

Green Infrastructure Statement

For

Testing House, Kenfig Ind Estate

Prepared By



On Behalf of

R-Tech Group

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INTRODUCTION

The design for the Testing House development has used a holistic approach, incorporating biodiversity enhancements wherever possible. The design was informed by the updated National Planning Policy for Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales.

Specifically, the development proposals and landscape philosophy follow the Stepwise Approach set out in paragraph 6.4.21 as follows:

Avoid - avoid damage to biodiversity in its widest sense (i.e. the variety of species and habitats and their abundance) and ecosystem functioning.

Minimise - applicants, in discussion with planning authorities, must seek to minimise the initial impact on biodiversity and ecosystems by:

ensuring that retained habitats continue to be well connected to adjacent habitats to provide connectivity for key species and ensuring that the favourable conservation status of local species populations is maintained

retaining existing features, develop a management plan for their future care

using proven innovative/creative solutions (where required) to minimise damage and maintain existing biodiversity features and ecosystems in tandem with robust monitoring and rectification strategies.

Mitigate - Where, after measures to minimise impact, biodiversity and ecosystems could still be damaged, or lost through residual impacts, the proposed development should mitigate that damage. Mitigation measures must be put in place to limit the negative effects of a development.

Compensate - where like for like mitigation measures are not possible, particularly in respect of restoration measures, it may be necessary to consider on site compensation measures.

Due to a lack of any existing green infrastructure, there is no damage to **avoid** and no impacts to **minimise** or **mitigate**. While specific measures to **compensate** for GI losses are not required, detailed soft landscape proposals have been produced to maximise biodiversity enhancement of the site.

THE SITE

The development comprises a 0.2-hectare area of hard surfacing, immediately north east of the existing R-tech Group building.

The entirety of the site is hard surfaced. There is no existing green infrastructure and no areas of ecological value on site. As a consequence, ecological surveys of the site are not required.

Due to surrounding buildings and roads, the potential for connection into the wider GI network is limited.



Image 1 – The Site



KEY

- The Site
- Existing rough grassland / scrub
- Areas of maintained amenity Grassland
- Green Corridor

EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Existing Trees

None present

Existing Hedgerows

None present

Green Corridors

None present, the nearest green corridors are located approximately 100 metres from the site boundary, associated with the railway lines to the north and west

Stepping Stones

GI stepping stones form a patchwork of small incidental open spaces around the estate. These generally low ecological value areas predominantly comprise close mown amenity grassland.

Soils

None present

Public Open Space

None present

Grassland

None present

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES

There are no existing GI assets and no GI will be lost as a consequence of development.

PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The primary objectives of the detailed soft landscape proposals are to;

- 1) Improve site biodiversity and GI value.
- 2) Incorporate the SUDs system into the landscape design.

Proposed Trees – 3 no. new trees, tolerant of site conditions. Trees have been carefully selected to maximise their contribution to the arboricultural character of the site, without outgrowing their locations.

Proposed Wildflower Habitat –

117 square metres of wetland wildflower habitat. Species include; *Achillea Millefolium*, *Agrimonia eupatoria*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Betonica officinalis*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Filipendula ularia*, *Galium verum*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Primula veris*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Silene flos-cuculi*, *Taraxacum officinale*, *Vicia cracca*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Carex echinata*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Festuca rubra*, *Phleum bertolonii*, *Poa pratensis*.

169 square metres of meadow wildflower habitat. Species include; *Centaurea nigra*, *Daucus carota*, *Galium verum*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Malva moschata*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Poterium sanguisorba ssp sanguisorba*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Silene dioica*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Phleum bertolonii*, *Poa pratensis*.

Proposed landscape planting – 82 square metres of predominantly native shrubs, grasses and perennials at the front of the development.

Rain Garden Planting – 60 square metres of SUDs tolerant native shrubs grasses and perennials within the rain garden at the rear of the site.

Proposed Native Hedgerows – 38 linear metres of species rich native hedgerow along the rear boundary of the site.

SUMMARY

The existing site contains no green infrastructure. Due to the surrounding roads and built form, opportunities to connect with the wider GI network are limited.

The proposed trees, wildflower habitat, landscape planting and hedgerow will maximise on site GI and represent a net gain for biodiversity.