



Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme

Proposed Residential Dwellings (2 No.)
On Land Adjacent to Camelot
Graig Road
Godre'r Graig
Neath Port Talbot

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 DKEcology was commissioned to produce a Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme in relation to the proposal to construct 2 new dwellings on land adjacent to Camelot, Graig Road, Godre'r Graig, Neath Port Talbot.

2 Ecological Measures

The biodiversity enhancement scheme includes the incorporation of the following ecological measures:-

- Removal of any invasive/non-native species.
- Planting of native tree species within the development plot.
- Establish 2m buffer strip along the retained woodland corridor.
- Planting of a native species hedge.
- Erection of woodcrete bird and bat roosting boxes.
- Planting a mix of native and non- native wildlife friendly shrubs/plants within the development plot.

See ecological measures plan, implementation timetable and section 2.1 to 2.6 for further details.

2.1 Removal of invasive non-native species

- 2.2.1 All of the existing Cherry Laurel should be removed from the development plot.
- 2.2.2 All other non-native species on site should be eradicated including monbretia, hymalayan cotoneaster and rhododendron.
- 2.2.3 Professional advice should be sought regarding the removal, treatment and disposal of the non native species.
- 2.2.4 Any felling/scrub clearance work should be completed outside of the bird nesting season, March to August inclusive.

2.2 Planting of native tree species

- 2.2.1 This will include the planting of 44 native trees in total, 20 within the retained woodland area (planted with 3m spacing), and 12 within each of the woodland corridors (planted with 2m spacing). The mix of species to be planted (the trees will be sourced locally and will need to be as large as possible) will include 17 oak, 7 birch, 16 hazel and 4 ash. This will allow for the replacement of the mature trees lost to the development at more than a ratio of 1:3.
- 2.2.2 A further 2 native tree species will be planted within the development plot consisting of any of the native species listed in paragraph 2.2.1. All tree planting should be carried out in autumn/winter. Water the trees at least once a week for the first two years after planting. Increase frequency during dry periods and decrease during wet periods.



2.3 Establishment of buffer strips

- 2.3.1 A strip of rough grassland 2m wide will be left to establish adjacent to the woodland corridors along the west and east boundaries of the plot. The strip should not be treated with herbicides/pesticides. Ideally, try and manage each margin in two halves. Cut the half closest to the woodland corridor only once every few years to encourage tussocky grass, and the other half annually after mid-August. If this is not possible cut the whole strip once a year or cut sections of the strip on rotation after mid-August.

2.4 Native hedgerow planting

- 2.4.1 A native species hedgerow will be planted along the boundary between the 2 proposed dwellings. The species planted should reflect the native species composition of hedgerows/woodland within the local area. Species should include hawthorn, holly, hazel, ash and pedunculate oak. If possible the hedgerow should be planted in a double staggered row as this is better for wildlife than single rows as they are wider and provide more shelter and habitat. As a general rule at least 40cm needs to be left between each row and 4-6 plants planted per metre. Any plants that die in the first few years may need to be replaced to prevent gaps developing. All planting should be carried out in autumn/winter. Tree saplings within the current plot could be transplanted and used in the hedgerow planting. Light, regular, trimming of the hedgerow in its early years will encourage dense, bushy growth and is recommended. Once established the hedgerow should be trimmed on a two or three year rotation, targeting different sections each year. If the trees die in the first few years may need to be replaced to prevent gaps developing.

2.5 Erection of woodcrete bat and bird boxes

- 2.5.1 1 x woodcrete bird nesting box to be mounted on the east gable wall of 1 of the proposed new dwellings, see the ecological measures plan. The exact location and type of box to be decided when the final plans have been produced.
- 2.5.2 1 x woodcrete crevice bat boxes or bat tube such as a Schwegler 1WQ crevice roost box or Schwegler 1FR bat tube or a suitable equivalent to be installed on the west gable wall of one of the proposed new dwellings. See fig 1 and the ecological measures plan. The exact location and type of box to be decided when the final plans have been produced.

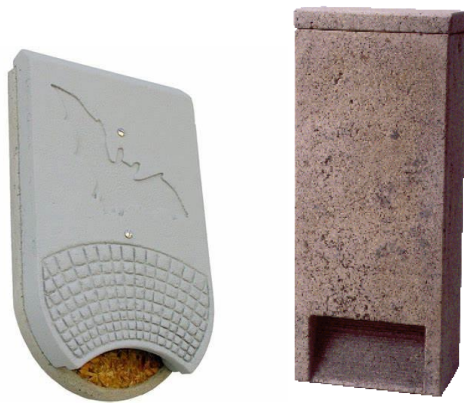


Fig 1

2.6 Planting of wildlife friendly shrubs and plants

- 2.6.1 In order to provide a variety of mature vegetation, to attract pollinators and provide food for wildlife a variety of wildlife friendly shrubs/plant species will be planted within the boundary of the development plot. These can be both native and non-native species. See a list of some recommended species below (non-native species are marked in red) :-

Shrubs/Trees

Prunus avium wild & edible cherries

Rubus fruticosus agg.

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)

Rosa species rose

Dog rose (*Rosa canina*)

Fruit trees

Wild privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)

Buddleia (butterfly bush)

Hebe species

Common holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

Bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*)

Crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*)

Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*)

Pyracantha

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

Berberis species

Flowering plants

Sedum (*Hylotelephium spectabile*)

Common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)

Hemp Agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*)

Field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*)

Red valerian (*Centranthus ruber*)

Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)

Clematis

Verbena bonariensis

English ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*)

Common mallow (*Malva sylvestris*)

Common snowdrop (*Alanthus nivalis*)

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)

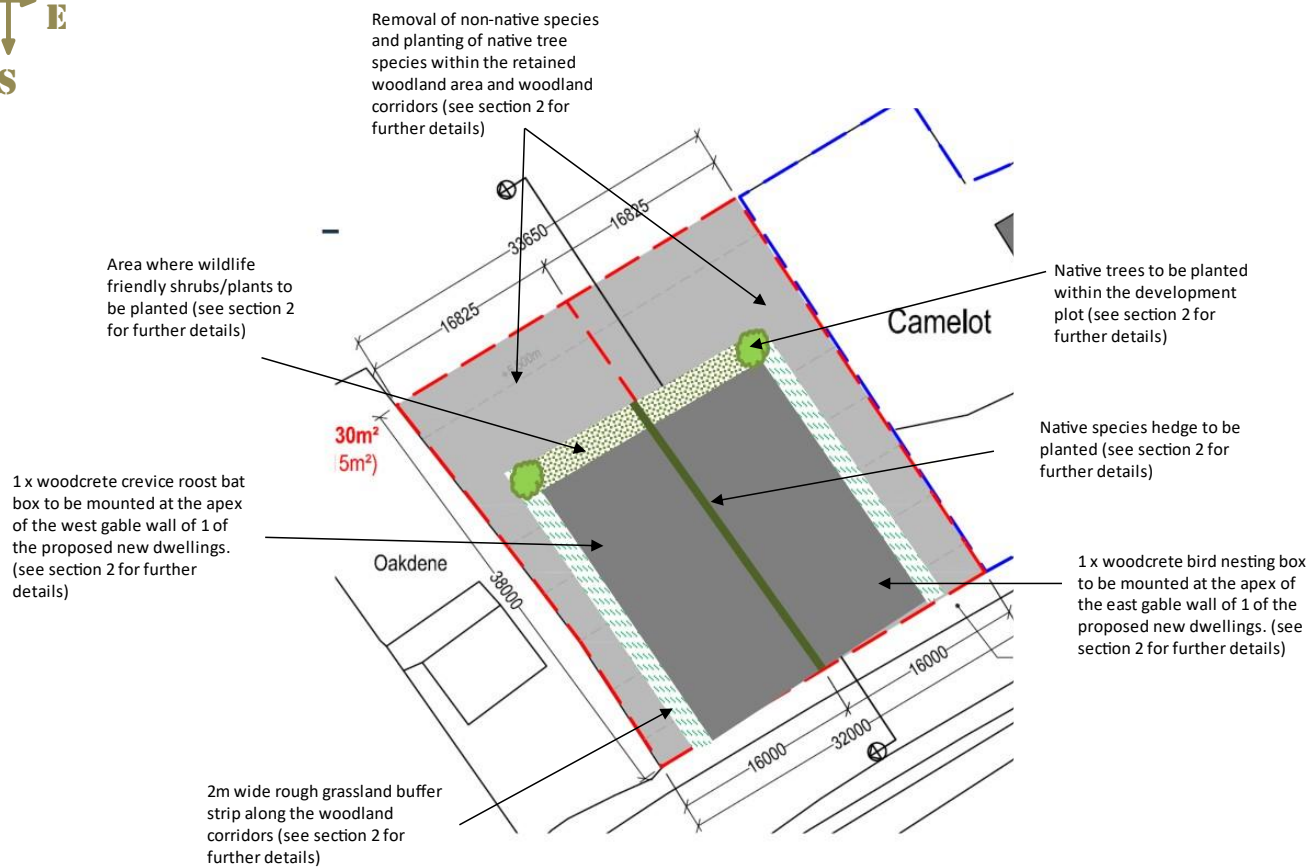
Crocus (*Crocus vernus*)

Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*)

Bell heather (*Erica cinerea*)

Thymus species thyme

Salvia species sage (autumn-flowering types)



Ecological measures plan



Implementation timetable

Ecological Measure	<u>Timings</u>
Removal/treatment of non-native species	Autumn/Winter 2024 and 2025
Planting of native hedgerow and native trees	To be planted Autumn/Winter 2025/2026
Establish buffer strips	By Autumn 2027
Planting of wildlife friendly shrubs/plants	By spring 2026
Bat and bird boxes	By spring 2027