

Green Infrastructure Assessment

Llansawel AFC, Old Road, Neath, Neath Port Talbot, SA11 2BS

1. Introduction:

This assessment addresses the integration of green infrastructure to the proposed works at Llansawel AFC football grounds. The aim is to enhance environmental quality, contribute to local biodiversity, and align with sustainable development principles.

2. Site Description:

- The site, located off Old Road and is accessed via a lane into the grounds which is presently characterised by a large football pitch with spectator stands either side and buildings to the south containing bar, offices, changing rooms and other communal areas.
- Notable existing green infrastructure is the large grass field which is the football ground.

3. Local Context:

- The site is situated in a rural area with mostly semi-detached dwellings on the outskirts of Briton Ferry and is approx. 200m from Jersey Park.

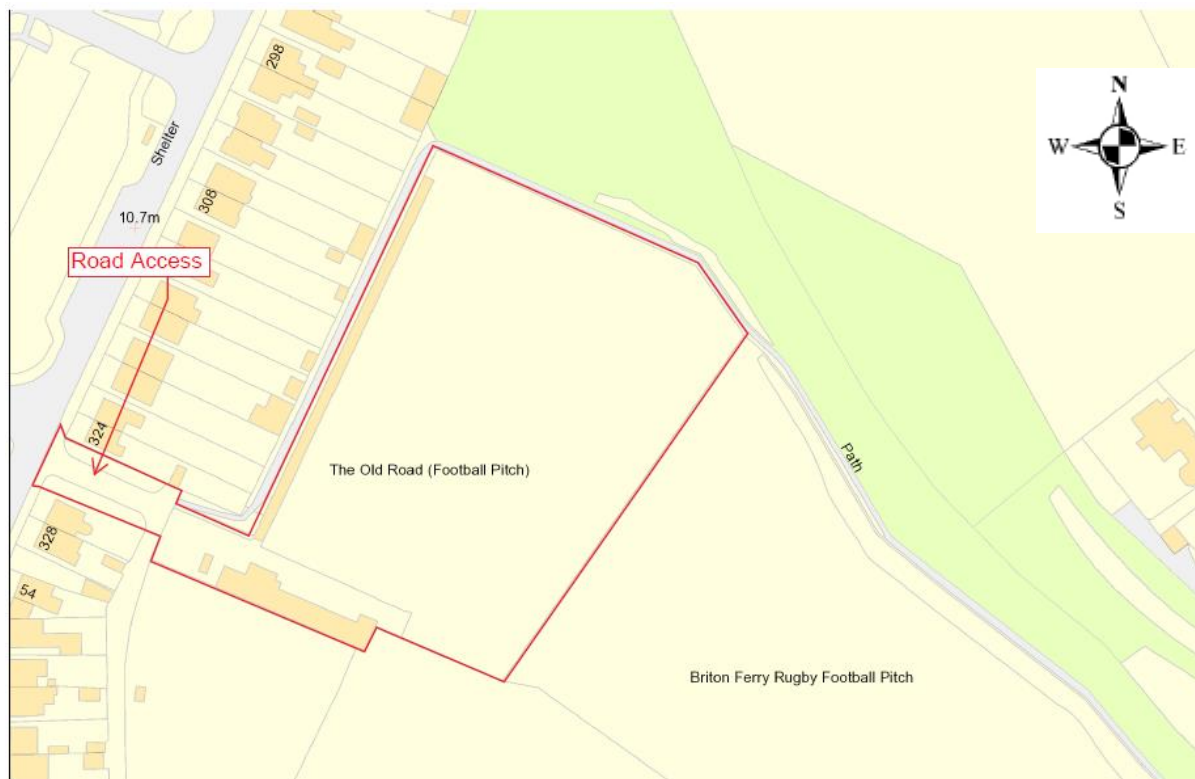


Figure 1 - Location Map

- The Welsh Government has recently published an update to Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (version 11). The main changes to policy can be summarised as follows:

- **Green Infrastructure:** stronger emphasis on taking a proactive approach to green infrastructure covering cross boundary considerations, identifying key outputs of green infrastructure assessments, the submission of proportionate green infrastructure statements with planning applications and signposting Building with Nature standards.
- **Net Benefit for Biodiversity and the Step-wise Approach:** further clarity is provided on securing net benefit for biodiversity through the application of the step-wise approach, including the acknowledgement of off-site compensation measures as a last resort, and, the need to consider enhancement and long-term management at each step. The use of the green infrastructure statement as a means of demonstrating the stepwise approach is made explicit. A simplified diagram of the policy approach has been developed (which will be further refined in the consolidated version of PPW12). The importance of strategic collaboration to identify and capture larger scale opportunities for securing a net benefit for biodiversity is recognised.
- **Protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest:** strengthened approach to the protection of SSSIs, with increased clarity on the position for site management and exemptions for minor development necessary to maintain a 'living landscape'. Other development is considered unacceptable as a matter of principle. Exceptionally, a planned approach may be appropriate where necessary safeguards can be secured through a development plan.
- **Trees and Woodlands:** closer alignment with the stepwise approach, along with promoting new planting as part of development based on securing the right tree in the right place.

4. Objectives:

- The main objective is to enhance biodiversity and ecological value and Contribute to local green infrastructure networks.

5. Design Principles:

- Utilise native shrubs and plants suitable for the local climate and minimise environmental impact during construction.

6. Our Proposal

As an integral part of our green infrastructure strategy for the development of Llansawel AFC football grounds, we're proposing an exciting collaboration with the local community, municipal authority, our own football academy, and the local school.

Together, we will plan a fun event aimed at boosting environmental sustainability and bringing our community closer together.

Our goal is to plant 50-100 trees and shrubs at the nearby Jersey Park, demonstrating our commitment to green practices and creating more green spaces for everyone to enjoy. By getting involved in caring for our local environment, we hope to inspire a sense of pride and responsibility among community members.

Our football ground is currently not large enough to allow us to carry out this initiative on site.

This initiative ensures that the benefits of our green projects are shared by all. Through teamwork and shared vision, we can work towards a greener, more resilient community for generations to come.

7. Biodiversity and Ecology:

- To attract local wildlife, the following list of plants are proposed to be used :

- Lotus corniculatus (bird's-foot trefoil)
- Euphrasia (eyebright)
- Prunella vulgaris (self heal)
- Viola (violets)
- Thymus polytrichus (wild thyme)
- Succisa pratensis (devil's-bit scabious)
- Knautia arvensis (field scabious)
- Eupatorium cannabinum (hemp agrimony)
- Heracleum sphondylium (hogweed)
- Centaurea (knapweeds)
- Malva sylvestris (mallow)
- Dipsacus fullonum (teasel)
- Origanum vulgare (wild marjoram)

- During construction, the contractor is to ensure that the development does not negatively impact any existing habitats or species.

8. Maintenance Plan:

- Maintenance for the planted trees and shrubs is crucial. The Club will organise a yearly activity to attend to the planted trees/shrubs and ensure their health and vitality.

9. Conclusion:

The proposed green infrastructure aligns with local policies, enhances biodiversity, and contributes positively to the character of the neighbourhood. It offers a proportionate approach for the works proposed at Llansawel AFC football grounds.