



**68 High Street,
Merthyr Tydfil**

Landscape, Habitat and Ecology Scheme

October 2025

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PLAN 1: LOCATION PLAN

PLAN 2: DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

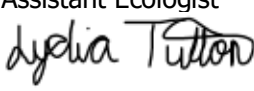
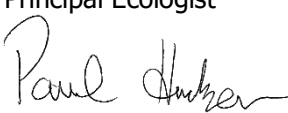
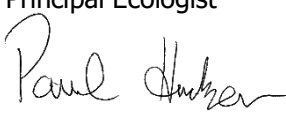
PLAN 3: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

PLAN 4: ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

PLAN 5: WORK SCHEDULE

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

68 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil Landscape, Habitat and Ecology Scheme				
Revision	Date	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
1.0	10 March 2025	Kat Oliver Assistant Ecologist 	Charlotte Ingram Assistant Ecologist 	Paul Hudson MCIEEM Principal Ecologist 
2.0	02 October 2025	Lydia Tutton Assistant Ecologist 	Paul Hudson MCIEEM Principal Ecologist 	Paul Hudson MCIEEM Principal Ecologist 

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1. Introduction

1.1. Brief

This report presents a Landscape, Habitat and Ecology Scheme (LHES) for 68 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8AE, within the boundary of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference centred at: SO 0497 0620)¹.

The site location is displayed in Plan 1.

1.2. Project Background

Updated development plans now involve the internal alterations only of floors 1 and 2 of B1. No works are now proposed, either internal or external, to B2.

A planning application has been submitted under reference P/24/0158². While the planning application states “and associated external alterations”, the client has stated that no external alterations of either B1 or B2 will occur.

The land proposed for development currently comprises hard standing around all elevations of the building. The River Taff is situated 0.2km west of the development site, and an area of woodland 0.3km east of the site. However, both habitats are separated from the site by a busy high street and further commercial buildings. Therefore, there are no continuous terrestrial habitats that could act as an ecological corridor between the site and the surrounding landscape.

Due to the only habitat on site being hard standing, the site has very low ecological value, and therefore, with the incorporation of green infrastructure in the new development, the new plans will enhance the area’s ecological value, biodiversity, and connectivity to the wider landscape.

The proposed development plan is provided in Plan 2.

1.3. Associated Documents and Reports

The LHES builds on and complements, without attempting to duplicate the following documents which should be read in conjunction with the LHES:

- Acer Ecology Ltd (2025): Green Infrastructure Statement – 68 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil; and
- Acer Ecology Ltd (2025): Bat and Nesting Bird Report – 68 High Steet, Merthyr Tydfil.

1.4. Aims

This report sets out how the green infrastructure features incorporated into the development will be managed and enhanced to increase the value of the site for wildlife.

¹ Latitude and Longitude: 51.74643953, -3.37791873 / what3words: knee.voters.paths

² [P/24/0158 | Conversion of first and second floors to 12 self contained flats and associated external alterations | 68 High Street Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8AE](#)

Subsequent management and monitoring measures will be put in place to ensure the benefits are long-lasting so that the potential biodiversity value of the operational site is realised.

1.5. Reporting

In accordance with consultation response from Matt Davies (Ecologist) dated 23rd September 2024 the LHES includes the following elements:

- a. Details of retained landscaping, habitat and green infrastructure;
- b. Details of new landscaping, habitat and green infrastructure;
- c. Planting plan;
- d. Long term maintenance and management measures for all onsite landscaping, habitat and green infrastructure;
- e. Details of other ecological measures to be installed;
- f. Monitoring post-development for all onsite landscaping, habitat and green infrastructure and other ecological measures;
- g. Details of the funding mechanisms to meet the maintenance, management and monitoring objectives; and
- h. Details of the responsible person or management company.

2. Details of Retained Landscaping, Habitat and Green Infrastructure

The land proposed for development currently comprises hard standing around all elevations of the building (Photo 1) and the majority of the hard standing will be retained into the operational phase of the development. Small amounts of sparse vegetation are currently present on the hard standing some vegetation is growing through some gaps in the building.

Photo 1: Hard Standing with Sparse Vegetation



3. Details of New Landscaping, Habitat and Green Infrastructure

3.1. Description of Features

As the proposed development comprises primarily hard standing, there is limited scope for a range of additional planting. To maximise the limited space the development holds, the green infrastructure within the proposed development will therefore include the use of:

- A vertical garden; and
- Plant pots.

All plants within these features will be native and of local (if not Welsh or UK) provenance, and therefore the species may differ from those proposed in Acer Ecology Ltd (2025): Green Infrastructure Statement – 68 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

3.2. Newly Installed Features

3.2.1. Vertical Garden

A vertical garden (Photo 2) will be installed on the northern elevation of the eastern wing of the building (Plan 3). The vertical garden will be comprised of planters installed up the wall, with metal supports in place to help anchor the planters and support climbing plant species.

The height and length of the vertical garden will be restricted so that it does not cover the potential bat access points, such as vents and gaps between the wall and the roof, and the potential roosting features, such as the crack in the masonry at the eastern end of the northern elevation, detailed in Acer Ecology Ltd (2025): Preliminary Roost Assessment Version 2 - 68 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil. No active or defunct bird nests have been observed at the proposed location of the vertical garden, so there are not considered to be any impacts on nesting birds.

This “green wall” will offer several environmental benefits, such as improved air quality, increased biodiversity, and stormwater management. Plants to be included in the vertical garden will include a range of climbers, ferns and flowering plants. Examples of suitable climbers include, but are not limited to:

- Ivy (*Hedera helix*);
- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera peridymenum*);
- Narrow-leaved everlasting-pea (*Lathyrus sylvestris*); and
- Traveller’s joy (*Clematis vitalba*).

The vertical garden will incorporate ferns as they are broadly adaptive and humid-resistant. Examples of suitable ferns include, but are not limited to:

- Hart’s-tongue (*Asplenium scolopendrium*); and
- Intermediate polypody (*Polypodium interjectum*).

The inclusion of flowering plants will offer vital nectar and pollen resources for pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hoverflies, supporting local biodiversity in an urban context. Suitable examples include, but are not limited to:

- Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*);
- Wild marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*); and
- Wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*).

Photo 2: Vertical Garden



3.2.2. Plant Pots

Plant pots (Photo 2) will be installed in the courtyard near the centre of the site (Plan 3). A range of native flowering plants will be planted, including but not limited to:

- Betony (*Betonica officinalis*);
- Common bugle (*Ajuga reptans*);
- Field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*);
- Meadow crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense*);
- Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*); and
- Viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*);

To provide structural diversity shelter for invertebrates, small shrubs, such as dog rose (*Rosa canina agg.*), will also be included in the plant pots.

4. Planting Plan

A planting plan will be developed by a landscape architect to accompany this LHES. All plants in the vertical garden and the plant pots will be native and of local (if not Welsh or UK) provenance.

5. Long Term Maintenance and Management Measures for All Landscaping, Habitat and Green Infrastructure

5.1. Management Objectives

The following objectives have been identified which, when achieved, will ensure the overarching aims of the LHES are achieved.

5.1.1. Management Objective – MO1: To Manage Retained Hardstanding in an Ecologically Sensitive Manner

The sparse vegetation on the retained hard standing will be managed using methods that minimise impacts on the installed green infrastructure features and the wider biodiversity of the site.

5.1.2. Management Objective – MO2: To Install and Manage a Vertical Garden to Enhance Biodiversity

The vertical garden will be managed to ensure the successful establishment of plant species. This includes regular watering, pruning and the monitoring for any signs of stress.

5.1.3. Management Objective – MO3: To Install and Manage Plant Pots to Enhance Biodiversity

The plant pots will be managed to ensure the successful establishment of plant species. This includes regular watering, pruning and the monitoring for any signs of stress.

5.1.4. Management Objective – MO4: Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Ongoing monitoring will be implemented to adapt management practices as needed. Monitoring of the effects of management prescriptions will be required to ensure that these are effective, and to inform any necessary refinement of the site management.

5.1.5. Management Objective – MO5: Protection of Bird Nesting Sites

The vertical garden and the plant pots may be used by birds as nesting sites. This objective aims to ensure that management activities do not disturb nesting birds during the nesting season.

5.1.6. Management Objective – MO6: Litter Control and Impact Mitigation

Regular cleaning and monitoring will be implemented to manage litter and prevent its accumulation, ensuring the vertical garden and the plant pots remain functional and visually appealing, reducing habitat degradation.

5.2. Construction Phase Management Prescriptions

The following prescriptions lay out in detail how the management objectives will be achieved during the construction phase of the development. A 25-year work schedule for these management prescriptions can be found in Appendix 1.

5.2.1. Management Prescription – MP1: Clearance of Sparse Vegetation from Hard Standing

Contributes to MO1

Any clearance of the sparse vegetation present on the hard standing to facilitate the development will be undertaken mechanically using hand tools. The use of herbicides should generally be avoided, although pernicious weeds may need to be spot-treated with herbicide. Pesticides will never be used on plants in flower.

5.2.2. Management Prescription – MP2: Installation of Vertical Garden

Contributes to MO2

Specific measures concerning the installation of the vertical garden should be sought from a specialist contractor.

Selection of Plant Species

The planting for the proposed vertical garden will be selected to enhance the ecological value of the site whilst being aesthetically appealing. The selected species will be suitable for the urban environment and will provide year-round interest in addition to being beneficial for wildlife. The species mix will include a combination of climbers, ferns and flowering plants. Suggested species for planting are detailed in Section 3 of this LHES.

A final list of species and detailed planting guidelines should be developed by a professional horticulturalist, tailored to the specific environmental conditions to ensure the successful establishment and long-term maintenance of the plantings.

Pre-Planting Preparation

Prior to planting, the planter components of the vertical garden will be prepared to ensure optimal growing conditions. The soil within the planters will be a well-draining, loamy mix enriched with organic compost to support the root development of the selected species. Peat-based projects will not be used in the vertical garden.

The metal supports in the vertical garden will be securely installed to provide strong support for climbing plants.

Planting Process

Planting will be conducted manually to ensure careful placement of each species. It is recommended that planting be carried out in the spring (April-May) or early autumn (September-October) when weather conditions are mild. Each plant will be placed at a spacing appropriate for its mature size to avoid overcrowding and to allow for adequate air circulation, which will reduce the risk of disease.

Post-Planting Care

Immediate aftercare will include thorough watering to help plants establish roots in their new environment. A mulch of organic material, such as bark chips, will be applied to the surface of the soil in the planters to retain moisture, suppress weed growth, and insulate roots from temperature extremes.

5.2.3. Management Prescription – MP3: Installation of Plant Pots

Contributes to M03

Specific measures concerning the installation of the plant pots should be sought from a specialist contractor.

Selection of Plant Species

The planting for the proposed plant pots will be selected to enhance the ecological value of the site whilst being aesthetically appealing. The selected species will be suitable for the urban environment and will provide year-round interest in addition to being beneficial for wildlife. The species mix will include a combination of flowering plants and small shrubs. Suggested species for planting are detailed in Section 3 of this LHES.

A final list of species and detailed planting guidelines should be developed by a professional horticulturalist, tailored to the specific environmental conditions to ensure the successful establishment and long-term maintenance of the plantings.

Pre-Planting Preparation

Prior to planting, the plant pots will be prepared to ensure optimal growing conditions. The soil within the pots will be a well-draining, loamy mix enriched with organic compost to support the root development of the selected species. Peat-based projects will not be used in the vertical garden.

The metal supports in the vertical garden will be securely installed to provide strong support for climbing plants.

Planting Process

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Post-Planting Care

Immediate aftercare will include thorough watering to help plants establish roots in their new environment. A mulch of organic material, such as bark chips, will be applied to the surface of the soil in the planters to retain moisture, suppress weed growth, and insulate roots from temperature extremes.

5.3. Operational Phase Management Prescriptions

The following prescriptions lay out in detail how the management objectives will be achieved during the operational phase of the development. A 25-year work schedule for these management prescriptions can be found in Appendix 1

5.3.1. Management Prescription – MP4: Management of Hard Standing

Contributes to MO1

The clearance of regrowth of vegetation on the hard standing will be undertaken mechanically using hand tools. The use of herbicides will generally be avoided, although pernicious weeds may need to be spot-treated with herbicide. Pesticides will never be used on plants in flower.

5.3.2. Management Prescription – MP5: Management of Vertical Garden and Plant Pots

Contributes to MO2, MO3 and MO4

Long-Term Maintenance

To sustain the ecological and aesthetic value of the plantings, a long-term management will be implemented. This will involve seasonal tasks such as watering during warmer months, deadheading spent flowers, weeding, replacing any plants that die, and periodically refreshing the mulch layer. Pruning will also be conducted as needed to maintain the shape and health of the plants, particularly for the shrub and climbing species.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Regular assessments and ongoing monitoring will be conducted to identify any issues with plant health, infrastructure stability and the effectiveness of management practices to inform any changes required for adaptive management.

Inspections of the vertical garden and plant pots will be carried out annually, with additional checks following significant weather events such as storms or heatwaves. These inspections will focus on the condition of the vertical planters, metal supports and plant pots, and checking for signs of plant stress, such as wilting or discoloured leaves.

Based on the findings from each inspection of the vertical garden and plant pots, management actions will be adjusted as necessary. This may include:

- Modifying watering schedules to respond to seasonal changes or observed plant stress;
- Carrying out selective pruning to prevent overgrowth and maintain plant health; and
- Reinforcing or repairing the vertical planters, metal supports or plant pots as needed to ensure their continued stability, especially in response to weather-related damage.

5.3.3. Management Prescription – MP6: Control of Non-Native and Invasive Species

Contributes to MO1, MO2 and MO3

Regular Inspections

Inspections of the site and associated areas of planting will be undertaken regularly to identify and promptly remove any invasive species that may take root, such as buddleia which may be present within the area due to the urban context of the site. Inspections will be conducted during routine maintenance, with

additional checks following any significant weather events that could facilitate the spread of invasive species, such as strong winds.

Removal and Disposal

Invasive species should be carefully removed by hand, ensuring that roots are fully extracted to prevent regrowth. All plant material will be disposed of in accordance with local regulations to prevent further spread. Post-removal, the area will be monitored weekly for four weeks to ensure that no regrowth occurs.

5.3.4. Management Prescription – MP7: Protection of Bird Nesting Sites

Contributes to MO5

When undertaking management activities during the bird nesting season (March to September inclusive), care will be taken to monitor for the presence of active nests. If a nest is discovered, any maintenance working within 5m of the nest will be postponed until after the young birds have fledged, to avoid disturbance.

5.3.5. Management Prescription – MP8: Litter Control and Impact Mitigation

Contributes to MO2, MO3 and MO6

Regular Cleaning Schedule

A regular cleaning schedule will be implemented to prevent the accumulation of litter in any planting areas. Cleaning will be undertaken at least weekly, with additional cleanings scheduled after any significant events that could increase the likelihood of litter. During these cleaning, all litter will be collected and disposed of in accordance with local waste management regulations.

If any damage to plant is identified, such as broken streams, due to the presence of litter in any planting areas, remedial actions will be taken immediately. These remedial actions could include pruning or replanting.

Waste Management

To mitigate the impact of human activities, clearly marked waste disposal bins should be placed at convenient locations at the site. These bins should be regularly emptied to prevent overflow and reduce the risk of litter spreading to the planting areas.

6. Details of Other Ecological Measure

6.1. Nesting Bird Enhancement

Bird nesting opportunities on site will be enhanced by the installation of one open and one closed fronted nest box on the northern elevation of B1. They will be at least 3m above ground level and ideally oriented so that they face north or east.

Photo 3: Example of Closed Fronted Nest Box



Photo 4: Example of Open Fronted Nest Box



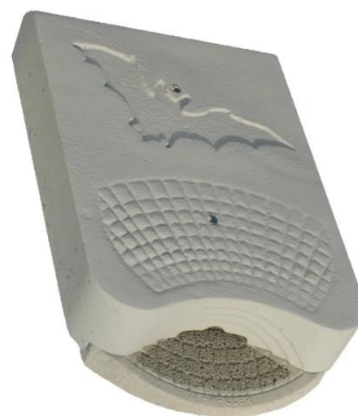
6.2. Roosting Bat Enhancement

Two Beaumaris Bat Box will be installed on B1, with one on the eastern elevation and one on the southern elevation. One hibernation box will be installed on the eastern elevation of B1 to enhance hibernation opportunities on the building. The boxes will be installed at least 3m above ground level, away from windows and artificial lighting and close to connectivity features.

Photo 5: Beaumaris Midi Bat Box



Photo 6: 1WQ Schwegler Summer and Winter Bat Roost Box



6.3. Insect Hotels

Three insect hotels, such as Pinta Apex Insect House will be installed within the plant pots (Plan 4). These will enhance the biodiversity of the site by providing refugia and overwintering opportunities for beneficial invertebrates such as solitary bees, ladybirds and lacewings. By integrating the insect hotels into the planting scheme, the development will result in the creation of new habitats for pollinators and predatory insects, whilst providing further food resources for bat and bird species. The insect hotels will be made from natural, untreated materials such as bamboo, hardwood blocks, or hollow stems. Nesting holes should be smooth and varied in diameter (2–10 mm) to attract a range of species. Plastic components and poorly ventilated designs will be avoided as these can trap moisture and encourage mould. Materials should be tightly packed and replaceable to maintain cleanliness and reduce disease risks.

Photo 7: Pinta Apex Insect House



The insect hotels will be monitored annually in years following installation, to check that they remain in a useable condition. They will be checked once a year in late winter or early spring (February to March inclusive), when insect activity is usually at its lowest (Appendix 1). Any built-up organic matter or nest debris will be removed from the hotel.

7. Monitoring Post-Development for All Onsite Landscaping, Habitat and Green Infrastructure and Other Ecological Measures

7.1. Monitoring of Effectiveness

To deliver the proposed ecological objectives, monitoring of the effects of management prescriptions will be required in to ensure that the objectives of the management plan are being met. These will inform any necessary refinement of the site management and identify if contingencies and/or remedial action will be implemented.

7.2. Summary of Predicted Losses and Gains for Biodiversity

A report detailing the results of the monitoring will be prepared following each year of monitoring and issued to the council. The annual report will give a summary of the outcomes of the losses and gains of biodiversity.

7.3. Aims of Monitoring the Construction Phase Objectives

The success of the construction phase objectives will be assessed by the ecologist during and upon completion of all works within this phase. They will form an integral component of the development and will undertake a 'sign off' site visit upon completion of this phase to inspect all landscaping features.

7.4. Aims of Monitoring the Operational Phase Objectives

The condition and extent of works to the habitats on the site will be assessed over the course of at least five years, and amendments to the management plan made as required. The monitoring will determine if the works outlined in Sections 5 and 6 are being implemented successfully and if any modifications are required.

7.5. Success Criteria and Targets

The condition of the site will be appraised against the aims and objectives of the management prescriptions detailed in Section 5 and the conditions of the further ecological enhancements detailed in Section 6.

As the ecological management of the site is relatively straightforward and does not require close scientific monitoring, the success criteria can be relatively simple.

If the newly planted vertical garden and plant pots have established after 25 years and are in good condition this will be regarded as a success. If these habitats have not established after 25 years or are in poor condition, then this will be regarded as a failure.

If the bird boxes do not remain in good condition (i.e. damaged or not cleaned) or are not present after the 25-year period, then this will be regarded as a failure. If the bird boxes remain in good condition or are

replaced when damaged over the 25-year period, then this will be regarded as a success. If the bird boxes are used by nesting birds, then this will be regarded as a great success.

If the bat boxes does not remain in good condition (i.e. damaged) or is not present after the 25-year period, then this will be regarded as a failure. If the bat boxes remains in good condition or is replaced when damaged over the 25-year period, then this will be regarded as a success. If the bat box is used by roosting bats, then this will be regarded as a great success.

If the insect hotels do not remain in good condition (i.e. damaged or not cleaned) or are not present after the 25-year period, then this will be regarded as a failure. If the insect hotels remain in good condition or are replaced when damaged over the 25-year period, then this will be regarded as a success. If the insect hotels are used by invertebrates, then this will be regarded as a great success.

7.6. Timing and Duration of Monitoring

Monitoring of the construction phase objectives will be undertaken during and immediately after the completion of the development and aims to ensure that the objectives have been correctly implemented.

Monitoring of the operational phase objectives will be undertaken a per the timings detailed in Plan 5.

7.7. Responsible Persons and Lines of Communication

Ecological monitoring will be undertaken by Acer Ecology Ltd., or another specialist ecological consultancy.

Grounds maintenance will be undertaken by the owner.

8. Details of the Funding Mechanisms to Meet the Maintenance, Management and Monitoring Objectives

The owner will fund the ongoing maintenance of the site. It will be the responsibility of the owner to fund the management plan requirements.

9. Details of Responsible Person or Management Company

9.1. Construction Phase Responsibilities

The installation of the vertical garden, plant pots and additional ecological enhancement at the site is a relatively straight forward process that will be undertaken by a contractor of the owner's choosing. It is considered that there is no need to specify the identity of any particular contractor as it would be inappropriate to prejudice the owner's future decision making in regard to choice of contractor.

Ecological queries will be directed to Acer Ecology Ltd or another specialist ecological consultancy.

9.2. Operational Phase Responsibilities

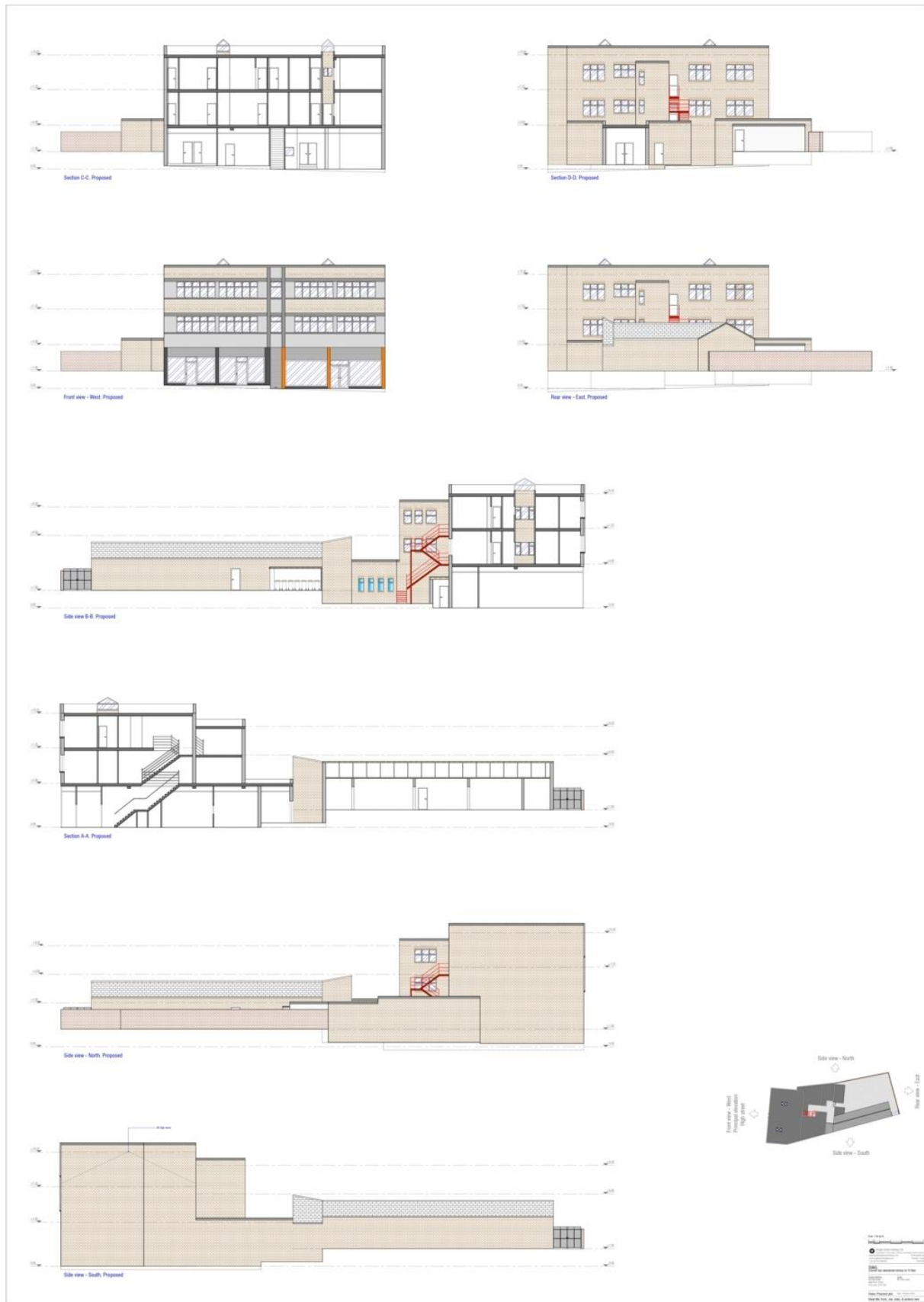
The long-term management of the site is relatively straightforward and will be undertaken by the owner. The plan is also the subject of a condition which obliges performance. It will be the responsibility of the owner to meet the management plan requirements.

Ecological queries will be directed to Acer Ecology Ltd or another specialist ecological consultancy.

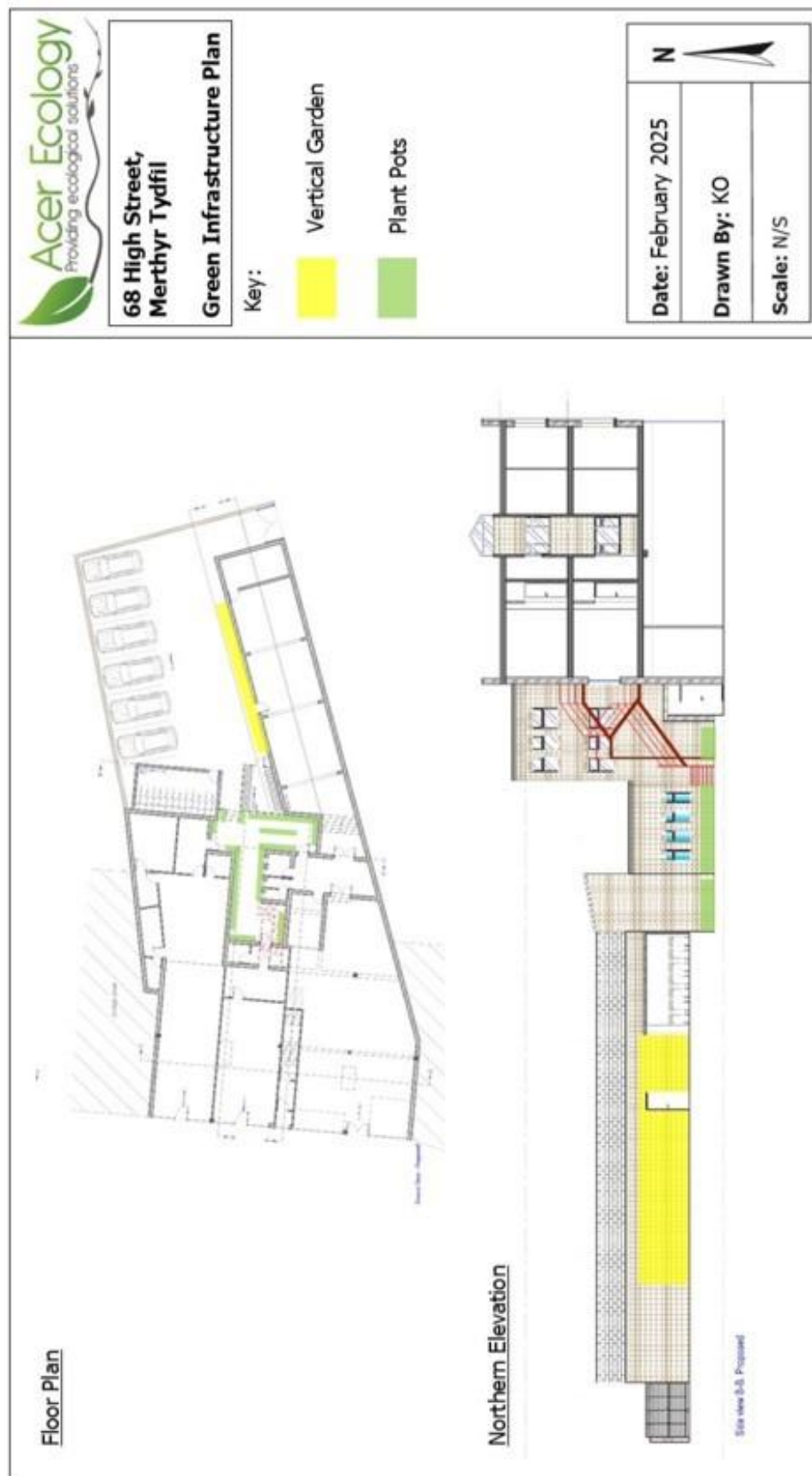
Plan 1: Location Plan



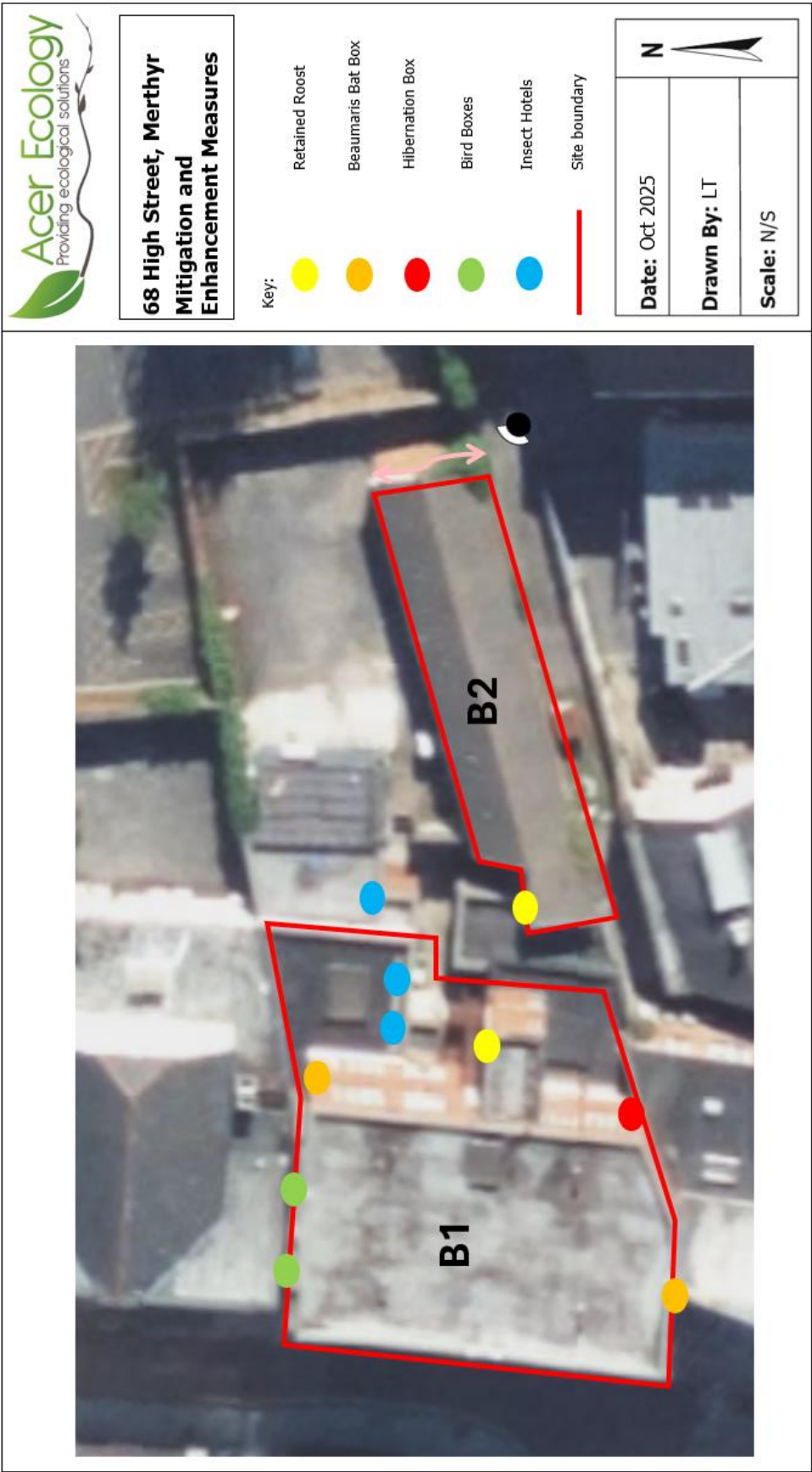
Plan 2: Development Proposals



Plan 3: Green Infrastructure Plan



Plan 4: Ecological Enhancement Plan



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Plan 5: Work Schedule

The time periods highlighted in green are when the management prescriptions should be undertaken. The time periods highlighted in red are when the management prescriptions are unsuitable:

25-Year Plan

Management Prescription	Activity Summary	Year																									
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Management of Retained Hard Standing	Manual Removal of Vegetation (as Required)																										
Installation and Maintenance of Vertical Garden	Initial Installation and Planting																										
	Watering as Required																										
	Replacement of Failed Planting (as Required)																										
	Cutting Back and Removing Weeds (as Required)																										
	Applying Fertiliser (as Required)																										
	Refreshing Mulch Layer (as Required)																										
	Pruning (as Required)																										
Installation and Maintenance of Plant Pots	Initial Installation and Planting																										
	Watering (as Required)																										
	Replacement of Failed Planting (as Required)																										
	Cutting Back and Removing Weeds (as Required)																										

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Annual Plan

Management Prescription	Year	Activity Summary	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Management of Retained Hard Standing	0 – 25	Manual Removal of Vegetation (as Required)												
Installation and Maintenance of Vertical Garden	0	Initial Installation and Planting												
	0 – 25	Watering as Required												
	0 – 25	Replacement of Failed Planting (as Required)												
	1 – 25	Cutting Back and Removing Weeds (as Required)												
	1 – 25	Applying Fertiliser (as Required)												
	1 – 25	Refreshing Mulch Layer (as Required)												
	1 – 25	Pruning (as Required)												
Installation and Maintenance of Plant Pots	0	Initial Installation and Planting												
	0 – 25	Watering (as Required)												
	0 – 25	Replacement of Failed Planting (as Required)												
	1 – 25	Cutting Back and Removing Weeds (as Required)												
	1 – 25	Applying Fertiliser (as Required)												
	1 – 25	Refreshing Mulch Layer (as Required)												
	1 – 25	Pruning (as Required)												
Monitoring and Adaptive Management	1 – 25	Inspection and Adaptive Management of Vertical Garden and Plant Pots (Annually and After Storms and Heatwaves)												
Control of Non-Native and Invasive Species	0 – 25	Inspection and Removal of Invasive Species												
Protection of Bird Nesting Sites	0 – 25	Monitoring for and Avoidance of Active Bird Nests												
Litter Control and Impact Management	0 – 25	Regular Cleaning and Monitoring (Weekly and After Significant Events)												

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Nesting Enhancement	Bird	0	Installation of Bird Boxes											
		1 – 25	Monitoring of and Cleaning of Bird Boxes (Annually)											
Roosting Enhancement	Bat	0	Installation of Bat Boxes											
		1 – 25	External Monitoring of Bat Boxes (Annually)											
Insect Hotels		0	Installation of Insect Hotels											
		1 – 25	Monitoring and Cleaning of Insect Hotels (Annually)											