

Green Infrastructure Statement

New Dwelling

LAND AT 37 DERWEN RD, ALLTWEN, PONTARDAWE, SWANSEA SA8 3AU

March 2026 Revision A

INTRODUCTION

This Green Infrastructure Statement is to accompany the Reserved Matters planning application for the development of a new dwelling at 37 Derwen Rd. Alltwen.

It outlines how the proposed development will enhance local green infrastructure, consistent with Policy EN7 (Green Infrastructure) of the Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan, Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12), and the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015). The Statement also aligns with Neath Port Talbot Council's guidance on Addressing the Nature Emergency through the Planning System.

This Statement should be read alongside the Tree Survey prepared by ARW Tree Consultancy (Ref: ARW 1135)

This document should be read in conjunction with the following drawings:

- P 13 Landscape Plan Existing
- P 16A Landscape Plan Proposed
- P 19 Planting Sections and Details

1.0 EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The site is a corner plot and is currently being used as the rear garden of 37 Derwen Rd.

37 Derwen Rd is bound by Derwen Road to the South, Lon Tanyrallt to the East. To the North is scrubland and the A4067 and to the West is a 3m deep overgrown cutting with 39 Derwen Road beyond.

The entire site covers approximately 0.09 hectares and is generally square in shape with a frontage of approx. 30m to Lon Tanyrallt. The site slopes very steeply from east to west and more gradually from south to north.

The site has several native and non-native trees present. The front boundary adjacent to Tanyrallt is comprised of mainly ash and sycamore.

Internally, running diagonally across part of the centre of the site, is a short length of an outgrown beech hedge planted on a bank. This hedge (classified as category C) is overgrown leaning considerably and no longer retained by the bank. This will be removed.

There are no category A trees on the site, and only two trees on site are category B quality. These oak trees are at the western perimeter of the site and will be retained, they are outside the construction zone and are not affected by the proposal.

The majority of the trees to the front boundary have all been classified as category U with a recommendation to fell. (see P 13 Landscape Plan Existing)

The trees currently offer very little in the way of screening as due to the close proximity of the trunks the tree canopy is generally 15 metres above ground level and very limited. There are no low or intermediate level branches to offer screening of any kind.

The ash trees are all suffering from ash die back Level 4.

Some of these trees together with the beech hedge are leaning substantially and potentially present a danger to the surrounding area.

The trees now have a life expectancy of 5 or so years so will need to be removed and replaced.

In and around the trees the site is generally overgrown with brambles and various other weeds and scrub, contained by a post and wire fence, which makes up the current front boundary to Tanyrallt. The rest of the site where the house will be built is currently lawn.

No sign of any bat habitat features are present in the existing trees.

2.0 PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The Proposal includes the construction of a detached dwelling with associated access and parking, with modification of the existing entrance and driveway to meet highways standards.

The design has been informed by TAN 12 (Design) and TAN 5 (Nature Conservation), ensuring that green infrastructure is integrated into the layout, with enhancements to biodiversity, amenity, and climate resilience.

The main objective of the landscaping proposal is to strengthen the screening to the eastern front boundary with Tanyralft.

Currently there is already a large group of existing trees on land adjacent to the NE boundary, which offer substantial screening. 4 trees under our ownership in this corner of the site forming part of this group will be retained.

The remaining trees along the Tanyralft front boundary are all category U and will be removed.

To compensate for the removal of the diseased trees and scrub vegetation we propose to install a series a layers of staggered planting.

On the front boundary roadside we propose to build a continuous 500mm high dry stone gabion wall with a raised planting bed behind accommodating a dense mature evergreen hedge to achieve height of 2m above pavement level in 2 years, as shown.

Directly behind we propose to plant a series of mature trees with 2m stems providing an immediate canopy above the line of the hedge. These trees (predominantly evergreen) will mature to provide dense screening at a height of 2m to 4m above pavement level.

Further to this there are a number of larger trees planted on the sloped land leading down towards the building, and culminating in an additional line of mature trees in a raised bed. We also propose a row of *Cupressocyparis leylandii* to the North boundary to screen from the A4067.

2.1 NATIVE TREE PLANTING

In line with the recommendations of the Tree Survey, the category U trees will be removed, together with the low quality category C overgrown beech hedge. The removed trees will be replaced by mature specimens (2m tall) on a three for one basis.

It is intended to plant the majority of the trees along the north / north-eastern and eastern boundary to provide screening benefits and to add to the water absorption properties of the area as shown on the landscaping plan.

2.2 NATIVE HEDGEROW PLANTING

A new Holly hedgerow will be planted along the boundary to Tanyralft.

The hedgerow will be planted in double staggered rows, as this is better for wildlife than single rows, and provides a denser hedgerow. As a general rule at least 33cm 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.

Holly (*Ilex*) is a sturdy evergreen shrub with spiny foliage. It is an eye-catching plant which works as a distinctive hedge. Evergreen holly varieties such as traditional Green holly produce stunning white flowers during the summer that attract several pollinators such as bees and butterflies, whilst in winter bright red berries appear that add a touch of colour to dull, winter gardens. These berries are extremely popular with birds and smaller rodents during the colder months.

2.3 NATURAL WILD HABITAT

The landscape design aims to move away from the lawn based garden to encourage a much wilder and informal environment.

Shrubs which provide good foraging opportunities for wildlife by attracting a wide range of insects, will be planted extensively in and around the new wooded area, these will include Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*) Lavender (*Lavendula*) Jasmine (*Jasminum*) and Buddleija.

Self propagating varieties such as Bluebells, Snowdrops and Aquilegia Vulgaris will be encouraged to spread throughout the wooded area.

Meadow grass and wild flower planting is also included within the planting scheme.

The wild flower areas will predominantly occupy the north eastern side of the plot and serve as rain gardens for the purposes of the SuDS proposals.

The proposed development will result in an increase in nesting bird habitat and additional bird boxes will be installed as part of the overall scheme.

2.4 FORMAL GARDEN

A more formal garden of permeable hard standing, will be placed directly adjacent to the garden room on the lower ground floor. This will incorporate a range of planters with ornamental trees and topiary. Bay trees will be planted in the ground within the hard standing. The area will be enclosed with a gabion wall to retain the landscape behind.

3.0 TIMELINE AND LONG TERM MANAGEMENT

Felling, removal and replanting of trees will be carried out in compliance with BS3998:2010 (tree work).

Felling and ground clearance will be carried out as soon as planning permission is granted.

Tree and hedgerow planting along the north / north eastern and eastern boundary will commence immediately, between October and March. These areas will not be affected by the development and so will need as much time as possible to mature and provide the required screening.

Mature specimens will be planted in this area as specified to ensure immediate coverage.

It is expected that with the combination of dry stone wall with a raised bed area, in conjunction with a dense and staggered mature holly whip, will achieve a height of 2m above pavement level in 2 years.

The trees along the boundary set behind the hedge are mature specimens specifically chosen to provide a 2m stem with a large evergreen (in the main) canopy at the 2 - 4m level.

The remaining trees and shrubs closer to the development will be planted as soon as construction work is complete.

All new planting will be maintained for at least five years post-completion, with any failed specimens replaced. Boundary vegetation will be managed to maintain screening and ecological connectivity. Periodic tree inspections will be carried out in line with arboricultural best practice, ensuring long-term health and safety.

4.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion by implementing a combination of architectural features with appropriate and strategic planting, the screening to both the North and front boundary to Lon Tanyralt will be considerably strengthened by the proposals.

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.

The development will replace lost trees with native species and strengthen habitat corridors. - Deliver biodiversity enhancements consistent with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 duty to 'maintain and enhance biodiversity'. - Support Neath Port Talbot's Nature Emergency objectives by increasing habitat diversity and ecological connectivity.

The scheme is therefore compliant with: - Policy EN7 (Green Infrastructure) of the Neath Port Talbot LDP. - Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12). - TAN 5 (Nature Conservation and Planning). - TAN 12 (Design). - The Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015).