This strategy will help improve our customers' experience and contribute to our ambitions to demonstrate business excellence, provide more comfortable and affordable homes, and create sustainable communities for our customers.

We will do this by:

- > Improving the energy efficiency of our existing homes and new developments
- > Engaging with customers and providing advice
- > Investing in our people to improve their environmental knowledge
- > Innovating to become a thought leader for environmental issues within the sector

By focussing on these key areas, we will be able to help meet the diverse needs and aspirations of our customers. We will manage our resources efficiently and effectively to maximise the return on our assets, allowing us to invest in new and existing homes.

It is also important that the investments made to improve our environmental performance represent good value for Stonewater. We will explore all funding mechanisms to improve our properties; however we will be driven by doing the right thing and not be led by grant funding.

Stonewater's homes are currently performing well, at an average SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure - a standard methodology used to calculate the energy efficiency of buildings and provides a rating of 0-100 and a banding from A to G, based upon the energy cost for heating, lighting and hot water) rating of 72.7, compared to the national average for social housing at 67. However, we want to move away from focussing on average SAP, and concentrate on the poorest-performing homes to ensure we meet minimum SAP targets.



Comfortable, Affordable Homes and Minimising Environmental Impact

We want to help our customers sustain their tenancies and live healthier lifestyles, and we will achieve this by making efficiency improvements to our properties and engaging with customers to ensure they are getting the best value from their homes. Similarly, we will work to minimise the energy used in our offices. All of this will reduce carbon emissions and our impact on the environment and provide value for money for Stonewater and our customers.



Existing Homes

We will:

- > Improve our understanding of our stock by gathering improved energy data across all of our schemes.
- > Implement automatic SAP calculation software so that our reporting remains up to date in line with any improvements we make to our homes.
- > Have no homes with an EPC rating below a Band D (SAP 55) by 2020, with a longer term view of no homes with an EPC rating below Band C (SAP 69) by 2030.
- > Appraise the property/scheme in cases where it is not financially or technically viable for a property to be improved to reach EPC band D or C.
- > Review the communal areas of all our schemes and develop plans to improve these and reduce energy consumption.
- > Centralise the management of all renewable subsidies to ensure we keep meter readings up to date and can monitor income more easily.



New Developments

We will:

- > Provide consistency by standardising components across new build and capital investment in existing housing stock. This will ensure value for money and enable straightforward energy saving advice to be delivered to customers, particularly with regard to controlling heating systems.
- > Offset timber used in the development of our homes, by planting an equivalent number of trees for each home we develop.



Customer Engagement

We will:

- > Deliver targeted energy and water saving advice through digital communication channels.
- > Run at least one energy saving / affordable warmth customer awareness campaign each year.
- > Develop a consistent customer engagement process for energy efficiency works, providing energy saving advice alongside physical improvement works.
- > Form partnerships with other organisations to help deliver energy saving and cost saving advice to our customers.
- > Hold environment events to bring communities together and enhance social inclusion.



Offices and Travel

We will:

- > Conduct energy audits of all of our offices and develop plans to reduce energy and water consumption.
- > Review our business mileage, with a particular focus on travel to meetings and encourage teams to adopt innovative approaches, in line with our IT strategy to reduce our mileage year on year.
- > Review and renew our IT server rooms to improve performance and reduce consumption.
- > Incentivise company car users to opt for hybrid / electric vehicles.

Climate Resilience

In recent years, the UK has experienced more frequent weather extremes from severe flooding and minus temperatures to prolonged heat waves. It is important that Stonewater's homes are able to withstand such extremes and keep our customers safe and comfortable throughout.

We will:

- > Identify properties at risk of overheating.
- > Ensure we have a robust plan to mitigate these risks and continually review our emergency planning to deal with weather extremes including the impact of extreme weather on staffing.
- > Conduct or collaborate in research into the impact of building extremely airtight homes, for example potential overheating and condensation issues, and develop solutions or amend specifications where required.



Waste

We generate waste from our offices and as a result of our maintenance and development activities. It is important that we keep waste to a minimum and manage waste that is produced responsibly, recycling as much as possible.

We will:

- > Review the way we measure and monitor waste within our offices, with a view to developing waste reduction targets.
- > Reduce the amount of waste that we create through more efficient design when maintaining and developing homes, reviewing purchasing and reducing printing.
- > Ensure all offices have consistent recycling facilities and signage.
- > Where we have offices in serviced buildings, we will request additional recycling facilities from landlords if required.
- > Ensure that all contractors employ a waste hierarchy for waste generated during the construction and maintenance of our properties.
- > Explore partnerships in each region, e.g. furniture reuse schemes to prevent waste from void properties and to enable new customers access to more affordable furniture and appliances.

Sustainable Procurement

By adopting sustainable procurement practices, Stonewater can ensure the contractors and suppliers it employs work to limit their impact on the environment. It is important we purchase responsibly, make conscious decisions, and take account of the environmental impact of products.

We will:

- > Ensure all contractors carrying out improvements to Stonewater homes have an environmental policy in place to reduce their impact on the environment or agree to adopt Stonewater's policy.
- > Assess the environmental impact of the manufacture and disposal of purchases and create a hierarchy of preferred materials or products.
- > Review the purchasing for our offices and select the most environmentally friendly options for consumables such as stationery, whilst ensuring value for money.



Open Spaces and Biodiversity

It is important we are mindful of the open spaces on our existing housing schemes and the potential impact our development programmes have on existing green space and wildlife.

We will:

- > Identify schemes with disused green space and commission projects to enhance biodiversity and improve the outdoor space, engaging customers in the project, promoting community cohesion and social inclusion.
- > Create habitats for wildlife or edible gardens on sites where we develop our own schemes, (subject to site constraints).

- > Set up a biodiversity fund offering up to £500 for customer groups, retirement living and sheltered schemes to carry out a project of their own.



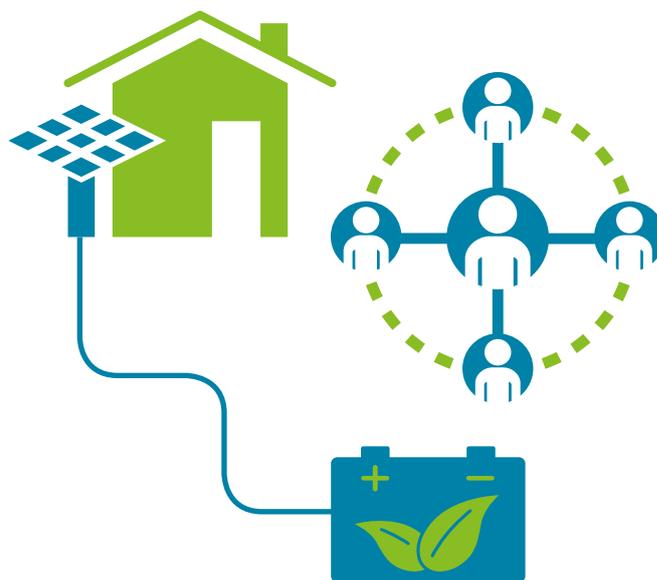
Innovation

Stonewater aims to be recognised as a thought leader within the housing sector. Environmental thinking and technology is fast changing and Stonewater aims to be at the forefront of these changes, adopting new ways of working to improve our performance wherever possible.

We will:

- > Trial off-site modular construction methods increasing efficiency of the development process and our new homes, through improved specification and quality assurance. Modular construction projects will be monitored against traditional development to evaluate the benefits of each method.
- > Establish opportunities to utilise battery storage and the development of the 'Smart Grid' to reduce customers' electricity bills.

- > Identify 10 schemes to install ground source heat pump projects at to reduce energy bills for customers and maintenance costs, whilst securing Renewable Heat Incentive Income (RHI).
- > Increase engagement with peers to share ideas and learn from the work of other housing associations, attending at least one relevant forum and one conference each year.



Environmental Management, Strategy Delivery and Reporting

It is important that Stonewater has an Environmental Management System (EMS) in place to clearly set out our environmental impact, highlight any environmental legislation affecting Stonewater, and ensure that relevant training is available for all colleagues.

We will:

- > Identify and adopt a suitable Environmental Management System by April 2019.
- > Develop an action plan to support this strategy and review progress quarterly.
- > Use our Environmental Performance Group (EPG) to monitor our progress against our action plan and continually identify areas for improvement.
- > Review and update this strategy annually to ensure it remains relevant and up-to-date.