

Green Infrastructure Statement

Plot 1a & 1b, Cwm Woods Grove, Colliers Row, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil

Site: Plot 1a & 1b, Cwm Woods Grove, off Upper Colliers Row, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1DP

Planning Reference: P/26/0049

Applicant / Client: Maxiom Development Ltd on Behalf of Gabe Jones

Site NGR: SO 03901 06322

Prepared in response to: Merthyr Tydfil CBC Ecologist (Matt Davies) Memo 3, dated 13/07/2026

Date: July 2026

STATUS: Reviewed

Reviewed By: Matt Dowling Certhia Ecology

Review Date: 19/08/2026

1. Introduction and Purpose

1.1 This Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) has been prepared for the proposed construction of two detached dwellings on Plot 1a and Plot 1b, Cwm Woods Grove, Colliers Row, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil (the 'Site'), in support of planning application P/26/0049.

1.2 This GIS is submitted in direct response to comments raised by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's (MTCBC) Ecologist, Matt Davies, in Memo 3 dated 13 July 2026, which advised that a Green Infrastructure Statement and an accompanying long-term Landscaping, Habitat and Ecology Scheme (LHES) are required to fully assess the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) prepared by Certhia Ecology (July 2026) (the 'PEA').

1.3 This GIS should be read alongside the LHES and the other documents listed at Section 7 of this statement, which together set out how the Proposed Development achieves a Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB) in accordance with Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW), Edition 12 (2024) and Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

2. Site and Development Context

2.1 The Site comprises approximately 586m² of previously cleared scrub, ruderal vegetation and hard standing, bounded to the west by a species-poor hedgerow with trees, as described fully in the PEA. The Site sits within the wider Colliers Row development site (application P/19/0228), for which outline permission for eight dwellings was previously granted, supported by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Landscape Master Plan prepared by Pryce Consultant Ecologists (2019/2020).

2.2 Plots 1a and 1b lie immediately adjacent to the approved Plot 1 and form a modest extension to the consented scheme. The Proposed Development is for two detached dwellings, associated parking, gardens and boundary treatments as shown on the Proposed Landscape Plan (drawing 26-01-05, Rev 3).

2.3 The Site lies wholly within a B-Line pollinator corridor and within 1km of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (Cwm Glo a Glyndyrys SSSI, 264m) and seven non-statutory sites (SINCs). The PEA concludes that, due to the localised and confined nature of the Proposed Development, no direct impact on these designated sites is anticipated, although the Site's contribution to the B-Line corridor is a material consideration addressed within this Statement and the LHES.

2A. SEWBRc Reference

2A.1 The ecological desk study underpinning the PEA was obtained from the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) under LERC reference 0267-254. Matt Davies' Memo 3 requested that this reference be clearly quoted within the PEA; Certhia Ecology are being asked to confirm/re-issue the PEA with this reference made more prominent (see covering cross-reference memo).

3. Green Infrastructure Incorporated into the Proposals

3.1 The following green infrastructure elements have been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development:

- Retention of the existing western boundary hedgerow, an 'important' hedgerow under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, with enhancement and gap-planting rather than removal;
- Extension of hedgerow planting along the northern boundary to provide additional screening and habitat connectivity;

- New native tree planting to compensate for trees lost during earlier site clearance, at a minimum 3:1 replacement ratio (see Section 6);
- Rain gardens and planting areas seeded with drought-tolerant, native wildflower species, contributing to both amenity green space and Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) objectives;
- Integrated bat and bird boxes (bat boxes, sparrow terrace, swift crevices and tit boxes) built into the fabric of both dwellings, as shown on the keyed elevation drawing 26-01-10, Rev 04;
- Hedgehog 'highways' — 130mm x 130mm apertures at approximately 5m intervals along all close-boarded boundary fencing, as shown on the Proposed Landscape Plan (26-01-05, Rev 3);
- Removal of the invasive, non-native Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) recorded within the hedgerow, prior to new planting;
- Lawned and planted garden areas contributing further green cover across both plots.

4. The Step-Wise Approach

4.1 PPW Edition 12 and CIEEM (2022) guidance on the Welsh Government's approach to Net Benefit for Biodiversity require that the 'stepwise approach' — avoid, minimise, mitigate, compensate and enhance — is demonstrably followed. The table below sets out how each step has been applied to the Proposed Development.

Step	Application to the Proposed Development
Avoid	Development footprint confined to the existing cleared area of the Site; the boundary hedgerow is retained in situ rather than removed.
Minimise	Dwelling footprints and access arrangements designed to minimise further land-take from the hedgerow and boundary habitats; construction timed and supervised to avoid disturbance to nesting birds, reptiles, amphibians and Hedgehog (see EcMP/CEMP).
Mitigate	Retained hedgerow protected by fencing during construction; pre-works checks where vegetation has recolonised; INNS (Snowberry) removed under a method statement prior to replanting.
Compensate	Tree planting at a minimum 3:1 ratio for trees lost during earlier clearance; hedgerow gap-planting with native species of local/Welsh provenance.
Enhance	Integrated bat and bird boxes, Hedgehog highways, wildflower planting for invertebrates/pollinators (supporting the B-Line initiative), and a 25-year LHES securing long-term management.

5. Baseline Data and Assessments Considered

5.1 This GIS has been informed by the following up-to-date baseline data, surveys and assessments:

- 1A-B Colliers Row — Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Certhia Ecology, July 2026 (SEWBRcC/LERC ref. 0267-254);
- Land at Collier's Row, Heol Gerrig, Merthyr Tydfil: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Pryce Consultant Ecologists, September 2019 (whole site, application P/19/0228);
- P/19/0228 Residential Development at Collier's Row, Heol Gerrig: Landscape Master Plan, Revision 3, Pryce Consultant Ecologists, November 2020 (whole site);
- Landscape and Ecology Management Plans prepared for Plots 1, 5 and 9 & 10 (Pryce Consultant Ecologists, 2021–2024), providing the established precedent and management regime for the wider site;

- Proposed Landscape Plan, Plot 1a & 1b, drawing 26-01-05, Rev 3, dated 21 April 2026;
- Bat Roosts and Bird Boxes elevation drawing, 26-01-10, Rev 04, dated 28 July 2026 (keyed);
- The Landscaping, Habitat and Ecology Scheme (LHES) prepared alongside this GIS (see companion document);
- A Lighting Scheme and a Sustainable Drainage Statement, both to be appended once available.

6. Ecosystem Resilience — The DECCA Framework

6.1 Following CIEEM's (2022) briefing on the Welsh Government's approach to Net Benefit for Biodiversity, the DECCA framework (Diversity, Extent, Condition, Connectivity, Adaptability) has been used to assess ecosystem resilience in the context of the Site.

DECCA Component	Assessment
Diversity	Habitat diversity on Site is currently low (scrub, ruderal and hedgerow only) following earlier clearance. Proposed planting introduces a wider range of native shrub, tree and wildflower species, increasing structural and species diversity.
Extent	The extent of hard landscaping is limited to dwellings, parking and access; the hedgerow is retained and extended along two boundaries rather than reduced, increasing the extent of semi-natural habitat compared to the cleared baseline.
Condition	The retained hedgerow is currently in poor condition (over-mature, open understorey, colonised by Snowberry). Proposed management (Snowberry removal, gap-planting, cyclical trimming under the LHES) will improve its condition over the 25-year management period.
Connectivity	The western hedgerow forms part of a wider commuting corridor for bats and other fauna, linking to woodland to the south and gardens/scrub to the north; this connectivity is retained and reinforced by hedgerow extension and Hedgehog apertures through boundary fencing.
Adaptability	Selection of native, locally/Welsh-provenanced and where appropriate drought-tolerant species (see LHES Section 4) is intended to support resilience to future climatic stress, including consideration of Ash dieback risk in species selection.

7. Relationship to Other Submitted Documents

7.1 This GIS forms part of a co-ordinated set of ecological and landscape documents submitted in support of P/26/0049. The table below cross-references each document; the same table is repeated, with authorship and status, in the covering Cross-Reference Summary Memo submitted alongside this application.

Document	Relationship to this GIS
1A-B Colliers Row PEA (Certhia Ecology, July 2026)	Primary baseline ecological evidence; recommendations at Section 4 of the PEA are carried forward into this GIS and the LHES.
Landscaping, Habitat and Ecology Scheme (LHES)	Companion document; sets out the detailed 25-year planting, management, monitoring and funding commitments referred to at Sections 3, 4 and 6 above.
Ecological Management Plan (EcMP) & Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	Set out how the measures identified in this GIS and the PEA will be implemented and supervised during construction.
Site Assessment / Pre-Works Check Methodology	Details the pre-construction check referred to at Section 4 ('Minimise') above.

Document	Relationship to this GIS
Lighting Scheme (to be commissioned)	Will secure that green infrastructure and roost/box locations identified in this GIS are not compromised by artificial light.
INNS Method Statement (to be commissioned)	Addresses removal/control of Snowberry and safeguards against Japanese Knotweed recorded nearby, referred to at Section 3 above.
Whole-site Landscape Master Plan and Plot 1/5/9&10 LEMPs (Pryce Consultant Ecologists)	Provide site-wide context and the established management precedent that this GIS/LHES for Plots 1a & 1b is designed to sit consistently alongside.

8. Conclusion

8.1 This Statement demonstrates that green infrastructure has been positively incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development for Plots 1a and 1b, that the stepwise approach to Net Benefit for Biodiversity has been followed, and that up-to-date baseline data and assessments have been used to inform this approach. Read together with the accompanying LHES, EcMP, CEMP and other documents referenced above, this Statement is intended to fully address the requirements of MTCBC's Ecologist as set out in Memo 3 (13 July 2026).