

Landscape, Biodiversity & Amenity Strategy

The landscape proposals will provide an attractive setting to both proposed and existing buildings. The scheme includes a mix of communal spaces, and seating will be located to catch the sun at different times of day.

New paths improve pedestrian permeability and with welcoming and legible access points.

Shared spaces embody the key concepts of 'wellbeing' and 'placemaking', giving the residents the option to share the communal courtyard gardens with other residents.

Planting includes healing and therapeutic species, such as scented, rustling and aromatic plants. In turn, these attract birds and butterflies into the garden and contribute to creating a restful and restorative outdoor space which appeals to all senses.

Surface water and roof water will be captured and drained into the rain gardens. The depth of concrete kerbs to rain gardens will be calculated to optimise drainage.

Soils will be specified to ensure that plants grow in a moist but well drained rootzone, with water temporarily stored and then draining into pipes to be transported further down the drainage chain. Rain gardens further enhance biodiversity, and planting here is specified to tolerate the aspect (sun/shade) and the drainage (wet/dry/mesic).

Green Infrastructure Statement

The site is flat, urban brownfield land with dual frontage overlooking Jack's Pill and the River Usk corridor. The site's south-western boundary abuts a busy tree-lined dual carriageway, the A4042.

Key GI assets
The following assets provide a multi-functional resource, including diversity of habitat and wildlife, with existing and potential links to adjacent habitats and pedestrian/cyclist permeability.

1. The River Usk corridor and Jack's Pill wrap around the north-eastern and south-eastern frontages. The River Usk is vegetated above the waterline with naturalised and native species, providing a green link and wildlife corridor through the urban landscape;
2. An intermittent tree avenue along the A4042 provides a green corridor, softening views, linking green spaces and providing microclimate improvements such as a cooling effect during the summer and filtering of vehicle pollutants. 3no. tree of the avenue lie within the site boundary;
3. The National Cycle Route 47 runs alongside the north-eastern and south-eastern site boundaries and links into the extensive Newport access network for walkers and cyclists, connecting via a series of bridges to footpaths on the opposite bank of the Usk.

- GI opportunities**
1. Create Green infrastructure in and around the site to provide the opportunity for new connections to the Usk corridor and encourage wildlife into new public open space and gardens;
 2. Opportunity for improved pedestrian permeability with new footpaths through the site linking to NCN 47;
 3. New tree planting to ensure resilience of the existing GI network, its features and habitats, to include sufficient space for new planting to grow (including appropriate tree rooting volume);
 4. Creation of travel, foraging, nesting and roosting opportunities for wildlife and provision of new links to surrounding river corridor;
 5. Habitat creation for birds and pollinators including early flowering shrubs and perennials and species-rich grassland;
 6. Ensuring visual appeal and attractive setting of the development on a prominent site.

- GI proposals**
1. Improve biodiversity across the site, for both flora and fauna; allow for incoming species;
 2. Provide multifunctional SUDS proposals which enhance biodiversity and amenity and provide seasonal amphibian habitat;
 3. Fell and replace 3no. poor Acers in tree avenue, (at request of Tree Officer), to be mitigated by extensive new tree and hedgerow planting;
 4. Create opportunity for wildlife travel in and around site which will allow some species to connect with the adjacent river and beyond;
 5. Design planting and wildflower grassland to encourage pollinating insects, which in turn can attract bats;
 6. Ensure any lighting scheme is designed to avoid light spill on dark corridors.

Baseline studies which have informed GI proposals

For Ecology information, refer to JBA Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
For Arboricultural information, refer to Treescene Tree Survey and Tree Constraints Plan
For SUDS details, refer to PHG Consulting engineering layout
For analysis of the landscape views, refer to 538.05 Views Assessment, Catherine Etchell Associates
For planting and maintenance, refer to 538.03 Planting Plan & 538.04 Management Plan, Catherine Etchell Associates

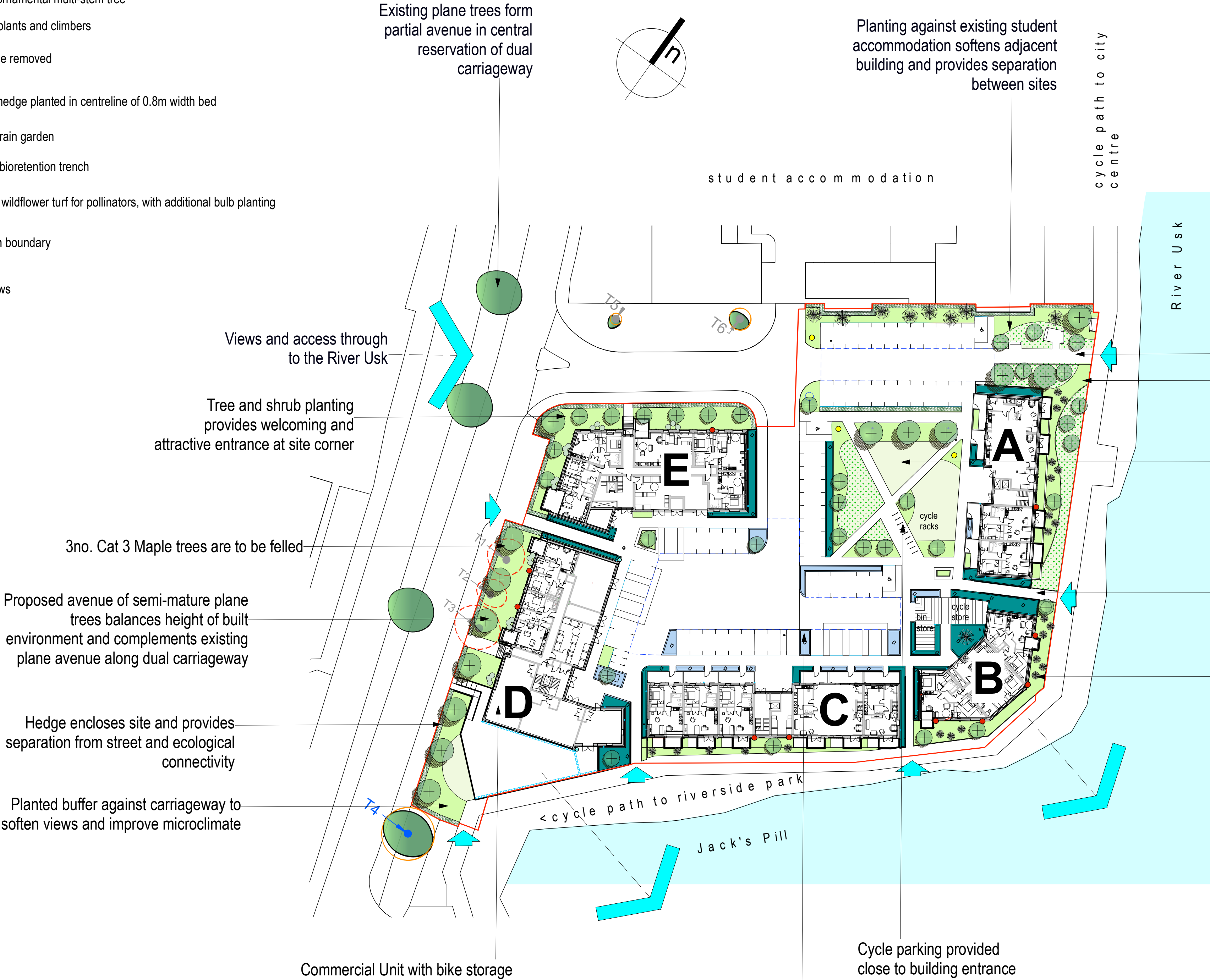
Summary of net biodiversity gains

- In accordance with recently updated Welsh Planning Policy, the site will promote the principles of a Green Infrastructure, enhancing biodiversity and local distinctiveness;
- Biodiversity of the existing brown field site will be greatly improved; proposed planting includes species-rich wildflower grassland, ornamental and native hedgerows, provision of mesic flowering species, buffer planting and trees. Winter and early-flowering species provide pollen and nectar at times when little else is available for early pollinators;
- The landscape proposals will provide an attractive setting when viewed from the surrounding road and river corridors, providing biodiversity benefit and integrating it into the wider landscape.
- Proposed planting will wrap around and through the site providing corridors for wildlife connectivity, improving the existing tree avenue and linking to the river corridor bringing wildlife into public open spaces and gardens. Proposed trees will balance the height of the development softening the streetscene and improving microclimate.
- Surface water and roof water will be captured and drained into the rain gardens along the streets. Soils will be specified to ensure that plants grow in a moist but well drained rootzone, with water temporarily stored and then draining into pipes to be transported further down the drainage chain. These rain gardens further enhance biodiversity, and planting here is specified to tolerate the aspect (sun/shade) and the drainage (wet/dry/mesic).
- Management of existing and proposed vegetation will be sympathetic to wildlife, both in terms of methods and timing of maintenance operations.

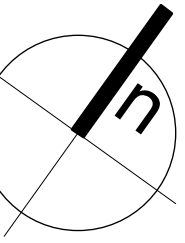
legend

- proposed ornamental planting
- proposed amenity turf
- proposed large species trees
- proposed small sepcies/fastigate tree
- proposed ornamental multi-stem tree
- specimen plants and climbers
- existing tree removed
- proposed hedge planted in centreline of 0.8m width bed
- proposed rain garden
- proposed bioretention trench
- proposed wildflower turf for pollinators, with additional bulb planting
- application boundary

key views



Stepwise Approach	Assessing impacts on habitats and species	DECCA:
Avoid		
Minimise		
Mitigate/restore		
Compensate on site		
Compensate off site		



Revision C August 2026: POS planting amended to accord with Planting Plan
Revision B April 2026: GI Statement and annotations added; layout amendments
Revision A September 2021: Minor amendments



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