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## **NEW 'PARK' AT THE VALE WOULD BE SECOND LARGEST IN NORTH SOMERSET**

- **Half The Vale land would be left as open, green space**
- **Total public open space nearly half the size of Ashton Court**
- **That's equivalent to approximately 206 football pitches**

A MAJOR new public park – nearly half (42 per cent) the size of Ashton Court Estate – is being proposed as part of Taylor Wimpey's plans to build three new villages adjacent to Bristol.

The proposed development – known as The Vale - would cover a total area of approximately 290 hectares (720 acres).

And about half of that – approximately 145 hectares (360 acres) – would become new public parks and other public open spaces on what is currently privately-owned land. That's equivalent to approximately 206 football pitches.

Apart from Ashton Court, Taylor Wimpey believes the new park would be the largest in North Somerset, more than 11 times bigger than Ashcombe Park in Weston-super-Mare, and 30 times larger than Nailsea's Trendlewood Park.

The park would be at the heart of the new community. Some of it would be formal parkland, some retained as open countryside with access across existing public rights of way. The park would also include extensive new playing fields and other leisure facilities for a wide range of sports.

The Vale will be made up of three distinct new villages, each connected and surrounded by parkland. The Vale's landscape designers are trying to ensure the park is visible from all parts of the development – and that every home is within a short, safe and easy walk of the park.

Taylor Wimpey has undertaken significant studies to fully understand how best to use the available land. Following feedback from neighbouring communities, it has positioned the villages and open spaces to minimise the impact on sensitive views into and across the site, but to also create viewpoints from within the new villages.

Open space has been used to ensure that a landscaped and ‘naturalistic’ green gap remains between the new homes and existing settlements, notably Long Ashton.

Existing woodland, groups of trees, individual trees and hedgerows would all be protected, where possible. The existing ecology would be enhanced by creating wildlife corridors and species-rich habitats, harnessing and celebrating the distinctive watercourses that cross The Vale.

Currently the land includes an underused golf-course, a former land-fill site and is crossed by a number of main roads and a railway line.

“We all know there is a corrosive housing shortage, but – when new communities are being designed and built – it is also vital that there is plenty of green, open space. This has a direct impact on the quality of life for all residents,” said Taylor Wimpey’s project director Gareth Hawke.

“The Vale is the perfect opportunity to build up to 4,500 much-needed new homes, while setting aside the same amount of land for new parkland and open space.

“The new park at The Vale would be one of the region’s largest parks. It will help create a beautiful environment and will be at the heart of this community.

“This land is currently almost entirely closed off to the public, but The Vale will open most of it up for the wider community – both existing and new - to share and enjoy.

“Whether you’re taking your kids out to play, going for a jog, meeting friends or simply wanting peace in a natural environment, the open space at The Vale will be really fantastic for everyone.”

The new park in numbers:

- 145 hectares – 360 acres
- That’s about 206 football pitches (at c.1.75 acres each)
- 42 per cent the size of Ashton Court Estate (340 hectares - 850 acres<sup>1</sup>)
- 30 times bigger than Trendlewood Park in Nailsea (5 hectares – 12 acres<sup>2</sup>)
- 11 times bigger than Ashcombe Park in Weston-super-Mare (13 hectares – 32 acres<sup>3</sup>)



Despite demonstrating the potential to deliver up to 4,500 homes, including 1,800 much-needed affordable homes, North Somerset Council has excluded The Vale from the Joint Spatial Plan. Several North Somerset Town and Parish Councils have stated their support for the Vale, saying it is the most sustainable location.

More details of *The Vale* are available at [www.thevale-northsomerset.co.uk](http://www.thevale-northsomerset.co.uk) where interested parties can provide feedback and sign-up for regular email updates.

People can also find out more and sign up for updates via The Vale Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/taylorwimpeythevale/> or follow the Twitter feed @twthevale.

**ENDS**

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#### **Sources**

<sup>1</sup>According to *Visit Bristol*, Ashton Court is 850 acres;

<sup>2</sup>According to North Somerset Council's Trendlewood Community Park Management Plan, the park is 5.37 hectares (12 acres);

<sup>3</sup>According to [www.parksandgardens.org](http://www.parksandgardens.org) Ashcombe Park is 13 hectares (32 acres).

#### **Note to media:**

Taylor Wimpey UK, part of Taylor Wimpey plc, is one of the largest residential developers in the UK. It operates from 24 regional offices across England, Scotland and Wales, and builds over 14,500 homes every year.

Taylor Wimpey is a responsible homebuilder that is committed to health and safety, environmental sustainability, providing excellent customer service and engaging with local communities.



In 2017 Taylor Wimpey contributed over £413 million to local communities in which it builds across the UK via planning obligations, providing, for example, local infrastructure, affordable homes, public transport and education facilities; Taylor Wimpey continues to innovate with its range of high quality and energy efficient house designs on developments across the UK; Taylor Wimpey has a strong and sustainable customer base, with over 90% owner-occupiers.

First time buyers accounted for 41% of Taylor Wimpey's sales in 2017, with a range of offers available to help first time buyers purchase a home of their own; Taylor Wimpey seeks to be an inclusive company which values people as individuals – whether they are employees, customers or other stakeholders. It aims to be successful through a creative and innovative workforce that reflects the diversity of the local communities in which it works.

For more information please visit [www.taylorwimpey.co.uk](http://www.taylorwimpey.co.uk)