

Landscape & Ecology Management Plan

For

Cefn Isaf

Prepared By



On Behalf of

Merthyr Valleys Homes

December 2024

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General

TDA have been commissioned by Merthyr Valleys Homes, to produce a Landscape & Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) for their proposed development on land off Wern Road, Cefn-coed-y-cymmer, the location of the existing Cefn Isaf Flats.

Client Details

The following LEMP has been developed for on behalf of Merthyr Valleys Homes, Ty Brychan, 22 Lansbury Road, Gellideg, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1HA

Site Description

Site Name

Cefn Isaf

Authority

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Development Description

Redevelopment of existing flats involving the demolition of existing buildings and construction of new buildings to accommodate 40 No. residential flats, parking, landscaping, sub-station, bin store, air source heat pump, engineering works, drainage, roof top solar provision and associated works.

Funding Mechanisms

The site will be owned operated and maintained by Merthyr Valleys Homes.
Maintenance operations will be funded via service charges.

Referenced Baseline Drawings

Proposed Site Plan CEF-CoA-00-00-DP-A-(04)110 P02 (Coffey Architects)
Detailed Soft Landscape Proposals – TDA.2947.02 (TDA)

Commencement Date

Site Construction February / March 2025.

Scope of Management Plan Report

This report covers the entire development footprint.

Previous Ecological Reports and Plans

The site has been subject to a number of Ecological surveys and Ecological Strategies most recently:

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal - Just Mammals Ecology
Bat Survey Report - Just Mammals Ecology

Scope of Landscaped Ground

The entire site is subject to construction work and subsequent landscaping works.

Current Ecological Features/Habitat

There are no existing trees or hedgerows on site

Current habitat is limited to three pockets of dense scrub and seven small pockets of improved grassland.

All improved grassland and the majority of scrub will be removed to accommodate the development.

Ecological Enhancements

The following section presents the Ecological Enhancement Measures considered for the site. Their specification and location have been considered on the basis of site layout, suitable adjacent habitat to sustain their ecological functionality and the lighting requirements of a residential development.

Bat Boxes

2 no. temporary pole mounted bat boxes which will remain on site for the duration of construction.

2 no. integrated Istock Enclosed Bat Boxes located on the proposed buildings.

1 no. permanent, 2.5x3.5x2.5m weatherproof bat roost structure to be constructed of rendered brickwork, with a pitched roof comprising timber frame with a 1f Bitumen lining membrane and a waterproofing layer (either slate tiles or roofing felt).

Structure to include a ceiling, with a 50cm.

A locked gate must be in place to prevent human access.

Bird Boxes

Integral bird boxes, in particular swift and house sparrow boxes, will be included on the southern side of the proposed building.

Wildflower Meadow Habitat

The open areas outside the development footprint predominantly located on the site's peripheries will be sown with Emorsgate EM1 at a rate of 40kg/ha. Species include *Achillea millefolium*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Malva moschata*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Poterium sanguisorba* ssp *sanguisorba*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Rhinanthus minor*, *Daucus carota*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Phleum bertolonii*, *Poa pratensis*.

These grassland areas will be managed as wildflower meadows with no addition of fertiliser and an annual late summer cut.

The internal meadow areas will be sown with Emorsgate EL1 at a rate of 40kg/ha. Species include *Achillea millefolium*, *Anthyllis vulneraria*, *Betonica officinalis*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Galium album*, *Galium verum*, *Knautia arvensis*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Medicago lupulina*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Plantago media*, *Primula veris*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Ranunculus bulbosus*, *Trifolium repens*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Phleum bertolonii*, *Poa pratensis*.

These grassland areas to be mown as required.

Native Hedgerows

New Species rich native hedgerows along the eastern boundaries. The species chosen reflect the woody species diversity currently found in the locality. Species

include *Crataegus monogyna*, *Corylus avellana*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Euonymus europaeus* and *Prunus spinosa*.

Native Tree Planting

New native trees have been included wherever possible. Species include *Acer campestre* and *Alnus glutinosa*.

Management Plan Objectives

The objective of the management plan is to ensure that measures to protect and enhance both natural and created habitats and their associated species in the long term, while ensuring that due consideration is given to the needs of public health and safety. The main aims of the plan are:

- 1) To maintain and where possible enhance the ecological value of the habitats present
- 2) To encourage the successful establishment of newly created habitats
- 3) To provide a management framework for the long-term management of the site ensuring the protection and enhancement of valuable ecological features

Management Prescriptions

Meadow Grassland

Aims

1. The grassland will be managed in a manner that will encourage the development of a diverse herb and grass sward thereby providing habitat suitable for invertebrates such as grasshopper, bees, butterfly and moths.
2. Encourage the development of ground flora at the base of hedgerows and other valuable ecological features.
3. Provide an area of public open space suitable for casual amenity use

Management

Once established the wildflower meadow grassland will be mowed annually in order to allow tall plant species to flower and for natural re-seeding to take place. The single cutting will take place in late summer to early autumn after the main seeding period and there will be no early cut of the sward at these locations.

In order to encourage the development of vegetation at the bottom of replanted hedgerows and trees the cutting regime will leave a 1.5m strip of unmown vegetation along the base of the hedgerows and fence lines.

This retained uncut section will then be cut on a two-year rotation, where required, to prevent the development of scrub at the base of the hedge and fencelines and encourage the development of a diverse ground flora. This taller and less managed area will increase opportunities for invertebrate species and provide corridors for small mammals.

The single cutting will take place in late summer to early autumn after the main seeding period. All grass cuttings will be removed to a specific composting area within the site or collected immediately following cutting and removed.

The prescriptions for the management of the wet meadow grassland within the attenuation area will be as for the meadow grassland. However, should the proposed management impact on the effectiveness of the attenuation area then the mowing regime will be changed to retain efficient functionality.

Native Hedgerows

Aims

1. To retain and enhance the ecological value of the hedgerow and protect plant and animal communities using the hedges.
2. To ensure the survival and integrity of newly planted hedgerow for future ecological enhancement of the site

Management

The hedgerow will be managed according to a three-year management rotation. The Hedgerow will only be cut when it is necessary on the grounds of health and safety or in order to retain the structure of the hedge. The Hedgerow requiring management will be cut no more than once every three years. Half of each hedgerow (a single side and half of the top width) will be cut on each rotation with the other half left intact until the following year.

Where cutting is required, this will be undertaken in early spring (before end March) with no cutting between March and August in order to avoid disturbance to breeding birds. Cutting in autumn will also be avoided, as this is likely to result in the loss of berries and fruits, an important food source for wildlife.

The newly planted hedgerow will be checked annually for a period of five years to ensure that the hedgerow is intact and developing as required. Any failed planting will be replaced by trees/shrubs of the same species and of a local provenance in order to retain the integrity of the hedgerow.

The ground vegetation within an area 1m from the base of the hedge will be cut every two years to encourage the development of ground flora and prevent excessive scrub development (see grassland management).

Trees

Aims

1. Ensure trees planted as part of the site landscaping enhance the ecological value of the development in the long term

Management

Other than where trees appear damaged or unsafe, all trees will be managed for the benefit of wildlife through non-intervention.

Trees will be checked during routine maintenance of the site on an annual basis and trees identified as posing a hazard will be formerly assessed by a trained tree surgeon with a view to preserving the tree where possible.

Care will be taken to avoid works within the bird nesting season. If such works are unavoidable during this period, then the tree will be checked by an ecologist no more than twenty-four hours before work commences to check for the presence of nesting birds and has advised accordingly.

Management Constraints

The above management prescriptions are intended to ensure the ecological value and biodiversity of the site is maintained and enhanced in the long term. The above prescriptions are considered appropriate for a site where a balance is required between ecological enhancement and protection and the use of the site as a residential development.

A number of constraints may at times lead to the need for minor or temporary changes in the above management prescriptions.

1. There is a requirement to ensure that any/all attenuation structures retain their functionality at all times. There will therefore be occasions when the need to ensure the system is working will supersede the requirements of the ecology. This is likely to be a rare event such as when vegetation growth has been unusually vigorous leading to the need for extra cutting and vegetation control.
2. The management of mature trees identified as being a risk to public health and safety may need to be undertaken at short notice and/or during seasons where the potential for disturbance to nesting birds and/or roosting bats may be a threat. In these instances, it is advised that prior to works an ecologist should be consulted and be present to advise on any such issues that may arise.
3. The cutting regime for grassland areas has been designed to ensure that areas bordering access roads remain clear and visibility is retained. During periods of unusually vigorous growth, it may be necessary to mow some grassland areas during the peak flowering season in order to retain highway and curbside visibility.

General Considerations and Details of Compliance

The implementation of the above plan will require input from a number of specialist individuals and contractors. Including, but not exclusively ecologists and ground maintenance staff.

All third parties must be made aware of the management plan, its prescriptions and an understanding of the importance of the site management with regard to wildlife and ecology.

On completion of the development the management prescriptions will be implemented by a suitably qualified management company contracted by Merthyr Valleys Homes to undertake the works described above. All management will be undertaken as prescribed within the above document.

It will be the responsibility of the appointed management company to ensure that that appropriate procedures are in place to ensure that all legal responsibilities towards protected species and habitats are met during any prescribed works.

Following the completion of development work, the management should be transferred to a dedicated management company for the implementation of the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan works.

It will be the responsibility of Merthyr Valleys Homes to ensure that that all property owners ensure appropriate procedures are in place to ensure that all legal responsibilities towards protected species and habitats are met during any prescribed works.

Monitoring

Monitoring of habitats within the site will include the regular assessment of hedgerows and trees in order to ensure they retain their ecological value and integrity. A specific inspection of the meadow and wet grasslands to assess their general condition and to advise on the need for any management changes will be undertaken every three years.

Monitoring will also be undertaken as part of the annual inspection of the site and during maintenance operations.

Any lost trees or failed hedgerow sections will be replaced at the first appropriate season following failure. The replacement plants will be of the same species as those lost and will be of local provenance. Any failed hedgerow sections will be replanted at the same density as adjacent hedgerow sections.

Where areas of grassland fail these will be reseeded and advice from an ecologist sought as to the potential reason for failure and selection of appropriate seed mix for the failed area.

The responsibility for ensuring that all ecological features are retained in the long term in line with the above document will lie with the appointed management company. This will include a requirement that all replacement planting, re-seeding or other works required to maintain the biodiversity of the site is undertaken in line with the management prescriptions described.

The above management prescriptions and principles will be included in the contract of the appointed management company

Management Prescriptions

Table 1 Year 2 Management Prescriptions (Planting Year)

YEAR 1 Planting Year	Habitat	Prescription	Season
	Wildflower Meadow	Seeding with native flower and grass seed mix at rate of 4 grams per sq. metre	As development progresses and landscape works are undertaken
	Native Tree and Hedgerows	Planting of native trees and hedgerows. For specific planting instructions, refer to Landscape Specification and Management Plan produced by TDA.	As development progresses and landscape works are undertaken
	General Maintenance	Litter Picking	As required

Table 2 Year 2-5 Management Prescriptions

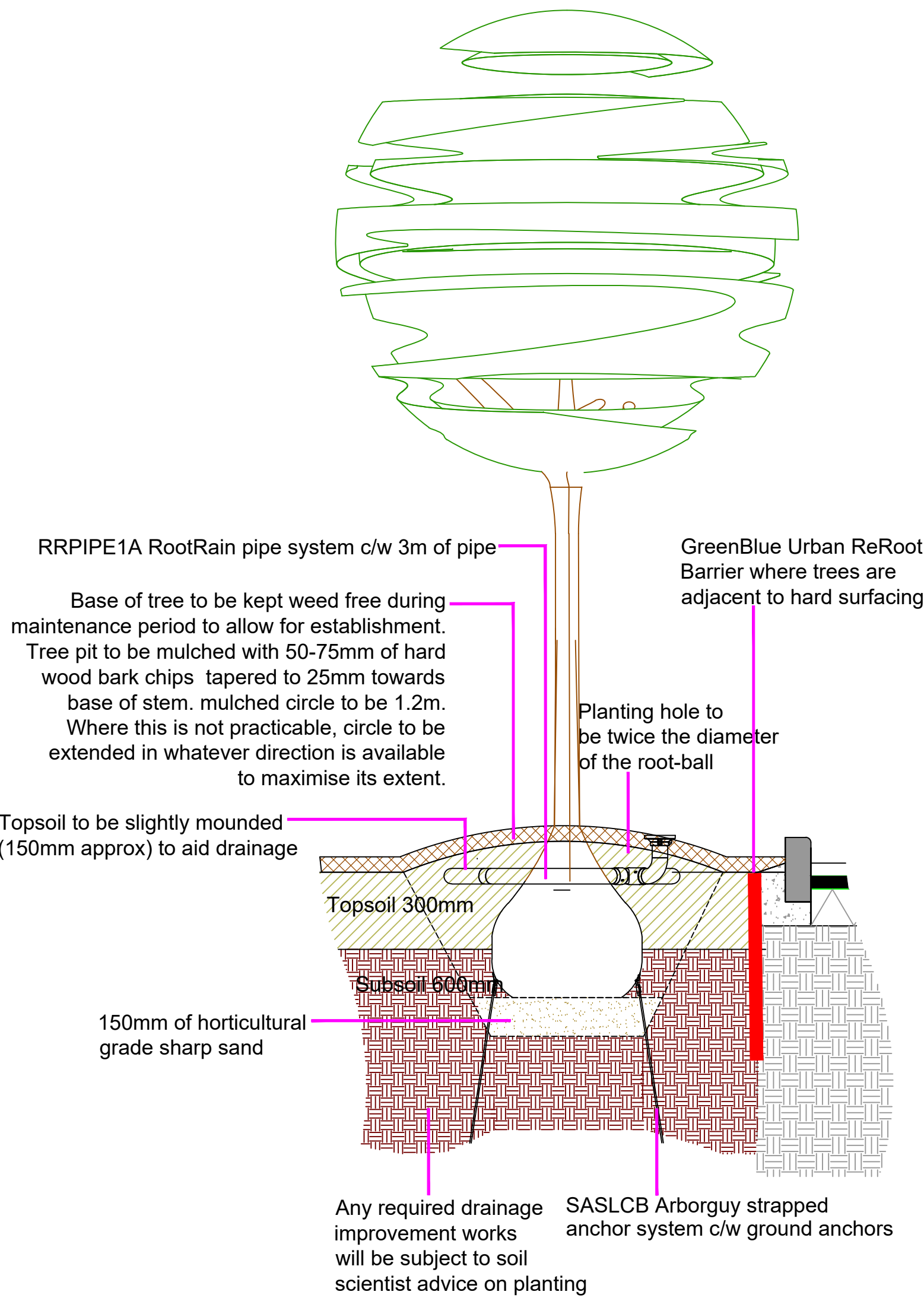
YEAR 2 – 5 (inclusive)	Habitat	Prescription	Season
	Grassland-Meadow all areas except in visibility splay	Assessment of grassland to assess condition with regard to meadow grassland type. Single cut in late summer after flowering and seeding period. Removal of all cuttings	Late August
	Hedgerows-planted	Check for failed saplings and replant as required to ensure no gaps are present within the hedge	September-March
	Trees	Inspection from ground of trees overhanging development for H&S and trimming undertaken as required. Any tree with potential for use by bats should be examined by bat ecologist before works commence. All works to be undertaken outside the bird breeding season	October-March
	General Maintenance	General litter picking as required	As required

The above prescriptions will be reviewed after five years and adjusted according to the development of ecological features. The above prescriptions will continue on a five-year rotation (subject to any changes made following the five-year review).

Appendix 1



TREE PIT CONSTRUCTION DETAIL 1



TREE PIT NOTES:

No container/root-balled tree shall be supplied and planted until it has been found to be compliant with BS 8545:2014, Table 1, P.21

TOPSOIL:

300mm site won topsoil. Approved for use by a suitably qualified soil scientist in receipt of the landscape proposals drawing

SUBSOIL:

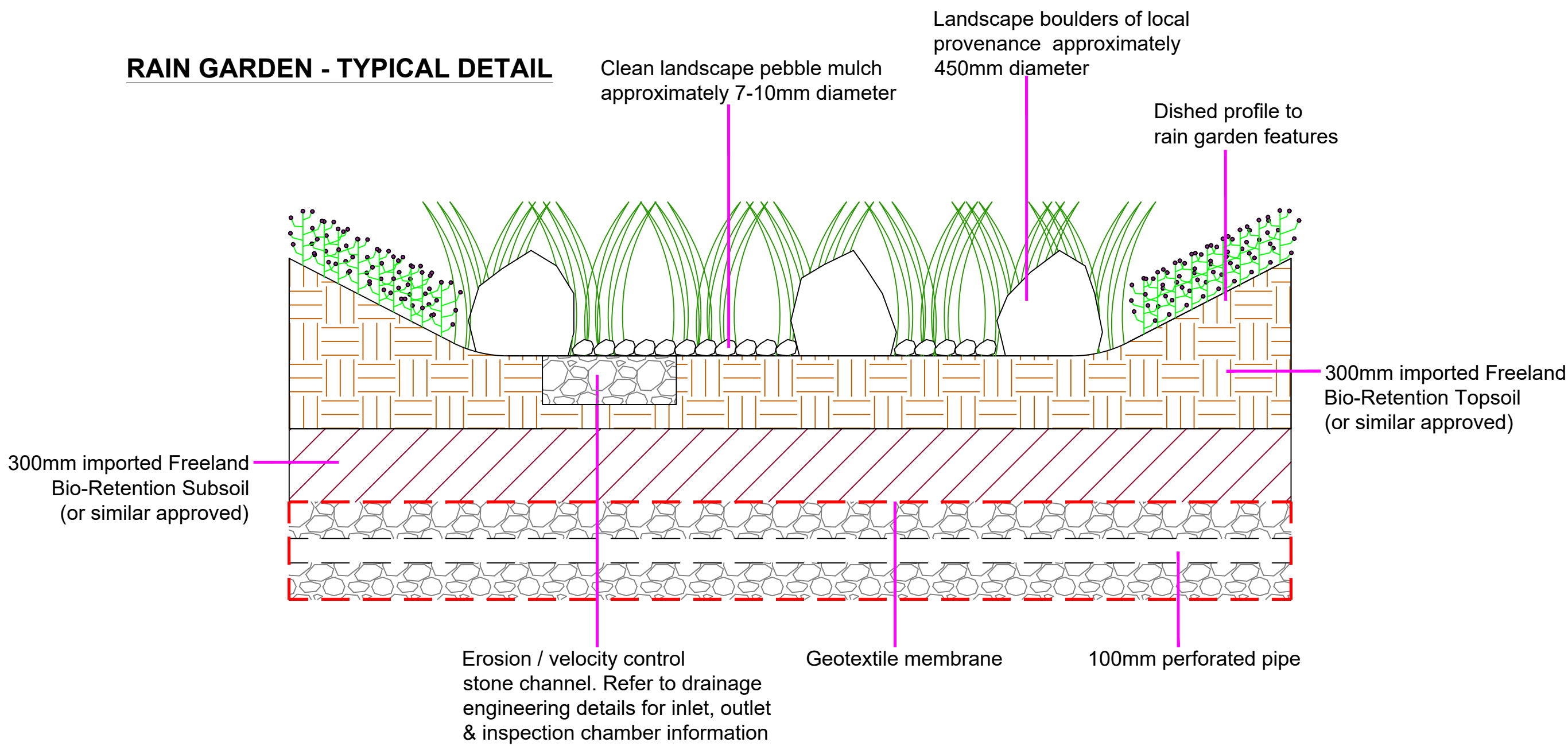
600mm insitu subsoil. Approved for use by a suitably qualified soil scientist in receipt of the landscape proposals drawing Backfilling to reinstate the pre-existing soil profile

Areas around proposed trees to be securely fenced prior to commencement of construction operations on site to avoid compaction / contamination of soils.

Non-biodegradable & biodegradable root-ball wrappings to be removed. Where root-ball collapse is a concern, Wrapping to be cut & peeled back to one-third root-ball height. Peeled wrapping to be removed and not folded back into the root-ball.

Mulch circles around trees shall be maintained for at least 3 years post-planting.

RAIN GARDEN - TYPICAL DETAIL



ECOLOGICAL MITIGATION KEY

- PROPOSED INTEGRAL BAT BOXES
- PROPOSED TEMPORARY POLE MOUNTED BAT BOXES
- PROPOSED BIRD BOXES
- PROPOSED BAT HOUSE

SOFT LANDSCAPE KEY

- PROPOSED TREE PLANTING
- PROPOSED SHRUB PLANTING
- PROPOSED NATIVE HEDGEROW PLANTING
- PROPOSED WILDFLOWER HABITAT 1
- PROPOSED WILDFLOWER HABITAT 2
- PROPOSED GROUNDCOVER

RAIN GARDEN PLANTING (density as shown)

- Calamagrostis brachytricha (30-40 Con 2-3L - 4 per sqm)
- Carex pseudocyperus (30-40 Con 2-3L - 4 per sqm)
- Deschampsia cespitosa (30-40 Con 2-3L - 4 per sqm)
- Dryopteris affinis (30-40 Con 2-3L - 5 per sqm)
- Helleborus foetidus (30-40 Con 2-3L - 4 per sqm)
- Cornus sericea Flaviamea (30-40 Con 2-3L - 3 per sqm)
- Leucothoe Scartella 'Zebild' (30-40 Con 2-3L - 3 per sqm)
- Asplenium scolopendrium (30-40 Con 2-3L - 8 per sqm)
- Ajuga reptans Atropurpurea (30-40 Con 2-3L - 8 per sqm)
- Geranium Rozanne Gerwat (30-40 Con 2-3L - 8 per sqm)
- Skimmia japonica 'Fragrans' (male) (30-40 Con 2-3L - 3 per sqm)
- Hydrangea arborescens Annabelle (30-40 Con 2-3L - 3 per sqm)

PLANT SCHEDULE

ORNAMENTAL TREE PLANTING						
ABBREV	SPECIES	DENSITY	HEIGHT/GIRTH	ROOT COND/POT SIZE	CON	TOTAL
Ac	Acer cordata	AS SHOWN	14-16 (g)	RB	-	-
AcS	Acer campestre Streetwise	AS SHOWN	14-16 (g)	RB	-	-
BE	Betula Edinburg	AS SHOWN	14-16 (g)	RB	-	-
PLC	Pyrus calleryana Chardislee	AS SHOWN	14-16 (g)	RB	-	-

SHRUB PLANTING						
ABBREV	SPECIES	DENSITY	HEIGHT/GIRTH	ROOT COND/POT SIZE	CON	TOTAL
AI	Anemone thesauriana	4 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
BO	Berberis ovata	5 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
CA	Chaenactis leucantha	4 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
EJ	Eurotia japonica Green Rocket	5 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
GB	Geranium macranthum	8 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
GW	Geranium macranthum 'White Nectar'	8 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
HAG	Hebe autumn Glory	4 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
HO	Heuchera Obsidian	6 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
HRE	Hebe Red Edge	6 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
LH	Lavandula angustifolia Hidote	5 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
LH	Lonicera	4 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
Me	Malva eurybracteata Soft Cares	3 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
PI	Protea fraseri Little Red Robin	4 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
PS	Polystichum serotinum	4 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
Re	Rosa multiflora	4 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
Sh	Skimmia japonica digyna	3 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-
SJ	Skimmia japonica rubella	3 sqm	30-40 (h)	CON	3L	-

GROUNDCOVER PLANTING						
ABBREV	SPECIES	DENSITY	HEIGHT/GIRTH	ROOT COND/POT SIZE	CON	TOTAL
AS KEY	Paedotaxia terminalis	4 sqm	60-80 (h)	CON	3L	-

NATIVE HEDGEROW PLANTING						
ABBREV	SPP. & PERCENTAGE IN MIX	DENSITY	HEIGHT/GIRTH	ROOT COND/POT SIZE	CON	TOTAL
AS KEY	Acer campestre (10%)	40 - 60 (h)	ROOT CELL	-	-	-
	Cornus monogyna (20%)	40 - 60 (h)	ROOT CELL	-	-	-
	Corylus avellana (40%)	40 - 60 (h)	ROOT CELL	-	-	-
	Eurotia europaea (5%)	40 - 60 (h)	ROOT CELL	-	-	-
	Hebe autumn Glory (10%)	40 - 60 (h)	ROOT CELL	-	-	-
	Prunus spinosa (10%)	40 - 60 (h)	ROOT CELL	-	-	-
	Sambucus nigra (5%)	40 - 60 (h)	ROOT CELL	-	-	-
	Salix caprea (10%)	40 - 60 (h)	ROOT CELL	-	-	-
	Salix virens (10%)	40 - 60 (h)	ROOT CELL	-	-	-
	Salix alba (10%)	40 - 60 (h)	ROOT CELL	-	-	-



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CLIENT

MERTHYR VALLEYS HOMES

DRAWING NUMBER

TDA.2547.02(A)

SCALE

1:200 @ A0

DRAWN

RHC/AMP

DATE

SEPT 2024

PROJECT

CEFN ISAF

DRAWING TITLE

DETAILED SOFT LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS