3A) Icknield Port Loop, Birmingham

- Birmingham
- Market Sale/ Shared Ownership
- 1150 homes

Port Loop is a 43-acre urban neighbourhood nestled in the meander of the Birmingham Canal Old Line and a few minutes walk from Edgbaston Reservoir.

The development funded 1.5km of new towpaths, connecting the neighbourhood into the city centre, which is just a fifteenminute walk away. When fully complete, the neighbourhood will contain 1,150 homes, a community hub (Tubeworks), commercial spaces, a leisure centre, a swimming pool and new public green spaces.

The island site was once the industrial heart of the city, with some industrial heritage retained to accommodate communal facilities. The residential redevelopment features two- and three-storey townhouses and small blocks of apartments, with parking and private gardens or balcony space.

There are several house types in development at Port Loop, appealing to a mix of buyers and renters. Off-site modular townhouses developed by Urban Splash allow residents to tailor layouts specific to personal lifestyles choosing between 'loftliving' with a living room on the top floor or 'garden-dwelling' with a ground floor living room opening onto green space.

A hierarchy of open spaces caters to a range of activities across the neighbourhood. The canalside public park was completed in 2019. The high-quality landscape consists of a geometric network of concrete paths which meander through playful grass mounds, swales, planted areas and trees.

Semi-private communal gardens are accessed via a gated entrance and shared by clusters of approximately 40 households, while small terraces and balconies on each home offer some privacy. The design of the shared gardens and park encourages homeowners to host community events, create vegetable patches and come together to relax.

Community-led initiatives have already started with a 'Peddling Pantry', the 'Floating Front Room' barge café, and the creation of an 'Art House' venue hosting yoga, art class and live music.

" One of the rules in the manifesto is 'be green without trying,' and that really resonates with us. The idea of a shared garden works for us too. You get all the benefits of having a garden designed by an award-winning landscape architect with none of the maintenance.

- KATIE AND PAUL, RESIDENTS



Photography ©Places for People



Image: IPL Waterside - Artist's View - ©Urban Splash, 2020

NATURE: CASESTUDY 3A



"



GREEN SPACE



CULTURE



NEIGHBOURLINESS



HOUSING

