

Manor Road

Swindon



Project Details

- **Scope**
22 unit housing scheme
with 17 two bed flats
& 5 two bed houses
- **Role**
Architect
- **Client**
Raglan Housing Association
- **Sustainability**
Code Level 3
Increased insulation
Open to south elevation
Community garden
- **Value**
£1.75m
- **Dates**
Construction 2011-12

Affordable Housing in Swindon

Manor Road, Swindon, a neglected and run-down part of the Wiltshire town, has been transformed by Raglan Housing's new affordable housing development and food producing community garden.

The re-development of Manor Road has re-integrated the site back into the community with the delivery of much needed quality affordable housing in this part of Swindon. Comprising five two-bedroom houses, nine two-bedroom flats and eight one-bedroom flats, the homes were designed to support the different accommodation needs of the community in a sustainable, cost efficient and holistic way. All 22 homes have a Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 sustainability rating and were designed to ensure maximum energy efficiency, ensuring lower heating bills for residents.

Despite the challenges of the land, Oxford Architects developed an innovative scheme for the site based on a 'country house' concept. The 'gatehouse' which incorporates three flats is positioned at the entrance to the development and acts as the linking element between the Victorian properties neighbouring it and the heart of the site. The 'main house' element includes the remaining flats and is laid out in a 'stepping stone' pattern along the narrow portion of the site, making maximum use of the land. Finally, the country house look is completed by the 'outbuildings' comprising the two-bedroom family homes. These are positioned in one terrace containing two homes and one containing three, all with private gardens and situated at the end of a cul-de-sac to ensure less vehicle movements and greater safety for children at the 'family' end of the development.