

Green Infrastructure Statement

Ty Llwyd Farm, Treharris

04th October 2024

Report Number. LB561/R01



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Plans:

LB561_D01: Green Infrastructure Strategy



Section 1: Introduction

- 1.1. Laird Bailey Ltd have been commissioned by Eleanor Jarrold to develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy to support the proposed development at the Ty Llwyd Farm, Treharris (referred to herein as ‘the site’). The site is centred on grid reference ST 10316 96486. An on-site assessment of the existing landscape and surrounding context was undertaken on the 12 September 2024 by David Bailey (CMLI) and Gabrielle Stephens (BA Hons). The assessment comprised of a site walk-over, supported by a desktop study.
- 1.2. The purpose of this document is to identify the local Green Infrastructure (GI) network and features both within and surrounding the site, illustrating how the development proposals have been designed to avoid, minimise, mitigate and, where required, compensate GI in line with Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12).
- 1.3. GI is defined by the UK government as “*a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities*”. This can include natural habitats ranging from grasslands, wetlands and woodlands to parks, open spaces, playing fields, street trees, rain gardens, allotments and private gardens.
- 1.4. The site is found on the western boundary of the village of Quakers Yard accessed via Harris Court. The site contains a telephone mast found near the centre of the west boundary. Internal landscape features include bramble, scrub and grassland. Scrub and bramble are contained to the peripheries of the site, with larger defined areas found within the southern portion of the site around the telephone mast compound and east boundary. Grassland allows access through the site from the south-west corner, through the centre opening up within the northern portion of the site.
- 1.5. The northern boundary comprises an outgrown Hazel hedgerow some 3.5m tall, backed by a drystone wall. The eastern boundary also comprises a drystone wall, which is damaged in two locations, north and centrally. The boundary features three common oak trees in a group. The central mature oak is some 11m high with the two adjacent oak smaller, suppressed by larger specimen (3m and 6m high). The southern boundary comprises a dry-stone wall along the residential boundary. The west boundary consists primarily of closeboard fencing with a short section of breezeblock wall to the north of the access gate. The boundary is lined by scrub and brambles but for the wall and access. Access is gained via a steel field gate at the south-west corner of the site.
- 1.6. The site is contained by residential development with abutting rear gardens to the north, south and west. Beyond the eastern boundary the landscape opens up to agricultural land used for grazing.
- 1.7. A footpath runs from east to west within the site along the southern boundary connecting Harris Court to the wider farmscape to the east and Public Right of Way NELS/FP25/1.



- 1.8. GI objectives for the development focus on maintaining and enhancing connections between retained onsite features and the wider landscape. The site is unmanaged and proposals seek to develop a structured landscape, actively managed for diversity, amenity and ecology.
- 1.9. A landscape strategy has been developed to support the outline proposals have been submitted as part of this application (Ref. LB561_D01).
- 1.10. Specifically, the development proposals and landscape philosophy follow the Stepwise Approach set out in Figure 12 of Planning Policy Wales:
- **Avoid** – The layout of the site should be designed to avoid damage or removal of existing GI assets wherever possible;
 - **Minimise** – The site layout should be developed and refined through an iterative approach, to minimise habitat loss and functioning ecosystems and retaining connections and existing features wherever possible;
 - **Mitigate/Restore** – Potential damage to GI assets will be mitigated through best arboricultural practice, protecting landscape features during construction and repairing damaged habitats in excess of like for like; and
 - **Compensate** – When all other steps have been exhausted further, on-site/immediate proximity or as a last resort off-site compensation should be provided. New areas of planting should be designed and specified to contribute to the local and wider GI network.



Section 2: Existing Green infrastructure

Local Green Infrastructure

- 2.1. Located on the settlement edge of Quakers Yard, the site benefits from direct connections to the wider GI network to the east. Quakers Yard residential area to the north, south and west comprises a network of residential garden; links can become fragmented by property boundaries (walls, fences). Landscape features within rear gardens adjacent to the site provide direct connection to onsite features with ornamental shrubs and non-native hedgerows featuring on the north-west and south boundaries, spilling over fences.
- 2.2. To the east, pastoral farm land is bound by a structured network of hedgerows and scattered trees. The interface between Quakers Yard and the arable land features a range of trees, scrub and hedgerow on the boundary, a key linear feature of the local GI network. The adjacent farmland interconnects with the wider arable landscape, linking to the tree lined Nant Caeach (stream) approximately 360m to the east which, in turn, connects to the Taff Bargoed and River Taff (waterways) within the local area.

Onsite Green Infrastructure

- 2.3. Predominantly undeveloped, the site benefits from a range of GI features and connections throughout. Unmanaged, the site has been colonised by scrub along its boundaries with larger blocks found at the southern end of the site. The central grassland merges with the peripheral scrub and subsequently hedgerow and trees, connecting the identified features to each other and spilling over the north, east and west boundaries into the wider residential and agricultural landscape.
- 2.4. To facilitate development the internal grassland, scrub and part of the northern hedgerow shall be removed and cut back to the boundary. The development proposals allow the site to be brought under active management, enhancing retained features for health, structure and diversity.

Existing Trees

- 2.5. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) has been undertaken for the site by ArbTS - Arboricultural Technician Services Ltd. Design proposals have been developed to ensure there are no significant long-term adverse impact on trees within or adjacent the site (ArbTS_2022.1_Ty Llwyd Farm).
- 2.6. The AIA identifies no trees are required to be removed to facilitate the construction of the proposed development whilst also considering the future size of the trees to minimise any future pressures for removal of high value trees.
- 2.7. Trees within proximity to construction activities (both on- and off-site) shall be protected through appropriate tree protection fencing, watching briefs and Cellweb.



Existing Hedgerows

- 2.8. An overgrown hazel hedgerow lines the north boundary at a height of 3.5m. The hedgerow spans the length of the boundary connecting scrub and hedgerow on the west boundary and rear garden planting spilling over the fence. At the east end of the site the hedgerow connects to scrub and trees beyond the site extent. To facilitate the development 14m of the hedgerow will need to be removed.
- 2.9. A non-native hedgerow lines the northern section of the west boundary. The single species hedge is approximately 2.5m tall. Development proposals seek to retain and diversify the hedgerow with suitable native shrubs.



Section 3: Proposed Green Infrastructure

- 3.1. Landscape proposals seek to maintain and enhance onsite GI where possible. Proposals include several new features to mitigate and restore soft landscape areas with a priority on boundary treatments and enhancing residential amenity.
- 3.2. Internally the site will be reconfigured to facilitate the access road and residential plots. Residential gardens will feature to both the front and rear of plots and include specimen trees, shrubs and ornamental planting where space allows.
- 3.3. The site boundary will remain connected, a new species-rich mixed native hedgerow will be planted on the west boundary with specimen trees. The margins of the hedgerow shall be planted with wildflower meadow. Trees will be small with light canopies so as not to restrict light to the neighbouring properties to the west. The hedgerow on the northern boundary will be partially removed to facilitate car parking to plot 6. Proposals seek to maintain connectivity along the boundary through the use of climbers and shrubs planted up and against the retained dry-stone wall. The east boundary wall shall be rebuilt and encroaching scrub from the neighbouring field will be left in situ, protected from construction and allowed to colonise. Climbing plants and shrubs will be implemented along the southern boundary providing green connections along the existing drystone wall.
- 3.4. To summarise, proposed GI features include:
 - **Native Tree Planting** – Four native trees planted within the hedgerow along the west boundary with further trees planted within front gardens;
 - **Hedgerow Planting** – Approximately 50 linear metres of species-rich native hedgerow shall be planted along the west boundary; and
 - **On Plot Planting** - A mix of trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses planted within front gardens enhancing visual and residential amenity. Rear gardens shall be laid to grass.

Ecological Enhancements

- 3.5. Soft landscape proposals shall include native fruiting trees such as Crab Apple and native berry producing trees such as Rowan. Hedgerow and on plots plants are to be selected for their berry production and source of food for bees. Wildflower meadow will be planted on the hedgerow margins to develop an ecotone at the site boundary.
- 3.6. Drystone walling will be retained and rebuilt where required with adjacent scrub allowed to colonise.
- 3.1. 1x bat and 1x bird box shall be implemented on residential elevations of two proposed units. have been proposed along the residential dwellings and all fencing is to contain hedgehog holes.



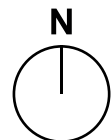
Section 4: Conclusion

- 4.1. The existing landscape has been assessed and important existing features have been identified and shall be retained, protected and enhanced where possible. All trees will be retained within the development.
- 4.2. Proposed development will result in the removal of 14m of hedgerow and areas of semi-improved grassland, bramble and scrub. All retained vegetation will be brought under active management with a view to enhance species diversity and structure.
- 4.3. A diverse range of native species are proposed throughout the scheme to offset and mitigate against existing vegetation required to be removed to facilitate development. Proposed planting encompasses a diverse range of typologies including trees, hedgerows, climbers, shrubs, herbaceous, wildflower and amenity grassland. Proposals seek to maintain the character of the site through retention of dry-stone walling while enhancing the capacity of the application area to adapt to future climate change through a considered and wide planting palette.
- 4.4. Landscaped areas are to be diversified and connected with planting such as climbers and shrubs proposed along boundary walls seeking to create and maintain connectivity both within the site and to the wider GI network.
- 4.5. The successful maintenance and establishment of soft landscape features will deliver a robust network of healthy, multi-functional and biodiverse green spaces, capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for people and wildlife. Given the GI design and long-term management proposals it is considered that the proposed scheme complies with the Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12).



Plans:



Crabapple (*Malus Sylvestris*)

0m 10m 20m



Drawing No.	LB561_D01	Scale	1:500 at A3
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