Former Briton Ferry Health Centre

Green Infrastructure Statement

May 2026

This **Green Infrastructure Statement** has been prepared by:

tir collective
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Based on the development proposals designed by:

CWA

With ecology input from:

Acer Ecology
Providing ecological solutions

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01 Introduction

Tir Collective is instructed by Squirrel Wood Properties to prepare this **Green Infrastructure Statement** (GI Statement) which relates to the proposed Care Home development on the former Briton Ferry Health Centre site in Briton Ferry. The redline boundary of the site is shown on **Figure 1**.

This GI Statement has been prepared by a Landscape Architect at **Tir Collective**. A GI Statement is a mandatory requirement to accompany all planning applications in Wales, in accordance with Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 (PPW12), published February 2024.

This GI Statement should be read alongside the surveys, reports, and proposals that have been carried out as part of the development of the scheme, which accompany the planning application. They are as follows:

- Bat Survey and Nesting Bird Report, Acer Ecology, September 2016
- The Landscape Strategy produced by Tir Collective, January 2026

The Site

The site is located towards the south of the town of Briton Ferry, in the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot. It is a brownfield site of approximately 0.2 hectares, leftover from the now demolished Health centre and it's associated car parking. It is bounded to the west by housing and a small green, and to the south by the Tai Tarian training centre. Ritson Street borders the site to the north and Hunter Street to the east. A railway line lies aproximately 70m west of the site, running in a north/south direction and bordered by trees and scrub.

Figure 1: Site location

02 Policy Context

Wales Legislation

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Act requires public bodies to carry out **sustainable development**. Sustainable development principle is "*the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.*" The principle is made up of five ways of working, including **looking to the long-term**; taking an **integrated approach**; involving a **diversity** of the population; **working collaboratively**; and **preventing issues**.

It sets out seven well-being goals including resilience and being globally responsible.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The Act is intended to work alongside the Well-being of Future Generations Act. It included a new biodiversity duty to **reverse the decline of biodiversity and to secure long-term resilience**.

Section 6 states *"A public authority **must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity... and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems**". In relation to resilience of ecosystems, the following "must be taken into account:*

(a) diversity between and within ecosystems;

(b) the connections between and within ecosystems;

(c) the scale of ecosystems;

(d) the condition of ecosystems (including their structure and functioning);

(e) the adaptability of ecosystems."

The seven well-being goals from Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015

National Planning Policy

Future Wales: The National Plan

The plan provides a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including achieving climate-resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of our communities. It also embeds the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The key policy in relation biodiversity and green infrastructure is **Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure**. It states, "*action towards securing the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity (to provide a net benefit), the resilience of ecosystems and green infrastructure assets must be demonstrated as part of development proposals through innovative, nature-based approaches to site planning and the design of the built environment.*"

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

PPW aims to contribute towards the delivery of sustainable development, embedding the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. PPW ingrains Placemaking Wales Charter and how sustainable development can be achieved through implementing placemaking.

Section 6.2 sets out **green infrastructure** should be given early consideration in development proposals and how it should be integrated into developments.

- **Paragraph 6.2.12** states " 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... 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 **step-wise approach has been applied**."
- **Paragraph 6.2.14** states "Development proposals should be informed by the priorities identified in green infrastructure assessments and locally based planning guidance. The **Building with Nature standards** represent good practice and are an effective prompt for developers to **improve the quality of their schemes and demonstrate the sustainable management of natural resources**."

Section 6.4 describes **biodiversity and ecological networks** and provides a summary of the **Step-Wise Approach** and how it should be used to "**maintain and enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity** by ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are firstly avoided, then minimised, mitigated, and as a last resort compensated for."[1] **Paragraph 6.4.12** states "providing evidence in the Green Infrastructure Statement that the step-wise approach has been followed, a scheme of enhancements must be provided to ensure a **net benefit for biodiversity**."

In relation to **trees, woodland and hedgerows, paragraph 6.4.37** sets out their importance for biodiversity and "connecting habitats for resilient ecological networks and

1 Paragraph 6.4.11, Planning Policy Wales Edition 12, February 2024

make an essential wider contribution to landscape character, culture, heritage and sense of place…"

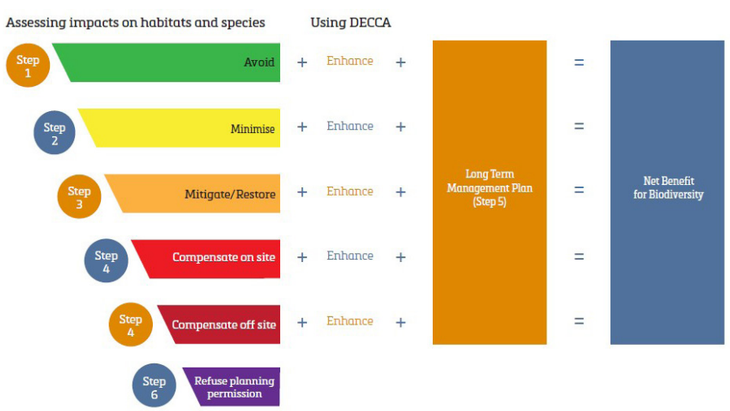
The **planting of new trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and areas of woodland** should be promoted as part of new development. Existing trees/ groups of trees, hedgerows and areas of woodland must be protected "where they have ecological value, contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality, or perform a beneficial green infrastructure function."[2]

In relation to the permanent removal of trees, woodland and hedgerows, it "will only be permitted where it would achieve significant and clearly defined public benefits."[3] The step-wise approach must also be followed. Where loss is unavoidable, PPW sets out the requirements of replacement planting, which "shall be at a ratio equivalent to the quality, environmental and ecological importance of the tree(s) lost and this must be preferably onsite, or immediately adjacent to the site, and at a minimum ratio of at least 3 trees of a similar type and compensatory size planted for every 1 lost."[4]

Finally, in relation to **SuDS,** paragraph 6.6.18 states "The provision of SuDS must be considered as an **integral part of the design of new development** and considered at the earliest possible stage when formulating proposals for new development." Paragraph 6.6.19 goes on to state "Design for multiple benefits and green infrastructure should be secured wherever possible…"[5]

2 Paragraph 6.4.39 Planning Policy Wales Edition 12, February 2024
3 Paragraph 6.4.42 Planning Policy Wales Edition 12, February 2024
4 Paragraph 6.4.42 Planning Policy Wales Edition 12, February 2024

5 Paragraph 6.6.19 Planning Policy Wales Edition 12, February 2024



The Step-Wise Approach from PPW Edition 12, Chapter 6

Local Planning Policy

Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan (2011-2026)

The Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in January 2016 and forms the statutory framework for guiding development across the County Borough. The LDP recognises the multifunctional value of green infrastructure and seeks to protect, enhance and connect natural assets to support ecosystem resilience, biodiversity, and local character.

In relation to green infrastructure, the following policies are of particular relevance:, **Policy BE1: Design**

"All development proposals will be expected to demonstrate high quality design which fully takes into account the natural, historic and built environmental context and contributes to the creation of attractive, sustainable places. Proposals will only be permitted where all of the following criteria, where relevant, are satisfied:

[…]

5. Important local features (including buildings, amenity areas, green spaces and green infrastructure, biodiversity and ecological connectivity) are retained and enhanced as far as possible;"

Policy EN6: Important Biodiversity and Geodiversity Sites states, *"Development proposals … will only be permitted where:*

1. They conserve and where possible enhance the natural heritage importance of the site; or

2. The development could not reasonably be located elsewhere, and the benefits of the development outweigh the natural heritage importance of the site.

Mitigation and/or compensation measures will need to be agreed where adverse effects are unavoidable."

Policy EN7: Important Natural Features states, "*Development proposals that would adversely affect ecologically or visually important natural features such as trees, woodlands, hedgerows / field boundaries, watercourses or ponds will only be permitted where:*

1. Full account has been taken of the relevant features in the design of the development, with measures put in place to ensure that they are retained and protected wherever possible; or

2. The biodiversity value and role of the relevant feature has been taken into account and where removal is unavoidable, mitigation measures are agreed."

Policy OS1: Open Space Provision
"Proposals will be expected to protect existing open space and, where appropriate, provide new open space that is accessible, connected and multifunctional."

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

The Council has adopted a series of Supplementary Planning Guidance documents which expand upon the LDP policies and set out expectations for developers to incorporate green infrastructure principles into proposals:

Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPG (2018) – Supports Policies **EN6 and EN7**. Provides guidance on site assessment, ecological mitigation, and habitat enhancement, including the application of the 'stepwise approach' to "ensure that biodiversity and geodiversity is appropriately considered, protected and enhanced within any development proposal."

Guidance

Placemaking Wales Charter

The **Placemaking Wales Charter** has been developed by Welsh Government and the Design Commission for Wales in collaboration with the Placemaking Wales Partnership. The charter outlines six placemaking principles that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places.

Well designed, maintained and connected green infrastructure is an essential component of good placemaking. The design of the proposed development should focus on well connected GI with multi-functionality to maximise the benefits to residents and the environment.

Landscape Institute Green Infrastructure: An integrated Approach, 2013

The document defines **Green Infrastructure** (GI) as "*the **network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces**, rivers and lakes... It is a natural, service-providing infrastructure that is often more cost-effective, **more resilient and more capable of meeting** social, **environmental** and economic **objectives**...*"

The Landscape Institute recommends "*local authorities ensure that GI is a core requirement in their policy documents*" and "*developers be aware of an area's strategic GI goals and appreciate how those goals contribute to mitigating the environmental impacts of new development and creating beautiful places.*"

Building with Nature Standards

The **Building with Nature Standards** Framework 2.0 involves twelve Standards, arranged across four groups. There are six Core Standards and three themes, Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife, containing two Standards in each.

The six Core Standards underpin the delivery of high-quality green infrastructure through design, planning and development. The Standards in the Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife themes build on this to target specific aspects:

CORE Standards

Standard 1 Optimises Multi functionality and Connectivity
Standard 2 Positively Responds to the Climate Emergency
Standard 3 Maximises Environmental Net Gains
Standard 4 Champions a Context Driven Approach
Standard 5 Creates Distinctive Places
Standard 6 Secures Effective Place-keeping

WELLBEING Standards

Standard 7 Brings Nature Closer to People
Standard 8 Supports Equitable and Inclusive Places

WATER Standards

Standard 9 Delivers Climate Resilient Water Management
Standard 10 Brings Water Closer to People

WILDLIFE Standards

Standard 11 Delivers Wildlife Enhancement
Standard 12 Underpins Nature's Recovery

03 Existing Green Infrastructure

Desktop studies and field surveys have been carried out to confirm the green infrastructure elements on the site and within its surrounding context. The ecological survey for the site was undertaken in 2016 and relates to conditions prior to the removal of the former building. As such, the findings provide background context only and do not represent the current ecological baseline. A new ecological survey is in progress; however, the results are not yet available and therefore cannot be included within this report.

The elements that are considered to form the existing Green Infrastructure of the former Briton ferry Health Centre and surrounding context are:

- Ecology (2016)
- Public Open Space and Existing Vegetation

The green infrastructure elements are described in the following sections, identifying and assessing existing or potentially important habitat or species. This has been informed by the desktop studies, field surveys and specialist surveys / reports carried out others. It informs the Stepwise approach to **avoid** and **minimise**.

Ecology

A Bat Survey and Nesting Bird Report provided by Acer Ecology (2016) comprises the following:

- A daytime internal and external inspection of the building searching for signs of bats and nesting birds
- One dusk emergence survey of the building
- One dawn re-entry survey of the building

The following information, drawn from the reports, summarises the green infrastructure that existed on the site prior to its current baseline condition.

Desk Study
The desk study recorded the following (extracts from the ecology report):

SACs and SSSIs: '*There are no SACs within 2km of the proposed development side.* '

There are two SSSIs within 2km of the proposed development site, '*Earlswood Road Cutting and Ferryboat Inn Quarries SSSI is located 944m to south-west of the proposed development site.*' and ' *Crymlyn Burrows SSSI is located 1.8km to the south-west of the proposed development site.*'

Ancient Woodland Sites: ' *There are four areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW), and OR three Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) within 1km of the site, which are listed in the Provisional Ancient Woodland Inventory of Glamorgan (Sothern 1986) accessed via the NRW GIS dataset published on 1st of December 2010. The nearest of which is an unnamed area of ASNW located 153m to the east of the site.*'

Bat Records: '*The data search returns a total of three records of bat roosts within 1km of the site. The closest of which being an unconfirmed bat species approximately 550m away. The other two records were of pipistrelle species.*'

Roof-nesting Bird Records: '*The data search returned a total of 14 roof nesting bird records within 1km of the site. The closest of which being approximately 500m away.*'

Field Study
The field study recorded the following (extracts from the ecology report):

Evidence of Bats: '*No bats or signs of bats were found anywhere in either the interior spaces or external parts of the building during the building inspection.*'

Potential Roost Sites: '*A number of potential roost sites were noted during the internal and external inspection.*'

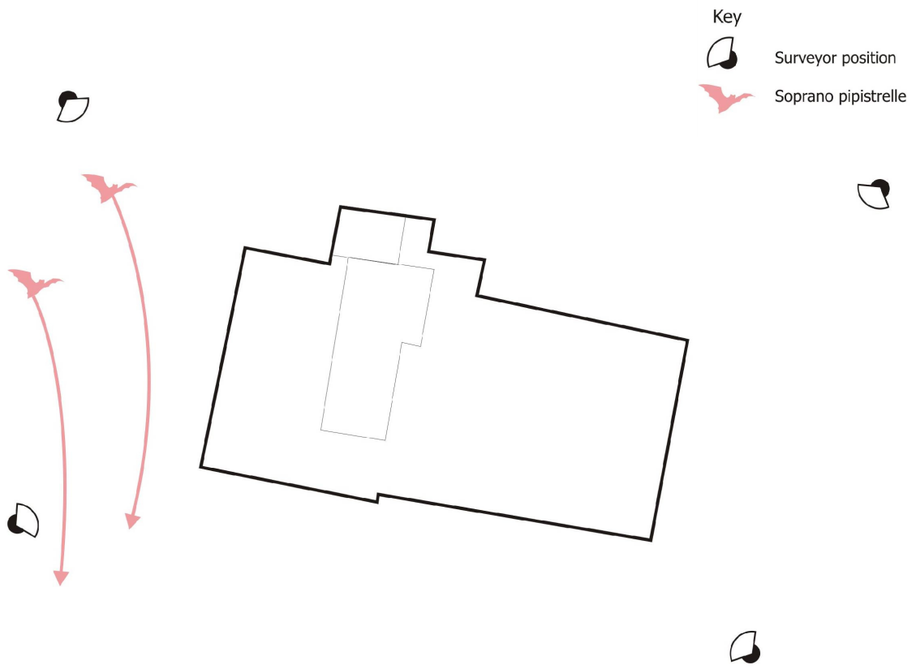


Figure 2: Dawn Re-entry Survey Results, prepared by Acer Ecology (2016)

Nesting Bird survey: *'No signs of birds having recently nested was found during the survey within or on the exterior of the building.'*

Dusk Emergence and Dawn Re-entry Surveys:
'Dusk Emergence: No bats were recorded emerging from the building.

Foraging and Commuting: Low numbers of two species (common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle) were recorded during the survey, these bats were not recorded within close proximity to the site,...'

'Dawn Re-entry: No bats were recorded returning to roost within the building.

Foraging and Commuting: Low numbers of three species (common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and noctule) were recorded during the survey. No linear vegetation features were observed to be used by commuting bat and no important foraging areas where identified.'

Public Open Space and Existing Vegetation

The care home development area is located entirely on previously developed brownfield land and contains no existing vegetation. To the west, within the red line boundary, there is an area of public open space that includes a single mature beech tree, which will be retained. All construction activity will be confined to the brownfield portion of the site, ensuring that the existing green infrastructure within the open space is preserved.

Figure 3: Proposed site layout and aerial photograph showing the proposed development area, as well as the public open space and existing vegetation to be retained

Site images (Google Streetview):

1

1- View from northeast corner of the site just outside boundary, looking southwest

2

2- View from the middle of the north edge of site just outside the boundary, looking south

04 Site layout

A site layout plan has been prepared by CW Architects to guide the development of the proposed care home. The scheme comprises a 24-bed facility with associated parking, circulation, and outdoor spaces.

The external environment will play an important role in the proposal, with a garden, seating area, and accessible pathways providing space for rest, recreation, and social interaction.

Green infrastructure is integrated into the layout to create a setting that is practical and supportive. Planting will be used to enhance biodiversity, improve ecological connections, and provide seasonal variation, while shaded areas and sensory features will encourage engagement with the outdoors. Together, these measures will deliver a functional, sustainable landscape that complements the care home.

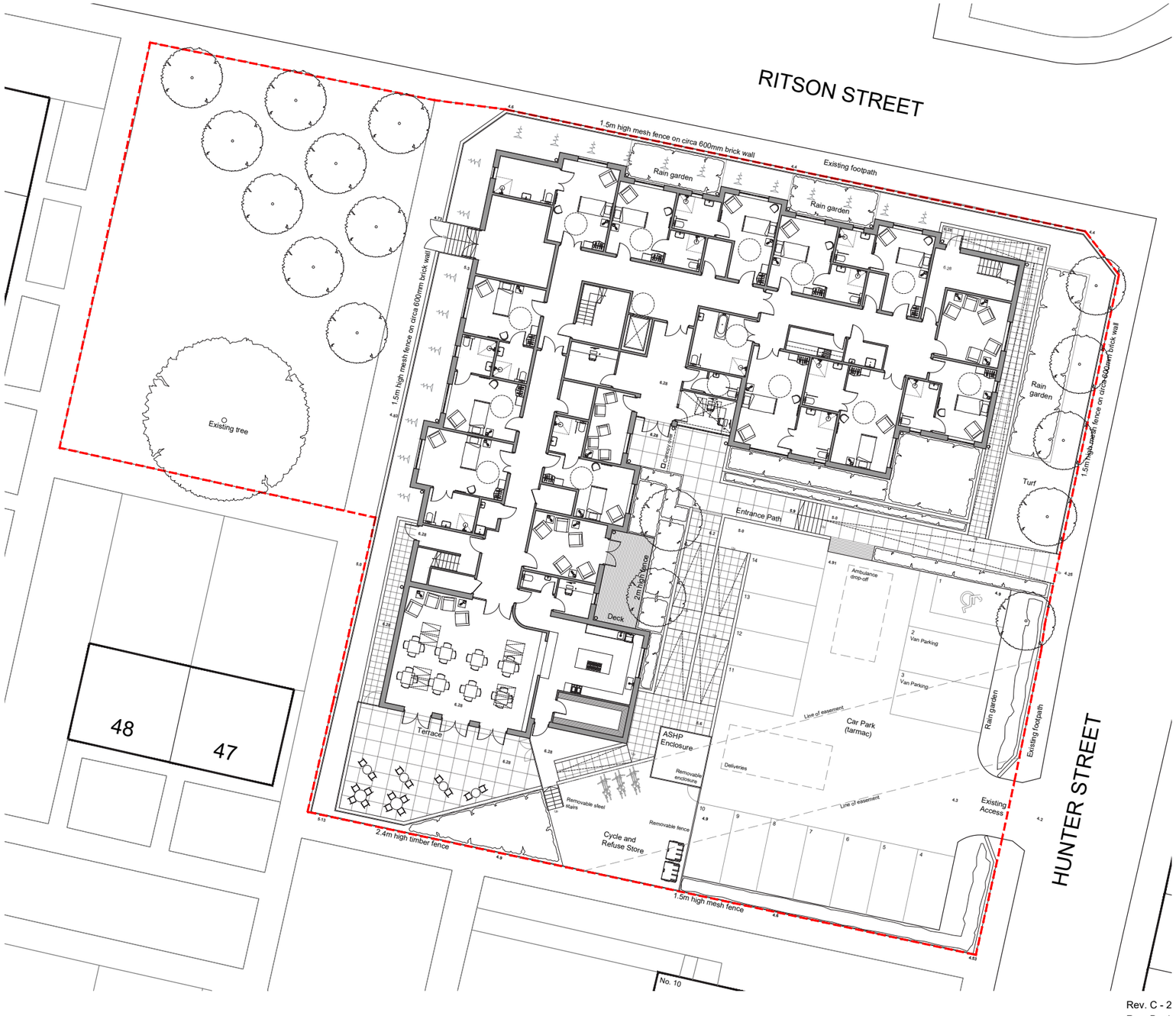


Figure 4: Proposed site plan, prepared by CW Architects

05 Landscape Strategy

Figure 5: Landscape Strategy, prepared by Tir Collective

Key

Site boundary

Existing Features

Existing trees to be retained

Proposed Soft Landscape

Trees

Orchard trees

Specimen shrubs

Ornamental hedge

Ornamental planting

Species-rich grass

Proposed Drainage

Rain garden with shrub planting

Damp grassland

Proposed Hard Landscape

Gravel strip

Brick boundary walls

Planting

The planting strategy for the proposed development has been carefully designed to support biodiversity, enhance visual amenity, and contribute to sustainable drainage solutions on site.

A hedgerow of Laurus nobilis is proposed around the perimeter of the proposed car park to create a green boundary that supports local wildlife and integrates the site into the surrounding landscape.

To enhance visual character, a row of Acer campester 'Elsrijk' is proposed along the northeast side of the site, offering visual interest. In addition, Liquidambar styraciflua 'Lane Roberts' and Prunus 'Spire' trees; and Amelanchier lamarckii specimen shrubs are proposed to provide ornamental value and support bird and insect species with their flowers and berries.

Planting areas to north-east within the site have been designed as a rain garden, which serve a dual function: they help manage surface water runoff by slowing its passage to the sewer system, and they filter and absorb water through vegetation and soil. The plant species selected for these areas are specifically suited to free-draining oils and can tolerate temporary periods of inundation, ensuring long-term resilience and performance.

Proposed grass areas within the layout will be mostly established as species-rich grassland to provide habitat value and support pollinators and other invertebrates. This approach enhances site-wide biodiversity and contributes to a more resilient and ecologically valuable landscape. Damp grassland is also proposed within the area to the north of the building, which covers the SuDS features.

Overall, the planting palette includes a mix of native and ornamental species to provide year-round interest, support urban biodiversity, and contribute positively to the site's green infrastructure.

Additionally, the open space on the western side of the development, will be fully retained and enhanced. This area includes one existing mature tree, which will be preserved, alongside the introduction of a small orchard to increase biodiversity, seasonal interest, and opportunities for resident interaction with nature.

06 Green Infrastructure

Stepwise Approach

A stepwise approach has informed the layout and landscape strategy for the care home, following the sequence Avoid → Minimise → Mitigate/Restore → Compensate/Enhance. This responds to the site's current brownfield condition, the findings of the 2016 bat and nesting bird survey, and the proposed landscape measures (rain gardens, species-rich grassland, amenity grass, shrub planting, native hedgerows, new trees, and a small orchard).

Step 1: Avoid

The development footprint focuses on previously developed ground, avoiding encroachment into the retained area of open space and its existing mature tree. Boundary vegetation outside the red line has been respected through stand-off distances and the careful alignment of building, parking, and footways. No works are proposed within adjacent gardens or streets that would remove established off-site green infrastructure.

Step 2: Minimise

Where the scheme interfaces with retained vegetation beyond the southeast corner and the beach tree in the open space to the west, the layout and construction logistics have been arranged to reduce disturbance: root protection zones will be fenced prior to works; site compound and access routes are positioned away from tree canopies. Internal circulation has been kept compact to limit hardstanding and maximise contiguous planting beds.

Step 3: Mitigate / Restore

The landscape proposes green cover and ecological function across the brownfield areas through a layered planting strategy: hedgerows to define boundaries and movement corridors; mixed shrub and herbaceous areas to provide structure, nectar and fruit; and species-rich grassland to diversify sward composition. SuDS features are delivered as planted rain gardens that slow, store, and filter runoff while creating wet-dry microhabitats. Vegetation clearance (if required) will be timed to avoid the bird nesting season, with ecological checks undertaken where necessary. Any limited pruning will follow BS5837 principles, with protective fencing maintained for the duration of construction.

Step 4: Compensate / Enhance

Long-term biodiversity uplift is provided through additional native tree planting and a small orchard that offers blossom, shade, and seasonal foraging value for people and wildlife. Nesting and roosting opportunities will be increased via integrated bird and bat boxes on suitable elevations and retained trees where appropriate. Varied mowing regimes for species-rich grassland, and diverse planting palettes within rain gardens will further strengthen habitat heterogeneity and connectivity. Collectively, these measures compensate for the low ecological baseline of the cleared site and deliver a resilient, multifunctional green infrastructure network that supports resident wellbeing and local biodiversity.

Enhancement Opportunities

In line with current planning policy guidance, the development should seek to enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience beyond core mitigation measures. The landscape strategy should aim to contribute to wider nature recovery objectives and deliver long-term environmental benefits.

Enhancement proposals should focus on strengthening the site's green infrastructure and reinforcing connectivity with surrounding ecological features, particularly the open space to the northwest. On this previously brownfield site, there is scope to establish new boundary habitats through natural regeneration and the planting of native trees, shrubs, and wildflower species of local provenance, creating ecological corridors that support species movement.

While no habitat loss is anticipated as part of the proposals, opportunities exist to deliver on-site ecological enhancements. These include species-rich grassland and pollinator-friendly planting, which will provide resources for pollinators, contribute to carbon sequestration, improve air quality, and enhance the overall ecological value of the development. Collectively, these measures will reinforce the ecological function of the site and strengthen its boundary habitats.

The landscape strategy

15no. proposed trees and 5no. specimen shrubs will be planted at the site. Tree and specimen shrub species have been selected to tolerate the site's conditions, including being planted in appropriate space to thrive. Proposed tree species include:

- Acer campestre 'Elsrijk'
- Liquidambar styraciflua 'Lane Roberts'
- Malus 'Evereste'
- Malus domestica
- Prunus 'Spire'
- Pyrus communis

Proposed specimen shrub species include:

- Amelanchier lamarckii

The trees are a combination of native and ornamental species which includes flowering varieties and trees with berries.

Throughout the remainder of the site, a variety of shrub planting will be introduced primarily for amenity value, arranged around the proposed building. The landscape design will also incorporate ornamental formal hedgerows to provide structure and enhance the visual quality of the development.

The proposed tree planting, orchard and native specimen shrub structure will maximise biodiversity across the site, adding green cover on previously developed land. **(Step 3: Mitigate/Restore + Enhance)**

Relating to the mitigation and enhancement opportunities identified in the 2016 ecological report, integrated bat and bird boxes will be incorporated into the site layout and retained tree, providing roosting and nesting opportunities where limited habitat currently exists. **(Step 3: Mitigate/Restore + Enhance) and (Step 4: Compensate for the impacts).**

Surface water management is addressed through SuDS features, including rain gardens, designed to slow, filter and store water prior to discharge into the local network. These features contribute to habitat creation as well as resilience to surface water flooding. **(Step 3: Mitigate/Restore + Enhance).**
The rain gardens will be planted with a diverse mix of shrubs, ornamental grasses and nectar-rich herbaceous species. This planting palette will attract pollinators, strengthen ecological function and provide seasonal visual interest. **(Step 3: Mitigate/Restore + Enhance).**

Species-rich grassland will be established within the open space area, including a mosaic of 'short grass' for amenity use and areas managed to grow long to encourage flowering species. This varied management approach will enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity. **(Step 3: Mitigate/ Restore + Enhance).**

The retained open space tree will be protected and supplemented with the new orchard planting, these measures will reinforce the ecological framework of the site. **(Step 3: Mitigate/Restore + Enhance) and (Step 4: Compensate for the impacts).**

In addition, the proposals include new tree planting across the site, areas of species-rich grassland, and boundary hedgerows. These features will contribute to biodiversity enhancement and strengthen the site's green infrastructure.

Overall

The findings of the ecological report have informed the landscape scheme, which incorporates a significant increase in species diversity through the introduction of native trees, shrubs, hedgerows, and wildflower-rich grassland. Pollinator-friendly species are included throughout to support ecological networks. Collectively, these measures will enhance on-site biodiversity while also providing amenity value for residents, creating an attractive, ecologically rich and seasonally varied setting with greater opportunities for nature connection.

The mitigation proposals incorporated within the landscape scheme, including enhancements, has demonstrated that **the site has achieved a Net Benefit for Biodiversity.**

Figure 6: lists the landscape assets, its green infrastructure element, and the functions of each landscape asset while signposting against the Building with Nature Standards.

Landscape asset	Green infrastructure element	Functions	Building with Nature Standards
Retained Tree (adjacent to the site)	Trees / vegetation	• Contribution to Placemaking • Cooling and Shade • Calming and Inspiring • Health and Wellbeing • Nutrient Cycling • Wind break • Cleaning Water and Air	2 - Positively Responds to the Climate Emergency 4 - Champions a Context Driven Approach 5 - Creates Distinctive Places 6 - Secures Effective Place-keeping
New tree and hedgerow planting	Trees / vegetation	• **Wildlife Habitat** • Contribution to Placemaking • Cooling and Shade • Calming and Inspiring • Health and Wellbeing • Nutrient Cycling • Cleaning Water and Air	1 - Optimises Multi functionality and Connectivity 2 - Positively Responds to the Climate Emergency 3 - Maximises Environmental Net Gains 5 - Creates Distinctive Places 7 - Brings Nature Closer to People 11 - Delivers Wildlife Enhancement 12 - Underpins Nature's Recovery
Proposed shrub planting	Trees / vegetation	• **Contribution to Placemaking** • Health and Wellbeing • Calming and Inspiring	1 - Optimises Multi functionality and Connectivity 2 - Positively Responds to the Climate Emergency 3 - Maximises Environmental Net Gains 7 - Brings Nature Closer to People
Proposed SuDS features	Sustainable Drainage	• **Cleaning Water and Air** • Flood Mitigation • Contribution to Placemaking • Calming and Inspiring • Nutrient Cycling • Wildlife Habitat • Cleaning Water and Air	1 - Optimises Multi functionality and Connectivity 2 - Positively Responds to the Climate Emergency 5 - Creates Distinctive Places 7 - Brings Nature Closer to People 9 - Delivers Climate Resilient Water Management 10 - Brings Water Closer to People
Proposed grassland mixes	Grassland	• **Wildlife Habitat** • Calming and Inspiring • Health and well-being • Nutrient Cycling	1 - Optimises Multi functionality and Connectivity 2 - Positively Responds to the Climate Emergency 3 - Maximises Environmental Net Gains 7 - Brings Nature Closer to People 11 - Delivers Wildlife Enhancement 12 - Underpins Nature's Recovery

Multi-functionality of Green Infrastructure

This section identifies the multi-functionality of each green infrastructure element: trees, habitat, and public access. These elements reflect the overarching principle of **enhance** by applying the principles of good placemaking and green infrastructure.

The multi-functionality of green infrastructure is described as "GI functions are the roles that assets can play if planned, designed and managed in a way that is sensitive to, and includes provision for, natural features and ecosystem services. They may have obvious primary functions, but each asset can perform different functions simultaneously". The Landscape Strategy sets outs the GI functions and benefits of the proposals are listed in Figure 6, against the list below:

- Contribution to Placemaking
- Flood Mitigation
- Cooling and Shade
- Food
- Exercise
- Health and Wellbeing
- Calming and Inspiring
- Nutrient Cycling
- Wildlife Habitat
- Wind break
- Cleaning Water and Air

07 Conclusions

Resilience of Ecosystems

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 provides a duty upon public bodies such as Neath Port Talbot council to promote the resilience of ecosystems.

The proposed green infrastructure strategy would comprise a range of species, both native and non-native species to enhance biodiversity and botanical diversity. The species selected are adaptable to wet and dry conditions, including lengthy dry spells. The range of both tree and plant species proposed would enhance the biodiversity, increase species diversity, the age diversity of vegetation and improve habitat resilience to climate change. This is to enhance biodiversity and species diversity on the site. The wildflower planting would also provide a visual and ecological connection to the existing woodland to the south.

The proposed green infrastructure strategy has considered the existing green infrastructure features within and beyond the site boundary, as recommended by the Stepwise approach. The proposed features would increase the biodiversity, species diversity, and habitat structure on the site whilst contributing to the multi-functionality of the green infrastructure elements.

The landscape strategy for the site has been developed in accordance with the Stepwise Approach, aiming to avoid and retain existing features where possible, while mitigating or compensating for any unavoidable losses. Overall, the strategy delivers a net enhancement to the site's green infrastructure.

Surveys of local habitats and wildlife indicate that the effects of the development are low and can be effectively managed through appropriate mitigation. Measures include installation of bird and bat boxes, and tree protection fencing during the construction phase.

The introduction of new planting areas, species-rich grassland, hedgerows, and native trees will improve the biodiversity of the previously brownfield site, supporting pollinators, birds, and invertebrates, while also creating opportunities for nature connection. Collectively, these measures will reinforce the site's connection with surrounding green infrastructure and contribute positively to local biodiversity.

The proposals reflect Stepwise Mitigate / Compensate and has considered the potential for Enhancement at each stage in accordance with the **DECCA Framework**.

The proposals also contribute well to the **12 Standards of Building with Nature**, creating well connected, multifunctional green infrastructure.

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