



Overlooked footpaths run through the site



Boundary treatments provide a sense of privacy and enclosure



Translates traditional characteristics into contemporary design

The Piggeries , Frome, Somerset: <i>New housing fully integrated into the existing town</i>	
Location	The site is located within the historic market town of Frome in Somerset which has a strong industrial history based on wool and cloth manufacture.
Designer	The Architecture and Planning Group
Developer	The Guinness Trust and Knightstone Housing Association
Local Authority	Mendip District Council
Site Area	1.25 hectares
Density	57 units per hectare (net)
Project	71 social housing units, including a mix of family housing and flats, warden-assisted sheltered housing and a foyer scheme, all set within the Frome Conservation Area. The completed scheme was handed over to the Housing Associations in February 1998.
Details	<p>Some important lessons were learnt in terms of design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the tenure of the scheme is not discernible from the architectural form and quality; • building height and massing vary from 2 to 4 storeys across the site in order to respect the surrounding built form, creating a strong sense of place and containment; • good use of boundary treatments, such as natural stone walling and railings, contribute to the sense of enclosure; • buildings are outward-looking, with minimal setbacks, creating active street frontages; • maintaining pedestrian access across the site has aided footfall to the nearby secondary retail area and peripheral streets, adding to the vitality and viability of the town centre; • the design respects and takes advantage of the need to move through and express the slope of the site; • the scheme successfully accommodates the car while minimising its impact; • A high quality, robust townscape is created by attending to the detail of meter covers, chimneys, walls, bin storage, lighting, cable TV and street surfaces; • sustainable solutions are the result of continuity within the core design team from both conception to implementation, and establishing links with the community early in the design process.
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