



- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Ancient Woodland
- Special Landscape Area
- Historic Landscape Area
- Historic Registered Parks and Gardens
- Traditional Orchards

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation [SINC] - NOT MAPPED HERE

There are eight Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) within 2km of the site.

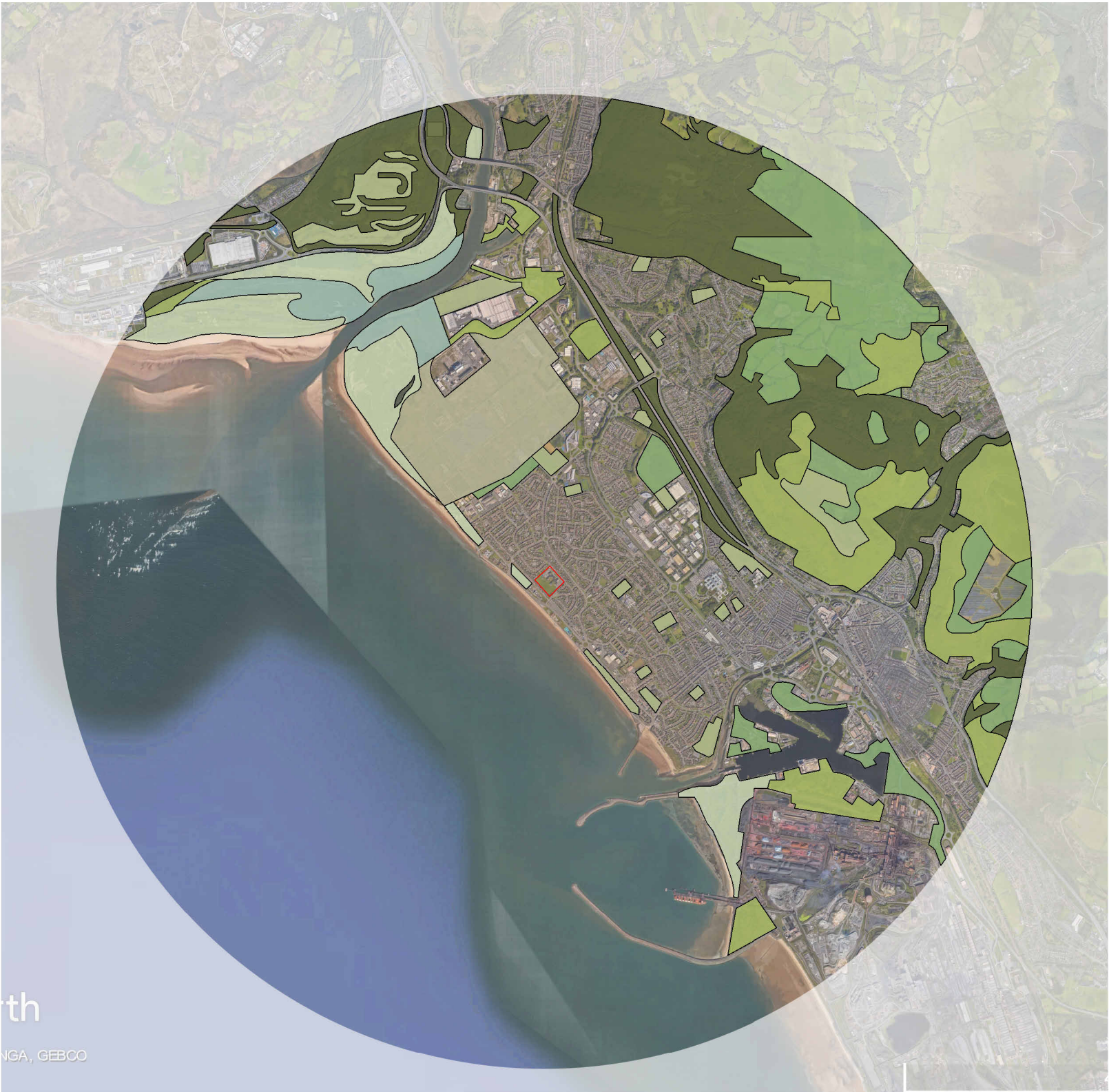
- Listed below:
- BAGLAN BROWNFIELD SLACK (1.4km north)
 - BAGLAN PANHANDLE (880m north)
 - JAFFA LAND BAGLAN (1.9km north)
 - LOWER RIVER BAGLAN ESTUARY (1.9km southeast)
 - LITTLE WARREN (1.8km southeast)
 - PANASONIC (1.2km northeast)

The proposed development site sits within a B-Lines designation:

B-Lines are non-statutory protected sites which aim to restore and create wildflower habitats forming stepping stones that link existing wildlife areas together creating a network of habitats across the landscape benefiting not only pollinators but a host of other wildlife.

2020.1 Significant Landscape Designations

8km diameter study area



- Coastal Grassland
- Coastal Saltmarsh
- Formal Grassland
- Informal Grassland and Meadow
- Scrub and Intermediate
- Woodland and Shrub
- Post Industrial Grassland

[Typologies incorporated from aerial mapping]

2020.2 Significant Green Infrastructure Assets by Broad Habitat Typologies

8km diameter study area

Green Infrastructure Statement

Site Location: Rhosafan, Ysgol Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Port Talbot

fenton+reece ltd have been asked to prepare a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the planning application for the replacement school at Rhosafan, Port Talbot. Following recent updates to Planning Policy Wales 12 there is now a requirement for all planning applications in Wales to be supported by a Green Infrastructure Statement. Section 6.2.5 has been updated to include the following statement:

"A green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. This will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal. In the case of minor development this will be a short description and should not be an onerous requirement for applicants. The green infrastructure statement will be an effective way of demonstrating positive multi-functional outcomes which are appropriate to the site in question and must be used for demonstrating how the stepwise approach (Paragraph 6.4.21) has been applied"

Baseline Summary: [referenced Ecology Assessment report 26CC04-ECO-10-XX-T-YU-000007_Preliminary Ecological Assessment_S2 P01_1]

Site History & Existing Site Condition:

The existing extent and condition of GI at Rhosafan School is limited, with little existing Green Infrastructure, as the site mainly consists of hardstanding, amenity grass and a scattering of trees. This sparse coverage in GI extends in to the immediate residential setting, where GI is limited to grass verges and standalone trees on street corners and roundabouts[Fig.2020.3]

The site and Rhosafan area is on a very exposed, coastal location, windy and salty conditions with a sandy, dry soil profile. This has limited establishment of any green features on site with stunted trees or failures located within the forest school.

Site Context:

The 4km study area around the site found landscape designations including two Sites of Special Scientific Interest *Cymlyn Burrows* and *Earlswood Road Cutting and Ferryboat Inn Quarries* around 3km to the north west of the school site. The area north of the site contains ancient woodland of which the most significant area is around 3km distance. Margam mountain lies to the east of the site and contains designations of Special Landscape Area and Historic Landscape Area. There are two smaller designations of Traditional Orchard and Historic Registered Parks and Gardens Special.[Fig.2020.1]

There are a number of significant green infrastructure assets in the area immediately surrounding the site; these vary from brownfield open mosaics to coastal habitat - there is great opportunity to connect with these assets when assessing the site using the DECCA framework[Fig.2020.2]

Given the scale of the development it will be important to consider a wide range of aspects in relation to Green Infrastructure, for ecological considerations it will be positive to attract invertebrates and birds, plus providing reptile refugia/hibernaculum for the benefit of local GI connectivity, supporting the B-line status of the site and local Biodiversity Action Plan to create a healthy mosaic of habitats.

Priorities for Green Infrastructure:

The landscape design, planting strategy and biodiversity enhancements for this scheme have been based on a multifunctionality of Green Infrastructure to align and support the Building with Nature Standards.

Landscape Design Key Principles:

- **Local Identity:**
 - the school offers an opportunity to enhance the local landscape character types
 - create a sense of place and identity inspired by the landscape of Neath Port Talbot
 - the coastal landscape is exposed and wild at times, there is the opportunity to create a safe and enclosed setting to the school, in contrast but harmony with their coastal surroundings
- **Sustainable Design:**
 - sustainable drainage and water management will be an integral part of the site design
 - creating new habitat areas and incorporating the water management in to all parts of the site
- **Bring Nature Closer to People:**
 - multifunctional design of the exteranls can create spaces of interest, learning opportunities and sustainable features
 - creating new habitat areas alongside outdoor classrooms, growing areas and forest school should be accessible and entwined in the schools everyday activities



- Private Green Infrastructure**
18.0% of Area within 500m
- Public Green Infrastructure**
5.5% of area within 500m
- Potential Green Infrastructure on Site**
3.5% of area within 500m
12.5% of all GI within 500m
- Existing Publicly Accessible Tree**

2020.3 Existing Green Infrastructure

1km diameter study area

The DECCA Framework	Step-Wise Approach			
	Avoid	Minimize	Mitigate	Compensate
Diversity: <i>Individual development proposals should avoid negative impacts on biodiversity, by considering how biodiversity assets, can be maintained and enhanced.</i>	Due to the lack of existing green infrastructure currently present across site any adverse effects on diversity will be avoided. the avoidance of any adverse effects is not applicable.	The existing tree within the site will be retained and the site design has been developed around its retention.	The proposal will introduce biodiversity enhancements in planting typologies, introducing native planting types which will bring a richness and diversity to the green infrastructure on site.	This will include above ground drainage solutions through the SUDS design.
Diversity Summary:	Green infrastructure on site is limited in complexity as the site predominantly features amenity grass coverage, with few trees scattered through the site. The new landscape proposal will champion native landscape and biodiversity features, creating a mix and mosaic of planting, introducing a habitat diversity across the site.	The existing tree within the site will be retained and the site design has been developed around its retention.	The proposal will introduce biodiversity enhancements in planting typologies, introducing native planting which will mitigate and improve the extent of GI across the site.	Habitat features including the butterfly bund, bat and bird boxes and no-mow areas of the site.
Extent: <i>Individual development proposals must avoid loss in the extent of biodiversity and incorporate measures to appropriately maintain and enlarge existing habitats, especially where extent is small or declining, through habitat restoration and creation with adjoining and nearby areas, green infrastructure features and networks</i>	Due to the limited quality and condition of the existing GI the current condition will only be temporarily affected during construction.	The existing tree within the site will be retained and the site design has been developed around its retention.	Condition of GI will be significantly improved from the baseline.	The scheme has been designed to incorporate the curriculum and active growing groups in the school and community. The nature of the proposals will encourage engagement and learning resource in the management and maintenance of the site.
Extent Summary:	Whilst the location of the building and hard standing have been repositioned to reduce the developments impact on the extent of biodiversity, there will be some temporary loss in this respect due to nature of the works extent. However, there will be great improvements to the extent of these within 5 years if delivered in line with the proposed planning plan, featuring a wider extent of green infrastructure and site wide approach to the scheme integrated with the building.			
Condition: <i>Individual development proposals must not compromise the condition of ecosystems. consideration to both direct, indirect and cumulative impacts and benefits. securing the long term management of retained habitats is key to maintaining condition</i>	Due to the limited quality and condition of the existing GI the current condition will only be temporarily affected during construction.		Condition of GI will be significantly improved from the baseline.	The scheme has been designed to incorporate the curriculum and active growing groups in the school and community. The nature of the proposals will encourage engagement and learning resource in the management and maintenance of the site.
Condition Summary:	The scheme will improve the GI condition, considering the benefit of having a long term maintenance plan in place with the local authority and school to ensure the condition of the proposed habitats will have longevity and sustained value. For example, native planting to create low maintenance shelter belts, no-mow areas will be celebrated with signage. Community and school allotment areas will be promoted as part of the curriculum and school approach to community engagement.			
Connectivity: <i>Individual development proposals should identify and incorporate measures which enable appropriate links to be made between the site and its surroundings so as to improve connectivity</i>	The existing connectivity is limited by the existing extent of GI across the site.		The site design has put connectivity at the heart of the proposals creating layers of new GI and landscape features to create an accessible green space for the school and wider community.	
Connectivity Summary:	The proposals are seeking to enable connections between new green infrastructure assets across the site and helping to facilitate wildlife corridors and refuge for a greater range of fauna. Native, coastal tree planting to the edges of the site create variety of species, creates a local character typology and strong new green corridors across the site.			
Adaptation: <i>Individual development proposals should identify impacts to the ecosystem resilience attributes of biodiversity</i>	The existing GI has little to no adaptation qualities across the site.		The landscape scheme has been designed to be resilient through planting native habitat typologies, working with the exposed and sandy conditions of the site. The new tree belts and earth bunds will be planted to create much needed shade and shelter across the site, protecting children from the strong winds and summer sun. SuDs features will be above ground and managed easily from accessible parts of the site. Habitat features such as the butterfly bund and habitat boxes will encourage new wildlife into the site.	
Adaptation Summary:	The proposals have been developed to have a positive impact on the sites ability to adapt to possible future changes on its GI, a particular benefit the proposed scheme will have its contribution to the wider changes in ecosystem resilience. The courtyards and winter gardens will have cooling effects on the classrooms and circulation areas, provide alternative, sheltered locations to teach and learn in our wetter/ warmer climates. The schools engagement with natural spaces will be increased to encourage ownership and successful management.			

Summary: See dwg. 2021 for details of all the Biodiversity Enhancements

To align with the landscape design principles the GI has been at the heart of the site design, supported by the ambition to get Building with Nature Accreditation.

- Specific GI Priorities:**
- Improving ecological condition and diversity of site
 - Promote connectivity to contextual GI as part of a sustainable learning environment
 - Support identified priority habitats for rare invertebrates

Connected public green infrastructure to the site is limited in diversity and extent, with public GI mostly being in the form of grass verges and occasional standard trees. The existing condition of GI on site currently provides a low amount of biodiversity and habitat connectivity. The coastal location of the site and surrounding green typologies will inform the landscape provision on site; establishment of border tree planting to improve connectivity and provide shelter; coastal grassland typologies will be incorporated into the design providing suitable habitat for local species and supporting B-line species such as the Shril Bee.

The proposal will have an overall positive impact on GI to the benefit of the local wildlife, people and sense of place.

Notes

- Drawing is copyright of fenton+reece
- Only labelled dimensions are to be taken from this drawing. Do not scale from this drawing.
- Contractor is responsible for taking and checking all dimensions, below ground services and setting out.
- All elements of design should be checked on site and conflicts reported to responsible designer... **If in doubt ask**

P04	Planning Issue	DC	RF	28.04.25
P03	Revised for PAC Issue	RF	RF	13.03.25
P02	PAC Submission	MR	RF	12.12.24
P01	Stage 3 Issue	DCRF	RF	15.11.24
Rev	Description	Drawn	Checked	Date

fenton + reece

Project

YGG Rhosafan
for Morgan Sindall

Title

Green Infrastructure Strategy

Project Status

Planning

Drawing Number

26CC04 - FRL -30 -XX -D -L -2020

P04