

Green Infrastructure Statement

For

Proposed Residential Development, Catsash Road, Langstone

Prepared By



On Behalf of

Skerryvore Design

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INTRODUCTION

The design for the site 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 Skerryvore Design, in consultation with Ecological Services Ltd, Wyn Davies CMLI, M.Arbor.A 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)

The majority of existing trees are to be retained and protected. However, 1 no. leylandii and 1 no. grown-out hedgerow Hazel will require removal to accommodate the development.

To **compensate** for these losses, detailed soft landscape proposals have been produced for the site that include new tree planting, meadow habitat and understorey. (refer to page 4 for details).

PREVIOUS STUDIES

Arboricultural survey produced by Wyn Davies CMLI, M.Arbor.A

Arboricultural Impact Assessment produced by Wyn Davies CMLI, M.Arbor.A

Site Assessment produced by Ecological Services Ltd

THE SITE

The development site is a rectangular parcel of land accessed off Catsash Road. It comprises a mix of cleared ground, semi-improved grassland, scrub and non-native boundary hedgerows.



Image 1 – The Site



Image 2 – View looking West towards the site entrance from Catsash Road

EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Existing Trees

11 no Category C trees (Low Quality & Value), 2 no. Category B trees (Moderate Quality & Value), 1 Category U tree (Unsuitable for Retention) and 1 no. Category C tree group. Trees are predominantly located on the eastern site boundary. Species include Lawson Cypress, Leyland Cypress, Spruce, Sycamore, Ash, Yew, Hazel, Holly and Cherry.

Existing Hedgerows

The site is bounded to the north and east and west by existing hedgerows. Hedgerows are predominantly non-native comprising conifers and laurel.

Green Corridors

Existing linear tree groups and hedgerows form green corridors around on the eastern and western boundaries. The corridors are non-native and relatively poor in quality. They are separated from the woodland to the north by the access track, but there is some limited connectivity to the wider GI network.

Soils

The site comprises significant areas of open green space. 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

There is an area of semi-improved grassland at the southern end of the site.

Scrub

There are small patches of bramble and bracken scrub.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES

1 no. category C Leyland cypress and 1 no. grown-out hedgerow Hazel will require removal to accommodate the proposed development.

Some scrub and semi-improved grassland will require removal to accommodate the development.

PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Proposed Native Trees – 5 no. new native trees are proposed on the southern boundary of the development.

Proposed Wildflower Habitat – New native woodland, and meadow wildflower habitats on the development's peripheries. Species include *Allium ursinum*, *Alliaria petiolata*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Arctium minus*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Galium album*, *Geum rivale*, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, *Iris foetidissima*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Silene dioica*, *Vicia cracca*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Daucus carota*, *Galium verum*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Malva moschata*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Poterium sanguisorba ssp sanguisorba*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Silene dioica*, *Festuca rubra*, *Phleum bertolonii*.

Native Understorey Plantation – located on the bund adjacent to the southern boundary. Species include Hazel Hawthorn and Elder.

SUMMARY

The limited connectivity to the woodland north of the site is retained and enhanced with new planting.

The loss of the Hazel and Leyland Cypress is compensated with new tree and understorey planting.

The loss of the semi-improved grassland is compensated with new woodland and meadow wildflower habitat.