

Green Infrastructure Statement

Whilst the development required an initial phase of site clearance, including the removal of vegetation associated with previously disturbed operational land, the proposals incorporate habitat creation measures that deliver a measurable net biodiversity benefit through the introduction of new, species-rich habitat and enhanced ecological functionality.

The development includes the construction of a landscaped earth bund comprising approximately 110m³ of imported soil, creating a new landform capable of supporting diverse vegetation and wildlife. This bund will be seeded with approximately 174m² of species-rich wildflower grassland, establishing a permanent ecological resource where none currently exists.

The creation of 174m² (0.0174 hectares) of wildflower habitat represents a significant increase in habitat quality compared to the previously cleared and operationally influenced site conditions. Species-rich wildflower grasslands are recognised as supporting substantially higher numbers of plant and invertebrate species than heavily managed grassland, bare ground or hardstanding surfaces. The proposed habitat therefore delivers a measurable increase in habitat extent, diversity and ecological function.

The biodiversity benefits can be quantified as follows:

- 174m² of new species-rich wildflower habitat created.
- 110m³ of imported soil utilised to establish a permanent vegetated landform.
- Creation of a continuous landscaped corridor along the site's southern boundary, improving ecological connectivity with neighbouring gardens and surrounding green infrastructure.
- Establishment of a flowering habitat capable of supporting numerous pollinator species, including bees, butterflies, hoverflies and moths.
- Increased structural habitat diversity through varied topography, vegetation height and seasonal flowering characteristics.
- Creation of additional foraging, shelter and nesting opportunities for birds, invertebrates and small mammals.

From a biodiversity metric perspective, the proposals replace previously disturbed and operationally managed land with a habitat type that possesses a higher ecological distinctiveness and greater capacity to support species diversity. The wildflower planting will introduce a substantially greater range of flowering species than currently present, increasing nectar availability, pollen production and habitat complexity throughout the growing season.

As the habitat establishes and matures, its ecological value is expected to increase further through natural colonisation by additional plant and invertebrate species. This means the biodiversity benefits will not only be immediate but will continue to grow over time, delivering a long-term enhancement in habitat condition and ecological resilience.

Accordingly, whilst vegetation clearance formed part of the initial site preparation works, the creation of approximately **174m² of species-rich wildflower grassland** on a newly formed landscaped bund provides a demonstrable and quantifiable biodiversity enhancement. The proposals increase habitat area, habitat quality, species diversity and ecological connectivity, thereby delivering a clear **Net Biodiversity Benefit** in accordance with the objectives of Planning Policy Wales and the Section 6 Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.