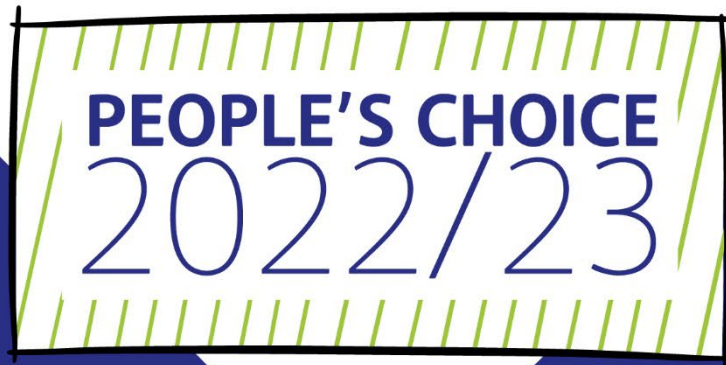


BUCKINGHAMSHIRE DESIGN AWARDS



Shortlist

Table of Contents

Badminton House, Amersham	3
The Brunel Shed, High Wycombe.....	5
Chelwood, Chesham Bois	7
Chiltern Lifestyle Centre, Amersham	9
Clarendon House, Buckingham	11
The Grand Junction, Buckingham	13
Haddenham Airfield Pavilion	15
John Hampden Grammar School Innovation Hub	17
The Kingsbrook School, Aylesbury	19
Oakfield View, Akeley.....	21
Orchard Lane (No.3), Prestwood	22
Platinum Way, Aylesbury	24
Red Kite Pavilion, Aston Clinton	26
Riverside, Taplow	28
Sportsmans Way, Longwick	30
St Peter’s Greenway, Aylesbury.....	32
St Peter’s Memorial Garden	34
The Conservatory Café, Cliveden House	36
The Village Nursery, Bellingdon	38
West House, Stowe School	40

Badminton House, Amersham



Badminton House is a listed building with a classical 18th-century brick façade that makes an important contribution to its architectural qualities; it is a good example of the 18th century bricklayer's art. In recent years, bulging and distortion in the façade indicated it was moving, where the outer layer of brick was peeling away. An innovative solution was needed.

The bulging front wall has been successfully retained, secured in place using a steel frame and welded wire mesh lattice on the inner face of the wall and connected to the brickwork with stainless steel ties. The steel frame was located behind internal timber panelling and tied back into the main floor/ceiling structures of the flats to help give stability. Timber panelling and other features were adjusted carefully to accommodate the new steel frame.

The success of the project owed a great deal to the calm diligence and care of the contractor in the face of challenging problems working with highly unstable building construction.

The Brunel Shed, High Wycombe



Situated in front of High Wycombe station, the Brunel Engine Shed was built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel for the Great Western Railway in 1854. It was a train station until 1864 and then extended and altered for various railway uses until 1967. Parts of the building were demolished in 2009, while the rest sat derelict until 2019, when it was purchased by Buckinghamshire Council with the intention of transforming it into a new gateway to the town centre.

The renovated and extended Brunel Engine Shed has recently been leased to Buckinghamshire New University, which has exciting plans to use it as a public café and gallery space, as well as workspace for entrepreneurs and start-up businesses spinning out of the university.

The old shed has a new slate roof in keeping with its original Victorian character and the original timber queen post trusses designed by Brunel have been sensitively repaired. A new block and beam floor structure has replaced the existing ground floor slab, which was badly damaged. Large areas of new glazing and rooflights flood the building with natural light, as well as improve visibility and connections with the surroundings including the new exterior landscaping.

The new extension mirrors the form of the existing building and adds a mezzanine level. It takes inspiration from Brunel's continuous pursuit of innovation and optimisation, using engineered timber to create an efficient, low carbon and aesthetically monumental design. This approach also enabled the main structure and envelope were constructed very quickly on site in just six weeks.

The building is now fully accessible: there is step-free access from the welcoming new entrance opposite High Wycombe railway station, accessible toilets, and a new lift for the mezzanine level of the extension.

The flexible interior space can be configured by the tenant, while retaining the shed's distinctive industrial character. Honest repairs and extensions to the existing building celebrate the distinction between the old and new building fabric.

John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources, Buckinghamshire Council stated: "Our investment has brought this local landmark back to life, protecting the town's heritage and spearheading our plans for the wider economic regeneration of eastern High Wycombe. The results are stunning – reflecting the best of our past and looking to the future."

Chelwood, Chesham Bois



Chelwood is a new modern family home in Chesham Bois, Amersham, replacing a dilapidated existing suburban house. The new house is in an area of 'special character' and

needed to fit in with its surroundings. The concept was influenced by the prevailing building characteristics of this area.

The house is pushed up to the northern boundary to maximise the south facing garden. It is conceived as a floating brick monolith cantilevered over a lightweight timber recess that provides summer shading for large areas of glazing at ground level, where the main living spaces face east south and west over the garden. The three pitched gables emulate the character of the houses in the local context and produce a strong façade to the street frontage.

This project does not pretend that the brick is a load-bearing structure, instead using lintels and a brick slip soffit at the perimeter to create the floating detail. Taking local forms, traditions and crafts, and mixing them with innovative and contemporary systems is a key part of the design.

Chelwood incorporates many sustainable design principles. To reduce embodied carbon, demolition materials were re-used for the subbase below the ground ventilated void and under the hard landscape areas. Prefabricated elements minimised material waste and maximised quality during construction. The footprint of the proposed building was larger than the existing house, therefore a green roof was introduced to offset the difference and serves to clean ambient air and sequester carbon. The positioning, proportions and detailing of windows minimise overheating on sunny days. The building is highly insulated and naturally ventilated, with no mechanical assistance other than in the kitchen and bathrooms.

The internal material palette is natural and 'earthy' to reflect the natural landscape that surrounds the house. Pastel colours have been used sparingly in strategic locations - with use of soft greens and reds. Each room benefits from generous amounts of natural light, whilst framing key views of the surrounding landscape. Full height glazing at ground floor allows the key living spaces to open up seamlessly into the garden with slim metal framed sliding doors. The timber structure is exposed where possible to add further richness to the spaces.

Chiltern Lifestyle Centre, Amersham



The Chilterns Lifestyle Centre replaces the ageing Chiltern Pools complex and in addition to health and fitness facilities, it provides a community centre, library, youth club and children's nursery - all under the one roof. The spirit of the design approach is 'Something for Everyone.' These ageing services were originally spread rambling across several separate buildings across the site.

The facilities comprise a 25m x 8 lane pool, learner/diving pool, splash pad, spectator seating, wet changing village, soft play / 'Clip n Climb', climbing and bouldering walls,

squash courts, sports hall, dry dive, fitness suite, spa, spin and dance studios, community centre, library, nursery, café, outdoor children's play, outdoor gym, skate park, multi-use games area, street snooker and Pétanque. A central wide double height street provides easy and direct access to the facilities and creates informal meeting and social spaces.

The scheme lies close to Amersham town centre with direct pedestrian access as well as on-site parking. The scale and massing are appropriate to the area, surrounding buildings and respond to the topography of the site. The building is set back far from nearby houses on Chiltern Avenue to provide 'breathing space' in front of the main entrance. Careful landscaping and thin trees provide amenity space and an open, less commercial feel to this whole area.

Key outcomes include: a mix of high-quality facilities accessible to the whole community; welcoming, exciting and inclusive spaces with character and purpose; and a boost to the local economy and inward investment.

The new building is twice as efficient as the old facilities, with a significantly lower carbon footprint, a Building Energy Rating EPC Category A-23 and a BREEAM rating of "Very Good".

Clarendon House, Buckingham



Clarendon House is a 61-bed care home plus 14 assisted living apartments. It was built on a previously vacant but prominent location in the heart of Buckingham's historic centre. Existing patterns of development in this part of the town reflect traditional 'burgage plots', where a single strong building line faces the High Street with long narrow plots extending to the rear.

This historic form of development has been used in the architectural and design response for this scheme. It gives the impression of two narrow linear blocks, which are subtly linked, sitting within a burgage plot.

Other important design considerations included the visual impact of the proposed development on the site, the Conservation Area, the setting of Listed Buildings, the street scene and the locality in general. The design approach emphasised slender vertical forms to avoid monotony and provide visual interest, using projecting elements, variation to eaves height, box windows carrying through the eaves and a subtle variation in materiality.

Splayed windows to the bedrooms at the rear of the building protect the privacy and amenity of existing neighbouring dwellings.

The development utilises a simple palette of mostly natural, traditional materials – a variety of brick, slate and clay roofing, and timber brise soleil – along with more modern detailing relating to the box windows and recessed brick work. This works well within the historic setting of the conservation area and ensured an appropriate design solution.

Altogether, it is a contemporary building that sits well within the street scene and makes a positive contribution to the town and conservation area, providing much needed elderly accommodation in a central location.

The Grand Junction, Buckingham



Prior to works, 13 High Street consisted of a 19th century two-storey building and granary, of stone construction with slate roof coverings, and several single-storey stone and brickwork infill outbuildings. Between the two main buildings was a courtyard with several unattractive structures providing outside seating.

The design has sought to bring the site back to life as a traditional pub with a high-quality food offering. It creates a harmonious blend between the old and new structures, peeling back less attractive modern-day layers to expose the traditional core, and then working from this point to create a beautiful space.

Reconfiguration and extension were necessary for a functional and viable business. Toilets and staff facilities have been relocated to the upper floors to maximise trading space on the

ground floor. Extensions house an increased number of dining covers and an open fit-for-purpose kitchen range. Extraction and ventilation equipment are hidden in the roof space, while bins are discretely tucked away out of sight. There are open views throughout the building and the view from Cornwall Meadows leading up to the High Street has been enhanced.

The pub/bar location has been retained within the front section, thereby ensuring a traditional and customer facing welcome. The main dining extension infills the area between the range and original building, preserving and enhancing the existing listed building and offsetting it with a subservient style, height and use of materials. A sympathetic new glazed link between the old and new provides transition and natural daylight, highlighting the existing stonework walls.

The Granary has been repaired and redecorated to provide additional outside seating, while the courtyard provides an attractive setting and opportunity to appreciate the buildings.

Haddenham Airfield Pavilion



The Airfield Pavilion project started life in 2017 as part of a new housing development in the growing village of Haddenham. The brief from Haddenham Parish Council was to provide a building primarily for sports and to also have a community space.

Consideration was given to how the building would sit within its surroundings, to avoid being imposing on the existing houses that had a view of the open space of the playing fields. As the building was to be single storey; keeping the roof height low was achieved with a low pitch of 3°, this was perfect for a green living roof to be introduced. To break up the mass of the roof the central element was designed to be higher with a pitched roof, which has created a spacious welcoming entrance area within the building.

The interior of the building splits uses between either side of the main entrance lobby, with sports to one side and the function space to the other. This allows the dual-purpose building to be run as separate elements or as one.

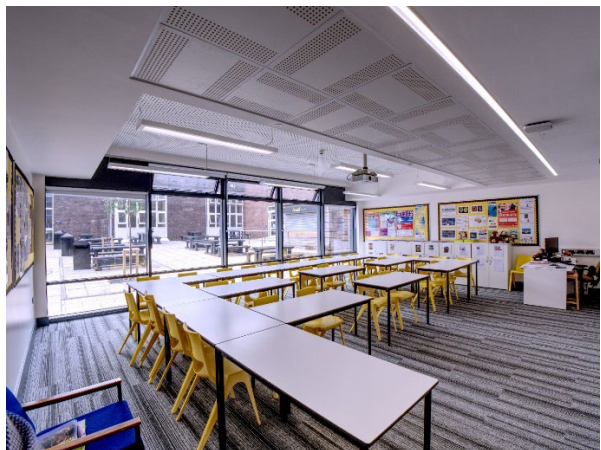
Within the 'Sports Wing' there are two team changing rooms with showers & wcs which have been designed to Sport England standards, plus a referee's changing room. The 'Function Wing' has a well-equipped commercial kitchen with a serving hatch to the outside and the function area, which is a large enough space for around 80 people.

The external areas of the building have been paved with a large patio area, with picnic benches and two separate areas for cycle parking, accompanied by areas of soft landscaping.

With biodiversity and sustainability at the heart, there is a partial green living roof and part zinc roof with solar PV panels. Construction materials were also selected with longevity in mind. Energy and water use have been minimised and the building has achieved an 'A' rated EPC.

The building is fit for purpose and is a great asset to this part of the village, adjacent to both new and older housing developments, with unrivalled views over the playing fields.

John Hampden Grammar School Innovation Hub



The innovation hub provides much needed teaching accommodation for the school – 15 classrooms in total over three floors – together with supporting accommodation. It occupies a high-profile area of the school campus, clearly visible from the road, and gives a new identity to the school, providing a welcoming statement to all pupils, staff and visitors.

The position of the new building closes a three-sided open space, framing a landscaped external social space for the pupils (known as the Quad) and making a visual connection between the new building and the existing school buildings.

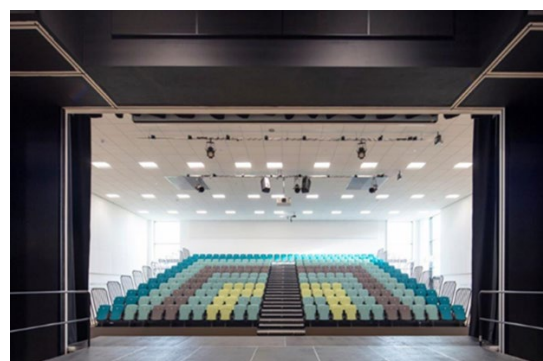
Internally, the building is robust and organized into a simple and rational plan which repeats from floor to floor. It contains interesting changes in volume that make vertical connections between floors. Circulation is wide and ordered, ensuring pupils can move around the building quickly and easily.

Daylight is brought into the building at every opportunity making it feel light and airy. The size and rhythm of the glazing changes from floor to floor and this helps to give the classrooms their own identity and character, despite being the same size and shape in plan.

The building incorporates mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, providing filtered fresh air, keeping pollution and external noise outside the building whilst also reducing energy consumption.

Externally, there is a rich variety of material finishes and colours creating a highly articulated and interesting external appearance. The articulation creates interesting shadows that change throughout the day. The façade facing the entrance to the school is highly glazed, with a triple height entrance hall behind, creating a dramatic and modern elevation day and night.

The Kingsbrook School, Aylesbury



In September 2022 the new Kingsbrook School opened its doors to its first intake of 180 Year 7 pupils. It includes a bespoke 32 place Special Educational Needs unit, the first of its type in Buckinghamshire. The facility will enable SEND pupils to access a mainstream offer whilst accessing specific specialist support, providing strong outcomes for the pupils and enabling them to remain in their own communities for their education.

The school has been carefully designed such that it can be expanded in the longer term in response to local housing growth, to become either an eight- or even ten-form entry school. This detailed planning will ensure that the council can continue to provide necessary places for pupils whilst minimising the disruption to the school with future building works. The wider Kingsbrook community will also be able to benefit from the many facilities that the school has to offer making it a beacon for the local community.

The school has been funded from the national Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), Section 106 Developer Contributions and government Basic Need funding. The facilities are second to none and will provide a fantastic learning environment for the current and future pupils. In addition, the building has excellent sustainable credentials and is designed to ensure it is thermally efficient thereby reducing the carbon emissions.

Oakfield View, Akeley



Affordable rural homes built on a redundant garage block and following the contour of the landscape including an accessible bungalow and homes for social rent and shared ownership. The homes are net zero carbon/future homes ready including electric vehicle chargers, electric air source heat heating. They support the sustainability of the rural community by providing affordable housing for shared ownership sale and for rent.

Orchard Lane (No.3), Prestwood



No 3 Orchard Lane is a new family house which combines contemporary design style with excellent energy efficiency and superior internal comfort, being a certified Passivhaus dwelling.

Number three is built within an existing garden in an established residential area, so not impacting the natural environment. The light, airy design of the building both internally and externally adds architectural interest to the lane, perhaps setting the tone some more contemporary architecture for the centre of the village in the future.

In today's economic and environmental climate, energy efficient buildings are of paramount importance. Passivhaus is recognised as the 'Gold Standard' of energy efficient design, using approximately 15% of the energy consumed by a comparable new house. Features include mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, which provides filtered fresh air 24 hours a day and is known to help those suffering from allergies like asthma. The house also has an air source heat pump which provides hot water and what little heating is required during

the colder months. Meanwhile, high levels of insulation and air tightness provide a warm, welcoming and acoustically quiet environment.

The house is built using a highly sustainable timber frame design, meaning low levels of embodied carbon were used. As we move towards 2030, encouraging the adoption of ecologically responsible built materials is something that will become increasingly important.

All these features help provide a family home that is well-designed, light and airy, modern, yet friendly and hospitable. There is plenty of space for the family to share time together or enjoy quiet when needed, for working from home, or just being at peace.

The home is only recently completed but soon the building will be complemented with some contemporary planting of grasses and shrubs to soften the lines further and help it to blend into the built environment.

Platinum Way, Aylesbury



This walking, wheeling and cycling route was first established in the 2000s as part of the Gemstone Active Travel Network and was originally called Emerald Way, running from the town centre to the communities of Fairford Leys and Haydon Hill. It was renamed the 'Platinum Way' in celebration of the late HM Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

The project was composed of two key elements: (1) upgrading Emerald Way to comply with current active travel design standards; and (2) extending the route from Haydon Hill to Berryfields and Aylesbury Vale Parkway railway station – the 'Haydon Hill Link'.

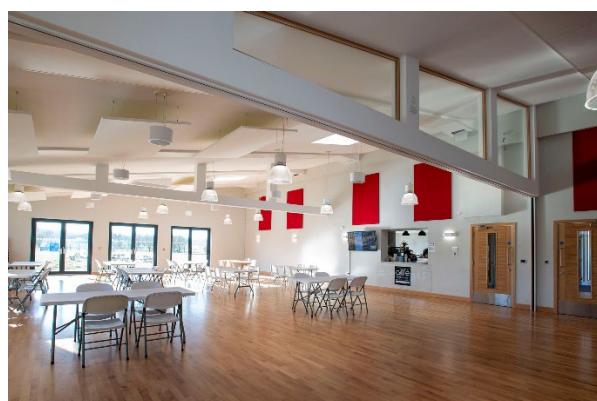
Upgrading the existing route has included route changes to avoid busier roads and junctions; construction of new paths and widening of existing paths; improved signage; and new parallel crossings for pedestrians and cyclists.

The new Haydon Hill Link overcomes physical barriers, including the River Thame, between Haydon Hill and the new neighbourhood of Berryfields and Aylesbury Vale Parkway, and avoids the need for pedestrians and cyclists to use the busy A41 Bicester Road. The new dedicated off-road path provides a direct, safe and pleasant route. The path is of a bound surface, 3 metres wide. This makes it accessible to all and provides sufficient space for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users to pass each other safely. Solar studs embedded in the path's surface help users follow the route in the hours of darkness whilst not disturbing wildlife.

These upgrades, together with the route extension to Berryfields represent a dramatic improvement in active travel infrastructure for north-west Aylesbury, establishing a continuous dedicated off-road walking, wheeling and cycling route between Aylesbury town centre and Waddesdon.

The path brings people closer to the nature on their doorstep, with people able to experience the pleasant river environment and wildlife away from busy roads. In December 2022, during National Tree Week, Chiltern Rangers and local volunteers worked to plant over 4,000 hedgerow plants and trees along sections of the route.

Red Kite Pavilion, Aston Clinton



The existing building, in its current state, did not fulfil the aspirations and vision for the community. A feasibility study looked at creating a new facility that includes the following objectives: a true local community centre supporting a range of social and sports facilities, which can be financially viable throughout the year and is an attractive addition to the village; a safe, family-orientated environment that engages with the adjacent park; flexible use spaces that bring together a wide variety ages, activities and culture; catering and hospitality facilities for public and private functions; low maintenance and sustainable.

The location of the building was dictated by the limitations of the site and the need for servicing and accessing activities close to the parking. Although the park is large, the outdoor pitches and play areas are already established, based around the existing building.

New spaces include a multi-purpose hall, meeting rooms/spaces, community café; kitchen facility for self-catering; public toilets; changing rooms; and a patio/terrace. Site constraints required a 2-storey central core with single storey 'lean-to' wings either side in order to accommodate the required spaces. The changing room is adjacent to the main football pitches on the west, with. The main hall located to the east. The central hub area is made up of the café and reception at ground floor with serviced meeting rooms at first floor. This has wonderful views of the park with a spill-out terrace at ground floor and large balcony at first floor.

Materials used reflect the locality, with soft multi orange/red brick used for the external walls at ground floor, with a light grey powder coated aluminium standing seam roof and dark grey windows and doors.

The sense of arrival is enhanced by the landscaping proposals, combining functional hard paving with soft planting and specimen trees. The building is designed for disabled access throughout with a lift to first floor. Automated doors, wide corridors and ample disabled toilets are provided, together with integrated hearing loops and contrasting textures and colours to assist the hard of hearing and visually impaired visitors/staff respectively.

Riverside, Taplow



Taplow Riverside is a new development located near the village of Taplow situated between the River Thames and the Jubilee River at the former St Regis Papermill Site. It has provided new homes for an expanding community, whilst completely transforming the old Paper Mill Site and how it was used. It is now a mixed-use regeneration scheme in a distinctive riverside setting, comprising of 211 dwellings within 21 acres of public open space, alongside a new footbridge, restaurants, employment space and a boatyard. The regeneration of the site made a positive impact visually and the people and community focused approach to place-making is what makes the development truly special.

Historic Buildings

The site holds a series of historic buildings that have been refurbished as part of the development. During the Victorian and Edwardian periods, the attractions of the riverside led to the building of a series of large gentlemen's estates, on the Taplow side including Glen Island House (1869), Mill Island House (1869) and Dunloe Lodge (1896). These refurbished buildings make up 25 of the 211 homes on site, of which some benefit from private riverside moorings.

When restoring these locally renowned buildings, attention was paid to preserving the individuality and character of the buildings, as to remain clear which periods each building originated from. Together, the result is an eclectic mix of historic buildings restored sensitively to preserve and celebrate the rich history of Taplow's Riverside, whilst creating beautiful places to live.

Communities and Green Spaces

Taplow Riverside has become a vibrant and welcoming place, frequently used and enjoyed by both residents and the wider community. Connectivity to the wider area has been improved by creating a network of cycle paths and footpaths, including a new footbridge, alongside open green spaces, informal meeting and play spaces and outdoor fitness equipment. The provision of pubs/restaurants and public car parking have helped to make Taplow Riverside not only a place to live, but also a leisure destination, resulting in a huge increase to footfall in and around the site.

It is frequently used for an array of activities such as walking, picnics, bootcamps and community events such as bonfires and Easter Egg hunts. Formal and informal events encourage new neighbours to build relationships with one another and improve the experience of living at Taplow Riverside.

Sportsmans Way, Longwick



Sportsmans Way sits in a prominent location at the entrance to Longwick when approaching from Princes Risborough. The design is based on the idea of a farmyard that has evolved over time, quoting various design influences including a prominent farmhouse, as well as smaller 'cottages' and barn style properties, all making use of vernacular features such as brick detailing, exposed rafter feet, timber boarding and agricultural style garages with an elongated rear roof section visible from the Thame Road. The design has even included a 'tax window' on the side of the 'farmhouse' to add further interest to that elevation.

Of importance is not just the design of individual buildings but also the placemaking and landscaping of the wider development. The courtyard area defines and articulates the space whilst the large, well-landscaped, communal area to the front provides a soft introduction to the development, evoking the arrangement of other farmsteads within the area.

Boundary treatments include brick walls, picket fencing, hedging and post and rail fences to provide a variety of details that avoid too much close board fencing! By 'bookending' the homes with the farmhouse and the barn-style building the project is given clear boundaries and appears well contained.

The development aims to provide a high quality and visually attractive gateway into Longwick, integrating well into the village whilst also paying tribute to the rural nature of the surrounding area and the site's location in the transition between the village and the adjacent countryside.

St Peter's Greenway, Aylesbury



Two of Aylesbury's newest neighbourhoods are Berryfields and Buckingham Park, situated to the north-west and north of the historic town centre, and are home to schools, shops, community amenities and workplaces; Aylesbury Vale Parkway railway station is situated in Berryfields. This means there is a lot of demand for travel between the two neighbourhoods.

However, existing infrastructure for walking, wheeling and cycling between these areas was limited. Paths alongside the River Thames are prone to frequent flooding. The path along Martin Dalby Way runs immediately adjacent to a fast, busy arterial road.

St Peter's Greenway was conceived as a safe, convenient and accessible route, making it easier for people to walk, wheel or cycle for their journeys. An entirely off-road route, it runs through an area of calm, rural tranquillity offering respite from adjacent busy, noisy urban areas. At the heart of the route is the abandoned historic medieval settlement of Quarrendon, the most visible remains of which are the ruins of St Peter's Church, after which the Greenway is named. The Greenway is itself a destination for learning, recreation and wellbeing, as well as providing a means of getting from A to B.

The route is sympathetic to its historical and rural context. Much of the route runs along existing field boundaries, minimising visual impacts. As a working rural landscape, fencing and gating arrangements have been designed to be accessible for all path users whilst protecting livestock and facilitating farming operations. A 'no dig' construction methodology was deployed to avoid adversely impacting the unique archaeology of the area.

The path is of a bound surface, 3 metres wide with gentle gradients. This makes it accessible to all and provides sufficient space for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users to pass each other safely. Solar studs embedded in the path's surface help users follow the route in the hours of darkness whilst not disturbing wildlife. Benching is provided at several points along the route, providing opportunities for rest and reflection. Waymarking signage allows people to use the path with confidence.

The path has been promptly embraced as a community asset by local residents since its opening in October 2022. Volunteers have planted trees along the route and local schoolchildren have participated in chalk art competitions.

St Peter's Memorial Garden



Off Church Lane in Chalfont St Peter lies a green and unspoiled closed burial ground, which passed into the ownership of the Parish Council in the 1970's. Headstones have been moved to the boundary of the garden. It has an upper lawn which has a war graves section, including a VC holder, while the lower lawn has been the focus of this project so far.

Former Chiltern District Council's Open Space Strategy identified that Chalfont St Peter had no public garden and no space for quiet reflection, relaxation or to escape noise and traffic. The Centenary of the end of World War I was the prompt for the Village Action Group to

elevate this unloved and overlooked garden into a fitting memorial garden for the village while also providing a secluded haven for wildlife and a safe space for quiet reflection.

A working party was formed, outline plans drawn up and fundraising began. Grants from HS2 Groundworks, Chiltern District Council and various bodies enabled work on the lower lawn to start. This includes new paths, clearing the headstones, planting and seating. New lighting and a stage area with electrics enable activities such as concert to take place and is also used by the Middle School which has no outside classroom facilities. It is now possible to walk from either end of the village centre to the school free from traffic and its fumes.

One of our heritage plaques has been erected at the garden entrance, a metal soldier has been placed on a plinth, and the garden is now part of our village Heritage Walk. The garden is seen as both an outdoor museum and a rejuvenated 'pocket park'. Further enhancements here are proposed by the Parish Council.

It has been a unique opportunity to breathe new life into a forgotten, hidden space in the heart of the village which many residents did not know existed.

The Conservatory Café, Cliveden House



The project comprised the restoration of the historic but dilapidated Conservatory Café, to make it fit for purpose as a high-quality café for the National Trust at Cliveden House.

After the original Cliveden House burned down in 1859, Henry Clutton was appointed by the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland to restore the house and add a forecourt and clock tower to the Estate. It is believed that the Conservatory was designed at the same time, and as such the Conservatory is an important part of the late 19th century development of the Estate.

A major part of the project was the re-roofing of the Grade II listed Conservatory which dated from the 1980s and was leaking. Historical research and structural investigations informed the design of the new roof, which is based on the original ridge and furrow design with narrow glazing panels. Internally, the servery was reconfigured, and the conservatory was fully redecorated and new bespoke joinery items installed to make it a more welcoming experience.

Accessibility has also been improved by re-grading of approach surfaces to achieve level access, the addition of power assist doors, and the reconfiguration of the servery and seating to provide more flexible space and improved circulation, as well as softer furnishings to reduce reverberation.

In order to reduce energy use and carbon emissions, the overarching strategy was the maximization of natural ventilation as a means of cooling: the original sliding timber sashes along the full length of the glazed east elevation have been repaired and made operable, enabling 50% of the east elevation to become open to the air; electrically-operated rooflights automatically open when the temperature exceeds a certain limit; and aluminium solar shading on the slopes of the roof are discretely placed to block sunshine from the south. This passive approach was the first step to limit temperature build ups before any assistance cooling is required and to manage condensation.

The completed Conservatory Café is now a delight to visit, offering high quality, accessible facilities in a unique historic setting that is befitting of Cliveden House.

The Village Nursery, Bellingdon



This is a unique eco-build children's nursery in Bellingdon, Buckinghamshire, set amongst the beautiful Chiltern Hills. The project was designed to make use of locally sourced materials from the Chilterns in order to create a sustainable, low carbon, healthy building in which the children could thrive. Many of the materials have been produced and supplied by a local brickmaker.

The stunning internal dome is built using Strocks, a natural building material combining clay and straw that is dried using biomass boilers. This provides a strong, durable structure with extremely low-embodied energy. The materials are 100% natural and present zero toxicity to the environment at the end of the building's life. Handmade woodfired bricks forming the octagonal outer walls are made from the same local clay. This production method produces the same subtle colour shades and glazes that characterised the beautiful bricks used in Britain during the 19th century and earlier.

There is no cement in the building at all, saving a significant amount of CO2 that would otherwise have been used in its production. The foundations were filled with field flint from the surrounding fields, avoiding the need for concrete. The internal and external brickwork has all been laid using lime mortars which are more sustainable, and more attractive, than cement-based mortars.

The walls are insulated with hempcrete blocks made from hemp and lime, providing a natural source of insulation and regulating the indoor temperature throughout the year. This has proved extremely efficient and effective - in the first winter the heating was only turned on for two days. Heating is provided by an air source heat pump via underfloor heating.

The rooms surrounding the central dome of the nursery are plastered with clay mortar, again sourced locally, and are accessed through a series of brick archways. The arches provide a wonderful symmetry, leading the eye through the building and out towards the spacious gardens.

Bespoke glazed tiles have been used for the kitchen and bathrooms, as glazed bricks for the internal ledge of the dome. Selected internal walls have been decorated with interesting features and mosaic animals to add an educational sense of fun, befitting its use as a nursery.

The roof structure is made of laminated timbers and supports a green roof seeded with wildflowers, which has blended seamlessly into the landscape.

West House, Stowe School



West House shelters in an outskirt of the pleasure gardens at Stowe. A winding path meanders through the woods, leading to a cluster of two-story houses, where West House proudly stands alongside three Neo-Georgian masters' residences. It provides 24 study bedrooms, each equipped with en-suite facilities, staff living areas, common rooms, gardens, and terraces.

The building is split into two blocks: the first a low-lying two-storey block with external terrace and main shared facilities, and the second is partially sunken into the ground and extends over three floors.

The boarding house is comprised of two interconnected blocks, their form providing groupings of taller volumes that undulate gracefully, forming brick curtains framed by terraces and parapets. Internal elements such as the staircase and lift are emphasised, appearing as brick drums and sentinel-like towers. The variation in brick coursing and mortar joints adds visual interest and differentiates between various sections of the building.

The main entrance opens into to a double height common room/ kitchen. Open stairs connect the study bedrooms that overlook the common room. A linking bridge spans the path to the second block containing study bedrooms. The study bedrooms are characterised by generous window and seating areas and are strategically clustered in groups of three and six to provide flexibility in terms of occupancy and management arrangements. Instead of traditional corridors, the bedrooms open directly onto common areas, promoting a sense of community and interaction. The use of colour aids legibility and accessibility within the space, with the bedrooms in more muted colours. White fitted furniture serves as a backdrop to vibrant flooring, while window seat fabrics and curtains feature warmer neutral tones.