

Landscape Planting & Ecological Management Plan

Plot 5 – Colliers Row
Heol Gerrig, Merthyr Tydfil

Planning Reference: P/26/0014 - 5 Cwm Woods Grove

Prepared for:
Local Planning Authority Submission

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Project: New Build Detached Dwelling – Plot 5
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1. Introduction & Site Overview

This document sets out the proposed landscape planting, planting specifications, and long-term ecological management strategy for Plot 5 at Colliers Row, Heol Gerrig, Merthyr Tydfil. The proposals have been prepared to support a planning application submission and align with the approved Landscape Masterplan and Local Environmental Management Plan (LEMP).

2. Landscape Planting Plan

2.1 Zone 1 – Pollinator Hedgerow

- Native pollinator-rich hedgerow along rear and left boundaries
- Primary wildlife corridor and screening feature
- Double staggered row planting at 5 plants per linear metre

2.2 Zone 2 – Rain Gardens

- Naturalistic planting supporting sustainable drainage
- Enhanced pollinator and invertebrate habitat

2.3 Zone 3 – Native Ecological Planting Areas

- High-quality ornamental shrubs, perennials and grasses
- Seasonal colour and structure around patio and lawn edges

2.4 Zone 4 – Lawn Areas

- Central usable lawn space
- Native species lawn suitable for domestic use

2.5 Zone 5 – Right Boundary Planting

- Decorative planting softening the boundary fence
- Low maintenance and pollinator-friendly species

3. Planting Specification Tables

Detailed planting schedules and specifications are provided within this document, including plant sizes, densities, spacing and establishment requirements.

4. 20-Year Landscape & Ecological Management Plan

A 20-year management and maintenance strategy is included to ensure the long-term success of the landscape scheme and the continued delivery of ecological benefits.

5. Wildlife & Biodiversity Enhancements

- Pollinator-friendly planting throughout all zones

- Continuous hedgerow wildlife corridor
- Hedgehog access points within boundary fencing
- Avoidance of pruning during bird nesting season

6. Monitoring & Review

- Establishment monitoring during Years 1–2
- Periodic review at Years 5, 10, 15 and 20
- Replacement planting where required

7. Conclusion

2. Landscape Planting Plan

2.1 Zone 1 – Pollinator Hedgerow

Native hedgerow planting providing ecological connectivity and wildlife habitat along rear and right boundaries.

- Plant Species:
 - *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn)
 - *Viburnum opulus* (Guelder Rose)
 - *Rosa canina* (Dog Rose)
 - *Lonicera periclymenum* (Honeysuckle)
 - *Frangula alnus* (Alder Buckthorn)

2.2 Zone 2 – Rain Garden Planting

Naturalistic planting supporting sustainable drainage and biodiversity.

- Plant Species:
 - *Deschampsia cespitosa* (Tufted Hair Grass)
 - *Carex elata* (Golden Sedge)
 - *Iris pseudacorus* (Yellow Flag Iris)
 - *Lythrum salicaria* (Purple Loosestrife)
 - *Persicaria bistorta* (Common Bistort)
 - *Filipendula ulmaria* (Meadowsweet)

2.3 Zone 3 – Main Garden Planting Areas

Native ecological planting around patio and lawn edges providing seasonal colour and structure.

- Plant Species:
 - *Cornus sanguinea* (Dogwood)
 - *Euonymus europaeus* (Spindle)
 - *Centaurea nigra* (Common Knapweed)
 - *Silene dioica* (Red Campion)
 - *Scabiosa columbaria* (Small Scabious)

- *Betonica officinalis* (Betony)
- *Primula veris* (Cowslip)
- *Deschampsia cespitosa* (Tufted Hair Grass)
- *Deschampsia flexuosa* (Wavy Hair Grass)
- *Molinia caerulea* (Purple Moor Grass)

2.4 Zone 4 – Lawn Area

Central usable domestic lawn providing recreational space.

- Plant Species:
 - Native UK provenance grass mix comprising *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus* and *Poa pratensis*

2.5 Zone 5 – Right-Hand Boundary Native Ecological Planting Strip

Decorative native ecological planting softening the boundary fence.

- Plant Species:
 - *Thymus polytrichus* (Wild Thyme)
 - *Geranium pratense* (Meadow Crane's-bill)
 - *Primula veris* (Cowslip)
 - *Leucanthemum vulgare* (Oxeye Daisy)
 - *Festuca ovina* (Sheep's Fescue)

3. Plot 5 Planting Specification Tables

Zone 1 – Pollinator Hedgerow

Botanical Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Size/ Grade	Density	Spacing	Notes
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Native shrub	1+1 Bare root whip	5 per linear metre	450mm	Structural hedge
Viburnum opulus	Guelder Rose	Native shrub	1+1 Bare root whip	Mixed hedge	450mm	Mid layer shrub
Rosa canina	Dog Rose	Climber /shrub	1+1 Bare root whip	10–15% mix	600mm	Scrambler
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	Climber	1+1 Bare root whip	10% mix	Intermittent	Nectar plant
Frangula alnus	Alder Buckthorn	Native shrub	1+1 Bare root whip	15% mix	450mm	Butterfly host

Zone 2 – Rain Garden Planting

Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Pot Size	Density	Spacing	Notes
Deschampsia cespitosa	Tufted Hair Grass	Grass	2L	5 per m ²	400mm	Structural grass
Carex elata	Golden Sedge	Wetland grass	2L	5 per m ²	400mm	Moisture tolerant
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Flag Iris	Perennial	2L	3 per m ²	500mm	Seasonal flower
Lythrum salicaria	Purple Loosestrife	Perennial	2L	4 per m ²	450mm	Pollinator plant
Persicaria bistorta (Common Bistort)	Red Bistort	Perennial	2L	4 per m ²	450mm	Long flowering
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Perennial	2L	4 per m ²	450mm	Native species

Zone 3 – Structural Shrubs

Name	Common Name	Pot Size	Density	Spacing	Notes
Cornus sanguinea (Dogwood)	Dogwood	3L	Clusters	1m	Architectural foliage
Euonymus europaeus (Spindle)	Spindle	3L	Group	700mm	Evergreen shrub

Zone 3 – Flowering Perennials

Name	Pot Size	Density	Spacing
<i>Centaurea nigra</i> (Common Knapweed)	2L	5 per m ²	450mm
<i>Silene dioica</i> (Red Campion)	2L	5 per m ²	450mm
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i> (Small Scabious)	2L	4 per m ²	500mm
<i>Betonica officinalis</i> (Betony)	2L	6 per m ²	400mm
<i>Primula veris</i> (Cowslip)	2L	5 per m ²	450mm

Zone 3 – Ornamental Grasses

Botanical Name	Pot Size	Density	Spacing
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> (Tufted Hair Grass)	2L	6 per m ²	400mm
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> (Wavy Hair Grass)	2L	4 per m ²	500mm
<i>Molinia caerulea</i> (Purple Moor Grass)	2L	3 per m ²	600mm

Zone 4 – Lawn Area

Specification Item	Requirement
Lawn Type	Domestic turf or seeded lawn
Turf Thickness	Minimum 35mm
Soil Preparation	150mm cultivated topsoil
Seeding Rate	Approx. 35g per m ²
Grass Mix	Native UK provenance grass mix comprising Festuca rubra, Agrostis capillaris, Cynosurus cristatus and Poa pratensis

Zone 5 – Right Boundary Ornamental Strip

Botanical Name	Common Name	Pot Size	Density	Spacing	Notes
Thymus polytrichus	Wild Thyme	1L	6-9 per m ²	350mm	Pollinator plant
Geranium pratense (Meadow Crane's-bill)	Hardy Geranium	2L	5 per m ²	450mm	Groundcover
Primula veris (Cowslip)	Cowslip	2L	6 per m ²	400mm	Foliage interest
Leucanthemum vulgare (Oxeye Daisy)	Oxeye Daisy	1L	7 per m ²	350mm	Edge softener
Festuca ovina (Sheep's Fescue)	Sheep's Fescue	1L	6 per m ²	400mm	Decorative grass

20-Year Landscape & Ecological Management Plan

1. Management Plan Overview

1.1 Purpose

This Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) sets out the long-term management and maintenance strategy for landscape planting and ecological features within Plot 5.

1.2 Management Objectives

- Maintain biodiversity value
- Ensure successful plant establishment
- Maintain habitat connectivity
- Deliver long-term visual landscape quality
- Meet Local Planning Authority ecological requirements

2. Management Zones

- Zone 1 – Boundary Pollinator Hedgerow
- 2.2 Zone 2 – Rain Garden Planting
- Zone 3 – Main Ornamental Garden Beds
- Zone 4 – Lawn Areas
- Zone 5 – Left Boundary Ornamental Strip

3. Management Responsibilities

- Years 0–2: Developer or landscape contractor responsible for establishment
- Years 3–20: Responsibility transfers to homeowner or management contractor

4. Establishment Phase (Years 0–2)

4.1 General Plant Establishment

- Weekly watering during growing season
- Manual weed removal or approved herbicide use
- Maintain 75mm organic mulch depth
- Replace failed plants during first two growing seasons

5. Zone-Specific Long-Term Management

Zone 1 – Pollinator Hedgerow Management

- Light formative pruning in Years 1–5
- Trim hedge annually in late winter (Years 6–20)

- Maintain hedge height between 1.5m and 2m
- Avoid cutting during bird nesting season
- Maintain hedgehog access gaps in fencing

Zone 2 – Rain Garden Management

- Remove excessive dead vegetation annually
- Spot weed removal
- Maintain drainage function
- Thin planting every 5 years if overcrowded

Zone 3 – Native Ecological Planting Beds

- Spring perennial cutback and fertiliser application
- Summer deadheading and watering
- Autumn division of overcrowded plants
- Winter grass cutback in late winter
- Planting refresh every 5–7 years

Zone 4 – Lawn Management

- Mow every 7–14 days during growing season
- Aerate and fertilise in spring
- Overseed worn areas in autumn
- Scarify and top dress every 3–5 years

Zone 5 – Right Boundary Ornamental Strip

- Spring pruning and plant cutback
- Summer deadheading and weed control
- Divide groundcover when overcrowded
- Replace declining plants every 4–6 years

6. Wildlife Enhancement Measures

- Maintain hedgehog access holes within fencing
- Avoid pruning during bird nesting season
- Retain berry-producing shrubs
- Avoid excessive lighting towards hedgerow

7. Monitoring & Review Programme

- Year 1 – Establishment inspection

- Year 2 – Replacement planting assessment
- Year 5 – Habitat performance review
- Year 10 – Landscape maturity review
- Year 15 – Habitat diversity review
- Year 20 – Full landscape renewal assessment

8. Replacement Strategy

- Replace dead, diseased or unsafe plants
- Replace plants causing drainage obstruction
- Replacement planting must match original specification

9. Climate Resilience Measures

- Implement drought tolerant watering strategy
- Use mulching to retain soil moisture
- Monitor storm damage
- Adjust plant selection if climate conditions change

10. Summary of Management Frequency

- Hedgerow – Annual
- Rain Garden – Light annual
- Ornamental Beds – Seasonal
- Lawn – Regular growing season maintenance
- Wildlife Features – Annual inspection

11. Long-Term Vision

- Establish mature wildlife corridor hedgerow
- Maintain high-quality ornamental garden environment
- Provide sustainable drainage through rain gardens
- Deliver long-term biodiversity value
- Maintain visual and ecological balance

Wildlife & Biodiversity Enhancements

5.1 Overview

The proposed landscape scheme for Plot 5 has been designed to deliver measurable biodiversity benefits in accordance with the approved Landscape Masterplan and Local Environmental Management Plan (LEMP). The planting design incorporates native species, pollinator-friendly native ecological planting, and habitat connectivity measures to support local wildlife.

5.2 Hedgerow Habitat Creation

Native mixed hedgerow planting along the rear and side boundaries provides dense habitat structure, seasonal nectar and berries, and ecological corridor connectivity supporting birds, pollinators, bats and small mammals.

5.3 Pollinator-Friendly Planting

Native ecological planting has been selected to provide long flowering periods and nectar sources from spring through autumn, supporting bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects.

5.4 Rain Garden Habitat Enhancement

Rain garden planting combines sustainable drainage with habitat provision using moisture tolerant native species supporting amphibians, birds and invertebrates.

5.5 Hedgehog and Small Mammal Connectivity

Hedgehog access openings are incorporated into boundary fencing and hedgerow bases are maintained with natural ground cover to allow wildlife movement.

5.6 Bird Habitat Support

Berry producing shrubs and dense hedgerow planting provide nesting opportunities and seasonal food supply for birds.

5.7 Bat Foraging and Habitat Protection

Continuous hedgerow corridors and pollinator planting encourage insect populations which support bat foraging while excessive lighting is avoided.

5.8 Climate and Habitat Resilience

The planting scheme uses drought tolerant and native species combined with mulching and soil improvement to ensure long-term ecological resilience.

5.9 Long-Term Biodiversity Management

The 20-Year Management Plan provides seasonal maintenance, controlled hedgerow management, monitoring and replacement planting to maintain biodiversity value.

5.10 Summary

The landscape design provides biodiversity enhancement through native hedgerow creation, pollinator planting, sustainable drainage planting, wildlife connectivity measures and long-term ecological management.

Monitoring and Review

6. Monitoring and Review

6.1 Overview

A structured monitoring and review programme will be implemented to ensure the successful establishment, long-term health, and ecological performance of the proposed landscape planting and biodiversity enhancements at Plot 5.

6.2 Monitoring Objectives

The monitoring programme aims to:

- Confirm successful establishment of planting.
- Maintain plant health and structural integrity.
- Ensure ecological habitats remain functional.
- Identify plant failures or declining performance.
- Maintain biodiversity value and wildlife connectivity.
- Ensure sustainable drainage planting remains operational.

6.3 Establishment Monitoring (Years 0–2)

Inspections shall be undertaken twice annually during the first two growing seasons to confirm successful planting establishment.

Monitoring Criteria:

- Plant survival rates
- Plant vigour and growth performance
- Pest or disease presence
- Weed infestation levels
- Soil moisture performance
- Mulch coverage and soil condition

Remedial Actions:

- Replacement planting using original specification species
- Additional watering during dry periods
- Weed removal and soil improvement where required

6.4 Long-Term Monitoring (Years 3–20)

Monitoring inspections shall be undertaken at the following intervals:

- Year 5 – Habitat performance and planting maturity

- Year 10 – Structural planting development review
- Year 15 – Habitat connectivity and plant health review
- Year 20 – Full landscape and biodiversity performance review

6.5 Hedgerow Monitoring

The hedgerow will be monitored to ensure dense growth, successful flowering and fruiting cycles, absence of invasive species, and continued wildlife corridor functionality.

6.6 Rain Garden Monitoring

Rain garden areas will be monitored to confirm effective drainage, healthy plant growth, absence of sediment build-up, and continued biodiversity habitat provision.

6.7 Native Ecological Planting Monitoring

Native ecological planting areas will be monitored to maintain balanced planting composition, seasonal flowering performance, and pollinator plant availability.

6.8 Lawn Monitoring

The lawn will be inspected to ensure even grass coverage, absence of compaction or drainage problems, and safe recreational usability.

6.9 Wildlife Enhancement Monitoring

Monitoring will confirm:

- Pollinator activity
- Bird nesting and feeding evidence
- Maintenance of wildlife corridors
- Condition of hedgehog access openings

6.10 Recording and Reporting

Inspection records will include inspection dates, observed conditions, identified issues, and maintenance actions undertaken.

6.11 Responsibility for Monitoring

Years 0–2 monitoring will be undertaken by the landscape contractor or developer. Years 3–20 monitoring will be undertaken by the homeowner or appointed management contractor.

6.12 Review and Adaptive Management

Management practices may be adjusted where monitoring identifies declining performance or ecological risk to maintain biodiversity and landscape quality.

6.13 Summary

The monitoring programme ensures the landscape scheme remains healthy, visually attractive, and ecologically functional throughout its lifecycle.

7. Conclusion

This Landscape Planting and Ecological Management submission demonstrates that the proposed scheme for Plot 5 has been carefully designed to deliver a high-quality residential landscape while providing measurable biodiversity benefits.

The planting proposals incorporate a native pollinator-rich hedgerow, native ecological planting designed to provide seasonal nectar sources, sustainable rain garden planting, and long-term wildlife connectivity measures. The scheme has been fully scaled and quantified to ensure deliverability and compliance with planning and ecological requirements.

A structured 20-Year Landscape and Ecological Management Plan has been provided to ensure successful establishment, ongoing maintenance, and long-term habitat functionality. Monitoring and review mechanisms are included to support adaptive management and continued biodiversity enhancement.

Collectively, the proposals align with the approved Landscape Masterplan and Local Environmental Management Plan (LEMP), ensuring that the development contributes positively to the wider ecological network and maintains a sustainable and visually attractive landscape setting.

The submitted landscape scheme is therefore considered appropriate, robust, and compliant with relevant planning and environmental objectives.