

## BIODIVERSITY (GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE) STATEMENT

**DOCUMENT REF:** 25-480/111

**SITE ADDRESS:** Copper Gardens, 1 Heol Camlas, Cwmavon, Port Talbot SA12 9PT

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:** New Front & Side Boundary Walls

### Location:

The house is situated on the hillside overlooking the Afan Valley in the area known as Cwmavon, located just outside of Port Talbot. Heol Camlas is on a bus route, and there are no properties on the land opposite the row of houses of which No.1 is part. The numbering of the houses at the top of the road is a little complex as a shop unit was converted into 3 dwellings after No.1A was built adjacent to No.1, and they are numbered 1B/1C/1D. House No.1 is also called "Copper Gardens".



### Description of Proposed Works:

The existing Front Wall is dilapidated and needs to be replaced – the attached property has recently renewed their wall after a ramp was installed, and so the owners wish to rebuild their wall in a similar design, incorporating piers at appropriate locations, at a higher level of 1.2m along the front. The work will also include for new steps and pathway, and a replacement wall to the boundary on the left side of the building which will match a similar height of 1.2m with the piers at 1.4m.

The rear garden is tiered, with existing retaining walls to remain with no change other than new steps to be constructed as shown on the drawings. There is an existing boundary wall separating the gardens which is 2m high and will not be altered. Other works are being carried out on the property at present with new render to be applied after the old is removed, so there is scaffolding erected for this purpose.

**Surrounding Area Description:**

This is a semi-rural position which includes farmland and scattered small holdings, along with a small housing estate with many very similar 1960's houses in the area. There are plenty of trees in the immediate area around the dwellings, and the owners are keen gardeners with several measures to assist nature already in place.

**Proposed Ecological Enhancements:**

The owner is proposing to install a row of lavender plants in the rear garden and at least one silver birch tree in the front garden, amongst the other ornamental trees already located there. This is indicated on the Block Plan, and will be installed in the garden, dependent upon the appropriate season. See **Appendix A** (Below)

**Conclusion and Implementation:**

The garden already has a number of small shrubs and ornamental trees – the owners are planning to add to the range once the works are completed. The Biodiversity Enhancement Measures shall be fully implemented within 3 months of the completion of the proposed works.

**APPENDIX A:****PLANTS****Lavender**

Lavender is prized for its richly fragrant flowers and aromatic foliage. This easy-to-grow shrub thrives in a sunny spot, in free-draining soil or a container. It flowers in late spring and through summer, thrives in full sun and the flowers are very attractive to bees and other pollinating insects. After flowering the bushes should be pruned (usually Autumn) to keep the plants compact and attractive - Lavender does not break new growth easily from old stems so don't cut back into the woody stems. Foliage can be clipped over in spring if growth is untidy or frost damaged.

**TREES****Silver Birch – Betula Pendula (other varieties available)**

Silver birch is a striking, medium-sized deciduous native tree species. When mature they can reach 30m in height (unless trimmed back), forming a light canopy with elegant, drooping branches. The white bark sheds layers like tissue paper and becomes black and rugged at the base. As the trees mature, the bark develops dark, diamond-shaped fissures. Twigs are smooth, and have small dark warts, and the leaves are triangular-shaped.

Silver birch is monoecious, meaning both male and female flowers (catkins) are found on the same tree, from April to May. The flowers appear from April to May. Male catkins are long and yellow-brown in colour, and hang in groups of two to four at the tips of shoots, like lambs' tails. Female catkins are smaller, short, bright green and erect. The leaves turn golden, red and orange in the Autumn.

Silver birch provides food and habitat for more than 300 insect species – the leaves attracting aphids which provide food for ladybirds and other species further up the food chain. The leaves are also a food plant for the caterpillars of many moths, including the angle-shades, buff tip, pebble hook-tip, and Kentish glory.