Four Marks was created for the veterans of the Crimean War who were provided with plots for small holdings. It was also the site of a telegraph post. The first houses of the village are evident by 1911 along the south side of Blackberry Lane and along part of Alton Lane. By 1947 the village had spread onto the north side of Blackberry Lane and had started to spread west along the A31. There was a gradual infilling along with a further slight spread to the west along the A31 in the 1960s. There was further infilling during the 1980s and 1990s. By 2019 Four Marks had expanded further to the west, on both the north and south side of the A31 and also between the A31 and Blackberry Lane.

The established Core Strategy identifies the need for the role of settlements within the A31 Corridor to be enhanced so as to better fulfill their function as sustainable communities providing commercial and community uses for the wider area.

Four Marks is well suited to performing a greater and more strategic role, conveniently and sustainably located close to the major urban areas of Winchester, Farnham and Guildford.

Development on the edge of settlements can be a sensitive issue. By taking a landscape led approach this development can be positively designed to balance the need for housing with a sensitive transition from urban to rural areas, the preservation of existing landscape features, the appropriate buffering of existing housing and the potential to maximise recreation and biodiversity benefits. Key design considerations for the site include, but are not limited:

- safe access from the A31
- the preservation and enhancement of existing Public Rights of Way
development that works sensitively with the site's topography, drainage and wildlife corridors,
- access to open space.
- Access to existing and proposed new facilities for both new and existing residents alike.
- offsite infrastructure to improve pedestrian and cycle connections, the existing recreation ground and traffic flow along the A31.
This Large Development Site has no overriding constraints that would preclude development. Of note are the following considerations:

Long distance views to the west from certain points along the western edge of Four Marks and from the existing Public Rights of Way network.

Shorter distance views from the A31, particularly from the west, into the site are typically open.

Public Rights of Way cross the site. Tree and hedge row planting defines existing field parcels.

The amenity of existing residents adjoining the site.

Rising topography away from the A31.

The site includes localised areas of Surface Water flooding.

The South Downs National Park lies circa 900m at its closest point.

Existing shops and health facilities within Four Marks tend to be focussed to the east of the village.

Development to the west has the potential to deliver additional retail and employment opportunities for existing residents to the west, alongside enhanced community facilities centered around the existing recreation ground.
Affordable housing (40%), opportunities for self build / custom build housing, and specialist housing for the elderly.

A new Local Centre with the potential to include both shops and a new Health Centre (GP's, dental practitioners, and health professionals).

A dedicated employment area with frontage and easy access to the A31, boosting employment opportunities for the local area.

A new Primary School and Pre-School can be delivered.

Enhance existing Public Rights of Way and diversity these routes.

Extensive areas of planned open space, including equipped play space.

Expand and enhance the existing recreation ground.

Site wide biodiversity enhancement through the diversification of habitats.