

Landscaping, Habitat and Ecology Scheme (LHES)

Plot 1a & 1b, Cwm Woods Grove, Colliers Row, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil — 25 Year Scheme

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

Scheme Duration: 25 years from first occupation (minimum), per MTCBC Ecologist requirement

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

1.1 This Landscaping, Habitat and Ecology Scheme (LHES) has been prepared for Plot 1a and Plot 1b, Cwm Woods Grove, Colliers Row, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil, in support of planning application P/26/0049, in direct response to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) Ecologist Matt Davies' Memo 3 (13 July 2026), which requires a long-term (at least 25 year) LHES to accompany the Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS).

1.2 This LHES carries forward the recommendations of the 1A-B Colliers Row Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Certhia Ecology, July 2026) and has been prepared consistently with the Landscape and Ecology Management Plans (LEMPs) already accepted by MTCBC for Plots 1, 5 and 9 & 10 of the wider Colliers Row site, and with the whole-site Landscape Master Plan (Pryce Consultant Ecologists, Revision 3, November 2020), while updating the approach to reflect current (2024/2026) policy requirements, including an explicit 25-year duration, funding mechanism and monitoring schedule.

1.3 This LHES should be read alongside the GIS, the Ecological Management Plan (EcMP), the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and the Proposed Landscape Plan (drawing 26-01-05, Rev 3).

2. Duration and Scope

2.1 This LHES applies for a minimum of 25 years from the date of first occupation of Plots 1a and 1b, covering the pre-construction, construction and long-term post-completion periods. Responsibility for implementation transfers over time as set out in Section 10 (Funding and Responsible Parties).

2.2 The LHES addresses: retained and new landscaping/habitat/green infrastructure; a planting plan; establishment, maintenance and management measures; other ecological measures (bat/bird boxes, Hedgehog access); post-development monitoring; the means and timescale for achieving Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB); and funding arrangements.

3. Retained and New Landscaping, Habitat and Green Infrastructure

3.1 The Proposed Landscape Plan (26-01-05, Rev 3) shows the following retained and proposed features for Plots 1a and 1b:

- Retention of the existing western boundary hedgerow (species-poor hedge with trees, an 'important' hedgerow under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997), protected during construction by temporary fencing;
- Extension of hedgerow planting along the northern boundary to provide additional screening and habitat connectivity;
- New native tree planting (see Section 4) at a minimum 3:1 ratio to compensate for the three semi-mature trees (two Ash, one Sycamore) recorded as lost prior to the PEA site visit;
- Rain gardens and planting areas, seeded with native, drought-tolerant wildflower species;
- Lawned garden areas (Emorgates EL1 lawn seed mix) around both dwellings;
- Close-boarded boundary fencing (1.8m, treated feather-edge timber) incorporating 130mm x 130mm Hedgehog apertures at approximately 5m intervals;
- Garden retaining walls faced in Bradstone Eco Riven Walling (grey), 800–1200mm high, matching dwellings already built on the wider site.

3.2 A total of at least nine (9no.) replacement trees should be provided across the Plot, reflecting the 3:1 replacement ratio recommended in the PEA (Section 4.2.6) for the three semi-mature trees removed prior to survey. The applicant should confirm the final tree count shown on Landscape Plan 26-01-05 Rev 3 against this requirement, and make provision for any shortfall either within the hedgerow extension or at an appropriate off-site/community location agreed with MTCBC.

4. Planting Plan and Species Composition

4.1 All planting will be of native species and of local, and where reasonably available, Welsh provenance, in accordance with Forestry Commission Forest Practice Note No. 8 and Herbert et al. (1999).

4.1 Hedgerow gap-planting and extension (whips, 1+1, except pot-grown Holly)

- Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*
- Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*
- Hazel *Corylus avellana*
- Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*
- Holly *Ilex aquifolium* (15cm pot-grown)
- Dog Rose *Rosa canina*
- Elder *Sambucus nigra*

4.2 New tree planting

- Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*
- Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*
- Silver Birch *Betula pendula*
- Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*

Note: given evidence suggestive of Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) in the wider area, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* is not recommended for replacement planting.

4.3 Wildflower and rain garden planting

- Native, drought-tolerant wildflower seed mix appropriate to local soil conditions, selected in consultation with the site ecologist/landscape contractor, to support pollinators and the B-Line initiative.

4.4 Prior to any hedgerow planting, the existing stands of Snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus* recorded within the hedgerow (PEA Target Note 1) will be removed, including rhizomes, to prevent recolonisation (see also the INNS Method Statement).

5. Provenance and Sourcing

5.1 All woody planting stock will be sourced from suppliers able to confirm species nativeness and provenance zone. Cultivars, non-native ornamental forms and non-local seed sources will not be used for hedgerow or tree planting (garden ornamental planting at the discretion of future owners is outside the scope of this LHES, save for the boundary/screen planting specified above).

6. Establishment, Maintenance and Management Measures (Lifetime of Scheme)

Feature	Establishment	Ongoing Management
Hedgerow (retained & new)	Protective fencing during construction; gap-planting with whips as above; tree shelters and mulch mats fitted; ameliorated planting pits.	Trimmed no more than once per year, in late winter, to maintain a dense, bushy 1.5–2m wide structure; no cutting March–August inclusive (bird nesting season); failed plants replaced on a like-for-like basis for the first 5 years.
New trees	Planted in dormant season (autumn–early spring); staked and tree-shelter protected; ameliorated soil/compost.	Watered/monitored for first 3 growing seasons; formative pruning as required; any tree failing within 10 years to be replaced with an equivalent native species.
Rain gardens / wildflower areas	Seeded following ground preparation appropriate to a native wildflower mix.	Cut once per year in late summer/early autumn after seed-set, arisings removed; no fertiliser or herbicide use.
Lawn areas	Turfed/seeded (Emorgates EL1 or equivalent).	Routine domestic mowing at the discretion of the householder; owners advised (see Section 9) to allow longer, less-intensively managed margins where possible.
Boundary fencing / Hedgehog apertures	Installed to the specification on drawing 26-01-05 Rev 3, apertures kept clear of obstruction.	Apertures inspected and kept clear at each change of ownership and at 5-yearly monitoring visits (Section 8).
Bat and bird boxes	Installed during construction per drawing 26-01-10 Rev 04.	Inspected/cleaned where accessible at 5-yearly intervals; damaged boxes replaced like-for-like.

7. Other Ecological Measures

7.1 Integrated bat and bird boxes: red = bat boxes, green = sparrow terrace, blue = swift crevices, magenta = tit boxes, all shown and keyed on drawing 26-01-10 Rev 04 (North West, North East, South West and South East elevations). Boxes are sited away from direct illumination (see Lighting Scheme).

7.2 Hedgehog highways: 130mm x 130mm apertures at approximately 5m centres in all close-boarded boundary fencing, providing free movement between plot gardens and the wider hedgerow corridor, consistent with the approach adopted on Plots 1, 5, 9 & 10 of the wider site.

7.3 No hibernacula or habitat piles are proposed within Plots 1a/1b given their small size; connectivity instead relies on the retained/extended hedgerow and Hedgehog apertures linking to habitat piles and hibernacula already established within the wider Colliers Row site under the whole-site Landscape Master Plan.

8. Post-Development Monitoring

8.1 A programme of monitoring visits will be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist (or the appointed management company's ecological advisor) at Years 1, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 following first occupation, to check:

- Survival and condition of hedgerow and tree planting, with replacement of failures;

- Condition and occupancy (where safely observable) of bat and bird boxes;
- Continued function of Hedgehog apertures;
- Absence of re-establishment of Snowberry or other invasive species;
- General condition of rain gardens/wildflower areas.

8.2 A short monitoring report will be produced after each visit and made available to MTCBC on request, in accordance with the Compliance requirements of Memo 3.

9. Achieving Net Benefit for Biodiversity Within the Shortest Practicable Time

9.1 Hedgerow gap-planting, tree planting and box installation will be carried out as part of the initial construction and landscaping works, meaning ecological enhancement measures will be functionally in place from first occupation. Habitat condition (e.g. hedgerow density, tree canopy) will improve over the following 5–10 years as planting establishes, consistent with the CIEEM (2022) expectation that NBB be achieved 'within as short a time as possible'.

10. Funding and Responsible Parties

10.1 Pre-completion the self-builder will fund and be responsible for all planting, box installation, fencing and initial establishment works described in this LHES, and for monitoring/replacement during the construction and initial establishment period (Years 0–2).

10.2 Post-completion, within-plot features (private garden hedgerow sections, boxes, apertures, rain gardens, lawns): responsibility transfers to the respective plot owner on sale of each dwelling, consistent with the approach adopted for Plots 1, 5 and 9 & 10. Owners will be provided with a homeowner's ecological information pack summarising their obligations under this LHES.

10.3 The occupants of respective homes 1a and 1b remain the responsible body for the duration of their ownership. Responsibility is transferred to each occupant at point of sale for the period of the 25-year scheme; MTCBC biodiversity officers may be consulted where guidance on management is required, as already provided for in the Plot 9 & 10 LEMP.

11. Compliance Reporting

11.1 Written confirmation that the ecological measures described in this LHES have been installed, created and implemented will be submitted to and approved in writing by MTCBC on completion of the development, in accordance with the Compliance requirement of Memo 3. Monitoring reports (Section 8) will be made available to MTCBC on request throughout the 25-year scheme period.

12. Cross-References

12.1 This LHES should be read together with the Green Infrastructure Statement, the PEA (Certhia Ecology, July 2026), the EcMP, the CEMP, the Site Assessment/Pre-Works Check Methodology, the INNS Method Statement, the Lighting Scheme, and the whole-site Landscape Master Plan and Plot 1/5/9&10 LEMPs (Pryce Consultant Ecologists). A full cross-reference table is provided in the covering Cross-Reference Summary Memo.