



Halstead Heritage Park - an alternative vision

New Housing



Essex Design Guide, Essex County Council (2005)

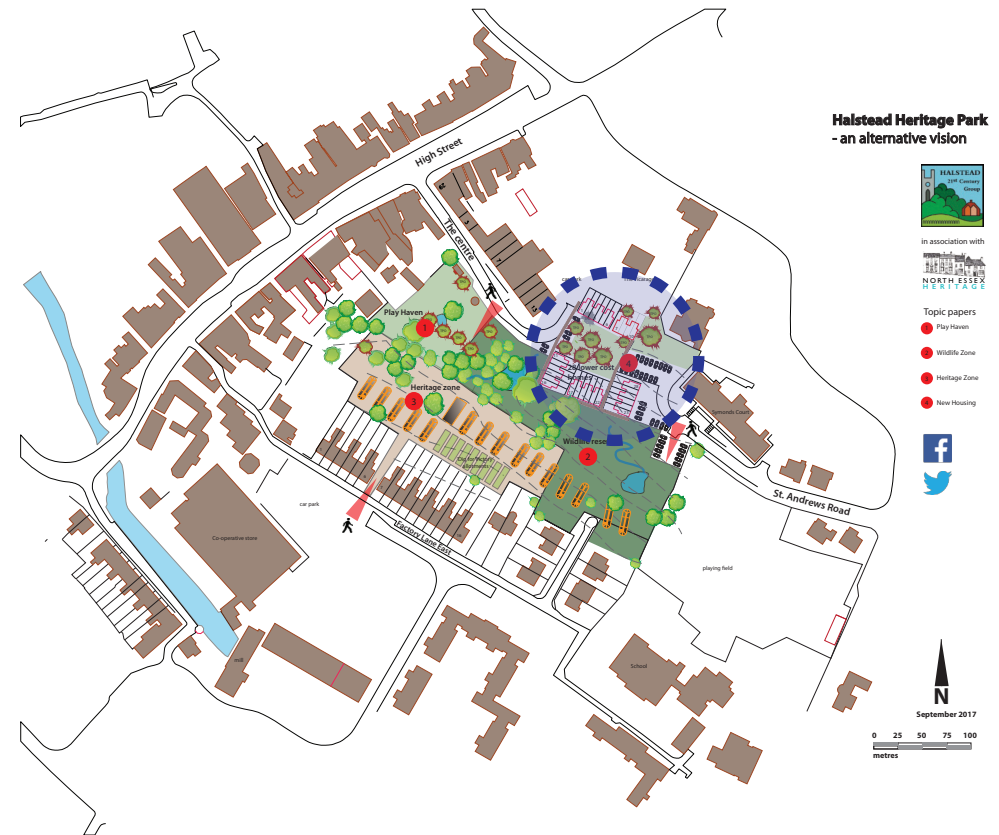
The Heritage Park site is, we believe, not ideal for physical development. It slopes, contains natural springs and dense tree cover, has rather poor vehicular access and is constrained by the presence of 16 World War II air raid shelters that have now been recognised as non-designated heritage assets. Nevertheless, the site is allocated for comprehensive development within the emerging Local Plan and there is a policy presumption that 50 houses could be built on the site but probably not before 2023.

We fully accept that there is a shortage of homes within the Braintree district, especially lower cost homes and socially rented housing.

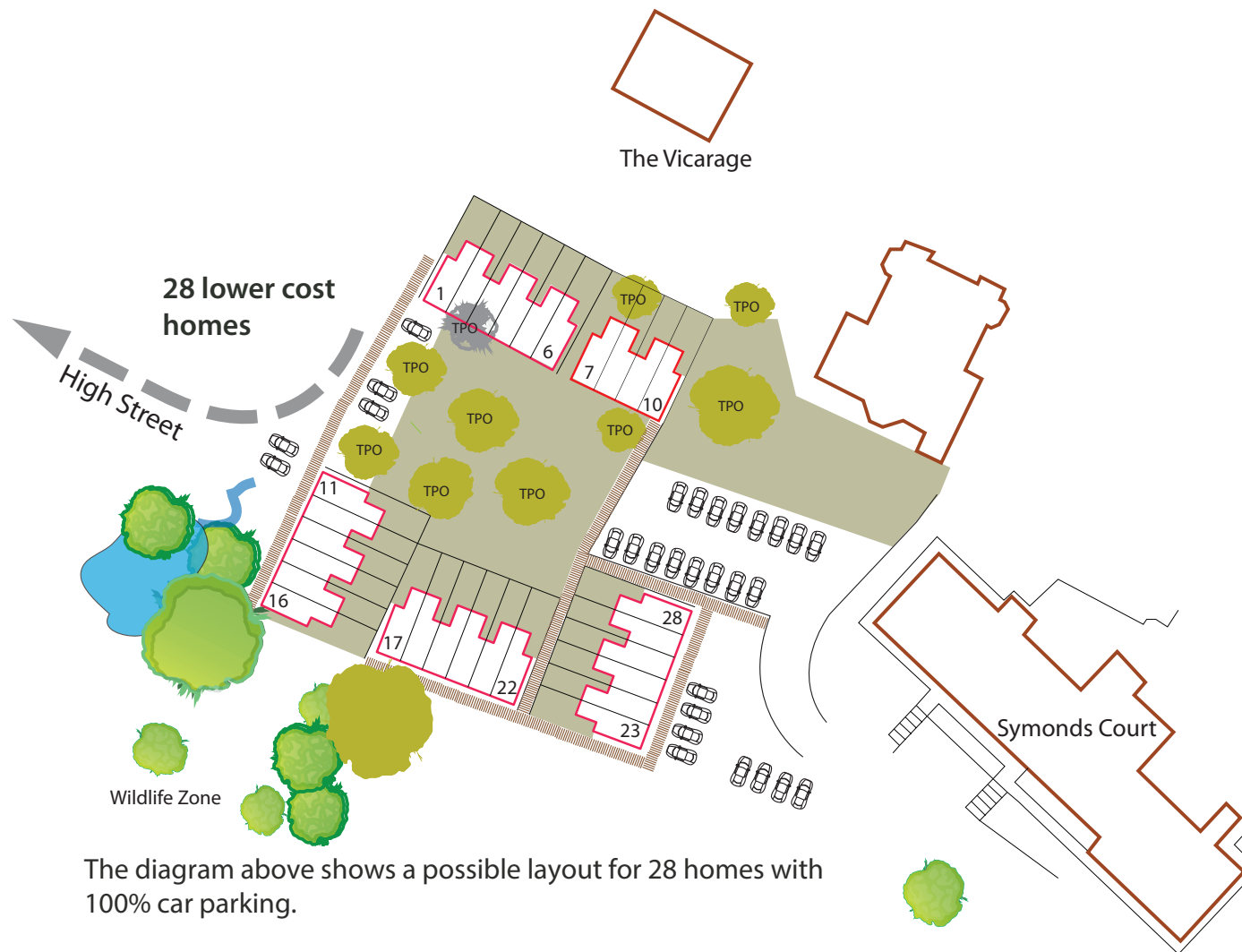
For that reason we indicate how it may be possible to build a cluster of small, 2 bedroom houses on the uppermost corner of the site, adjacent to Symond's Court Older People's Scheme. Here, the land appears to be better drained and less sloping.

A group of trees with Tree Preservation Orders would be the central focus of the development surrounded by a small amenity space for residents.

This land is owned by the Diocese of Chelmsford (rear garden of the vicarage to St. Andrews Church) and the Salvation Army Housing Association. 18 houses could be built on this area and an additional 10 houses could be built were more of the vicarage garden given up for development.



Halstead Heritage Park alternative vision 2018



The diagram above shows a possible layout for 28 homes with 100% car parking.

The houses would be ideally situated for easy access to the High Street and may well appeal to single person or 2 person households that do not wish to be dependent on the car for local trips.

With only two landowners for this portion of the site as opposed to the six who presently own various parts of the Halstead Heritage Park site as a whole, we believe it may be less complicated to bring this corner forward for development. In this way the development deadlock that has existed for more than 5 decades may be resolved.

More information

This short paper is one of 4 similar reports on some elements of the Alternative Vision. The others in the series are in regard to the Play Haven, the Heritage Zone and the Wildlife Zone.

You can read more about the new housing suggested as part of this project as well as the other topics on Halstead 21st Century Group's website:

halstead21stcentury.org.uk

Dates for future meetings of the Group are posted on the website. All are welcome and attendance is free.

You can email Halstead 21st Century Group with comments and ideas at:

info@halstead21stcentury.org.uk

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