

Green Infrastructure Statement

For

Proposed Residential Development, Traston Lane, Newport

Prepared By



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). Following consultation with the local authority, the development proposals were reduced in scale, to provide greater space for compensation measures.

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. Section 5 of the PEA, produced by Ecological Services Ltd, identifies the ditches along the northern and western boundary of the site as providing important connectivity to the wider landscape. These ditches are outside of the site boundary and do not form part of the proposals. While there is connectivity to the wider GI network, it is limited by the surrounding roads and the low ecological value of the adjacent sports pitches.



Image 1 – The Site



Image 2 – View looking North West from Traston Lane



EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Existing Trees

39 no. trees and 23 no. tree groups are 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

As identified in Section 5 of the PEA, produced by Ecological Services Ltd, ditches run along the northern and western boundary of the site. These ditches provide important connectivity to the wider landscape. They lie outside of the site boundary, will be retained as existing and do not form part of the proposals. Existing linear tree groups and hedgerows form a green corridor along the northern and western boundary of the site. This green corridor has connectivity to the north with the linear belt of trees that defines the boundary of Newport International Sports Village and to the south, there is some canopy connectivity with the Solutia Site SINC. This connectivity is limited by the intervening 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.

G5, T6, T7, T9, T12, T13, G14, T15, T16, T17, T19, T20, T21, T22, G23, T25, T26, G28, T29, T31, T32, T33, G34, T35, T37, T38, T39, T43, G44, T48, T49, T50, G51, T52, T53, T54 and T55 are categorised as U (Unsuitable for retention) and should be removed on arboricultural grounds.

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

PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The primary objectives of the detailed soft landscape proposals are to;

- 1) Compensate GI losses through the creation of new biodiverse habitat
- 2) Protect and enhance remaining GI assets.
- 3) improve the arboricultural value of the site with native and ornamental trees.
- 4) Incorporate the SUDs system into the landscape design.

The most prominent components of the SUDs system, from a resident's perspective, will be the rain gardens and bioretention areas. These areas will be experienced by residents on a daily basis. The prominent treatment of water at surface level, directly outside homes, maximises legibility of the wider drainage system, enables residents to follow and understand the stages of water treatment across the site, provides new wetland habitat, and provides a visually attractive element to the roadway. The visibility of water as it travels through the landscape, and the personal-scale ecosystems created will provide a resource for local environmental education and opportunities for social cohesion.

Proposed Native Trees – 48 no. new native trees are proposed on the northern and eastern edges of the development.

Proposed Street Trees – 13 new trees within the development including avenue street trees.

Proposed Wildflower Habitat –

310 square metres of wetland wildflower habitat. Species include; *Achillea Millefolium*, *Agrimonia eupatoria*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Betonica officinalis*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Galium verum*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Primula veris*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Silene flos-cuculi*, *Taraxacum officinale*, *Vicia cracca*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Carex echinata*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Festuca rubra*, *Phleum bertolonii*, *Poa pratensis*.

1,262 square metres of woodland wildflower habitat. 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*, *Festuca rubra*, *Poa nemoralis*.

757 square metres of meadow wildflower habitat. Species include; *Centaurea nigra*, *Daucus carota*, *Galium verum*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Malva moschata*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Poterium sanguisorba ssp sanguisorba*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Silene dioica*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Phleum bertolonii*, *Poa pratensis*.

Proposed On-plot planting landscape planting – 230 square metres of shrubs, grasses and perennials spread across the development. Native and non-native species are included, with plants for pollinators as a priority.

Rain Garden Planting – 203 square metres of SUDs tolerant shrubs grasses and perennials. Native and non-native species are included, with plants for pollinators as a priority.

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

Amenity Lawn – 671 square metres of private residential lawn area, seeded with a flowering lawn wildflower mix. Species include; Anthyllis vulneraria, Betonica officinalis, Centurea nigra, Galium album, Galium verum, Leucanthemum vulgare, Lotus corniculatus, Medicago lupulina, Plantago lanceolata, Primula veris, Prunella vulgaris, Ranunculus acris, Silene vulgaris, Taraxacum officinale, Trifolium repens, Agrostis capillaris, Cynosurus cristatus, Festuca rubra, Phleum bertolonii, Poa pratensis.

SUMMARY

Green Infrastructure Connectivity

The existing GI connectivity, formed by the existing ditch along the northern and western boundary will be retained as existing and does not form part of the proposals.

The existing green corridor of trees along the western boundary contains several Category U Willow. These trees are at risk of structural failure and have anticipated remaining contribution of less than 10 years. 25 new trees are proposed along this boundary, to enhance the green corridor and secure its long-term future.

On-Site Biodiversity

The PEA produced by Ecological Services Ltd identifies 11 species of tree, 30 species of herbaceous plants and 4 species of grass. The tree survey produced by Treescene identifies a further 5 tree species. As a consequence of development, the 34 species of herbaceous plants and grasses will be removed.

This loss is compensated with the proposal of 89 new species including wildflower, shrubs, grasses, perennials and trees. Of these species, 64 are British native.

Land Coverage

Total site area = 7, 647 m²

Proposed buildings = 1,052 m²

Proposed hard surfacing = 3,070 m²

Proposed Soft landscaping = 3,525 m²