

Caths Farm Shop, Trelewis

Soft Landscape Strategy

for proposed housing development

by

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1.0 EXSITING LANDSCAPE:

Proposals are for a development of 5 residential units on a brownfield site currently used as a farm shop and car park.

The site is bounded to the north-west by Gelligaer Road with housing opposite, to the the south-west by new residential development currently under constuction, to the south-east and north-east onto open pasture field with site boundary hedges.

Hedges enclose the site on three sides. The existing access from Gelligaer Road (B5254) will be relocated further along the road, the new access point will require removal of a category C tree, one of a single avenue of limes planted in the highway verge around 15 years ago. The hedgerows provide useful screening and wildlife habitat, short sections will require removal to accommodate the new access 9.6linm of H1 (hawthorn dominated on low hedge bank to 1.5m) and Rain Garden 02 14.5linm of H2 (cypress maintained to 2m). Hedge and tree locations are shown on Soft Landscape Strategy Plan 23/946/03. Refer to the Tree Survey by Mackley Davies for more detail and site photos below from March 2023.



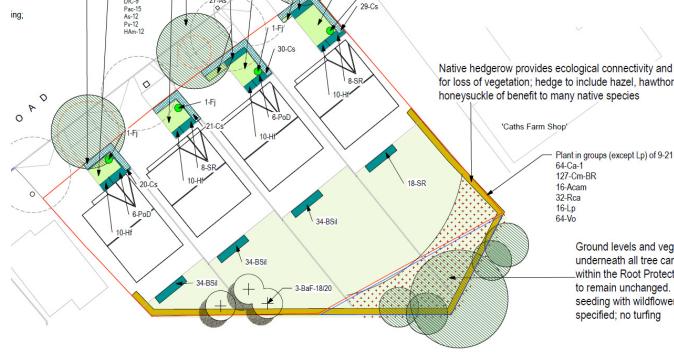
View from Gelligaer roadabout will be little changed



North-west boundary showing H1 (hawthorn) to 1.5m neatly trimmed on a low hedge bank and limes in a wide mown grass verge



North-west boundary from Gelligaer Road

 <p><i>South-east boundary showing H3 (outgrown scrappy goat willow hedge) and high mound behind, both off-site</i></p>	 <p><i>T6 oak</i></p>
 <p><i>North-east boundary showing H2 (trimmed cypress hedge) and scrappy remnant hedge to field boundary</i></p>	 <p><i>Adjacent site approved landscape plan for context</i></p>

Due to intervening trees and hedges, the site is not visible even in winter from a nearby public footpath to the east (part of the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk) which follows the Nant Caeach and runs along the boundary with Llancaiaich Fawr Manor.

Views from Gelliagor Road are likely to be improved by the proposal. The highway verge trees and deep verge with hedging provides good screening. The existing car park, shop and other hedge boundaries are not attractive and residential development offers the potential for enhancement, including the introduction of above ground SUDs planting, tree planting, and new native hedges, with the detention basin located close to the site frontage providing public views onto the open space and an attractive outlook for the neighbouring development.

A suitable native hedge buffer onto adjacent open pasture is required as the site will continue to have a gateway role into the settlement lying close to the roundabout.

The aim is to conserve and enhance the site and wider landscape setting, to provide screening or softening of new buildings, parking and bin stores, improve the biodiversity and amenity resource, and provide any replacement planting.

At this Outline planning stage the following landscape character types and approximate quantities are proposed as shown on Soft Landscape Strategy Plan 23/946/03. This will provide the framework for a detailed soft landscape plan, plant schedule, outline planting and maintenance specification which will be submitted as part of a Reserved Matters application.

- 6no trees
- 124 linear meters native hedges
- 57sqm native SUDs turf to detention basin
- 72sqm native rain garden planting
- 60sqm native species rich grass to detention basin (excluding private gardens)

2.0 PROPOSED SOFT LANDSCAPE

Indicative native trees and hedge mixes are based on species found at or near the site. Rain garden planting will meet Drainage Standards for Amenity and Biodiversity and support pollinators.

Trees – 14-16cmg size selected from

Sorbus aucuparia (rowan)
Sorbus aria (whitebeam)
Crataegus monogyna (hawthorn)
Prunus padus (bird cherry)
Prunus avium (wild cherry)

Mixed native hedges – site frontage hedge to be hawthorn dominant to match existing

Hawthorn [*Crataegus monogyna*] 50%
Hazel [*Corylus avellana*] 17%
Privet [*Ligustrum vulgare*] 10%
Dogwood [*Cornus sanguineum*] 10%
Holly [*Ilex aquifolium*] 10%
Old mans beard [*Clematis vitalba*] 3%
Under-seeded with Emorsgate EH1 Hedgerow Mix

New native mixed hedges (apart from the site frontage) will generally be maintained to around 1.5-1.8m, with the aim of providing a food and shelter resource ideally by cutting in February on a three year rotation for face and top. The site frontage hedge will be cut annually.

Bulbs and primrose - planted around the detention basin in informal drifts and allowed to spread

native daffodils
snowdrop
native bluebell
primrose

Rain Gardens

Rain Garden 1 and 2 – sun loving native species

Small native shrubs, perennials and grasses for dry zone with occasional short lived inundation. High percentage of SE Semi-evergreen or E Evergreen to provide year round cover and interest. Planted in drifts of 1-2sqm.

Rain Garden 3, 4, 5 – shade loving native species

Small native shrubs, perennials and ferns for dry zone with occasional short lived inundation. High percentage of SE Semi-evergreen or E Evergreen to provide year round cover and interest. Planted in drifts of 1-2sqm.

Seed and turf mixes

- SUDs detention basin turf to be WFT-SUD-37 SUDs turf by Wildflower Turf Ltd or equivalent.
- Grass seed mix to be Germinal WFG20 Eco Species Rich Lawn (or equivalent if there are supply issues), close mown within residential gardens, more scope for relaxed mowing regime around detention basin.
- New native mixed hedges to be undersown with Emorsgate EH1 Hedgerow Mix under (or equivalent if there are supply issues).

3.0 OUTLINE SPECIFICATION FOR SOFT LANDSCAPE WORKS

Refer to Soft Landscape Plan reference: 23/946/03A.

1.0 Work to be carried out in accordance with the following standards:

- British Standards:
 - BS 3882:2015 Specification for topsoil
 - BS 8601:2013 Specification for subsoil and requirements for use
 - BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction
 - BS 8545:2014 Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape
 - BS 4428:1989 Code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces)
- National Plant Specification
- National Landscape Specification (NBS) latest revision
- Landscape Architects detailed specification (to be issued at tender stage)

2.0 Protection of site trees and hedges:

Before work commences, ensure protection of any hedges and trees to be retained in accordance with BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction in line with Tree Protection Plan by Mackley Davies.

3.0 Soils:

Existing site soils are to be stripped and store for re-use or retained in-situ. A **topsoil/subsoil analysis report will be obtained** from an agreed soil science consultancy with interpretive commentary on the suitability of the site won topsoil/subsoil for the proposed landscape design and end users in addition to any measures required at planting or during the three year plant establishment period to aid growth for example addition of organic matter.

The following hierarchy to be followed to reduce soil handling:

1. If soils are suitable and in the right location, protect during the construction period in-situ by adequate fencing
2. Otherwise, move to the prepared receptor site
3. Otherwise, strip, store, and re-use for backfill once the receptor site is ready

All in accordance with:

- BS 3882:2015 Specification for topsoil
- BS 8601:2013 Specification for subsoil and requirements for use

The soil profile for SUDs areas will be determined by the drainage engineer.

4.0 Plant Supply:

Nursery Stock to BS 3936 Part 1 'Nursery stock specification for trees and shrubs' and BS 8545:2014 Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape. Stock to be sourced locally if possible, if not available then from Wales ideally within Forestry Commission seed Zone 303, and if not then from UK stock.

5.0 Plant Handling:

Handling of plants to HTA National Plant Specification and the Committee for Plant Handling and Establishment Part 3 'Recommendations for Plant Handling from Delivery to Successful Establishment' and BS 8545:2014 Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape.

6.0 Tree guards/shrub shelters:

Trees planted into grass to be provided with mower guards.

Tree staking will use three untreated wooden stakes driven well into the ground vertically, equally spaced around the root system, with biodegradable fabric ties and pads, set low on the stem (max 1/3rd tree height).

7.0 Mulch specification:

An amenity grade of mulch to 50mm for all planting beds increasing to 75mm around trees.

Rain Gardens to have a gravel or crushed stone mulch or refer to specification by drainage engineer.

4.0 MAINTENANCE, MONITORING AND DEFECT REPLACEMENTS

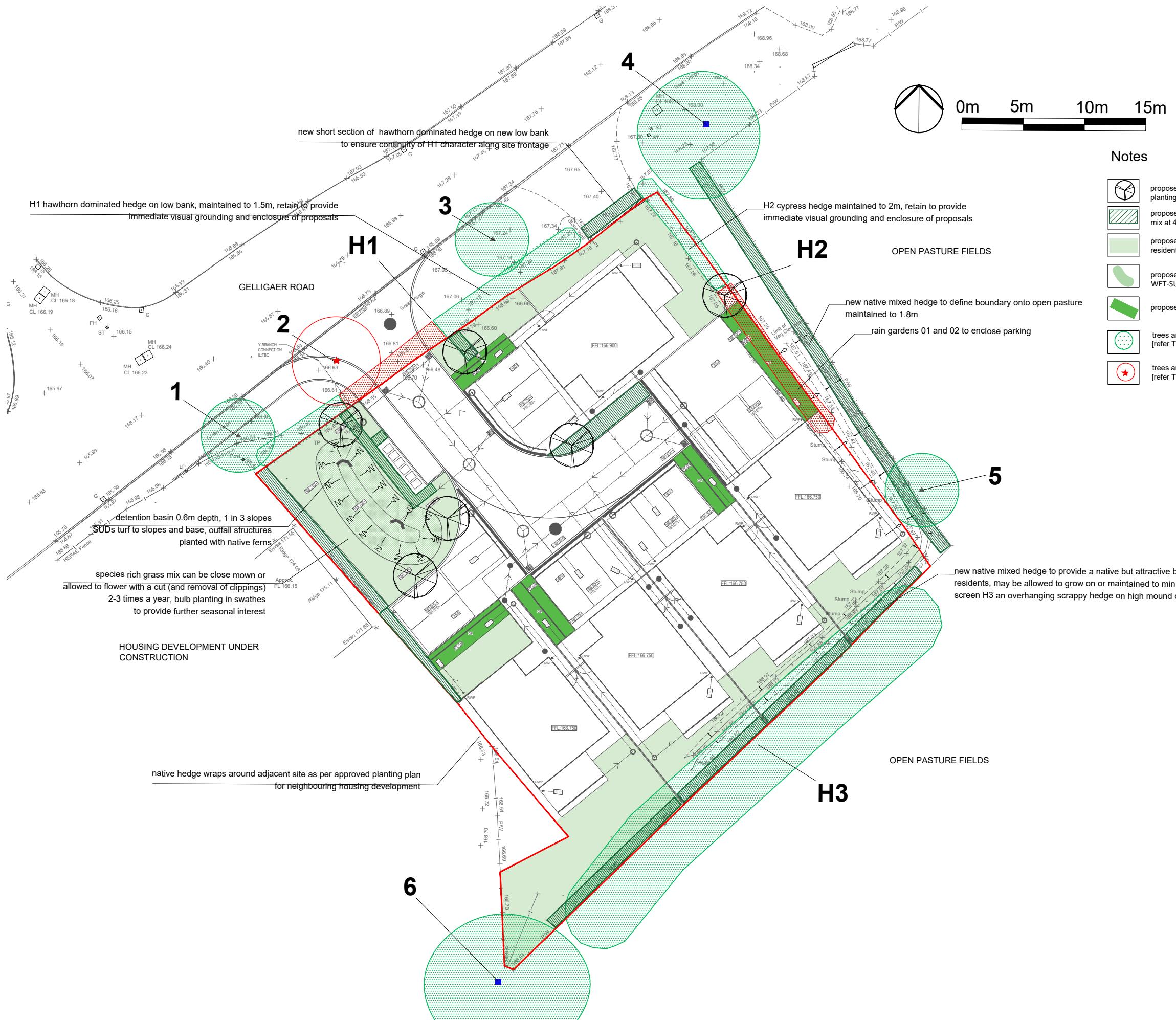
Planting will be undertaken during the first planting season following completion of the site works.

Infrastructure areas will be implemented and funded by an Infrastructure Management Company. For on plot areas, responsibility will lie with individual owners. **For newly planted areas** maintenance will be undertaken at regular intervals during the growing season April to September.

The soft landscape works will be implemented by a BALI registered landscape contractor appointed by the applicant. Post Practical Completion, the first 12 months management is to be included with the landscape contract to ensure the soft landscape elements are implemented in accordance with the approved planting plan and that trees, shrubs, ground cover, lawns, successfully establish. All plant failures within the first year will be replaced by the contractor on a like for like basis.

Soft landscape maintenance and management following the end of the 12 month defects period, will continue in line with the approved planting plan for a minimum period of 5 years in accordance with planning conditions.

An annual walkover will enable monitoring of plant establishment success. Plants that fail to thrive during the **5 year establishment phase** will be replaced in the next suitable planting season [November to March inclusive].



Notes

-  proposed extra heavy standard native tree planting
-  proposed native hedge planting underseeded with eg Emorsgate EH1 Hedgerow mix at 4g/sqm or similar, edged with native groundcover where required
-  proposed species rich grass mix around detention basin and to residential gardens eg Germinal WFG20 Eco Species Rich Lawn
-  proposed SUDs detention basin
WFT-SUD-37 SUDs turf by Wildflower Turf Ltd
-  proposed SUDs Rain Gardens with native low shrubs, perennials, ferns
-  trees and hedges to be retained
[refer Tree Survey by Mackley Davies]
-  trees and hedges to be removed
[refer Tree Survey by Mackley Davies]

Rev A 18 sept 2023 - all planting specified as native in line with MTCBC comments

All dimensions must be checked on site and not scaled from this drawing.

This drawing is for the purposes of PLANNING.
Based on Ordnance Survey and topographic survey
data as supplied. OS Licence 100043966

Layout based on Site Layout 2312-SK-6 Rev C
by Architectural Design, Drainage Strategy
16908-500 Rev 01 by Vale Consultancy.

Refer to Tree Survey & Arboricultural Impact Assessment by Mackley Davies.

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SITE

CLIENT

DRAWING TITLE

Soft landsc

Soft landscape masterplan

SCALE 1:200 @ A2 Job No. 23/946/03

1.200 @ A2 23/940/03