GREENBELT CASE STUDY

In 1998 the North Hamilton development presented the landowner, Humberstone Trust, with an exciting opportunity to create a new, socially inclusive community on the north east outskirts of Leicester.

The 54-hectare green field site included 16 hectares of open space designed around a network of swales, ponds and flow controls as part of an innovative Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS).

The high quality management specification for the open space is funded through a financially sustainable and equitable annual management charge (Greenspace arrangement) which is secured against the title of all 1400 properties on the development.

During the 12-year construction phase, Greenbelt worked closely with the landowner, their agent (Mather Jamie), Leicester City Council (LCC) Planning Dept., eight national house builders and housing associations, local stake-holders and the emerging new community to create a truly exciting place to live.

The open space is managed to a specification approved by LCC which includes areas of high amenity, equipped play areas, existing woodlands and individual trees, existing hedgerows and public works of art.

The SUDS is managed by Greenbelt who use Abertay Water Technology Centre (part of Dundee University) to carry-out an independent annual audit on the efficiency of the system. The “green fingers” which divide the development help to harmonise the new wetland environment with the existing landscape features which make North Hamilton a great place to live.