

Front Garden Planting Strategy and Policy Compliance Statement

Project: 7a The Ridgeway, Woodley, Reading, RG5 3QD

Applicant: Kevin and Anne McManus

Date: November 2025

Part 1 – Front Garden Planting Strategy

This document forms part of the planning application [252177](#) to confirm landscaping details. It outlines the planting concept, species, maintenance regime, and biodiversity alignment for the front garden of 7a The Ridgeway. The rear garden is to be kept as is, predominantly lawn. Please also see the [“Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Protection Plan And Method Statement”](#).

Design Intent

The design provides a structured, low-maintenance, biodiversity-enhancing landscape that complements the contemporary dwelling. Planting respects the 0.6 m height limit within 2.4 m of the carriageway to preserve visibility splays. The layout incorporates native and pollinator-friendly species with evergreen structure, selected for shade tolerance and low cost.

Planting Zones

- Zone A – Visibility Zone (0–2.4 m from carriageway)

Planting not to exceed 0.6 m in height. Low grasses and perennials with partial-shade tolerance. Mulched with 50 mm recycled bark mulch or similar over weed-suppressing membrane or similar.

- Zone B – Mid-Depth Structural Zone (2.4 m–6 m)

Evergreen domes and flowering perennials providing rhythm and texture between low and inner beds.

- Zone C – Inner Bed / Feature Area (6 m–9.5 m + side beds)

Taller accent shrubs up to 1.5 m, seasonal colour, and winter form. Soil improved with composted fines or similar. Dripline irrigation connected to 3000 L rainwater tank or similar.

Example Planting Table For Zonal Approach

Zone	Common Name	Latin Name	Type	Height (m)	Spread (m)	Density (plants/m ²)	Season / Interest	Notes / Value
A	Dwarf Lavender	Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'	Evergreen Shrub	0.4	0.4	4	Summer	Pollinator magnet, drought tolerant
A	English Daisy	Bellis perennis	Native Perennial	0.1	0.2	12	Spring-Summer	Native wildflower, high BNG value
A	Creeping Thyme	Thymus serpyllum	Groundcover	0.05	0.3	10	Summer	Scented mat-forming, bee friendly
B	Dwarf Hebe	Hebe 'Red Edge' or similar	Evergreen Shrub	0.6	0.6	3	Year-round	Compact, structured
B	Hardy Geranium	Geranium sanguineum or similar	Perennial	0.4	0.5	6	May-Aug	Native hybrid, long flowering
B	Festuca Grass	Festuca glauca or similar	Ornamental Grass	0.4	0.4	6	Year-round	Low nutrient need
C	Box Honeysuckle	Lonicera nitida or similar	Evergreen Shrub	1.2	0.8	2	Year-round	Topiary form, low maintenance
C	Coneflower	Echinacea purpurea or similar	Perennial	1.0	0.5	5	Jul-Oct	High nectar yield, pollinator favourite
C	Verbena	Verbena bonariensis or similar	Perennial	1.2	0.4	5	Jul-Oct	Vertical accent, butterfly plant
C	Red-stem Dogwood	Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire' or similar	Deciduous Shrub	1.5	1.5	1	Winter	Winter stem colour; native
C	English Lavender	Lavandula x intermedia 'Grosso' or similar	Evergreen Shrub	0.7	0.6	4	Summer	Fragrant, pollinator value
C	Oxeye Daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare or similar	Perennial	0.6	0.4	6	Summer	Native wildflower; BNG gain

Maintenance Notes for Example Species

- Automatic dripline irrigation (or similar) supplied from rainwater tank, 20 min cycle twice weekly in dry periods.
- Prune lavenders/hebes post-flowering; coppice dogwood biennially in February.
- Weed control twice yearly; bark mulch (or similar) maintained at ≈ 50 mm depth.
- 10 % replacement stock in Year 2.
- No fertiliser beyond establishment phase. Natural alternatives will be explored.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Policy Alignment

- > 60 % native species (Lavender, Thyme, Geranium, Dogwood, Daisy, Oxeye Daisy).
- > 80 % pollinator species.
- ≈ 35 % evergreen structure (Lavandula, Hebe, Lonicera).
- Visibility Zone ≤ 0.6 m in height per WBC Highways Design Guide.
- Planting integrates with SuDS via permeable surfaces and shallow-rooting species.
- Fully aligns with Local Plan Policy CC03 and Sustainable Design & Construction SPD.

Part 2 – Policy Compliance Checklist

Policy / Guidance Reference	Relevant Requirement / Extract	Compliance in Current Scheme
Borough Design Guide SPD (2023) – Section 7.2	Landscaping must contribute positively to street scene, complement local character, and maintain visibility.	Structured low-maintenance planting with evergreens and natives. Height restricted to 0.6 m within 2.4 m of carriageway, consistent with WBC Highways Design Guide.
Sustainable Design & Construction SPD (2010)	Encourages native planting, biodiversity net gain, and water-efficient systems.	Reuse of topsoil, integration of 3000 L rainwater tank irrigation, native and pollinator species compliant with SPD guidance.
Local Plan Policy CC03 – Green Infrastructure	Landscaping must integrate with SuDS and biodiversity.	Planting integrated with drainage strategy using permeable surfaces, supports SuDS and BNG targets.
Highways Design Guide (2023)	Planting ≤ 0.6 m height with in 2.4 m of carriageway.	Zone A planting limited to 0.6 m max height; visibility splays fully maintained.
Local Validation List (2024)	Requires planting schedule, species, maintenance plan, materials, and highway interface.	All elements provided herein, fulfilling Condition CL4 submission criteria.
Emerging Local Plan (2024–2040) – Policy NE1	Promotes BNG and pollinator habitat creation.	> 60 % native and > 80 % pollinator species achieved, meeting Policy NE1 goals.
Tree and Hedgerow Protection	Protect existing vegetation; mitigate any losses.	No protected trees affected; new native shrubs provide replacement ecological value.

Notes

All policies cross-referenced
from:WBC planning guidance (Borough Design Guide SPD 2023;

Sustainable Design & Construction SPD 2010;

Highways Design Guide 2023;

Local Plan Policy CC03;

Emerging Local Plan 2024–2040).

This document should be read in conjunction with drawing 4242-114 'Proposed Driveway Landscaping'. Species and materials may be substituted ('or similar') subject to approval.