

Green Infrastructure Statement

For

Proposed Residential Development, Heol Tabor, Cwmafan

Prepared By



On Behalf of

Bluefield Land

May 2026

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2-3
THE SITE	4
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CONTEXT	5
EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES	6-7
PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE	8-9
SUMMARY	9

INTRODUCTION

The design for the Heol Tabor 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 Spring Design, in consultation with ArbTS Arboricultural Consultants, Wildwood Ecology 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.

Due to the nature and extent of the development, it will not be possible to **mitigate** damage to the existing Bramble scrub and neutral 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).

PREVIOUS STUDIES

Arboricultural survey produced by ARBTS in 2026

Tree Impact Plan produced by ARBTS in 2026

Preliminary Ecological Assessment produced by Wildwood Ecology in 2026

THE SITE

The development site comprises a 0.2-hectare, rectangular parcel of land. The majority of the site is hard surfaced. Bramble scrub and grass species have begun to overrun the hard surfacing from the edges of the site.



Image 1 – The Site



Image 2 – View looking North East from Heol Tabor



- The Site
- Woodland
- Agricultural Fields (Ty Canol Farm)
- Private Front & Rear Gardens
- Rough Grassland & Scrub
- Green Corridor
- Opportunities for Connections to the Wider GI Network

EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Existing Trees

None present

Existing Hedgerows

None present

Green Corridors

There are no green corridors within the site boundary. The adjacent woodland forms a green corridor along the site's northern boundary.

Stepping Stones

Fragmented 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 within private gardens.

Soils

The site predominantly hard surfaced. It is unlikely that there are sufficient soils for landscape purposes

Public Open Space

None present

Grassland

Patchy neutral grassland is present on the western, northern and southern boundaries. Species include creeping bent, Yorkshire fog, beaked hawksbeard, cut-leaf cranesbill, red clover, red fescue, bird's-foot trefoil, cock's foot, black mustard, bramble, bristly oxtongue, common vetch, herb Robert, dwarf sedge, horsetail sp. pine sp. sapling, red osier dogwood, sycamore sapling.

Scrub

Patchy bramble scrub is present along the bank that defines the northern boundary. Species include bramble, beaked hawksbeard, common gorse, ribwort plantain, hairy willowherb.

Ditch

Located on the western boundary. Species on the banks of the ditch include cock's foot, herb Robert, horsetail sp. Yorkshire fog, liverwort sp. black mustard, bramble, cut-leaf cranesbill, dandelion, creeping buttercup, dock sp. ragwort, scarlet pimpernel, square-stalked St John's wort, willowherb sp. common ivy, corn salad.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES

The patchy bramble scrub and neutral grassland will be removed to accommodate the proposed 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.

Proposed Trees – 24 no. new native trees are proposed within the native understorey planting on the northern boundary.

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

Proposed Wildflower Habitat –

Wetland wildflower habitat within the SUDs feature. Species include; *Achillea Millefolium*, *Agrimonia eupatoria*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Betonica officinalis*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Filipendula ularia*, *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*.

Meadow wildflower habitat along the northern boundary. 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*.

Flowering lawn habitat in the private rear gardens. 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.

Proposed understorey planting – a 5m wide native understorey buffer along the northern boundary, including whips and feathered trees. The understorey buffer, combined with the wildflower habitat, creates an ecotone to the existing adjacent woodland.

SUMMARY

On site GI assets are limited to patchy bramble scrub and areas of neutral grassland.

The loss of patchy bramble scrub is compensated with the planting of 60 x 5 m of native understorey planting including native whips and feathered trees.

The loss of neutral grassland is compensated with the planting of extensive areas of wildflower meadow, wetland and flowering lawn habitat.

The soft landscape proposals create valuable new habitats with strong connections to the adjacent woodland and wider GI network.