

Green Infrastructure plan

For

Ridgeway Hill, Newport

Prepared By



On Behalf of

Riversee ltd Developments

February 2025

Report No:	Date	Revision	Author	Checked
LT2417	26/02/25		KL	KL

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Plans:

LT2417.04.01: Site plan and Landscaping

Section 1: Introduction

- 1.1. Letrucco Design Ltd have been commissioned by Riversee Ltd to develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy and Green Infrastructure Statement to support the proposed development of a two dwellings on land off Ridgeway Hill, Newport. An assessment of the existing landscape and surrounding context was undertaken. The assessment comprised a site walk-over, desktop study and review of ecological and arboricultural survey work.
- 1.2. The purpose of this document is to identify the local Green Infrastructure (GI) network both within and surrounding the site, illustrating how the development proposals have been designed to avoid, minimise, mitigate and, where required, compensate the local GI in line with Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12).
- 1.3. GI is defined by the UK government as “a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities”. This can include natural habitats ranging from grasslands, wetlands and woodlands to parks, open spaces, playing fields, street trees, rain gardens, allotments and private gardens.
- 1.4. The site is located at the mid point of Ridgeway hill and accessed from the main road. The site is currently vacant with grassland covering most of the site and is set amongst existing single storey dwellings, each with their own proportion of front gardens.
- 1.5. The site and surrounding properties can be classed as urban in design. Ridgeway hill has a fairly steep topography and so each plot is staggered vertically to suit the levels of the main road.
- 1.6. Limited soft landscaping is present to the front of the surrounding areas. The surrounding areas are predominantly private gardens to each dwelling, where some have removed all evidence of green spaces and have applied hard landscaping to the entire frontage. The properties adjacent the site however have retained the green spaces.
- 1.7. Green infrastructure objectives for the development focus on delivering a range of appropriate soft landscape features throughout, connecting to the wider GI network.
- 1.8. This Landscape and Green Infrastructure Strategy has been developed to support the appeal application to Welsh Government.

- **Avoid** – The layout of the site should be designed to avoid damage or removal of existing GI assets wherever possible;
- **Minimise** – The site layout should be developed and refined through an iterative approach, to minimise habitat loss and functioning ecosystems and retaining connections and existing features wherever possible;
- **Mitigate/Restore** – Potential damage to GI assets will be mitigated through best arboricultural practice, protecting landscape features during construction and repairing damaged habitats in excess of like for like; and
- **Compensate** – When all other steps have been exhausted further, on-site/immediate proximity or as a last resort off-site compensation should be provided. New areas of planting should be designed and specified to contribute to the local and wider GI network.

Section 2: Existing Green infrastructure

Local Green Infrastructure Networks

- 2.1. Whilst located within an urban area, the site benefits from local connections to the wider green infrastructure network. Ridgeway Hill offers typical urban footway connections but with green reliefs along it's the footways by means of green front gardens. Some additional features such as hedgerow and scattered trees feature within front gardens in both directions but are largely isolated features broken up by hard standing for road and residential access. – fig 1
- 2.2. Overall the site lies within a typical Urban spread with a variety of green areas and hard finishes to the road and footways – fig 2

Existing Trees

- 2.3. No trees are present on site but a few existing trees along the main road are present (fig 3)
- 2.4. Any Trees within proximity to construction activities (both on and off site) shall be protected through appropriate tree protection fencing.

Existing Hedgerows

- 2.5. No existing hedgerows were identified on site. Existing hedgerows along the main road are present. (fig 3)

Section 3: Proposed Green Infrastructure

Soft Landscape Proposals

- 3.1. Due to the nature of the proposed development, a large proportion of the site will be taken up by the proposed dwelling and associated parking and access. The quality of existing landscape features is limited, and it is considered the development proposals will enhance the overall capacity and contribution of the development to on-site and local GI.
- 3.2. Connecting to the wider network is the key consideration for on-site GI. The proposals aim to achieve this by adding new green areas consisting grass and shrubs to the front garden areas. New landscaped rear gardens and shrubs are also proposed.
- 3.3. The landscape design includes a range of new GI features for the benefit of people and wildlife. These include a range of pollinating planting and shrubs to improve amenity and structure, as well as providing summer shade and a food source for wildlife. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) include both infiltration basins and rain gardens planted with appropriate species to manage infiltration and create habitat opportunity. Areas of native structure planting and hedgerows feature fronting the development contributing to the overall soft landscape areas and diversifying GI features. Development proposals seek to introduce a number of soft landscape features into the site. These include:
- **Hedgerow Planting** – An ornamental hedgerow is proposed between the plots to not only offer green enhancements, but to also offer a definitive boundary between the two dwellings.
 - **Planting** – Native and Ornamental planting proposes mixed shrub, perennial and herbaceous planting throughout the development. Evergreen structure provided by shrubs is balanced with seasonal flowering plants, grasses and bulbs enhancing visual amenity and providing habitat and foraging opportunity.
 - **Amenity Grassland** – Amenity grassland within rear gardens create accessible areas for a range of activities.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

- 3.4. The drainage design for the site will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). SUDS design comprises of a rain garden and attenuation. These features provide an excellent opportunity at the surface level to create rich habitats capable of holding and managing water on site. These areas will not only improve and manage water quality but enhance biodiversity as well.

Landscape Management

- 3.5. The proposed landscape management will include an appropriate aftercare period to ensure that any retained and created habitats, connections and landscape planting establish well and are maintained for connectivity and health. This will be managed by the applicant.
- 3.6. The main objectives for the Landscape Management Plan include:
- The conservation, protection, and enhancement of all proposed and retained natural features;
 - The establishment, through exemplary horticultural and contractual practices, of a high quality and functional landscape with wildlife biodiversity enhancements;
 - To ensure that plant Bio Security principles, including biodiversity, are embedded in both the implementation and management of all new landscaping; and
 - To maintain the amenity of the proposals ensuring an attractive place to live and visit.

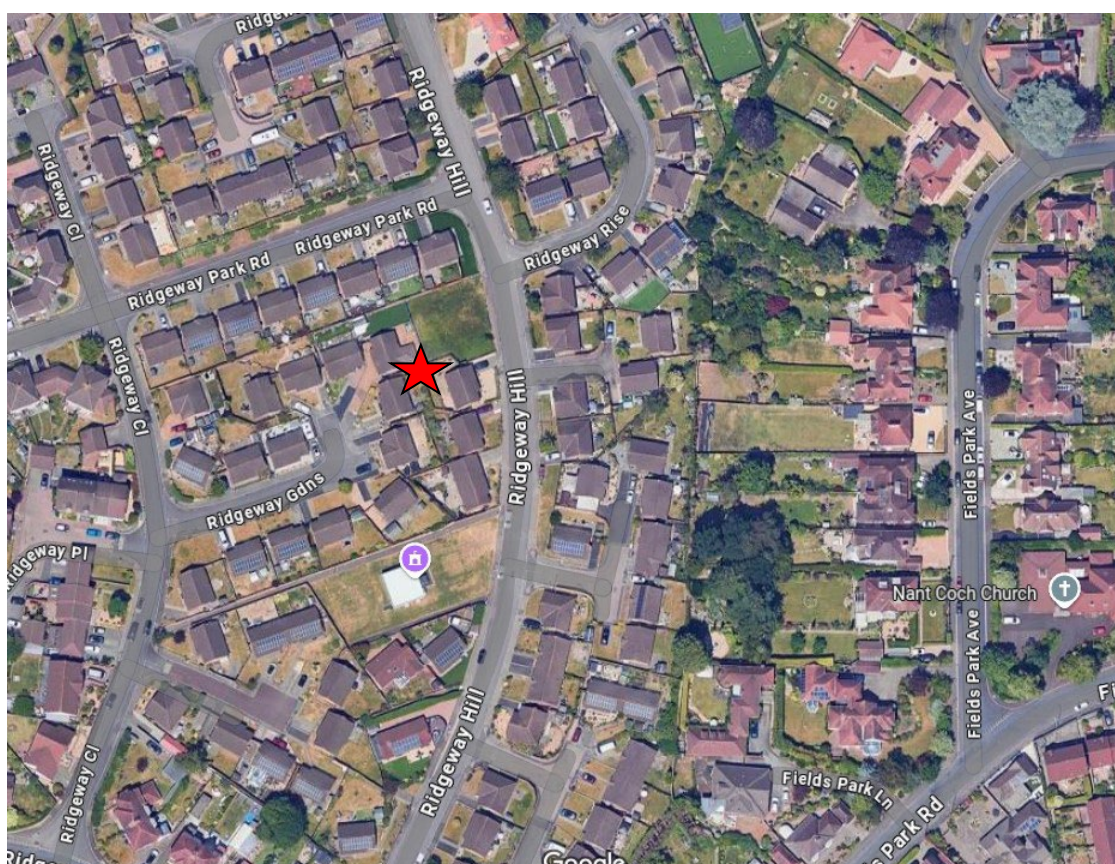


Fig 1 – Satellite plan with proposed site indicated as star.
Views indicates green links through the use of existing front gardens and hedgerows.



Fig 2 – View looking down Ridgeway Hill with proposed site on the right hand corner. View indicates green links though the use of existing front gardens and hedgerows.



Fig 3 – View looking up Ridgeway Hill with proposed site on the left hand corner. View indicates green links though the use of Trees along the main road and the hedgerows.



Fig4 – Image of proposed dwellings with green space to front gardens indicated..

Section 4: Conclusion

- 4.1. Any impacts from the proposed development will be mitigated through the creation of new planting areas throughout the scheme which cover a range of typologies.
- 4.2. Native species will be used throughout the scheme to enhance peripheral corridors, connect to central development spaces, and diversify SUDS features improving biodiversity, providing important ecological habitats and enhancing the amenity value of the site.
- 4.3. The successful maintenance and establishment of the landscape features on the site will provide a robust network of healthy, multi-functional and biodiverse green spaces, capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for people and wildlife. Given the Green Infrastructure design and long-term management proposals it is considered that the proposed scheme complies fully with the Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12), which sets out the policy for biodiversity and nature.
- 4.4. The proposed gardens providing green spaces which align with the street scene and typology of private green spaces of the existing dwellings.

