



Green Infrastructure Statement

Proposed residential development of land adjoining,
70 Main Road,
Crynant,
Neath,
SA10 8NT

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Subject	Date	Author
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Final copy	23 rd April 2025	Debbie Kearsley-Evans



1 Introduction

- 1.1 DKEcology was commissioned to produce a Green Infrastructure Statement to support the planning application for the proposed residential development of land adjoining 70 Main Road, Crynant, Neath, SA10 8NT.
- 1.2 The planning policy for Wales (PPW) now states that a green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. In order to demonstrate that appropriate positive multi-functional outcomes will be put in place.
- 1.3 The current proposal is to construct a single dwelling within the garden area to the south of the existing dwelling and to create a parking area along the western boundary. The development will result in the loss of a small number of low level garden shrubs and a 10.5m section of privet hedge along the eastern boundary.

2 Existing green infrastructure

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located along side the main road running through the village of Crynant in Neath Port Talbot (Grid reference: SN 79348 05188). There is limited connectivity within the immediate vicinity of the property which is bounded by residential gardens with very limited mature vegetation. However there is a more well connected landscape within a short distance to the west and east of the village consisting of mature hedgerows, semi improved pasture, scattered trees, woodland and scrub.
- 2.2 The plot itself is bounded by a mature Leylandii hedge to the south and a smaller section of privet hedge to the east. The plot interior consists of predominantly heavily mown amenity grassland and hardstanding and a small number of low level garden shrubs planted mostly within 2 separate garden beds. See plan 1.

3 Proposed green infrastructure

- 3.1 The proposed construction of a new dwelling and parking area will result in the loss of 13.5m of privet hedge, 1 of the garden beds within the south section of the plot, which includes a small number of low level garden shrubs and a small area of heavily mown amenity grassland. The garden beds within the north side of the plot will be retained apart from 1 low level garden shrub which will need to be removed.
- 3.2 In order to ensure that there will be no net loss in habitat as a result of the development and to ensure that the development area retains connectivity to the wider landscape the following measures will be put in place, see plan 2:-
 - Establishment of a native species hedge along the boundary of the current parking area.
 - Planting of wildlife friendly shrubs and plants within the plot interior.



Native hedgerow planting

- 3.3 A native species hedgerow 8.5m in length will be planted along the east side of the current parking area in order to replace the section of privet hedging that will be removed as part of the development retaining connectivity within the plot. The species planted should reflect the native species composition of hedgerows/woodland within the local area and close to the development site. Species should include hawthorn, hazel, holly 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. 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. If the trees die in the first few years they may need to be replaced to prevent gaps developing.

Planting of wildlife friendly shrubs and plants

- 3.4 In order to replace the small number of shrubs that will be lost, to provide a variety of more mature vegetation and connectivity within the site and to attract pollinators and provide food for wildlife. A variety of wildlife friendly shrubs will be planted within the boundary of the proposed development plot. These can be both native and non-native species. Wildlife friendly plants will also be planted within the existing and proposed beds. 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*)

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*)



Pyracantha
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)
Berberis species

Crocus (*Crocus vernus*)
Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*)
Bell heather (*Erica cinerea*)
Thymus species thyme
Salvia species sage (autumn-flowering types)

4 Conclusion

The proposed plot currently has limited levels of connectivity particularly in the interior of the plot which consists mostly of heavily mown amenity grassland and hardstanding with only a small number of low level garden shrubs. The boundary hedges do offer some connectivity to areas of more well connected habitat particularly to the west. Although the development will result in the loss of a small section of privet hedge, a small number of low level garden shrubs and an area of heavily mown amenity grassland. The establishment of a section of a native species hedgerow and areas of wildlife friendly shrubs/plants within the interior of the plot will retain the level of mature vegetation and connectivity within the plot, provide a greater diversity and quality of habitats and will result in no net loss of habitat.

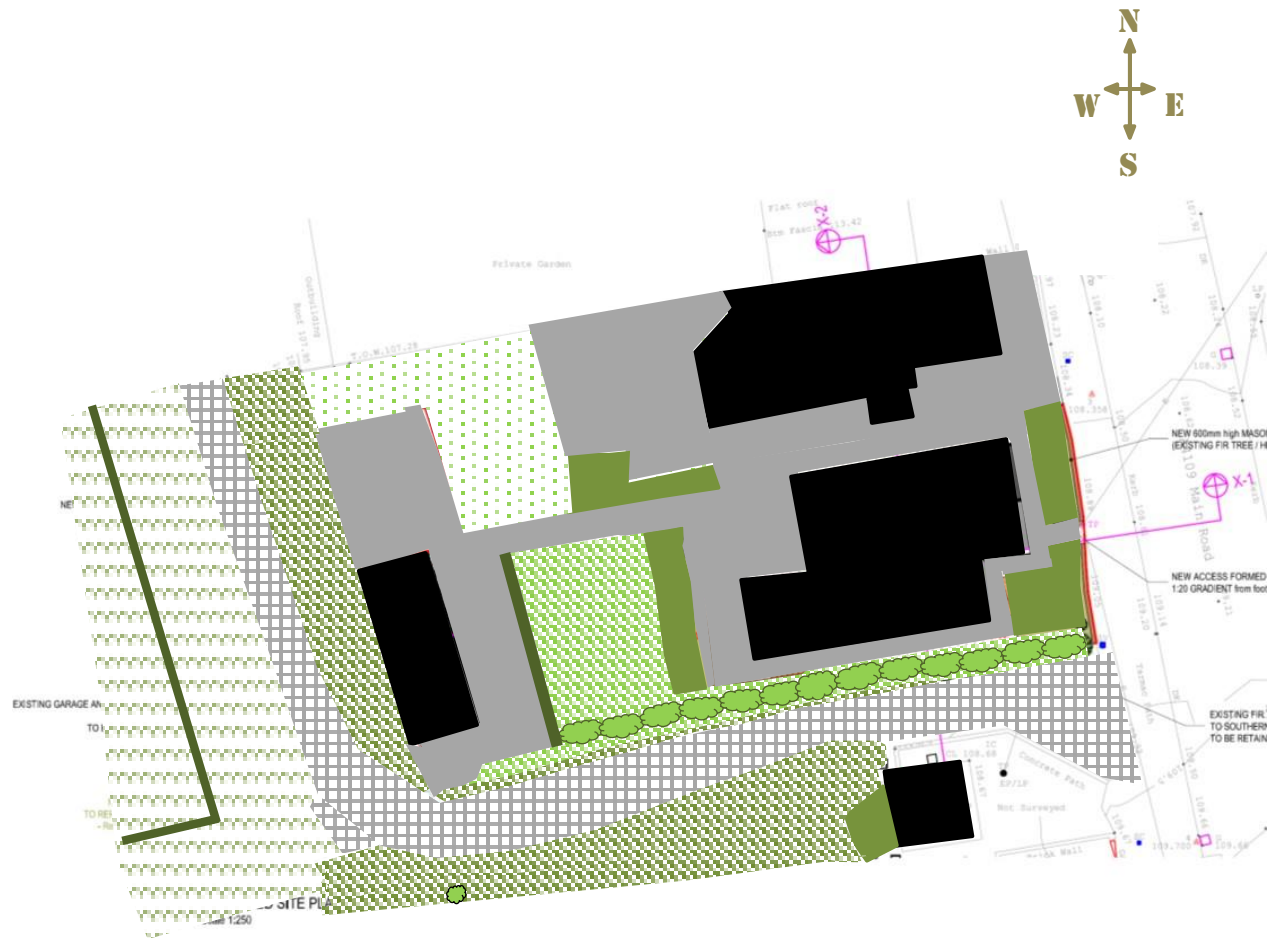


Plan 1 Existing green infrastructure



Key	
	Heavily mown amenity grassland
	Semi improved grassland
	Semi improved grassland with scattered native trees
	Low level garden shrubs/plants
	Garden shrub
	Native species hedge
	Tightly pruned Leylandii hedge
	Tightly pruned privet hedge

Key	
	Tightly mown amenity grassland and hardstanding
	Buildings
	Hardstanding
	Track



Plan 2 Proposed green infrastructure