



Green Infrastructure Statement

Rev 1 – 04/12/2024

**Plots 9 & 10,
Cwm Woods Grove,
Heolgerrig,
Merthyr Tydfil,
CF48 1DP**

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Green Infrastructure Statement

For Maxiom Development Limited
Plots 9 & 10

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Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS)

Purpose and Scope

The Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) outlines the integration of green infrastructure on Plots 9 & 10, focusing on biodiversity, landscape, and resilience to meet **Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 12**. The GIS follows the **DECCA (Diversity, Extent, Condition, Connectivity, Adaptability)** framework to ensure ecosystem resilience and biodiversity net gain.

1. Green Infrastructure Elements

- **Woodland Areas and Hedgerows:** Retained and newly planted native woodland and hedgerows will enhance connectivity, providing a corridor for local wildlife and forming a natural buffer. See LEMP Rev 2 pg 20
- **Wildflower Meadows:** Creation of wildflower areas supports pollinator populations, adding habitat diversity and aesthetic value. See LEMP Rev 2 pg 18
- **Water Features:** The building plots are relatively small and as much as it would be beneficial to include a water feature this would not be practical. From reviewing the baseline, there were no ponds or such features on the site previously. The SuDS plan for the development however requires a rain garden which will provide habitat support and ecosystem diversity and contribute to the net gain.
- **Bat and Bird Boxes:** These artificial roosts create conditions for species not fully supported by on-site vegetation, enhancing habitat adaptability. See the LEMP associated with this application for positioning post development.

2. Baseline Data and Surveys

The **Preliminary Ecological Appraisal** (Acer Ecology Ltd., 05/07/2024) and additional historical surveys (e.g., 2019 Pryce Consultant Ecologists report) provided foundational data on local species, habitat types, and indirect risks to adjacent protected areas. These surveys informed the design of the green infrastructure to address habitat value and site limitations pre-clearance.

3. Application of the Stepwise Approach and Net Benefit for Biodiversity

The stepwise approach ensures a systematic assessment of impacts and measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, restore, and enhance biodiversity, aligned with **PPW 12 requirements**. Key green infrastructure actions under this approach include:

- **Avoidance:** Retaining existing buffer zones and minimizing construction impacts.
- **Minimization:** Reducing light pollution and carefully timing clearance.



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- **Mitigation and Restoration:** Tree replacement, wildflower area establishment, and rain gardens.
 - **Enhancement:** Installation of bird and bat boxes and hedgerow connectivity.

4. DECCA Framework Considerations

- **Diversity:** Incorporation of varied habitats (woodland, wetland, meadow) supports a wide range of species, boosting ecosystem diversity.
- **Extent:** Site area dedicated to green infrastructure has been maximized within the plot limits, with increased vegetation extent through strategic planting in rain gardens, rear lawn and planting areas.
- **Condition:** Ongoing management of habitats ensures high ecological quality and health.
- **Connectivity:** Hedgerows and woodlands enhance connectivity for wildlife across the landscape.
- **Adaptability:** Selection of native, resilient species and habitat diversity ensures the infrastructure can adapt to climate and ecological changes.

5. Sustainable Drainage and Landscape Management

In line with PPW 12, green infrastructure incorporates **sustainable drainage** solutions that enhance local resilience to flooding and manage surface runoff. Vegetative buffers, hedgerows, and meadows will contribute to natural water infiltration, soil stabilization, and long-term site sustainability. The SAB application which addresses SuDS has been approved and complies with PPW 12 see application number SAB/24/0015.

This management plan and GIS demonstrate a commitment to biodiversity enhancement on Plots 9 & 10 at Cwm Woods Grove, with provisions to monitor, fund, and manage biodiversity gains over a 25-year period. This approach will contribute to a locally responsive net benefit for biodiversity, creating a lasting ecological legacy in Merthyr Tydfil.



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