

Green Infrastructure Statement

**Land at Cefn Saeson
Comprehensive School,
Afan Valley Road, Neath,
SA11 3TA**

July 2026



Summary

Proposal:

Installation of additional fencing surrounding sports pitches and associated works

Location:

Land at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School, Afan Valley Road, Neath, SA11 3TA

Date:

June 2026

Project Reference:

PR26.198

Client:

Morgan Sindall Construction Infrastructure Ltd

Product of:

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Site Description

The development site is located in a semi-urban location being located on the eastern outskirts of Cilma, Neath. Cefn Isaf Comprehensive School is bounded by fields on the northern, eastern and southern boundaries, housing on Greenwood Drive and Brynsiriol on the western and Ridgewood Gardens on the southern boundary. The school is located approximately 2.5 km east of Neath town centre.



Figure 1: Aerial View of Site.

Existing Green Infrastructure

As shown above, there are houses on the western and northern boundaries of the site, as well as sports pitches to the east and south of the above red lines.

Figure 1 above shows that the proposed development relates to two sports pitches. The approved sports pitch on the southern boundary of the site is a Sand Dressed Hockey Pitch, and the approved sports pitch to the north of the site is a Grass Football Pitch.

There are a number of existing trees within the site, including Common Oak and Turkey Oak trees. There is a Common Oak tree located approximately 45 meters south of the proposed 5-metre fence on the pitch on the northern boundary of the site. There is also a Hawthorn Hedgerow to the south of the school building.

In relation to the proposed landscape features, two Detention Bains to the north east of the Grass Football Pitch were proposed as part of the approved development, and one to the south of the Sand Dressed Hockey Pitch. There were also planting beds, raingardens, hedgerows, and bat and bird boxed proposed as part of the approved development, as well as enhancements to the SINC stream and woodland strip on the northern boundary of the school site.

Therefore, it is considered that there was a great emphasis on the implementation of green infrastructure features as part of the approved and implemented development.

Green Infrastructure Strategy

Planning Policy Wales defines Green Infrastructure as the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers, and lakes, that intersperse and connect places. Component elements of green infrastructure can function at different scales and some components, such as trees and woodland, are often universally present and function at all levels.

Paragraph 6.4.15 details a step-wise approach for the consideration of green infrastructure within development proposals. In summary this approach follows the below steps:

- **AVOID** - Consider options to avoid any potential harm to an ecological feature,
- **MITIGATE** - If negative effects are unavoidable, measures should be implemented to minimise and reduce potential effects,
- **COMPENSATE** - If negative effects are still likely to be experienced, despite measures to reduce impacts being implemented, appropriate compensatory measures should be implemented,
- **ENHANCEMENT** - Works should always seek to provide net benefits for biodiversity to help meet the section 7 & 6 requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The quality of the built environment should be enhanced by integrating green infrastructure into development through appropriate site selection and use of creative design. With careful planning and design, informed by an appropriate level of assessment, green infrastructure can embed the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services into new development and places, help to overcome the potential for conflicting objectives, and contribute to health and well-being outcomes.

As the development concerns the installation of two new fences, the scale of proposed green infrastructure is considered to be minor. The installation of the fences is not anticipated to cause any unacceptable harm on air quality, heat, noise or light pollution, or any other identified risk to the environment. Therefore, the proposal will accord with Policy (EN6 Important Biodiversity and Geodiversity Sites the LDP), and any concerns can be deemed insignificant.

Proposed Green Infrastructure

Given the small scale of the development, the impacts on surrounding green infrastructure and biodiversity value will be negligible. However, Planning Policy Wales 12 and Policy 9 of Future Wales states that in all cases, 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.

In order to meet the above requirements as set out within Policy 9, a Schwegler 1FQ Bat Box will be added on one of the Common Oak trees on the north eastern boundary of the school site, as well as a Schwegler 1FQ Bat Box. The location of the proposed boxes are shown on the Biodiversity Enhancement plan submitted as part of the planning application.

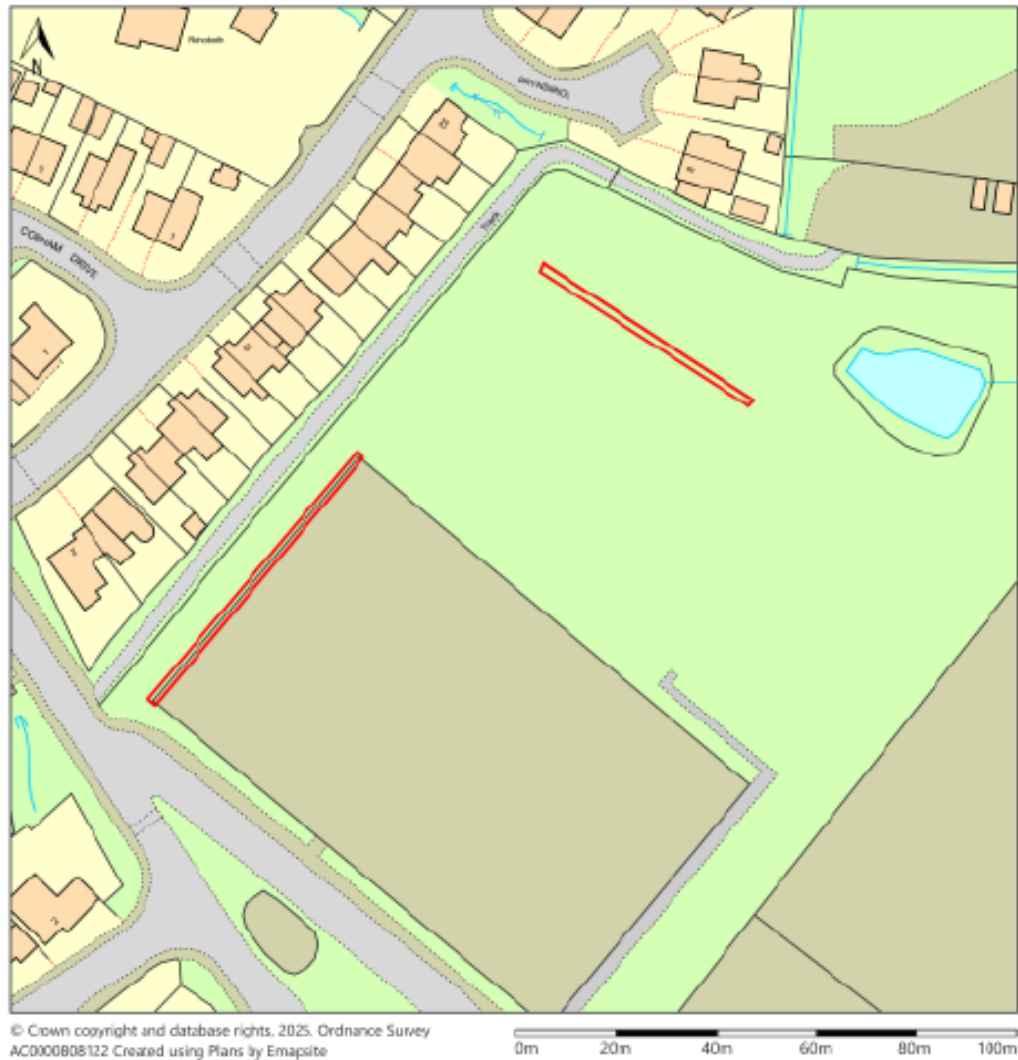
Conclusion

This Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared on behalf of Morgan Sindall Construction Infrastructure Ltd for proposed installation of additional fencing surrounding sports pitches and associated works at land at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School, Afan Valley Road, Neath, SA11 3TA.

After reviewing the surrounding landscape and the potential impact of the proposed installations, it is considered that the proposal will not have a damaging impact on the green infrastructure associated with the site. As shown on the site plan above, it is clear that there will be no greenspace lost as part of the proposal. The development is also in compliance with the relevant National and Local Policies, and therefore green infrastructure should not be regarded as a constraint.

Appendix A – Site Location Plan

Site Location Plan



Scale: 1:1250

Reference: SLP-1

Paper Size: A4



Appendix B – Location of Proposed Biodiversity Enhancements