

Green Infrastructure plan

For

Ridgeway Hill, Newport

Prepared By



On Behalf of

Riversee Ltd Developments

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2-3
THE SITE	4
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CONTEXT	5
EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES	6-7
PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & SUMMARY	8-9

INTRODUCTION

The design for the development at Ridgeway Hill 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, to **avoid** damage to biodiversity wherever possible. (refer to page 3 for details).

While existing grassed areas are to be retained and protected, due to the nature and extent of the development, it will not be possible to **mitigate** damage to front most area of the site, as it will be removed to accommodate the proposals.

To **compensate** for this loss, detailed soft landscape proposals will be provided to satisfy the planning conditions for the site.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

Preliminary Ecological Assessment 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 West from the junction of Ridgeway rise



EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Existing Trees

No Trees exist within the confines of the site. 2no existing trees are located North of the site along the gable elevation of No 2 Ridgeway Rise and 3No existing tree is located on the opposite side of the road with the front garden of 29 Ridgeway Hill.



View looking North at No 2 Ridgeway Rise demonstrates the trees and shrubs



View looking East at No 29 Ridgeway Hill demonstrates the existing trees and grassed areas.

Existing Hedgerows

No existing hedgerow exists within the confines of the site. An existing buxus hedgerow exists on the opposite side of the road within the front garden of No 2 Ridgeway Gardens.

A small privet hedge exists within the front garden of the adjacent Property – No 18 Ridgeway Hill.

Green Corridors

Existing linear tree groups, hedgerows and grassed verges (stepping stones) form a green corridor along the Ridgeway Hill. This green corridor provides connectivity to the north, linking in with the prominent tree line and grass verges of Allt Yr Yn Avenue.

To the south there is some green connectivity with Ridgeway Avenue, although there is little evidence of strong green carriage ways and infrastructure along this road.

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.

No 45 Ridgeway Park Road, which sits immediately to the North of the site, has removed all existing grassed areas and replaced them with false grass.

Soils

The site comprises significant areas of open green space, currently occupied by rough 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 site comprises rough grassland with the occasional ornamental plants and occasional woody scrub and vegetation.

Tall Ruderal Vegetation

Exist and in small number growing on the site edges along the existing fence line.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES

Low quality rough grassland and a small amount of occasional woody scrub to the front area of the site, will be lost to allow for the development area.

PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Proposed Native Trees – 1 no. new native tree will be proposed to the front garden of plot 1

Proposed Shrubs – The front gardens are proposed to be planted with a selection of native shrubs, to suit the individual garden sizes and heights associated with window heights and vision splays from each parking bay.

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

SUMMARY

Due to the surrounding built development, roads and adjacent a good degree of green infrastructure consisting trees, shrubs and stepping stone vergers, the proposed landscaping scheme will connect well and enhance the pattern of green spaces along Ridgeway hill.

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