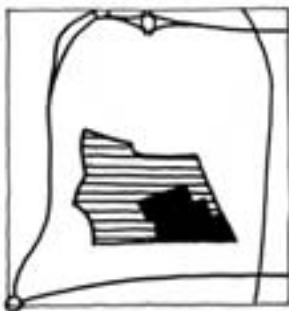


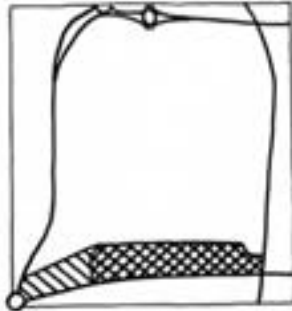
3.5.1 OPEN SPACE AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

**Provide a variety of open space types**

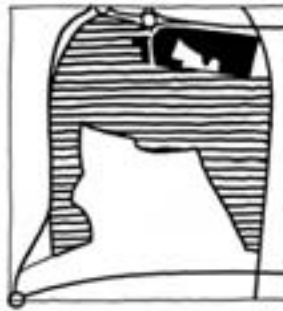
It is necessary to assess the quality of existing provision in the wider context (particularly for a large site or area), and use this as the basis for deciding on the elements of a proposed open space hierarchy. Table 3.4 provides a reference point for considering possible open space types (other than streets and footpaths dealt with in 4.4.1) classified according to location.



Identify areas of ecological importance to be preserved



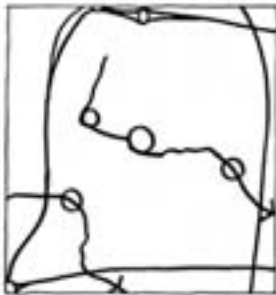
Add proposed greenbelt



This provides the potential development area



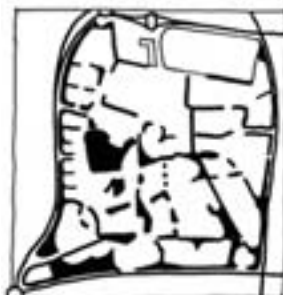
Take account of topography and watercourses



Consider potential water features



Identify hedgerows, woodland and recreational areas



Establish a planting framework



The result is a landscape structure that stitches together all these elements (source: Cramlington South West Development Plan, Llewelyn-Davies, 1991)

This is not a numbers game involving the developer providing a certain percentage of open space. Our best-loved urban parks and gardens are often intimate in scale and well cared for. There needs to be adequate green and open spaces to take a pleasant stroll, have a kick-about and provide habitats for wildlife to thrive, but it is the quality, rather than the quantity. Landscape is not just vandal-proof planting, unmown grass, and a maintenance headache. It is a route to civic pride.