

Masterplan for Thicket Mead, Midsomer Norton



A development of 137 houses in a rural setting on the edge of the village of Midsomer Norton, near Radstock. The site is characterised by its steeply sloping setting, mature trees and hedgerows which have been retained within the development to give an established feel.

The design of the scheme for a developer client evolved in close collaboration with the landowners the Duchy of Cornwall to meet their exacting requirements for urban design and use of materials. Tetlow King has not only achieved a design which fulfils the former requirements with its pioneering layout, design and detailing, but has also struck a balance with commercial viability for the developer.

The design principles place particular emphasis on creating high quality spaces, streets, lanes and courtyard areas within an informal layout which gives a strong sense of character and local identity. This is further reinforced with the use of distinctively designed key buildings which give legibility to the development due to their individual architectural treatment.

A strong emphasis is placed on the use of natural traditional and local materials, such as rubble and ashlar stone, natural slate, clay and plain clay tiles which help relate to the regional vernacular. In particular, attention has been paid to creating a high quality public realm with the design and treatment of boundary walls and fences.

The first phase of the development was awarded the Bath and North East Somerset, 'Design Quality Award' in 2003.

