Green Infrastructure Statement

For

Proposed Residential Development, Traston Lane, Newport

Prepared By

TDA
Environment | Landscape | Design

On Behalf of

Wellspring

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INTRODUCTION

The design for the Traston Lane development has used a holistic approach, incorporating biodiversity enhancements and retaining existing GI wherever possible. The design was informed by the updated National Planning Policy for Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales.

Specifically, the development proposals and landscape philosophy follow the Stepwise Approach set out in paragraph 6.4.21 as follows:

Avoid - avoid damage to biodiversity in its widest sense (i.e. the variety of species and habitats and their abundance) and ecosystem functioning.

Minimise - applicants, in discussion with planning authorities, must seek to minimise the initial impact on biodiversity and ecosystems by:

ensuring that retained habitats continue to be well connected to adjacent habitats to provide connectivity for key species and ensuring that the favourable conservation status of local species populations is maintained

retaining existing features, develop a management plan for their future care

using proven innovative/creative solutions (where required) to minimise damage and maintain existing biodiversity features and ecosystems in tandem with robust monitoring and rectification strategies.

Mitigate - Where, after measures to minimise impact, biodiversity and ecosystems could still be damaged, or lost through residual impacts, the proposed development should mitigate that damage. Mitigation measures must be put in place to limit the negative effects of a development.

Compensate - where like for like mitigation measures are not possible, particularly in respect of restoration measures, it may be necessary to consider on site compensation measures.

The layout of the site has been carefully developed by LeTrucco Design, in consultation with Treescene Arboricultural Consultants, Ecological Services Ltd and Tirlun Design Associates to **avoid** damage to biodiversity wherever possible. (refer to page 3 for details).

Following production of arboricultural and ecological surveys, the site layout was then developed and refined further, to **minimise** habitat loss and retain additional existing trees. (Refer to landscape specification & management plan for long-term management details)

While existing trees and hedgerows are to be retained and protected, due to the nature and extent of the development, it will not be possible to **mitigate** damage to the existing marshy grassland, as it will be removed to accommodate the proposals.

To **compensate** for this loss, detailed soft landscape proposals have been produced for the site. (refer to page 4 for details).

PREVIOUS STUDIES

Arboricultural survey produced by Treescene in 2024
Arboricultural Impact Assessment produced by Treescene in 2025
Preliminary Ecological Assessment produced by Ecological Services Ltd in 2025
Bat Survey Report produced by Ecological Services Ltd in 2025
Reptile Survey Report produced by Ecological Services Ltd in 2025

THE SITE

The development site comprises a flat parcel of predominantly marshy grassland, approximately 0.8 hectares in size. Due to surrounding roads and the low ecological value of the adjacent sports pitches, connections to the wider GI network are limited.

Image 1 – The Site

Image 2 – View looking North West from Traston Lane

Green Infrastructure Context

EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Existing Trees

39 no. trees and 23 no. tree groups tree groups located around the site peripheries. T10, 57, T58 (Oaks) and G61 (Field Maple, Sycamore & Crack Willow) are categorised as B – Moderate Quality & Value. The remaining trees are all assessed as either C - Low Quality & Value or Category U (Unsuitable for Retention).

Existing Hedgerows

Sections of gappy hedgerow comprising Privet, Hawthorn, Dogwood, Elm, Blackthorn and Elder, are located on the site boundaries. All hedgerows are categorised as C – Low Quality & Value.

Green Corridors

Existing linear tree groups and hedgerows form a green corridor along the northern and western boundary of the site. This green corridor has some limited connectivity to the north with the linear belt of trees that defines the boundary of Newport International Sports Village. To the south there is some canopy connectivity with the Solutia Site SINC. This connectivity is limited by the tarmac of Traston Road. It should be noted that a number of trees with the boundary corridor are damaged and unsuitable for retention on safety grounds.

Stepping Stones

GI stepping stones form a patchwork of small incidental open spaces around the site and across the wider residential development. These generally low ecological value areas predominantly comprise close mown amenity grassland and ornamental shrubs.

Soils

The site comprises significant areas of open green space, currently occupied by marshy grassland. Pending soil testing, it is likely that there are sufficient soil resources within the site for future landscape purposes.

Public Open Space

None present

Grassland

Almost all of the 0.8-hectare site comprises marshy grassland. Species include compact rush, fleabane, Timothy grass, meadow buttercup, purple loosestrife, bird's-foot trefoil, a species of mint, hard rush, pendulous sedge, creeping buttercup, common knapweed, a species of vetch, smooth tare, fox sedge, cock's-foot and common bent.

Tall Ruderal Vegetation

Growing on the site edges, species include rosebay willowherb, broad-leaved willowherb, hogweed, hemp agrimony, nettle, creeping thistle, hedge bindweed, bramble, teasel, cock's-foot, fleabane, hedge woundwort, phragmites and bulrush.

Scrub

The tall ruderal vegetation in turn grades into a narrow band of scrub. Species include bramble, dogwood, blackthorn and butterfly bush.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES

T47, G42 and G36 will be removed to accommodate the development.

T47 is a Goat Willow coppice categorised as C – Low Quality & Value. G36 is a group of young Elm, Hawthorn and Elder categorised as C – Low Quality & Value. G42 is a group of young Elm categorised as C – Low Quality & Value.

The marshy grassland, tall ruderal vegetation and scrub will be removed to accommodate the development.

PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Proposed Native Trees – 8 no. new native trees are proposed on the northern and eastern edges of the development.

Proposed Street Trees – 17 new trees within the development including avenue street trees.

Proposed Wildflower Habitat – 2,010 square metres of native woodland, wetland and meadow wildflower areas across the development. Species include Allium ursinum, Alliaria petiolate, Angelica sylvestris, Anthriscus sylvestris, Arum maculatum, Digitalis purpurea, Eupatorium cannabinum, Filipendula ulmaria, Galium album, Geum urbanum, Hyacinthoides non-scripta, Primula vulgaris, Prunella vulgaris, Ranunculus acris, Silene dioica, Teucrium scorodonia, Agrostis capillaris, Anthoxanthum odoratum, Brachypodium sylvaticum, Cynosurus cristatus, Deschampsia cespitosa, Festuca rubra, Poa nemoralis, Centaurea nigra, Daucus carota, Galium verum, Leucanthemum vulgare, Malva moschata, Plantago lanceolata, Poterium sanguisorba ssp sanguisorba, Rhinanthus minor, Phleum bertolonii, Poa pratensis, Achillea Millefolium, Agrimonia eupatoria, Betonica officinalis, Centaurea nigra, Lathyrus pratensis, Leontodon hispidus, Lotus corniculatus, Lotus pedunculatus, Medicago lupulina, Primula veris, Rumex acetosa, Sanguisorba officinalis, Silene flos-cuculi, Taraxacum officinale, Vicia craccam, Carex echinata, Cynosurus cristatus, Hordeum secalinum.

Proposed On-plot planting and SUDs features – A diverse mix of 19 species of shrubs, grasses and perennials spread across the development.

Proposed Reptile Hibernacula - Located within the western wildflower meadow and designed in consultation with the project ecologist

SUMMARY

Due to the surrounding built development, roads and adjacent low ecological value sports pitches, connectivity to the wider GI network is limited.

This limited existing GI connectivity which will be retained and, while the proposed development will not improve direct habitat connectivity to the wider GI network, the biodiversity enhancements provided within the site boundary will be available as a stepping stone for commuting and foraging for birds and bats.

The primary green corridor will be retained, with the exception of trees that are unsuitable for retention.

GI losses are compensated with new native trees, wildflower habitat and on-plot soft landscaping.