



LADYFIELD



Location
 Dumfries, Scotland
 Type
 Greenfield/Infill
 Year Design
 2010
 Status
 In Progress / Planned
 Size
 55 Acres
 Contact
 Gordon Mann
 T: 01387 247544
 E: gordon.mann@crichton.co.uk



The Ladyfield site is south of Dumfries, which is close to the mouth of the River Nith where it flows into the Solway Firth in the Southern Uplands of Scotland. The sophisticated urban design of the master plan for Ladyfield incorporates Light Imprint strategies. A main feature of the plan that provides several advantages is a cross-slope pattern that addresses solar orientation and natural drainage. The design creates attractive, functional greenways and waterscapes. Light Imprint techniques allow each block to collect and manage rainwater near the origination point. Additionally, there is an opportunity to conserve rainwater for irrigation of agricultural land.

The town center responds to the drainage routes that cross the site. It is connected to a neighborhood plaza and school. Retail establishments and restaurants within the town center of Ladyfield will cater both to residents and those working nearby. Within a half-block of each residential unit, there is access to at least two types of open space such as plazas, squares, greens, tot lots, or green fingers. The master plan includes a design for a school located to the northern edge of the village center. Set within a walled garden, the school has resources available for agricultural education.

When combined with the western slope of the site, the southwestern orientation of the blocks offers ideal natural drainage. The slow sheet flow of rainwater down the natural slope can be directed through a treatment train of Light Imprint tools such as slope avenues, rain gardens, and shallow channel footpath rainwater conveyors green fingers.

The green fingers act as lungs for Ladyfield. They are designed to connect nature with the developed areas and serve as play and gathering areas. The nearly four-dozen Light Imprint tools are arranged along the transect from the urban town center core to the agrarian community edge as a continuous treatment train of rainwater mitigation.

Some block concepts for Ladyfield are derived from the patterns of high streets in traditional Scottish towns. This derivation employs capping buildings at the side street edges with building passages through to closes and wynds that traverse the block.

The design for Ladyfield is one of several for communities addressed by the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative, which aims to bring innovation into settlements and promote examples of how communities could be developed in the future and how their residents could reap the benefits.