Barry Waterfront Campus
Green Infrastructure Statement
edp8159_r003b

QA: EWi/MDu_GGi/CTi_280324

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Cardiff and Vale College (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') in relation to a proposed development at Barry Waterfront Campus (hereafter referred to as 'the Site').

1.2 EDP is an independent environmental planning consultancy with offices in Cardiff, Cirencester and Cheltenham. The practice provides advice to private and public sector clients throughout the UK in the fields of landscape, ecology, archaeology, cultural heritage, arboriculture, rights of way and masterplanning. Details of the practice can be obtained at our website (www.edp-uk.co.uk).

1.3 The proposals concern the redevelopment of vacant brownfield site at Barry Waterfront for a new educational campus for Cardiff and Vale Campus including landscaping, related infrastructure and engineering works. The Landscape Illustrative Masterplan is provided as **Appendix EDP 1** to this document whilst a Planting Strategy is provided at **Appendix EDP 2**.

1.4 In the advent of updates to Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW)[1], a Green Infrastructure Statement is required for submission alongside the planning application. This document identifies how Green Infrastructure (GI) has been incorporated into the landscape design for the Site (provided at **Appendices EDP 1** and **2**) and provides the relevant avoidance, mitigation and/or compensation measures incorporated into the design to ensure the continued functioning of GI assets both within and adjacent to the Site.

Site Context

1.5 The Site is centred approximately at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OSGR) ST 110 674. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is Vale of Glamorgan Council (VoGC). The Site measures approximately 1.2 hectares (ha) and is located within the town of Barry. The Site has been developed previously (former industrial dockland) and therefore predominantly comprises bare ground and hardstanding. Unmanaged, poor semi-improved grassland is dominant across the eastern half of the Site, whilst dense scrub delineates the fenced

[1] Revisions to PPW Chapter 6 came took immediate into effect on 18 October 2023 following issue of ministerial letter reference MA/JJ/2512/23 to all Local Planning Authorities by the Welsh Government. Revised Chapter 6 can be found here: https://www.gov.wales/addressing-nature-emergency-through-planning-system-update-chapter-6-planning-policy-wales (Accessed 13 March 2024).

boundary bordered by Hood Road/Ffordd Y Mileniwn Road. Other habitats present include ephemeral/short perennial vegetation and two small areas of outgrown amenity planting which now supports stands of young/semi-mature trees. Land uses in the surrounding landscape are predominantly commercial or residential, with Barry Goodsheds adjacent to the north, a supermarket to the south and the Barry Waterfront to the east. A school, recently constructed, is present to the south and west, although construction activities were ongoing at the time of survey with the Site used for storage of materials and to accommodate movement of machinery. The Site is relatively isolated from semi-natural habitat in the wider landscape; however, a decommissioned railway line and track terminus delineates the northern boundary of the Site and may provide dispersal opportunities for wildlife, albeit semi-natural vegetation is very limited here.

2 ECOLOGY AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE BASELINE

2.1 To establish the ecological baseline of the Site a desk-study and Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey was undertaken during May 2023. The Site predominantly comprises bare ground and hardstanding which are of negligible intrinsic ecological importance. Unmanaged, poor semi-improved grassland is dominant across the eastern half of the Site with dense scrub present along the eastern margins. Other habitats present include ephemeral/short perennial vegetation and two small areas of outgrown amenity planting comprising stands of young/semi-mature trees. Semi-natural habitats present on-site are largely isolated from the wider landscape by existing development, although a railway line adjacent to the northern boundary of the Site provides some limited connectivity to offsite semi-natural habitat with a role in facilitating the dispersal of wildlife across the immediate landscape. Of additional pertinence, is the proximity of Barry Docks and the South Wales coastline whilst statutory and non-statutory designations were identified within 2km of the Site. Combined, these features are of value to the wider green infrastructure network at the local and county level with the Site itself providing a stepping stone for the movement of wildlife across an otherwise urban dominant environment. Overall, the following valued GI and ecology resources were identified within the zone of influence of the site, in the context of the development proposals:

- Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site located off-site, 7.7km to the east;
- Poor semi-improved grassland and amenity tree planting of less than Local importance;
- Suitable habitat for a foraging/commuting bat assemblage;
- Suitable habitat for breeding birds; and
- Suitable habitat for common reptiles, amphibians and notable mammals.

3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND GREEN INFRASRCUTRE STRATEGY

3.1 In respect of the ecological/GI resource present within and adjacent to the Site, the proposed development has been designed to retain and protect the valued resources listed above and in so doing, deliver net benefits to biodiversity in accordance with Chapter 6 of PPW. This is achieved through adoption of a stepwise approach which ensures that any adverse environmental effects are firstly avoided, then minimized, mitigated, and as a last resort, compensated for, with enhancement secured by delivering biodiversity benefits onsite, over and above that required to mitigate or compensate for any negative impact.

3.2 Proposed habitat protection and creation features, and the benefits they provide to the GI network, include:

- The implementation of a sustainable drainage strategy to include rain gardens to manage surface water runoff from new development. In addition to ensuring impacts upon the Severn Estuary Ramsar Site/SAC/SPA and other aquatic habitats are avoided, such features can provide multi-functional benefits. Native planting will enhance the landscape amenity value of the Site whilst also provide foraging opportunities for invertebrates and delivering benefits to climate regulation, adaptation and resilience;

- The provision of new hedgerow planting around the peripheries of the Site in west, compensating for minor loss of scrub habitat whilst maintaining availability of suitable breeding/foraging habitat and refuge for protected/notable species such as a nesting bird assemblage. This will be in addition to the provision of formal hedgerow planting around the frontage of the proposed building and landscaped areas. Although the latter will be managed for amenity, this will still deliver benefits in terms of softening the urban edge of development;

- The provision of new tree planting within the Site, compensating for proposed losses whilst also maintaining nesting habitat for a bird assemblage and contributing to climate regulation and soil stabilisation;

- Provision of open green space for campus users with areas of amenity grassland around the frontages of the new building and proposed grass lawn providing benefits to recreation and visual amenity combined with some wildflower grassland planting along the margins of these features. Whist such areas are to be primarily managed for amenity, grassland will still provide foraging opportunities to protected/notable species such as badger (*Meles meles*), common reptiles/amphibians and European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*);

- Inclusion of an edible garden to be used as a community space, promoting a connection with nature and providing benefits to health and wellbeing whilst the planting of native fruiting trees is also of value as an addition nesting/foraging resource for protected/notable species;

- The inclusion of a green roof in association with the proposed bin storage area providing further habitat opportunities for foraging birds and invertebrates whilst further integrating nature within the built form; and

- The inclusion of bird nest and bat roost boxes within the fabric of new buildings to increase nesting/roosting provision across the Site for these species groups, seeking to maintain/increase populations of such species within the local area.

3.3 Overall, proposed development will result in the reduction of available semi-natural habitat across the Site, with subsequent impacts upon the existing GI resource. Such habitat losses are, however, largely confined to species-poor scrub, species-poor grassland, bare ground and ephemeral/short perennial vegetation, indicative of the land's past commercial use and thus not considered significant. Inherent within the Illustrative Landscape Masterplan, however, is the provision of new landscape features including: public open space comprising areas of amenity and wildflower grassland; new tree and hedgerow planting incorporating native and/or fruit/flower bearing specimens; and herbaceous planting in association with proposed raingardens to provide/enhance opportunities for wildlife post development and maintain and promote ecological connectivity between the Site and off-site habitats. Overall, therefore, the scheme will provide a betterment in the green infrastructure resource of the Site compared to baseline conditions.

Appendix EDP 1
Illustrative Landscape Masterplan
(Ares Landscape Architects, VG0201-ALA-00-XX-DR-L-00001, Rev P05)

L01 Terrace Illustrative Masterplan SCALE 1:250

HOOD ROAD

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SEE INSET

FFORDD Y MILENIWM

MINIBUS

MINIBUS

KEY

- A ENTRANCE PLAZA
- B BIN STORE
- C DOUBLE STACKED CYCLE STORAGE
  Number of spaces: 160 long stay, 10 short stay
- D CAR PARK ACCESS
  Automatic barrier with intercom to reception and double gate to enable site to be secured when needed
- E OUTDOOR DINING
- F FEATURE TREES & RAIN GARDEN
- G GRASS LAWN
  For socialising and outdoor learning
- H DROP OFF ZONE
- I AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP
- J CARPARK
  93 spaces (inc. 10no. EVCPs and 4 Accessible Bays)
  2 x Minibus Parking
- K SPINKLER & PUMP HOUSE
- L ACCESS ROUTE
  For refuse, maintenace and kitchen deliveries only
- M L01 ILS TERRACE
  Including shed, greenhouse, Horticulture planting, canopy and external seating
- N PV CANOPY
- O SITE EGRESS
  For refuse, maintenace and kitchen deliveries only
- P HEDGE
- Q MOTORCYCLE PARKING
  3no. spaces
- R GAS KIOSK
- S EDIBLE GARDEN
- T BATTERY
- U STORAGE SHED
- V GENERATOR

Note

1. Do not scale from this drawing
2. To be read in conjunction with Project Risk Register REF: VG0201-ALA-00-XX-RG-L-00001
3. To be read in conjunction with all other Landscape Architect's drawings

ID	RISK	MITIGATION	DATE MITIGATED

RESIDUAL PROJECT RISKS

DATE	REV	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION	DRAWN BY	APPROVED BY
20/03/2024	P05	Issued for Planning	MDS	MH

REVISIONS

STATUS
A2 - *Authorized and Accepted as Planning Application Submission*

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CLIENT :
Cardiff and Vale College

PROJECT TITLE :
Barry Waterfront Campus

DRAWING TITLE :
Landscape Illustrative Masterplan

DRAWING SCALE :	DRAWN BY :	DRAWN DATE :
1:250	HS	15/06/2022
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A1	HT	ALA724

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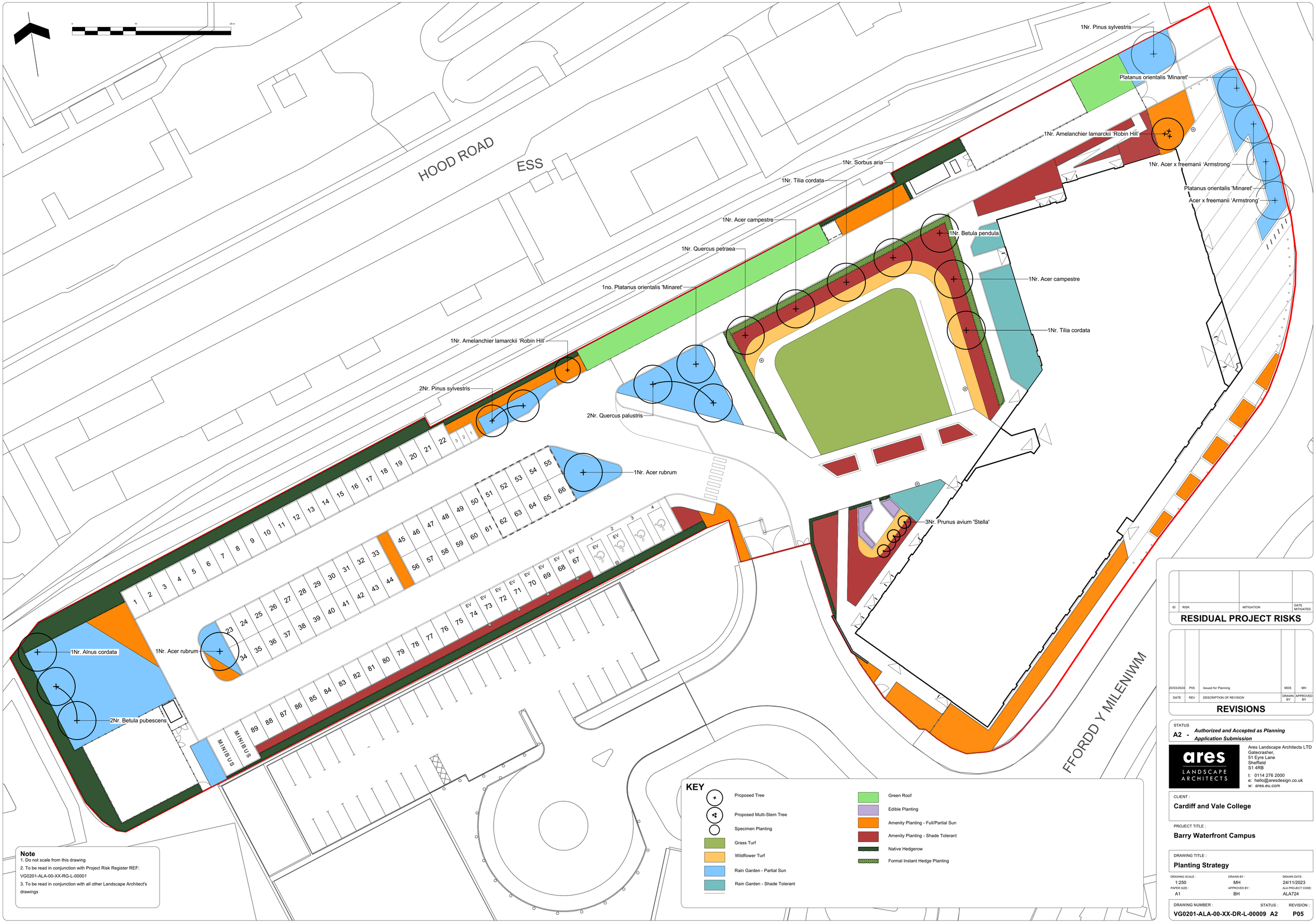
VG0201-ALA-00-XX-DR-L-00001 A2 P05

Appendix EDP 2
Planting Strategy
(Ares Landscape Architects, VG0201-ALA-00-XX-DR-L-00009, Rev P05)



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PROJECT TITLE :
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