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Title: Low carbon design in urban extensions

Date: 2011

Originally presented to: Northampton Institute for Urban Affairs
(NIUA) Seminar on Low Carbon Design

Example citation: Field, M. (2011) Low carbon design in urban
extensions. Seminar Presentation presented to: *Northampton Institute
for Urban Affairs (NIUA) Seminar on Low Carbon Design, Upton,
Northampton, 21 July 2011.*



Northampton Institute
for Urban Affairs

Low-Carbon Design in Urban Extensions

Study seminar at Upton,
Northampton, 21 July 2011

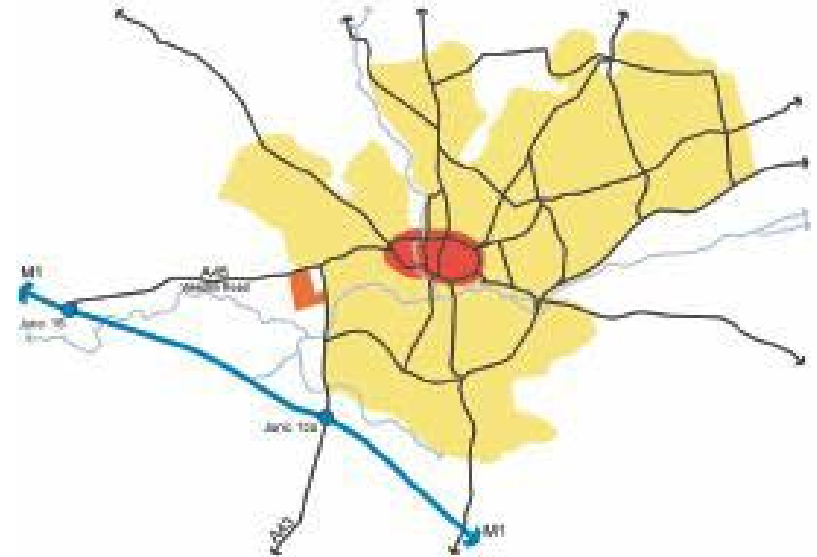
Seminar contents

- Upton in summary
- JRF / URBED Network
- Designing Upton as a low-carbon environment
- Context for promoting 'sustainable' practice?
- Discussion
- Upton Tour



Upton in summary

- Phase 1 in excess of 1400 homes
- Design Code from 2003
- 22% affordable tenures
- Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS)
- Public transport system
- Community fields & hall
- Primary school



- Northampton town centre
- Northampton built up area
- Upton site

JRF / URBED Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network - 1

The Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network (SUNN) established in 2009 by Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF).

SUNN's aims are to:

- showcase innovation in leading-edge new communities;
- foster learning on what does and does not work;
- identify and influence aspects of national policy;
- identify financial barriers and ways to overcome them; and
- enable JRF to contribute to national policy and practice in relation to building new communities.



JRF / URBED Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network - 2

- 12 leading examples of new communities under development across England were identified in the feasibility study.
- Upton one of these 12.
- Halfway through this project, key messages are:



JRF / URBED Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network - 3

Strategic spatial planning

- Extend growing urban areas.
- Get the spatial strategy right.
- Promote green recovery in inner cities.
- Use creative funding solutions.



JRF / URBED Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network - 4

Better design and more efficient construction Methods

- Design to last
- Speed up development
- Cut waste.



JRF / URBED Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network - 5

Long-term stewardship

- Invest in social capital.
- Implement long-term stewardship.
- Achieve continuity.



“SUNN members include practitioners active in planning and building the following new communities”:

- Orchard Park, Cambridge
- Graylingwell, Chichester
- Yours South Lynn, Kings Lynn
- Grand Union Village, Northolt, London
- Ancoats Urban Village, Manchester
- New Islington, Manchester
- Walker Riverside, Newcastle
- Dickens Heath Village, Solihull
- Ironstone, Telford
- Lightmoor, Telford
- Derwenthorpe, York
- Upton, Northampton

Context for promoting 'sustainable' practice? - 1

SUNN general findings will be made public in early 2012, and responses sought from government. Key areas to look at in the coming year :

- options for creative finance that address high land costs and reduce construction costs;
- the relationship between transport engineering and the creation of high quality public spaces in new communities;
- long-term stewardship models in both the voluntary and private sectors;
- localism and the role of parish councils



Context for promoting 'sustainable' practice? - 2

- Acknowledgement of a 'need for a 'new business model' for volume house building : trader to investor
..... profits to come from 'how developers meet market and social needs'

Key ingredients :

- Strategic approach to spatial planning,
- Better urban design and leaner methods of construction
- A more responsive and community-based approach to management and long-term stewardship.



Context for promoting 'sustainable' practice? - 3

SUNN less explicit on:

- Low-carbon exemplars
- Domestic behaviours
- Impact of new tenures
- Mutualism
- Social enterprise
- Community governance
- Neighbourhood incentives



General discussion

