



Figure 14.8  
Case study block (1 ha):  
exploded axonometric showing  
one scenario for the layering of  
infrastructure and built form.

by the development framework and administered by the development trust, and investigate ways in which a developer might work within the constraints to produce built form.

The axonometric (Figure 14.8) demonstrates the layering of the major infrastructure provided by the trust (grid roads, gravel minor roads and landscaping, including drainage channels, and trunk services), the developer built secondary infrastructure (services to plots), the developer and privately built houses, and finally the more *ad hoc* organic development (e.g. sheds) that would occur over time. The intention was that the development trust infrastructure, carefully designed landscaped avenues and watercourses, would provide the *genius loci*, leaving the designers of individual buildings ‘free’ to design without stylistic constraints, so long as they met the density and energy codes. In this case the housing block might be purchased by a developer who would then divide it into serviced plots and sell them to builders or individual clients with a requirement to use a

**Figure 14.9**  
Case study block: model of the 1 ha block showing the rich morphology produced by allowing a variety of building types and densities.



component-build system which met the energy targets specified by the trust (Figure 14.9). The result would be a rich and varied building morphology held together by the aesthetic strength of the infrastructure design.

## Envisioning the future: conclusion

This chapter described the process by which multi-disciplinary student teams from Cambridge University and MIT worked together on a case study project towards envisioning sustainable development models for new rural communities. The chapter outlined the working method of one multi-disciplinary team and presented their